



A Quality Environment

DICKINSON SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

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

SEPTEMBER 2002

Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) and Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP)

The passage of the 2002 Farm Bill increased conservation spending by 80% compared to the last Farm Bill. The payment limitation is set at \$450,000 per individual for all EQIP 2002-2008 participants. WHIP is limited to a maximum of \$25,000 of federal cost share per contract.

EQIP is used to promote both ag products and environmental quality through technical and financial assistance to participants. Cost share payments up to 75% are available to applicants for installing conservation practices that enhance soil, water and related natural resources. Practices with a total cost of \$100,000 or more are cost shared at 50%. Incentive payments are available for several practices included in the sign-up.

Practices included in the EQIP sign-up include: connection to rural water if part of a planned grazing system, conservation cover plantings, contour farming, critical area plantings, dikes, diversions, fencing for planned grazing systems, field borders, filter strips, forest stand improvement, grade stabilization structures, grassed waterways, nutrient management, organic crop production, pest management, pasture plantings, pipelines for planned grazing systems, ponds, no-till, ridge-till, strip-till, riparian forest buffers, stream bank protection, terraces, tree planting, trough or tank for planned grazing systems, field windbreaks, farmstead windbreaks, upland wildlife habitat

management, wells for planned grazing systems, waste storage facilities, sediment basins, wetland restoration, wetland enhancement, wetland creation and wetland habitat management.

Previous limits of 1,000 animal unit limits for animal waste storage structures have been removed. Nationally, 60% of EQIP funds are to be spent for livestock related practices.

EQIP contracts can be written up to 10 years in length to allow producers ample time to install practices. Maintenance requirements for EQIP practices ranges from 5 to 20 years.

The Wildlife Incentives Program (WHIP) provides technical and financial assistance to farmers, recreation-minded landowners, conservation groups and a variety of special fish, wildlife and prairie interests to accelerate fish and wildlife habitat. Landowners are not required to be USDA farm commodity program participants. Land owned by county conservation boards, DNR, non-profit groups are also eligible.

Some of the major natural resource considerations included in WHIP are: woodland management, prairie remnant renovation, native area reconstruction, riparian areas, in-stream habitat, stream bank habitat, fen management and fish habitat. All WHIP practices are funded at the 75% cost-share rate, and contracts are for 10 to 15 years in length.

Interested applicants should stop in or call the USDA Service Center

at 712-336-3782 to complete an application.

Wetland Reserve Program

Wetland Reserve Program (WRP) is a voluntary program offering eligible landowners a financial incentive, based on agricultural value, for wetlands that can be restored and are suitable for improved wildlife habitat. Benefits of WRP include improved wildlife habitats and improved water quality by filtering sediments and chemicals.

WRP provides both technical assistance and cost-sharing to restore and protect wetlands and limited adjacent upland area. WRP pays 100 percent of land value and restoration costs for perpetual easements and 75 percent of the land value and restoration costs for 30 year easements.

Landowners retain control of access and maintain land ownership so that they have the right to hunt, fish, trap and pursue other appropriate recreational uses.

To offer an easement, the landowner must have owned the land for at least one year prior to enrolling the land. Eligible lands are cropped wetlands, farmed wetlands, prior-converted wetlands, riparian areas that link other protected wetlands and non-cropped areas where the hydrology has been degraded and can be restored.

For more information about WRP, contact the USDA Service Center at 712-336-3782.

District Commissioners

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

Assistant Commissioners

Tom Koster Curt Smith Keith Van Kleek

District Mission Statement

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

Contact us by e-mail at: Dickinson SWCD@iaspiritla.fsc.usda.gov

Visit the following web site for information on Dickinson County SWCD and other area offices:

www.theconservationstation.org

Are You Raising Mosquitoes?



