



A Quality Environment

DICKINSON SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

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

SEPTEMBER 2006

ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY INCENTIVES PROGRAM (EQIP) SIGN-UP UNDERWAY

Producers interested in receiving cost share and/or incentive payments for conservation practices associated with livestock waste management systems, grazing management systems and equipment, nutrient management, pesticide management, composting facilities, anaerobic digesters, livestock mortality facilities, no-till, strip-till, ridge till and many other practices may sign-up for EQIP at any time. The approved EQIP conservation practices and sign-up guidelines that will be used from 10/1/06 to 9/30/07 are being developed.

By signing up at NRCS now, your application can be scored with other applications for potential first round funding in fiscal year 2007.

Please stop in at the NRCS office, or call 712-336-3782 Ext. 3, if you have any questions.

ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY INCENTIVES PROGRAM (EQIP) PAYMENT PROCESSING

As fall arrives, many Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) contract holders will have conservation practices that will need to be certified and/or payments processed.

In addition to making sure we have the necessary documentation in your file, such as power of attorney forms, incorporation documents, direct deposit forms, land ownership change information and payment share change information ready for processing, the following are items that producers can submit now that will help us process your payments faster:

1. Producers with nutrient and/or pest management practices:

- Scouting reports that list tillage operations, the dates,

amount, type and application location of fertilizer, manure, herbicides, insecticides, and fungicides.

- Records showing amounts of fertilizer and/or manure applied.
- Records showing amounts of herbicides, insecticides and fungicides applied.
- Records showing the Nutrient Management option level items that were completed (only if you have a 2005 or 2006 EQIP contract).

2. Producers with grazing practices:

- Bills for fencing, seedings and water pipelines.
- Bills for labor to install fencing, seedings and water pipelines.
- Grazing scouting reports.

3. Producers with structural practices:

- Bills from Technical Service Providers for engineering services.
- Bills for earthwork, pipe and labor.

It is not too early to bring in your pre-2007 crop year plans so that we can work with you to have these plans approved before you begin fall tillage or application of fertilizer/manure this fall.

Please feel free to call us at 712-336-3782, Ext. 3, if you have questions about EQIP conservation practices and their payment rates.

Don't forget that you can view Dickinson County FY 06 EQIP practice list, application ranking worksheet and supplementary information on-line at:
www.ia.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/stateequip.html

Also available on-line are USDA forms at:
www.sc.egov.usda.gov/ or contact your local USDA Service Center.

District Commissioners

Mark Ingwersen, Chair 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.

ESCAPE INTO YOUR OWN BACKYARD OF TRANQUILITY

Whether you live in the city or the county, a moment of peace and tranquility could be as close as your own backyard. Conservation practices for soil and water quality can be installed in your backyard on small or large acreage. A backyard is the perfect escape--a private place where you can relax after a hectic day and let nature compose a soothing lullaby that calms your nerves.

Imagine walking out your back door and into a tranquil garden where flowers bloom, butterflies hover, birds sing, and water softly trickles. As the sun goes down, you can illuminate your favorite corner with a soft spotlight and continue to unwind as night approaches.

Sound too good to be true?

Not if you learn about Backyard Conservation. Your backyard can easily be transformed into a natural haven for birds, blooms, and beauty--a place of tranquility.

That's the latest advice for homeowners and urban residents throughout the country. The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD), and the Wildlife Habitat Council (WHC) are offering a free 28-page "Backyard Conservation" booklet that showcases 10 simple conservation practices for the backyard--terracing, tree planting, composting, mulching, wildlife habitat, wetlands, ponds, water conservation, nutrient management, and pest management.

Contact the NRCS office at 2412 17th Street, Spirit Lake, to request your free copy.

ENERGY ESTIMATOR: NRCS TILLAGE TOOL

Energy Estimator for Tillage is the first of several tools from Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) developed to increase energy awareness in agriculture. The tool estimates diesel fuel use and costs in the production of key crops in your area and compares potential energy savings between conventional tillage and alternative tillage systems. The crops covered are limited to the most predominant crops in 74 Crop Management Zones (CMZ's). NRCS agronomists have identified these crops and estimated the fuel use associated with common tillage systems. Without including every crop and tillage system, the Energy Estimator gives you an idea of the magnitude of diesel fuel savings under different levels of tillage.

To find this tool at :
<http://ecat.sc.egov.usda.gov/>

TIME TO START PLANNING FOR WINDBREAKS AND SHELTERBELTS

Windbreaks and Shelterbelts can reduce wind-induced erosion and save 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.



Some items to take into consideration when planning your shelterbelt/windbreak are; beautification, foliage color and seasonal flowering, fruit and limb drop, maintenance, and mature plant height.

Most of all, you need to consider operation and maintenance. Checking trees and shrubs for insect and disease damage with regular inspections. The replanting trees or shrubs that do not survive and the use of irrigation, mulching, geo-textile mats, tree shelters, and tree shades may be necessary to ensure adequate survival.

