

A Quality Environment

DICKINSON SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

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

DECEMBER 2003

SWCD Foundation Tree Sale Begins

The Dickinson SWCD Foundation is taking orders for its **2004 Tree Sale**. A copy of the Tree Sale Order Form is enclosed with this newsletter. This bare root and potted stock can be used for farm programs such as CRP and is also a good choice for farmstead and field windbreaks.

If you have questions or would like to place an order for trees or shrubs, please contact Mark or Kim Ingwersen at 712-336-3616 or you can contact the Soil and Water Conservation Office at 2412 17th Street, Spirit Lake, or call 712-336-3782, Ext. 3.

State Cost Share

The **Iowa Department of Agriculture, Division of Soil Conservation** manages State cost-share programs which provide 50% to 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, diversions, farmstead windbreaks and, field windbreaks.

A no-till or ridge-till incentive is offered to producers who plant using these tillage systems. This

**Look for the
2004
SWCD
Foundation
Tree Sale
Flier
Attached!**

incentive is offered on a one-time only, per producer basis, with a maximum of 80 acres at \$10 per acre.

While these programs are currently under-funded due to the State's budget problems, we can continue to take applications for State cost-share projects so that when funding becomes available we are ready to move forward.

Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)

The 2004 EQIP sign-up is coming soon. If you have any interest in the following practices, please contact our office or come in soon so that we can work together in preparing an application for:

- Livestock Animal Waste Systems
- Grazing /Livestock Watering Systems
- Nutrient / Pest Management
- Terraces
- Waterways
- Sediment Basins
- Grade Stabilization Structure
- Residue Management/No-Till, Ridge-Till, Strip-Till
- Composting Facility

Cost share or incentive payments are available for these and other practices. Also, we will be receiving a larger allotment of funds this year, so if you have applied in the past and were not accepted, we encourage you to resubmit your application.

District Commissioners

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

Assistant Commissioners

Curt Smith 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.

Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP)

Whip is a voluntary program that encourages the creation of high quality wildlife habitats that will support wildlife populations. Through WHIP, the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) provides 75% cost-share payments for development and protection of upland, wetland, riparian and aquatic habitat areas.

Eligible lands include:

- ♦ Privately owned land;
- ♦ Federal land when the primary benefit is on private or Tribal land;
- ♦ State and local government land on a limited basis;
- ♦ Tribal land.

- * **WHIP provides cost share payments to landowners under agreements that are usually 5 to 10 years in duration, depending on the practice to be installed.**
- * **To participate you can own or lease land, or provide proof of control for the agreement period.**
- * **You are not required to give access to the general public.**

NRCS works with the participant to develop a wildlife habitat development plan. This plan becomes the basis of the cost-

share agreement between NRCS and the participant.

NRCS continues to provide assistance to landowners after completion of habitat development activities.

WHIP has a continuous sign-up. Feel free to stop in to ask questions or fill out an applications at the USDA Service Center in Spirit Lake or give us a call at 712-336-3782, ext. 3.

Curt Smith **CRP Technician**

Curt Smith has recently joined the Dickinson County NRCS/SWCD staff as a CRP

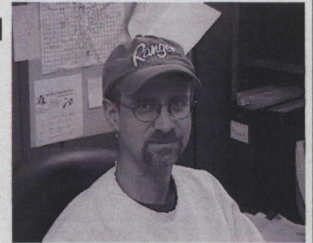


Temporary Technician. Curt and his wife, Sandie, live on a three generation farm near Superior and stay active raising three daughters. Curt serves as an Assistant Commissioner for the Dickinson County SWCD, is a member of the ISU Extension Council and a 4-H leader.

His responsibilities will revolve around General and Continuous Conservation Reserve Programs (CRP). If you have any questions regarding CRP requirements, please give Curt a call at the USDA Service Center in Spirit Lake at 712-336-3782, Ext. 3.

Bill Fitzgerald **Conservation Aide**

Hi! I am Bill Fitzgerald and I joined the NRCS/SWCD staff this fall as



a Conservation Aide. I am a native of Milford and returned after college in Sioux City and Minneapolis. As an avid outdoorsman, working with natural resources conservation is right up my alley. I also enjoy working with the new technologies, GIS and GPS, which makes our job easier and more accurate.

My duties here are varied. I am working with the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP), Grassland Reserve, Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP), Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), as well as state cost-share programs.

I look forward to meeting and working with the landowners in the county so that we can meet your needs as well as preserve and enhance the resources that contribute to our economy and quality of life here in Dickinson County.

If you have any interest in how these programs could enhance your land/operation, please feel free to contact me.

NRCS Staff:

Carroll Oskvig, District Conservationist
Tim Moran, Soil Conservation Technician

IDALS-DSC Staff:

Maxine Butler, State Secretary
Curt Smith, CRP Temp. Technician

District Staff:

Ike Petersen, Water Quality Specialist
Bill Fitzgerald, Soil Conservation Aide
Donna Buell, CWA Coordinator

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