

Resource Enhancement and Protection Program

The Resource Enhancement and Protection Program (REAP) is a state funded program administered by the Soil & Water Conservation Districts. Practices eligible for 75% cost share include:

- **Farmstead Windbreak**-a belt of trees and/or shrubs established next to a farmstead or feedlot. Total cost for establishment, restoration and fencing, not to exceed \$1200/windbreak. Establish a windbreak to protect soil resources, conserve energy, control snow disposition, prevent wind damage to farmsteads, provide shelter for livestock, beautify an area, or improve an area for wildlife.
- **Field Windbreak**-linear plantings of single or multiple rows of trees and/or shrubs established for environmental purposes to reduce soil losses from wind erosion; protect growing plants; manage snow; provide shelter for wildlife and livestock; provide wildlife habitat; provide living screens and improve aesthetics.
- **Timber Stand Improvement**-to manipulate species composition and stocking by cutting or killing selected trees and understory vegetation to improve or sustain timber production; improve understory aesthetics, wildlife habitat, or recreation; to harvest forest products; to facilitate forest stand regeneration. Minimum of 5 acres.
- **Tree Planting**-establishes woody plants by planting or seeding. Establish woody plants for forest products; provide erosion control; improve energy conservation and beautification; reduce water pollution through uptake of soil and water borne chemicals and nutrients; beautify an area; protect a watershed; provide wildlife habitat, and control drifting snow. Minimum of 3 acres.
- **Site Preparation for Natural Regeneration**-an approved forest management plan required. Protection of treated area from grazing, excludes boundary and road fencing. Minimum of 3 acres.
- **Rescue Treatment**-an approved forest management plan required. Completing a replanting on an established tree planting including establishing ground cover, trees, tree planting and weed control.
- **Riparian Forest Buffer**-an area of trees and/or shrubs and grasses located adjacent to and up-gradient from streams or water bodies. Buffers reduce excess amounts of sediment, organic material from livestock waste, nutrients, pesticides and other pollutants in surface runoff and reduce excess nutrients and other chemicals in shallow ground water flow; improve water quality by establishing permanent tree and herbaceous cover on floodplain areas subject to out of bank flow and/or scour erosion; create riparian habitat and corridors for wildlife; create shade to lower water temperatures to improve habitat for fish and other aquatic

organisms; be a source of detritus and large woody debris for fish and other aquatic organisms.

- **Prescribed Grazing Systems**-the controlled harvest of vegetation with grazing or browsing animals, managed with the intent to achieve a specified objective. This practice may be applied as a part of a conservation management system to accomplish one or more of the following: Improve or maintain the health and vigor of selected plant(s) and to maintain a stable and desired plant community; provide or maintain food, cover, and shelter for animals of concern; improve or maintain animal health and productivity; maintain or improve water quality or quantity; reduce accelerated soil erosion and maintain or improve soil condition for sustainability of resources.

To apply for any of these practices, contract the SWCD office at 385-2824 or by visiting the District Office at 2205 E. Washington Street, Mt. Pleasant, Iowa 52641.

PHOTO ATTACHED-TSI:

In this timber stand improvement demonstration field day, Drew DeLang completes a girdle or cut on a hickory tree. Waiting to spray chemicals into the new cut is Tony Maxwell. In the background District Forester's Stan Tate and Ray Lehn watch the action.