



A Quality Environment

DICKINSON SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

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

DECEMBER 2005

2006 WILDLIFE HABITAT INCENTIVES PROGRAM SIGN-UP DEADLINE — JANUARY 27, 2006

The Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP) is a voluntary program that encourages creation of high quality wildlife habitat by private landowners and others. Through WHIP, the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) provides technical and financial assistance to landowners to develop upland, wetland, riparian and aquatic habitat areas on their property. In Dickinson County, with our diverse landscape, ranging from urban to rural settings and from grassland to wetland to woodland habitats, most areas will be in high ranking locations for one or more of the funding priority habitat classifications including Forestry, Grassland, Riverine, Wildlife Management and Education.

A ranking process has been developed to help select the most deserving applications statewide, in each category. Selected applicants will work with NRCS technical staff to develop a wildlife habitat plan designed to meet the landowners' individual goals.

WHIP provides cost-share payments, under agreements that are usually 5 to 10 years in duration, depending upon the practices to be installed. The cost-share rate to landowners with selected applications in 2006 will be 60%.

For more information or to sign-up, please contact the NRCS office in the USDA Service Center at 2412 17th Street, in Spirit Lake or Phone 712-336-3782, ext.3.

STATE COST-SHARE PROGRAMS

The Iowa Department of Agriculture, Division of Soil Conservation offers State cost-share which provides 50% to 75% of actual cost 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, diversions, farmstead windbreaks and field 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.

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

THINKING ABOUT TILING?

If you are planning on improving your drainage by repairing or adding tile to your fields, or if you plan on filling or clearing, be sure to check your wetland determination (NRCS-CPA-026E). If your wetland determination was before 1996, it may be invalid. Acres need to be certified for wetlands before tiling, filling or clearing begins.

Since certified wetland determinations can take up to 2 to 8 weeks to complete, please plan accordingly before you begin work by contacting the USDA Service Center.

ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY INCENTIVES PROGRAM (EQIP)

The 2006 Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) sign-up has begun for producers in Dickinson County. The initial EQIP allotment for Dickinson County was increased 38% over the 2005 allotment.

Producers are encouraged to call 712-336-3782, Ext. 3, or stop in at the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) at the USDA Service.

The EQIP practice list is included with this newsletter on a separate sheet of paper. The Nutrient Management Intensity Options are on the reverse side of this page.

District Commissioners

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

Assistant Commissioners

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.

Dickinson County Nutrient Management Intensity Options for EQIP 2006

Category *	Description	Unit	Annual Basic In- centive	Maximum Acres
A.	Implement a nutrient management plan for the cropping, forage and/or pasture system.	Ac	\$2.00	320
B.	Install a 590 nutrient management plan for the cropping system. Plus <u>three</u> of the following activities: Specific to Animal Manure Usage: 1. Manure Applied to Phosphorus Based rates on entire farm 2. Yearly laboratory manure analysis and manure and wastewater volume documentation prior to land application. 3. Variable rate manure applications and/or commercial fertilizers Install composting system for livestock manure General Nutrient Management: 1. Grid or Soil Management Zone Soil Analysis according to ISU PM-287 2. Variable rate commercial fertilizer application 3. No Fall Application of Commercial Nitrogen (<u>except N associated with DAP-MAP</u>) Use Late Spring Nitrate Test (LSNT) to evaluate N application – application rates based on Table 1 of ISU PM1714 OR Use of side-dress Nitrogen – application rates based on Table 2 of ISU PM1714 5. Utilize fall stalk test to evaluate nitrogen management per ISU Publication PM1584 6. Utilize fertilizer application methods that will place P and K nutrients as close to the root zone of the plant (sub-surface banding, starter fertilizer) Apply no P if soil test results are “HIGH” or “VERY HIGH”	Ac	\$6.00	320
C.	Implement a nutrient management plan for the cropping system plus five of the activities listed in Category B.	Ac	\$10.00	320

- **Categories are NOT additive. Maximum acreages a participant can receive for EQIP incentives is 320 acres. Payments are made in years 1, 2 and 3.**

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