



DICKINSON SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

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

DECEMBER 2010

A Quality Environment

Cost-Share Funds Available for Conservation Practices

While completing your spring 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 have noticed over the winter that your **wind-break could be improved** or that perhaps a **new wind-break** is needed.

Windbreaks and shelter-belts can reduce wind-induced erosion and save on heating and cooling costs associated with farmsteads. When properly placed to shield farm buildings from strong winds, windbreaks can lower heating and cooling costs by up to 20 percent.

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.

For more information on cost-share programs or to request technical assistance, contact the USDA Service Center at 2412 17th Street, Spirit Lake, or call 712-336-3782, Ext. 3.

Look for the
**2011
Tree Sale**
flyer
included with
this
newsletter

Continuous Signups for EQIP and CSP

The **Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)** and the **Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)** have continuous sign-ups, but there are deadlines for applications to be ranked and funded.

A draft of the **2011 EQIP Conservation Practice List** is enclosed as a separate list. **The sign-up deadline for EQIP is Friday, January 21, 2011.** After reviewing the proposed practice list contact the NRCS office if you have questions or would like to learn more about EQIP.

A copy of the **Producer Self-Screening Checklist** is enclosed on a separate sheet. After reviewing the Checklist if you feel CSP is for you, please contact the NRCS Office in Spirit Lake for an appointment. **The next sign-up deadline for CSP is Friday, January 7, 2011.**

Contact the NRCS office at 712-336-3782, Ext. 3, to find out more about EQIP and CSP.

Best Wishes to NRCS Employees Moving On

We want to wish Loren Ehlers and Bill Fitzgerald the best as they move on in their careers with NRCS. Loren accepted a Resource Conservationist position in Takamah, Nebraska, and Bill accepted a Soil Conservationist position in Kahului, Hawaii. Thanks to both for their very good work in Emmet and Dickinson Counties!

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.

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District Commissioners

Mark Ingwersen Chris Hoffman Scott Mitchell
John Myhre Curt Smith

Assistant Commissioners

Orville Berg Earl Muilenburg Phyllis Nielsen
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.

Dickinson SWCD Foundation Scholarships, continued

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. CDI funds 6 regional awards of \$300 each and state level awards in the amount of \$1,800, \$1,200 and \$1,000. The applicant needs to submit two (2) typed copies of their application and must use the 2010 application form.

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. Both scholarships will be judged on leadership and scholastic achievement.

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 2412 17th Street, by calling 712-336-3782, ext. 3, or by e-mailing: maxine.butler@ia.nacdnet.net OR check the Clean Water Alliance website: http://cleanwateralliance.net/blog/?page_id=270

Iowa Great Lakes Targeted Watershed Funds Available

Don't forget about Iowa Great Lakes Watershed specific incentives! We now have additional funds to offer to producers and landowners thanks to grant approvals from 319 and WIRB.

We will be using these funds to encourage additional conservation practices throughout the IGL Watershed to help improve the quality of the water flowing into the lakes. **These include incentives for agricultural structures like grassed waterways, sediment basins, wetland restorations and rock tile intakes, as well as incentives for using reduced tillage.**

We will also be working on improving water quality in urban areas by promoting the use of and offering incentives for building rain gardens, pervious pavers, bio-swales and bio-retention cells. We will also be looking for areas throughout the year to promote and do work on lakeshore restoration by reintroducing native vegetation both onshore and in the water.

If you have questions on whether you are eligible for a practice or an incentive, stop in or call Laramie Hjelm, IGL Watershed Coordinator soon to take advantage of these incentives. Also, check out our website at <http://cleanwateralliance.net> for information, news and updates.

Silver Lake Watershed Funds Available

The first wetland restorations as part of the Silver Lake water quality project were completed in November of 2010. After enrollment in the Farmable Wetlands Program (FWP), native vegetation and natural hydrology were restored on over 150 acres of hydric soils and adjacent uplands. Although one restoration project will not be a cure-all for the water quality issues facing Silver Lake, each practice serves a vital role in water quality protection.

Two new Funding Opportunities for Silver Lake Watershed and targeted areas of the Iowa Great Lakes Watershed

Watershed coordinator Ryan Ransom has been working with several landowners on additional wetland restoration projects in the watershed. To be eligible for project incentives, restorations will need to be initiated before incentive funding expires in December of 2011.

Beginning in early 2011, project funding will also provide incentive payments and additional cost-share on a wide variety of conservation practices. This funding is designed to promote sustainable production and water quality improvements via the installation of practices such as grassed waterways, sediment basins, filter strips, terraces, and reduced tillage practices.

Landowners and operators interested in options available through the Silver Lake Watershed Project are urged call the Dickinson Soil & Water Conservation District at 712-336-3782, Ext. 3, and ask for coordinator Ryan Ransom.

NRCS Staff:

Carroll Oskvig, District Conservationist
Betty Romero, Soil Conservation Technician
Bill Fitzgerald, Soil Conservation Technician (Emmet & Dickinson)
Loren Ehlers, Resource Conservationist (Emmet & Dickinson)

IDALS-DSC Staff:

Maxine Butler, State Secretary

District Staff:

Steve Anderson, Urban Conservationist / CWA Coordinator (John Wills deployed)
Derek Namanny, CWA Coord Assistant
Ryan Ransom, Silver Lake Coordinator
Laramie Hjelm, IGL 319 Coordinator

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