

A Quality Environment

DICKINSON SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

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

NOVEMBER 2004

DICKINSON COUNTY FY 05 ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY INCENTIVES PROGRAM

The Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) is a voluntary conservation program of the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) that promotes agricultural production and environmental quality. This program is available to farmers and offers financial and technical assistance to install or implement structural and management practices on eligible agricultural land.

The following are Dickinson County Resource Concerns to be addressed by EQIP: Soil; Water; and Plants.

These resource concerns address the following National EQIP priorities:

1. Reduction of non-point source pollution, such as nutrients, sediment, pesticides, or excess salinity in impaired watersheds consistent with total maximum daily loads (TMDL's), where available, as well as the reduction of groundwater contamination and the conservation of ground and surface water resources; and
2. Reduction in soil erosion and sedimentation from unacceptable high levels on agricultural land.

Ranking will be completed for the specific practices to be applied through the EQIP contract. Sign-up is continuous at the NRCS field office. The ranking of the applications will be done periodically as funding allocations become available, will be announced through the NRCS State Office, and will be publicized by all levels of NRCS. The local work group also recommended a list of conservation practices to be addressed, and the cost-share rates and/or incentive payments that are the most cost-effective, longest duration, and help most to address these priority resource concerns in the District.

The deadline for the first round of FY 05 EQIP funding is December 17, 2004. Producers may apply at the NRCS office located in the USDA Service Center in Spirit Lake, Iowa.

Cost-share rates will be a percent of the actual cost not to exceed the rate limits or the estimated cost established in the contract. Cost-share and incentive payments are not available to producers who have already adopted and/or applied the practice(s). **Beginning and limited resource producers may receive 75% cost-share instead of the county rate of 50% on specified practices.**

EQIP Informational and Sign-Up Meetings

Thursday, December 2

Tuesday, December 7

Monday, December 13
at

ISU Extension Meeting Room
All meetings from 12:30—1 p.m.
Coffee & cookies provided

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Thursday, December 9

at

Terril Legion Hall
12—1 p.m.

Chili & crackers
Coffee & cookies provided
Sponsored by The State Bank

Minimum contract length and operation and maintenance requirement length is one year after the last practice is implemented. Maximum contract length and operation and maintenance length is ten years for all practices.

Comments shown on Dickinson County Practice List describe the minimum number of years the practice is to be maintained. The practice maintenance requirements may continue (and probably will) after the EQIP contract expires. Modifications to conservation plans must be approved by NRCS

prior to implementation of planned practice or components.

District Commissioners

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

Assistant Commissioners

Phyllis Nielsen 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.

Practices associated with Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (CAFO's) will be cost-shared at 50% up to a total cost of \$50 per animal unit (\$25 per animal unit cost-share) with no practice cost-share limit. Practices eligible for cost-share are those for the manure and wastewater handling and storage element of the comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan (CNMP). Those practices are: Compost Facility (317), Diversion (362), Manure Transfer (634), Pond Sealing or Lining Bentonite (521C), Pond Sealing or Lining, Flexible Membrane (521A), Roof Runoff Structure (558), Sediment Basin (350), Waste Storage Facility (313), Waste Storage Lagoon (359), and Filter Strip (393).

See the enclosed three-page FY05 EQIP Practice List.

Applicants with grazing systems are limited to less than \$50,000 of cost share and incentive payments. Practices associated with grazing systems include: Pasture and Hayland Planting (512), Prescribed Grazing (528A), Nutrient Management (590), Trough or Tank-Watering Facility (614), Pumping Plant for Water Control (533) and Well (533).

All practices will be implemented according to NRCS Field Office Technical Guide standards and the conservation plan for that practice.

For more information on EQIP go to www.ia.nrcs.gov, or contact the NRCS at the USDA Service Center at 2412 17th Street, Spirit Lake, Iowa 51360 or call us at 712-336-3782, Ext. 3.

MEET BETTY ROMERO,

NEW NRCS SOIL CONSERVATION TECHNICIAN

Hello. I would like to introduce myself. My name is Betty Romero. I arrived in your great state of Iowa on Saturday, November 12th to start my new job as Soil Conservation Technician with the Natural Resources Conservation Service.



