

A Quality Environment

DICKINSON SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

SPIRIT LAKE, IOWA 51360 712-336-3782, EXT. 3

SEPTEMBER 2004

STATE COST-SHARE PROGRAMS

The **Iowa Department of Agriculture, Division of Soil Conservation** offers State cost-share which provides 50% to 75% of construction costs for several kinds of conservation practices depending on the practice and the location within the county.

Some of these practices include: **waterways, terraces, sediment basins, grade stabilization structures, diversions, farmstead and field windbreaks.**

A program called **Publicly Owned Lakes** provides a 75% cost-share on practices such as: **waterways, terraces, sediment basins, grade stabilization structures and diversions** built on land within the Iowa Great Lakes Watershed.

A **no-till or ridge-till incentive** is offered to producers. This incentive is offered on a one-time only, per producer basis, with a maximum of 80 acres at \$10 per acre.

You may sign up for State cost-share at any time at the SWCD/NRCS office at the USDA Service Center.

EQIP SIGN-UP CONTINUES

There were 23 Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) applications accepted in Dickinson County in 2004. The applications which were accepted included the following practices:

Livestock waste system for cattle — Livestock waste system for hogs — Nutrient Management (fertilizer and manure) — Pest Management (herbicides, insecticides, fungicides) — Ridge tillage — Prescribed livestock grazing system for sheep — Subsurface drain for a cattle feedlot diversion — Diversion for a cattle feedlot — Fencing for a prescribed grazing system for cattle

Applications for EQIP can be made at any time during the year. Please feel free to contact the USDA Service Center in Spirit Lake for more information about EQIP.

FARMABLE WETLANDS IN CRP—UPDATE

Since the Farmable Wetland Program (FWP) in CRP began in the summer of 2001, more than 52,000 acres have been enrolled in Iowa, more than halfway to the 100,000 acre limit for the State. In Dickinson County upwards of 900 acres have been enrolled. These are impressive figures, considering that we have had drier than normal years for the last three years and especially since one of the main reasons for enrollment has



Ray Meylor restored basin in Richland 19, Spring 2004

been to take "wet" or "drown out" areas out of production.

A few of the most frequently asked questions and answers include:

Who determines eligibility?

FWP in CRP is administered by the FSA office. Technical assistance is provided by the NRCS office or other Technical Service Provider.

District Commissioners

Mark Ingwersen, Chairperson Scott Mitchell, Secretary
Chris Hoffman, Vice Chair Orville Berg, Treasurer
Bill Northey

Assistant Commissioners

Phyllis Nielsen Curt Smith Keith Van Kleeck

District Mission Statement

The Dickinson SWCD will serve its customers and the needs of the District's natural resources through education, promotion, and demonstration.

What land is eligible for FWP?

Cropland in non-floodplain areas with crop history for at least 3 out of 10 years from 1993 to 2002. The offered area must be capable of being farmed at the time of enrollment.

What are the requirements for eligibility?

Restorable pothole wetland soils of 5 acres or less and eligible adjacent upland buffer acres can be offered.

Floodplain locations are not eligible for FWP. Ask about the **CP23 Wetland Restoration** practice for these areas.

What are the minimum and maximum offer sizes?

A minimum offer would be the restorable wetland basin area plus a 30 ft wide buffer around the perimeter. A good rule of thumb for the maximum offer is for each basin acre in the offer, up to 3 acres of buffer or an 150 ft average buffer width, whichever is larger. This allows the applicant to square up an offer area to make it easier to farm around. 40 acres are the maximum acres that can be offered per tract.

What are the financial benefits offered by the Farm Service Agency for those considering enrollment?

These benefits can be listed in 3 parts:

#1- An annual rental rate payment based on the predominant soil types of the offer area, plus a 20% rental rate incentive, plus a \$5.00 per acre maintenance payment for a 10 or 15 year contract period.

#2- A Sign Up Incentive Payment (SIP) of \$10.00 times the number of full years in the contract, times the number of acres in the offer. This is a one time incentive payment made at the start of the contract.

#3- 50% cost share reimbursement of eligible establishment costs plus a

Practice Incentive Payment (PIP) of up to 40% of eligible costs. These benefits are determined by the FSA office staff.

What are the wetland restoration and seeding requirements for the FWP practice?