With raised concern over the West Nile Virus several people are really concerned with mosquitoes and where they breed. Most people know that mosquitoes start their life in water. Adult mosquitoes lay eggs in the water and after the larva hatch they only spend a few days in the water until they can fly. Once a mosquito is freed from its nest of water, they only live about a couple of weeks. During that time, female mosquitoes will lay an estimated 1,000 eggs.

So are you raising mosquitoes? We need to look at all types of water sources to see if you have a mosquito's hatchery on or near your property. Mosquito eggs and larva need to have calm standing water to survive.

That means that areas where wind can blow and create waves or stirring of water will not produce mosquitoes in most cases. In other words, things such as lakes, wetlands, rivers, and streams are not hatcheries for mosquitoes. Where we need to look is in water holding areas that we normally overlook in the yard or in the grove.

Ordinary items we have in our yards, are usually the largest producer of mosquitoes. For example, a single bucket of water can produce hundreds of mosquitoes. To limit the production of mosquitoes we need to make sure that buckets don't sit with water in them, that old tires cannot hold water, and that toys in the yard don't have water sitting in them. Another area most people don't see or recognize is trees that have spots where water can collect, such as old tree stumps or rotting dead branches up in the tree. These are areas that are usually hard to find and hard to control. One recommendation is if there is a visible area in a tree that is holding water, place sand in the

hole. Mosquitoes will not lay eggs in anything other than standing water. The reason it is so vital to remove as many breeding sites from around our yards is because mosquitoes will spend their whole life within 300 feet of the water source from which they were hatched. The amount of mosquitoes can usually be limited by the amount of standing water we have near our homes.

Here are a few tips to limit being bitten by mosquitoes:



Wear light-colored clothing that has long sleeves and long pants.



Avoid physical work, and limit usage of perfume and cologne because all of these things can attract mosquitoes.



Try to stay out of areas that normally have large populations of mosquitoes. If you cannot, then consider using some type of insect repellent.

Contact your local
USDA Service
Center for more
information on
EQIP, WHIP,
WRP and
CRP programs
available

24th Annual 6th Grade Outdoor Classroom

The 24th Annual 6th Grade Outdoor Classroom was held Thursday, September 5, at the Kettelson-Hogsback Wildlife Management Area west of Big Spirit Lake.

Approximately 240 students, teachers and chaperones from the Harris-Lake Park, Okoboji, Spirit Lake and Terril Schools were in attendance.

Presentations included IOWATER testing with Barbara Tagami, Naturalist, Dickinson County Conservation Board; Cultural Resources (artifacts) with Steve Anderson, Clean Water Alliance Coordinator and Trees with Sue Ehret, Conservation Aide, both with the Dickinson Soil & Water Conservation District; Soils with Ryan Dermody, Soil Scientist from the Storm Lake Soils Office, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Wild Flowers with Tim Moran, Soil Conservation Technician with Spirit Lake Natural Resources Conservation Service; nature trail with Tim Waltz and Nathan Dirks, Wildlife Technicians and Waterfowl with Chris La Rue, Wildlife Biologist, Iowa Department of Natural Resources, Fishing with Steve Smith, Field Services Manager at Pure Fishing; Help-A-Habitat with Tom Koster, Help-A-Habitat Coordinator and Dickinson Soil & Water Conservation District Assistant Commissioner; and Linda Hinshaw with Orphaned and Injured Wildlife.

The Outdoor Classroom is sponsored by the Dickinson Soil & Water Conservation District Commissioners.



Tim Moran, NRCS Soil Conservation Technician from Spirit Lake, talks to a group of 6th graders about wildflowers.



Ryan Dermody, NRCS Soil Scientist from Storm Lake, leads a class down the hillside to take soil samples with a probe.

NRCS Staff:

Carroll Oskvig, District Conservationist
Tim Moran, Soil Conservation Technician

IDALS-DSC Staff:

Maxine Butler, State Secretary

District Staff:

Steve Anderson, CWA Coordinator
Sue Ehret, Soil Conservation Aide

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