



A Quality Environment

DICKINSON SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

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

APRIL 2007

GRASSED WATERWAY

Grassed waterway practice is an eligible practice for State Cost Share and IFIP (Iowa Financial Incentive Program for Soil Erosion Control). Soil and Water Conservation District commissioners set local priorities for the use of these funds, and field office staff is available for conservation planning and practice design. Practices installed are subject to maintenance agreements to assure their long-term, successful performance. Funds are matched by landowners, spent locally to hire private construction contractors, and reinvested into the economies of local communities. In addition to soil conservation and water quality protection, local jobs and businesses benefit from these financial incentives.



A grassed waterway and vegetated filter consist of a natural or constructed vegetated channel that is shaped or graded and vegetated to carry surface water at a non-erosive velocity to a stable outlet that, in turn, spreads the flow of water before the water enters the vegetated filter.

Grassed waterways convey runoff from terraces, diversions, or other water concentrations without causing soil erosion or flooding. Vegetation in the waterway protects the soil from erosion caused by concentrated flows while carrying water down slope. The stable outlet is designed to slow and spread the flow of water before it enters a vegetated filter. Depending upon the selection of vegetation and management practices,

grassed waterways can offer diversity and cover for wildlife.

A grassed waterway and vegetated filter are used in areas where added water conveyance capacity and vegetative protection are needed to control soil erosion resulting from concentrated runoff. Such areas commonly include draws and other low-lying areas or outlets for other conservation practices (e.g., diversions and terraces). The minimum capacity of a waterway conveys the peak runoff expected from a storm of 10-year frequency, 24-hour duration. In some areas, a combination of high peak runoff and steep slopes may cause water velocities that preclude the use of a grassed waterway.

The grassed waterway and vegetated filter can enhance wildlife objectives, depending on the vegetative species used and management practiced. Consider using native or adapted vegetative species that can provide food and cover for important wildlife. Delay mowing of the waterway and filter area until after the nesting season. Prescribed burning, or other disturbance practice, may be appropriate to enhance wildlife values, but burning must be conducted to avoid critical nesting seasons or to reduce winter cover.

Other practices eligible for State Cost Share / IFIP are: Terraces, Grade Stabilization Structures, Water and Sediment Control Basins, Pasture and Hayland Planting, Filter Strips, Field Borders, Windbreaks and Riparian Forest Buffers.

For more information about a Grassed Waterway and other practices, Please call the Dickinson County NRCS Field Office at 712-336-3782, Ext. 3.

District Commissioners

Mark Ingwersen, Chair Chris Hoffman, Vice Chair
Scott Mitchell, Secretary - Treasurer
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District Mission Statement

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

Burn Equipment Available for Lending

Does your conservation plan require burning? The Dickinson Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) has some burn equipment available for your use.

Items available are:

- drip torch
- water back pack
- flappers

Remember that you must have an approved burn plan before burning your conservation acres.

Contact the SWCD at 712-336-3782, Ext. 3, to reserve the equipment or if you have questions.

Maximize Conservation Practices for Fish, Wildlife

Whether it's in your back yard, on a small acreage or on a large farm, most soil and water conservation practices you put on your land have some benefit to fish and wildlife. But if you really want to see more wildlife as a result of your conserva-

tion work, you need to think about the impact you have on wildlife with every step you take to manage your land. You also need to be sure the conservationist and others you work with know one of your goals is to increase habitat.

To maximize your conservation practices for wildlife:

1. Use native grasses and forbs.
2. Place wildlife plantings near water.
3. Use plants that offer food and important cover for wildlife.
4. Use a variety of grasses, trees and shrubs.
5. Use farming practices that maintain existing habitat.
6. Use maximums rather than minimums for sizes of conservation plantings.

Use grasses, trees and shrubs in conservation buffers and connection corridors between larger habitat areas; use No-till planting for residue cover for small birds in the winter; plant and fence off grasses, trees and shrubs around a farm pond; use more rows, wider and longer, in windbreaks; and plant

blocks of native grasses and forbs between wetlands and crop fields to give grassland birds nesting and cold weather cover.

For more information, contact the USDA Service Center in Spirit Lake at 712-336-3782, Ext. 3, or visit the NRCS Wildlife Habitat Management Institute's website at www.whmi.nrcs.usda.gov

State Cost Share and No-Till Incentive Programs Available

Funds are available through State cost-share programs which provide 50% - 75% of construction costs for several kinds of conservation practices depending on the practice and the location within the county.

These practices include waterways, terraces, sediment basins, grade stabilization structures and diversions.

A \$10 per acre no-till or ridge-till incentive is available to producers who plant up to 80 acres using these tillage systems. This incentive is offered on a one-time, per producer basis.

Tillage System	Field Operation	No. of Field Trips
Strip Tillage	Strip preparation with application of fertilizer, Plant	2
No Tillage	Apply N; Plant; Apply P and K with the planter; (maybe fall broadcast P & K)	3
Ridge Tillage	Apply N; Plant; Cultivate (apply liquid N); Cultivate to prepare ridge; (maybe fall broadcast P & K)	3-5
One-pass Tillage	Knife-in N; Broadcast P and K; Field cultivate; Plant	4
Conventional Tillage	Broadcast P and K; Chisel plow; Knife in N; Field cultivate; Plant	5

Courtesy of: Midwest Plan Service, Publisher, Gyles Randall & Peter Hill, Authors

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