



DICKINSON SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

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

MAY 2005

A Quality Environment

ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY INCENTIVES PROGRAM (EQIP)

Funding for 2005 Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) Dickinson County contracts was made for over \$156,000 in the first round of applications.

Additional EQIP funds may be available during 2005, so farmers are encouraged to sign an application as soon as possible.

EQIP provides cost-share or incentive payments to farmers for many conservation practices including:

livestock grazing systems, nutrient management, pesticide management, livestock waste systems, livestock composting systems, no-till, ridge-till, and many others.

For more information, please contact the NRCS at the USDA Service Center in Spirit Lake at 712-336-3782, Ext. 3.

RECENT RAIN EVENTS — AN OPPORTUNITY TO CONSIDER CONSERVATION

Have the heavy and frequent rain storms, over the past couple weeks left you with water erosion and small lakes in your crop fields? If your area is like many parts of Dickinson County the answer, unfortunately, is yes. With



flooded field



runoff erosion

already saturated soils, the additional rainfall is more than the soil can absorb, so some of the problem is unavoidable. What one might consider is how a well placed waterway or water and sediment basin, for example, might help reduce the amount of erosion.

This photo is of a waterway after a recent heavy rain, working as it should to carry runoff water off the field in a less erosive manner. A filter strip of tall native grasses is also in place at the outlet of the waterway, to absorb the runoff before it reaches the drainage ditch.



If you see that your land might benefit from one or more conservation practices such as:

- **Waterways** - to convey runoff water off the land in a less erosive manner
- **Water and Sediment Basins** - to contain the runoff temporarily and drain it off through subsurface tile
- **Terraces** - as upland treatment to address sheet and rill erosion
- **Filter Strips** - to buffer streams and water bodies and filter out sediments and contaminants

District Commissioners

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Steve Anderson Phyllis Nielsen Curt Smith

District Mission Statement

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

• **Wetland Restoration Practices** - as an option for



drown out spots, in potholes or floodplains.

• **Etc. - Contour Grass Strips, Riparian Tree Buffers, Living Snow Fences, Windbreaks**

Please feel free to stop in or call the USDA Service Center offices of the Farm Service Agency and Natural Resources Conservation Service for program assistance to help implement these conservation practices.

DICKINSON COUNTY EQIP ON-LINE INFORMATION

Dickinson County Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) is now on-line at www.nrcs.usda.gov. You will find the Dickinson County FY 05 EQIP practice list, State (EQIP) Application, ranking worksheet, and supplementary information pertaining to EQIP.

EQIP is a voluntary conservation program of the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) that promotes agricultural production and environmental quality. This program is available to farmers, and offers financial and technical assistance

to install or implement structural and management practices on eligible agricultural land. Applications for EQIP can be made at local NRCS offices.

IOWA WATER QUALITY LOAN FUND — LOCAL WATER PROTECTION PROGRAM

The Iowa Water Quality Loan Fund will now offer low interest loans for water quality projects through a new program – the Local Water Protection Program (LWPP). The LWPP will fund a variety of water quality projects in an effort to reduce the amount of sediment, nutrients, and pesticides negatively impacting Iowa streams and lakes. A few examples of eligible projects are listed below:

contour buffer strips, filter strips, windbreaks, grassed waterways, terraces, pasture and hay land planting, planned grazing systems, grade stabilization structures, ponds, fence, riparian forest buffers, waste treatment lagoons, water and sediment control basins, waste storage facilities, or other projects shown to protect water quality.

LWPP loans can be used as the sole funding source for water quality projects, but they can also be used to compliment other funding sources such as State Cost Share or EQIP.

LWPP highlights include ...

- Approximately \$3 million available for water quality projects in 2005.
- The LWPP will provide loans from

\$5,000 to \$50,000 for up to 100% of the project costs.

- There are no limits to the number of loans a landowner may receive.
- Loan terms up to 10 years with an interest rate of no more than 3%.
- A linked deposit loan structure allows landowners to work with their personal lender.
- Applications are accepted by local Soil and Water Conservation Districts on a first come - first serve basis.
- Livestock water quality projects under \$10,000 are eligible under the LWPP.

PLANNING FOR CSP

While Dickinson County has not yet been chosen for the Conservation Security Program (CSP), it is anticipated that the program will continue to include more watersheds in the future.

CSP is designed to reward the best conservationists and motivate the rest. It is a voluntary program that provides financial and technical assistance to promote the conservation and improvement of soil, air, energy and plant and animal life. You may want to consider how your present farming operation will impact your eligibility for this program by addressing any resource concerns, implementing management practices, updating soil tests, etc.

Learn more about CSP at www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/csp/ or contact NRCS at 712-336-3782, Ext. 3.

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