My exciting life began growing up on a farm in western Kansas. My parent's farm consisted of acres of wheat, milo, and sumac. They also raised cattle. Besides farming my parents did Custom Cutting in Oklahoma, Kansas, Colorado, Nebraska and South Dakota. These were fun and memorable summers I will always cherish, but we had our hard times too. Tragedy struck our farm when a cyclone struck on May 1, 1972.

I graduated from Jetmore High School, and continued my education at Trinidad State Junior College, CO; St. Mary of the Plains, KS; University of Southern Colorado (now Colorado State University-Pueblo) and other colleges for elective classes. My past work experiences are working for the National Park Service, County Historical Society, and the Core of Engineers.

My three children, Chastity, John, and Patrick are all in Kansas attending different colleges and working. They were raised in south central Kansas where I accepted a position with the Rice County Historical Society as Curator of the Coronado Quivira Museum.

I was a widow at the age of 28. Their father, my husband was killed in an accident on May 10, 1982.

I'm looking forward to meeting and getting to know my co-workers. I'm excited to be working with landowners and operators, businesses, and all the citizens of Dickinson County to promote Agriculture Programs through the Natural Resource Conservation Service such as at the informational meetings on the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) being held in December.

WILDLIFE HABITAT INCENTIVES PROGRAM

***Sign-Up Deadline
December 10, 2004***

Overview

The Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP) is a voluntary program that encourages creation of high quality wildlife habitat that support wildlife population of National, State, Tribal, and local significance. Through WHIP, the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) provides technical and financial assistance to landowners and others to develop upland, wetland, riparian, and aquatic habitat areas on their property.

Duration

WHIP provides cost-share payments to landowners under agreements that are usually 5 to 10 years in duration, depending upon the practices to be installed.

The cost-share rate for practices is 60%.

For More Information

If you need more information about WHIP, please contact the Dickinson Natural Resources Conservation Service at 2412 17th Street, Spirit Lake, IA or Phone: 712-336-3782, ext.3.

NRCS Staff:

Carroll Oskvig, District Conservationist
Tim Moran, Soil Conservation Technician
Betty Romero, Soil Conservation Technician

IDALS-DSC Staff:

Maxine Butler, State Secretary

District Staff:

Bill Fitzgerald, Soil Conservation Aide
Donna Buell, CWA Coordinator

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DICKINSON SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT FOUNDATION

2412 17TH STREET

SPIRIT LAKE, IOWA 51360

NOVEMBER 2004

Rock Tile Intakes

The Dickinson SWCD Foundation is promoting a new cost-share practice for Dickinson County called "**Rock Tile Intakes**".

The practice will replace the old open tile intake with a pea-rock gravel pack that allows the water to seep through a trench of pea-rock gravel rather than the old open tile intake system.

The idea is to filter the drainage water through a bed or filter of gravel rather than allowing it to run freely into an open intake. This old method allows the drainage water to carry sediment with it into the tile system. This water flows freely into drainage ditches, streams and lakes where it is not wanted.

It is believed that with the pea-rock gravel pack to filter the water, much of the sediment will be filtered out at the intake.

The big advantage to the farmer would be the elimination of the old plastic or steel intake pipe which can be hit and bent, or knocked over, by tillage and harvesting equipment.

The main advantage to others is the off-site benefits of less siltation and muddy water in

lakes and streams.

The Rock Tile Intakes program is being funded by a grant through the Dickinson Water Quality Commission and it is being administered by Clarence Call and the Dickinson SWCD Foundation. *It is not connected with any state or federal programs.*

Rock Tile Intakes will be installed only on private tile lines on private property and only in cropland. (No road ditches, pasture or county tile, etc.)

*See the
reverse side
for Rock Tile
Intake design
and
specifications*

Cost-share is paid at 75%, up to a maximum of \$200 per intake. There are no maximum number of intakes per cooperator.

Applications for cost-share may be signed at any time and the practice approved by the Foundation Board before cost-share is obligated.

For more information, see the reverse side of this newsletter for the Rock Tile Intake design and specifications.

Contact Clarence Call at 712-336-3310 for more information, questions or to sign an application for cost-share.

