



A Quality Environment

DICKINSON SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

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

MAY 2004

State Cost Share Programs

The **Iowa Department of Agriculture, Division of Soil Conservation** offers State cost-share which provides 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. This 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.

Grassed Waterways

A grassed waterway is a shaped and graded channel used for the stable conveyance of runoff water. Indications of the need for a constructed waterway include:

- A gully effect caused by runoff concentrating in a narrow channel cutting into the soil.
- On flatter grades, the need to move runoff water off the field by keeping it contained in a grassed channel.
- In areas in which a grassed waterway is already in place but not functioning as it should.
 - * Water not staying in the waterway, instead, cutting a path around it due to inadequate depth in the waterway.
 - * The water is cutting in the center of the waterway, because the center depth is not in a wide enough zone.

Design considerations which are used to determine

needed dimensions of the waterway (depth and width):

- Size of the drainage area (the watershed area)
- Slope of the watershed
- Slope of the waterway location
- Soil type of the waterway location
- Stable Outlet

Farmer considerations:

- Being able to cross with farm equipment
- Maintenance requirements:
 - * Establishment of the grass seeding
 - * Periodic maintenance to keep adequate depth needed for the waterway to function as designed
 - * Keeping the waterway functioning and in place for the contract period

Cost-Share options

There are several state or federal programs which provide cost-share assistance for waterway construction. These include:

- State cost-share-(IFIP-county wide and REAP-Silver Lake Watershed) offering 50% cost-share and a 20 year maintenance agreement. Check with the SWCD-NRCS office.
- Publicly Owned Lakes-(Iowa Great Lakes Watershed) offering 75% cost-share and a 20 year maintenance agreement. Check with the SWCD-NRCS office.
- Continuous CRP, administered by FSA - for areas in which crop ground is taken out of production in order to implement the waterway.
 - * Rental payment based on the soil types of the waterway, for a 10 year contract period.
 - * 50% cost-share of eligible costs
 - * plus a 40% practice incentive payment (PIP)
 - * and a sign up incentive payment (SIP)
 - * Check with the FSA office about your interest in a CRP waterway or other CRP practices.

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.

EQIP Sign-Up Continues

The Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) sign-up is a continuous sign-up for producers who are interested in cost share or incentive payments for practices such as:

- 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

The first round of EQIP funding ended earlier this spring. We are developing plans with producers who had applications selected. Applications selected for contract development in Dickinson County included practices such as livestock animal waste systems, nutrient management, livestock grazing systems, pest management and ridge tillage.

More EQIP funds may become available. We encourage you to stop in and talk with us about how EQIP can fit in your farming operation.

Continuous CRP

As you finish up planting and have field conditions fresh in your mind, consider taking advantage of Continuous Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) administered by the Farm Service Agency (FSA).

Environmentally desirable land devoted to certain conservation practices may be enrolled in CRP at **any**

time under continuous sign-up.

Offers are automatically accepted provided the land and producer meet eligibility requirements. Offers for continuous CRP sign-up are not subject to competitive bidding. Continuous CRP sign-up contracts are 10-15 years in duration.

Practices that eligible land may be considered for include:

- Riparian Buffers
- Wildlife Habitat Buffers
- Wetland Buffers
- Filter Strips
- Wetland Restorations
- Grass Waterways
- Shelter Belts
- Living Snow Fence
- Contour Grass Strips
- Shallow Water Areas for Wildlife

To offer land for Continuous CRP sign-up, producers should contact their local FSA office. Technical assistance will be provided by the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS).

Conservation Practices Subject to Status Reviews

If you own or manage land that was recently enrolled into a Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), a Status Review may be completed on the practice site by NRCS staff this summer. Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP), Wetland Reserve Program (WRP), Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), and Soil Water Conservation District (SWCD) easements may also be subject to status reviews.

Status reviews are field checks to evaluate the progress of your conservation practice. Establishment of

grasses, trees and shrubs, wetlands, as well as the functionality of erosion practices such as grass waterways are some of the items that will be checked.

After visiting the site, a brief write up is completed to document the status of the practice(s). This Status Review form will be sent to the contract holder. It will update how well established the practices are and give recommendations on maintaining or improving these practices so as to help the contract holder be in compliance. When you receive this form, please sign and return it to our office.

During the first three years of a CRP contract, the NRCS staff may be required to provide technical assistance to FSA by checking your conservation practice. If after three years the practice is not established, you will need to take action to remain in compliance.

During those first three years, when the practice is determined to be established, we consider it Final. At this point, NRCS involvement ends and any further field checks are FSA spot checks.

After a practice is considered Final, spot treatments such as mowing or spraying may be allowed during the primary nesting season **only under certain circumstances**. **Check with FSA for details!** County Office Committee approval is required.

You will also need permission from the FSA County Office Committee to conduct a prescribed fire burn, after requesting and receiving an NRCS burn plan. Please plan on at least two months notice for plan preparation and approval.

NRCS Staff:

Carroll Oskvig, District Conservationist
Tim Moran, 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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