Wetland restorations are to be completed to the maximum extent feasible. Some sites may preclude basic tile breaks as restoration. Large size tile or maintaining upstream drainage, for example, may involve excavations or installing non-perforated tile. Seeding choices range from a mixture of cool season grasses and legumes, such as Brome grass, Orchard grass and Red Clover to a native grass mix of Big Bluestem, Indian grass and Switch grass to a native grass and wildflower mix or a combination of mixes. Fertilizer, site prep, burn down, seed and seeding, and Wetland Restoration costs are eligible for cost share reimbursement.

To inquire further about FWP or other Continuous CRP practices, contact the FSA office at the USDA Service Center.

LIVING SNOW FENCES

A Living Snow Fence is a Continuous Signup CRP practice administered by the Farm Service Agency (FSA). A recent change in this practice makes it a more viable option for landowners.

This change is the addition of native grass catch area downwind from the tree/shrub plantings. Living snow fences function to keep snow from drifting and piling on highways, roads, and lanes. A typical design would consist of a shrub row, a conifer row, and a 75-100 foot native grass strip. The final width would be 115-140 feet.

FSA will pay a rental rate based on the

soils, an up-front, one time signup incentive of \$10 per acre for each full year of the contract, 50% cost share to implement the practice, and a practice incentive payment of 40% of eligible costs for installation. Also, the County or the Iowa DOT will pay a one time 50 cent per linear foot incentive to implement a living snow fence on the north or west side of roads or highways.

If you, or someone you know, have an area where blowing and drifting snow is a problem, this is good solution. A cost benefit analysis by the Minnesota DOT has shown a \$17 return in reduced snow removal costs and improved safety for every dollar spent to put in living snow fences. Also, increases in crop yields are seen by keeping the snow in the fields rather than in the ditches.

For more information or to signup please contact USDA Service Center. We'll be happy to work with you to improve winter driving conditions.

DICKINSON COUNTY CROP RESIDUE SURVEY

A special thanks goes to **Robert Herbert, Lake Park**, and **Maurice Dougal, Milford**, for helping with the 2004 Crop Residue Survey. 472 sample sites were viewed in all parts of Dickinson County. The percentage of samples found in four major residue categories are listed below:

	Corn	Beans
No Till	1%	9%
Ridge Till	5%	6%
Mulch Till	20%	77%
(greater than 30% residue after planting)		
Reduced Till	57%	7%
(15-30% residue after planting)		
Conventional Till	17%	1%
(less than 15% residue after planting)		

NRCS Staff:

Carroll Oskvig, District Conservationist
Tim Moran, Soil Conservation Technician

IDALS-DSC Staff:

Maxine Butler, State Secretary

District Staff:

Bill Fitzgerald, Soil Conservation Aide
Donna Buell, CWA Coordinator

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DICKINSON SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT FOUNDATION

2412 17TH STREET

SPIRIT LAKE, IOWA 51360

SEPTEMBER 2004

Rock Tile Intakes

The Dickinson SWCD Foundation is promoting a new cost-share practice for Dickinson County called "**Rock Tile Intakes**".

The practice will replace the old open tile intake with a pea-rock gravel pack that allows the water to seep through a trench of pea-rock gravel rather than the old open tile intake system.

The idea is to filter the drainage water through a bed or filter of gravel rather than allowing it to run freely into an open intake. This old method allows the drainage water to carry sediment with it into the tile system. This water flows freely into drainage ditches, streams and lakes where it is not wanted.

It is believed that with the pea-rock gravel pack to filter the water, much of the sediment will be filtered out at the intake.

The big advantage to the farmer would be the elimination of the old plastic or steel intake pipe which can be hit and bent, or knocked over, by tillage and harvesting equipment.

The main advantage to others is the off-site benefits of less siltation and muddy water in

lakes and streams.

The Rock Tile Intakes program is being funded by a grant through the Dickinson Water Quality Commission and it is being administered by Clarence Call and the Dickinson SWCD Foundation. *It is not connected with any state or federal programs.*

Rock Tile Intakes will be installed only on private tile lines on private property and only in cropland. (No road ditches, pasture or county tile, etc.)

*See the
reverse side
for Rock Tile
Intake design
and
specifications*

Cost-share is paid at 75%, up to a maximum of \$200 per intake. There are no maximum number of intakes per cooperator.

Applications for cost-share may be signed at any time and the practice approved by the Foundation Board before cost-share is obligated.

For more information, see the reverse side of this newsletter for the Rock Tile Intake design and specifications.

Contact Clarence Call at 712-336-3310 for more information, questions or to sign an application for cost-share.