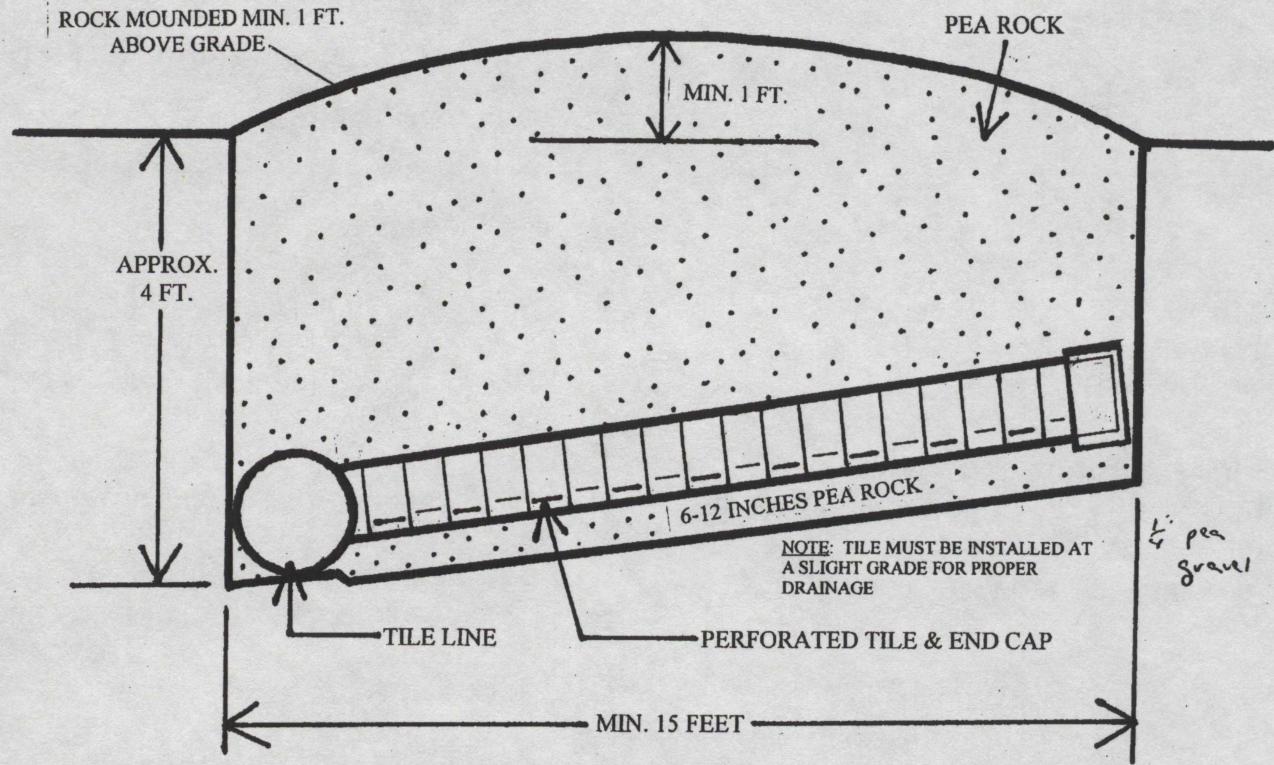
Foundation Board and Officers

Mark Ingwersen, Chairperson
Scott Mitchell, Secretary
2412 17th Street

Bill Northey
Spirit Lake, Iowa 51360

Chris Hoffman, Vice Chair
Orville Berg, Treasurer
712-336-3782 Ext. 3

Rock Tile Intake Design and Specifications



Materials

- Minimum 6" perforated tile and end cap
- T-connectors, minimum 6" to _____ (size of Tile)
- 6 to 8 cubic yards of pea rock (estimated). 1/4" - 7/8" diameter rock only
- If using perforated tile, 1/4" pea rock is recommended

Earth Work

- Excavate 2' to 3' wide x 15' long x 3' to 4' deep

Note

- Place 6"-12" of rock at bottom of trench, under tile
- Pea rock should be mounded a minimum of 1' above grade
- Using larger rock than specified may allow sediment into structure
- Cost using rubber tire backhoe: can depend on various factors including size and depth of tile and materials used. Average estimated cost \$200 per intake
- Design adapted from Morriem Drainage, Freeborn County, MN and Carver County SWCD, MN

Questions? Contact Clarence Call at 336-3310

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