A number of cost-share programs for windbreaks and shelterbelts are available.

For more information, please contact the USDA Service Center at 2412 17th Street, Spirit Lake, or call 712-336-3782, Ext. 3.

SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION POSITIONS

Do you have an interest in soil and water conservation work?

From time to time,
volunteer positions and/or
part-time paid positions
become available.

If you are interested in finding
out more about these
positions, please give us a call
at
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:

Steve Anderson, Clean Water Alliance
Coordinator

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DICKINSON SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT FOUNDATION

2412 17TH STREET

SPIRIT LAKE, IOWA 51360

SEPTEMBER 2006

Rock Tile Intakes

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

***Our grant funds
are running low!***

***Contact the
office for more
information or to
sign up now!***

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. The old method allows the drainage water to carry sediment into the tile system and from there into drainage ditches, streams and lakes.

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 is 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 the

Dickinson SWCD Foundation. *It is not connected with any state or federal programs.*

Rock Tile Intakes will be cost-shared only within designated watersheds, on private tile lines on private property and only in cropland. (No road ditches, pasture or county tile, etc.)

Cost-share is paid at 75% of actual cost, up to a maximum of \$200 per intake. There are

no maximum number of intakes per cooperator.

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

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 the SWCD office at 712-336-3782, Ext. 3 for more information, questions or to sign an application for cost-share.

Foundation Board and Officers

Mark Ingwersen, Chairperson

Chris Hoffman, Vice Chair

Scott Mitchell, Secretary-Treasurer

Bill Northey

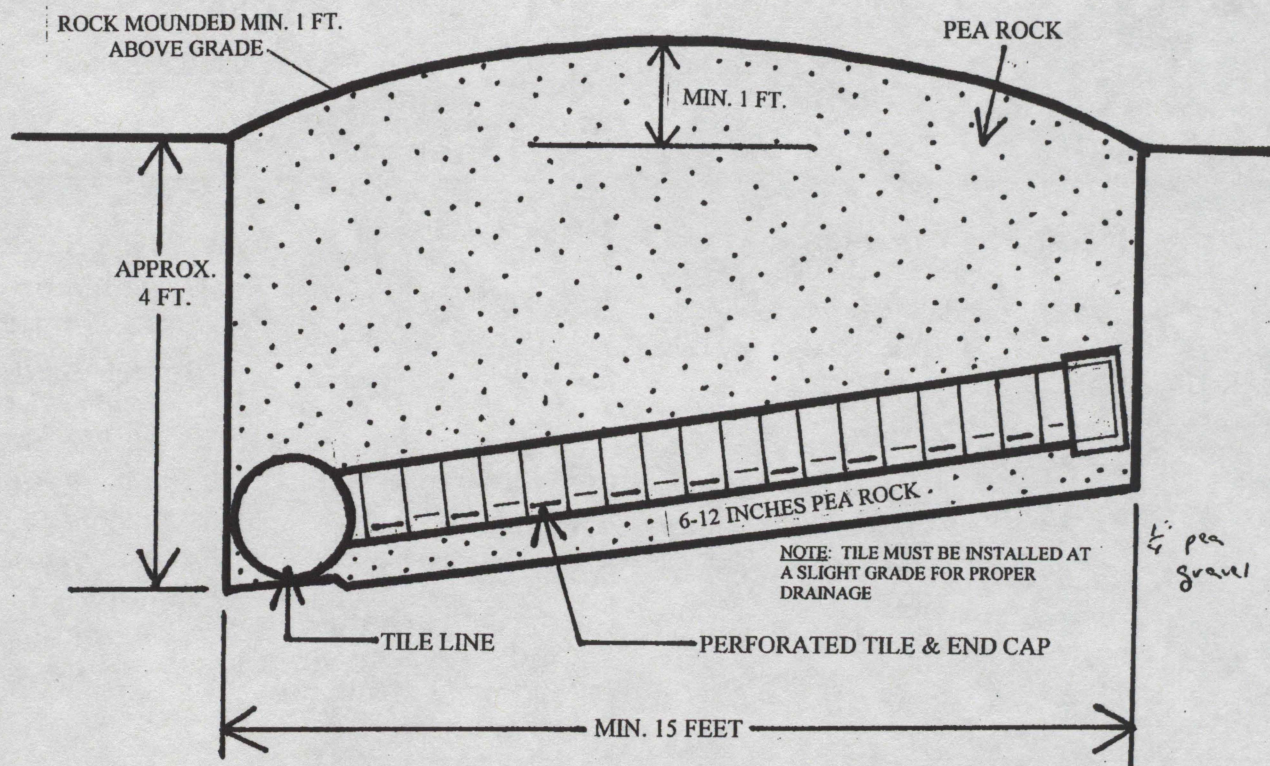
Orville Berg

2412 17th Street

Spirit Lake, Iowa 51360

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 the SWCD office at 336-3782 Ext. 3

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