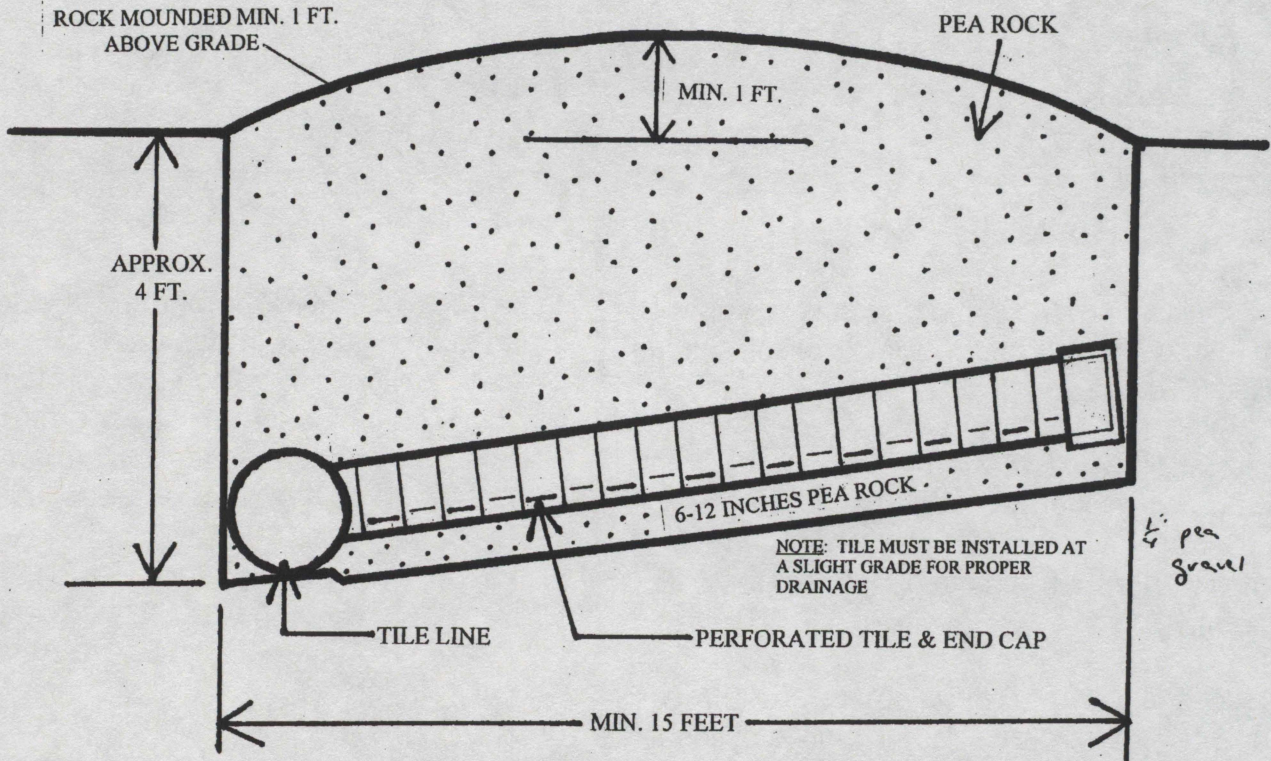
Foundation Board and Officers

Mark Ingwersen, Chairperson
Scott Mitchell, Secretary
2412 17th Street

Bill Northey
Spirit Lake, Iowa 51360

Chris Hoffman, Vice Chair
Orville Berg, Treasurer
712-336-3782 Ext. 3

Rock Tile Intake Design and Specifications



Materials

- Minimum 6" perforated tile and end cap
- T-connectors, minimum 6" to _____ (size of Tile)
- 6 to 8 cubic yards of pea rock (estimated). 1/4" - 7/8" diameter rock only
- If using perforated tile, 1/4" pea rock is recommended

Earth Work

- Excavate 2' to 3' wide x 15' long x 3' to 4' deep

Note

- Place 6"-12" of rock at bottom of trench, under tile
- Pea rock should be mounded a minimum of 1' above grade
- Using larger rock than specified may allow sediment into structure
- Cost using rubber tire backhoe: can depend on various factors including size and depth of tile and materials used. Average estimated cost \$200 per intake
- Design adapted from Morriem Drainage, Freeborn County, MN and Carver County SWCD, MN

Questions? Contact Clarence Call at 336-3310

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