



DICKINSON SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

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

DECEMBER 2006

A Quality Environment

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 still being developed.

A draft of these practices is enclosed on a separate flier.

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.

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 considered operation and maintenance.

Look for the
2007 Tree Sale flier included with this newsletter.

Order early!
**Large potted
Colorado Spruce stock**

If you are interested in a new windbreak or a windbreak

restoration, 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.

District Commissioners

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

Assistant Commissioners

Earl Muilenburg 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.

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.

The **District Scholarship**, in the amount of \$500, is ***offered for any field of agriculture or natural sciences 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 \$200 each and state level awards in the amount of \$1,500, \$1,000 and \$800. The applicant needs to submit two typed copies of their application and must use the 2007 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 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 Monday, February 26, 2007. Both scholarships will be judged on leadership, scholastic achievement and need.

Applications can be obtained from the High School Counselors at Harris-Lake Park, Okoboji, Spirit Lake or Graettinger/Terril High Schools, by contacting the Dickinson Soil & Water Conservation District at the USDA Service Center in Spirit Lake at 712-336-3782, Ext. 3.

WILDLIFE HABITAT INCENTIVES PROGRAM (WHIP)

The USDA's Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program (WHIP) helps landowners enhance, protect and develop wildlife habitat on their property. Through WHIP, the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) works with landowners to develop wildlife habitat plans and provides cost-share for implementing wildlife habitat management plans.

Landowners may receive cost-share for up to 60% of the average costs for implementing practices such as planting native vegetation, enhancing woodlands and stream bank restoration. Landowners receive free technical assistance for accessing wildlife habitat needs, making a habitat management plan and implementing practices.

Contracts last between 5 and 10 years, depending upon the practices installed and are limited to \$25,000. The practices can be scheduled for completion during several years, but at least one practice must be completed within the first year.

Landowners may sign up for WHIP at anytime at the USDA Service Center; however, contracts are only offered once a year after the annual ranking process.

STATE COST-SHARE PROGRAMS

Fall and winter is a great time to review your needs for field and farmstead windbreaks, as well as, waterways, sediment basins, and other structural practices.

The **Iowa Department of Agriculture, Division of Soil Conservation** offers State cost-share which provides **50%**

to **75% of actual cost** 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, 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.

You may sign up for State cost-share at any time at the SWCD / NRCS office at the USDA Service Center.

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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