



DICKINSON SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

3302 18TH STREET SPIRIT LAKE, IOWA 51360 712-336-3782, EXT. 3

DECEMBER 2011

A Quality Environment

Open House for new USDA Service Center

The
Farm Service Agency (FSA),
Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)
and the
Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD)
would like to invite the public to an
Open House
of the new USDA Service Center on
Friday, December 16
from
2 to 4 p.m.

The new service center is located at 3302 18th Street, Spirit Lake, Iowa on the north side of Highway 9 & 155th street intersection — just west of the KUOO radio station.

The Spirit Lake USDA Service Center is the headquarters for the Farm Service Agency, Natural Resources Conservation Service, and the Dickinson County Soil and Water Conservation District offices who serve the land owners, land operators, and residents of Dickinson County with federal USDA Farm Program services, State of Iowa programs, and other local conservation programs. The offices are open from Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and can be reached by telephone at (712) 336-3782.

Cost-Share Funds Available for Conservation Practices

While completing your fall field work, you might have noticed areas in your cropland that would benefit from a conservation practice, such as a **grassed waterway**, **sediment basin** or **grade stabilization structure**.

Or you may notice this winter that your **windbreak** could

be improved or that perhaps a **new windbreak** is needed.

The NRCS/SWCD office can help you with a number of cost-share programs for conservation practices. **State cost-share usually provides up to 50% of actual costs for structures and up to 75% of actual costs for windbreaks.**

A **no-till, ridge-till or strip-till incentive** is offered on a one-time only, per producer basis, with a maximum of

80 acres at \$10 per acre, with additional incentives within the IGL and Silver Lake Watersheds.

Look for the
2012 Tree Sale
flyer
included
with this
newsletter

For more information on cost-share programs or to request technical assistance, contact the USDA Service Center at 3302 18th Street, Spirit Lake, or call 712-336-3782, Ext. 3.

Federal Program Reminders

We would like to remind producers that Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) and Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) sign-ups are continually accepted at the NRCS office.

Our county allocations or ranking criteria have not been set yet for either program, but if you have an interest in cost-sharing related to livestock or soil erosion practices addressing resource concerns on your farm, please consider signing an application and discussing

District Commissioners

Mark Ingwersen Chris Hoffman Scott Mitchell
John Myhre Curt Smith

Assistant Commissioners

Orville Berg Earl Muilenburg 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.

your ideas with the staff in Spirit Lake. Last year Dickinson County had over \$290,000 for EQIP funding and over \$39,000 in CSP funding allocated to producers.

If you are a current EQIP or CSP program participant please contact our office to assure you are up-to-date on your contract activities so we can make the proper payments.

Local staff also reminds producers that Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) and Wetlands Reserve Programs (WRP) have continuous sign-ups for those troublesome or odd areas on your farm. Payment rates have been increased on these programs to try to keep pace with land values, so you the landowner have feasible options to put conservation acres on your farm.

Another reminder is to please contact the NRCS office prior to tiling, clearing trees or bringing new land into production, to maintain your eligibility for program benefits. "Farmers and land managers need to protect their farm program benefits by first checking with their local office for a wetland determination prior to working in wet portions of their farms," said Richard Sims, State Conservationist for Iowa NRCS. To maintain eligibility, USDA participants must certify that they have not produced crops on wetlands converted after December 23, 1985, and that they did not convert a wetland to make agricultural production possible after November 28, 1990.

If found in violation, farmers would lose eligibility for USDA programs, Sims said. For more information or to request a wetland determination, please visit your local USDA Service Center.

Dickinson SWCD Foundation Scholarships

The Dickinson SWCD Foundation announces the availability of **two \$500 scholarships** that will be presented to Dickinson County Graduating High School Seniors. These scholarships are to be used for the first year of education on the college or vocational school level.

The **District Scholarship**, in the amount of \$500, is offered for any field of agriculture or natural sciences studies (this includes a broad array of studies) and in

addition, the winning application will be forwarded to compete in the Conservation Districts of Iowa's (CDI) Auxiliary Annual Scholarships.

The **Jo Groves Memorial Scholarship**, in the amount of \$500, is not limited in the course of study. The applicant needs to submit two (2) typed copies of their application and must use the Jo Groves application form.

High school seniors must submit their applications to the Dickinson Soil & Water Conservation District no later than March 3, 2011.

Applications can be obtained from the High School Counselors at Harris-Lake Park, Okoboji, Spirit Lake or Graettinger/Terril High Schools, OR by contacting the Dickinson Soil & Water Conservation District at the USDA Service Center in Spirit Lake at 3302 18th Street, by calling 712-336-3782, ext. 3, or by e-mailing: maxine.butler@ia.nacdnet.net

Iowa Great Lakes Targeted Watershed Project

The Iowa Great Lakes Targeted Watershed project has just wrapped up another busy summer season with the construction of multiple urban and rural projects. There were a total of 12 low impact development practices that were installed that will capture and infiltrate urban storm-water runoff. Along with the urban practices there were 7 acres of CRP with a restored wetland and native grass seeding that will provide water quality benefits along with wildlife habitat.

The watershed project still has incentive and cost-share money available for conservation practices within the Iowa Great Lakes watershed. We have incentives for landowners and producers in the rural community for practices like grassed waterways, reduced tillage, sediment basins enrolled in the CRP program. There are funds available for urban practices as well, like rain gardens, bio-retention cells, pervious paving systems, and lakeshore re-vegetation.

If you would like more information on any of the practices listed or would like to learn about eligibility requirements, please contact Derek Namanny, Project Coordinator at 712-336-3782, Ext. 3.

NRCS Staff—Dickinson/Emmet:

Mark Schutt, District Conservationist (Dickinson Office)
Betty Romero, Soil Conservation Technician (Dickinson Office)
Bob Moser, Resource Conservationist (Emmet Office)
John Shea, Soil Conservation Technician (Emmet Office)

District Staff:

Steve Anderson, Urban Conservationist
John Wills, CWA Coordinator
Derek Namanny, IGL Targeted 319 Coordinator
, Silver Lake 319 Coordinator

IDALS-DSC Staff: Maxine Butler, State Secretary

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