

A Quality Environment

DICKINSON SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

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

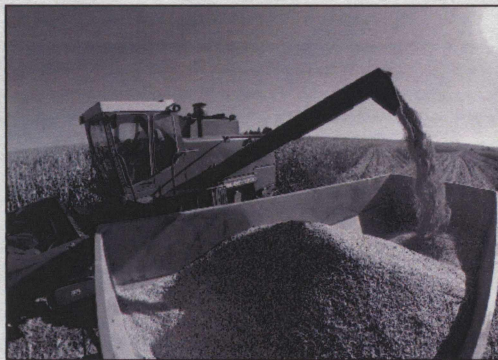
OCTOBER 2005

TILLAGE COSTS THIS FALL COULD BE LONG-TERM

While Dickinson County has not yet been chosen for the Conservation Security Program (CSP), it is anticipated that the program will continue to include more watersheds in the future.

With diesel prices about double last year's, tillage and field operation costs will cut deeper into producers' bottom line this fall. But according to the USDA-

Natural Resources Conservation Service, the costs of fall field operations for some Iowa producers could be much more long term.



Tillage breaks down soil quality, reducing the soil organic matter which is measured by the Soil Conditioning Index (SCI). The SCI is used to help determine CSP eligibility and contract payment amount.

Another crucial management factor used to determine CSP eligibility is nutrient use. **Farmers interested in CSP, should closely examine how fall anhydrous ammonia will fit into their total N application and be sure this amount won't exceed acceptable limits.** Fall anhydrous application also impacts soil quality, which in turn can reduce SCI scores.

A **no-till, ridge-till or strip-till incentive** is offered through State cost-share on a one-time only, per

producer basis, with a maximum of 80 acres at \$10 per acre. Dickinson County **EQIP also offers an incentive payment** for those not currently using no-till.

Under CSP, Iowa farmers and producers can receive up to \$45,000 annually for up to 10 years for the conservation work they have done and promise to do in the future. This year, more than 1970 Iowa farmers were offered contracts worth about \$13 million. This averages to nearly \$6,600 per farmer.

ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY INCENTIVES PROGRAM (EQIP)

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.

2. Producers with grazing practices:

- Bills for fencing, seedings and water pipelines.

District Commissioners

Mark Ingwersen, Chairperson 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.

- 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-2006 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 05 EQIP practice list, application ranking worksheet and supplementary information on-line at: www.ia.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/stateeqip.html

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

CLEAN WATER ALLIANCE WORKS WITH LAKE PARK TO CREATE SILVER LAKE PROTECTIVE ASSOCIATION

The Clean Water Alliance has been working with residents of Lake Park to create a protective association for Silver Lake. This association is looking to include the lakeshore and city residents, as well as the agricultural watershed residents.

To be totally effective in protecting

and improving water quality for Silver Lake, this has to be a group effort. As the City moves towards more beneficial practices, such as storm sewer improvements and yard fertilization, the protective association will also be working to improve agricultural activities.

There are many on-going conservation practices in the Silver Lake watershed, but every additional little bit helps. Rock Tile Intakes, for example, are an innovative practice being sponsored by the Dickinson SWCD Foundation through a grant from the Dickinson Water Quality Commission. This practice assists with drainage by not allowing intakes to plug while keeping the soil on your property. This helps the lake and in the long run, helps your drainage.

If you are looking for more information about the lake watershed you might be located in, please feel free to call the SWCD office at 712-336-3782, Ext. 3 and find out. We help you to find out if your property drains to a lake and if there is a protective association for that lake.

CULTURAL RESOURCES

Cultural Resources are evidence of past human activity. These may include pioneer homes, buildings or old roads; structures with unique architecture; prehistoric village sites; historic or prehistoric artifacts or objects; rock inscription; human burial sites; earthworks, such as battlefield entrenchments, prehistoric canals, or mounds. These nonrenewable resources often yield unique information about past societies and environments, and provide answers for modern day social and conservation problems.

NRCS considers cultural resources in its conservation planning for the same

reason it protects the natural resources—the soil, water, air, plants and animals—on your property.

STATE COST-SHARE PROGRAMS

Fall 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.

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, District Technician
Steve Anderson, Clean Water Alliance Coordinator

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DICKINSON SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT FOUNDATION

2412 17TH STREET

SPIRIT LAKE, IOWA 51360

OCTOBER 2005

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. 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 Clarence Call and 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.

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.

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

Foundation Board and Officers

Mark Ingwersen, Chairperson

Chris Hoffman, Vice Chair

Scott Mitchell, Secretary-Treasurer

Bill Northey

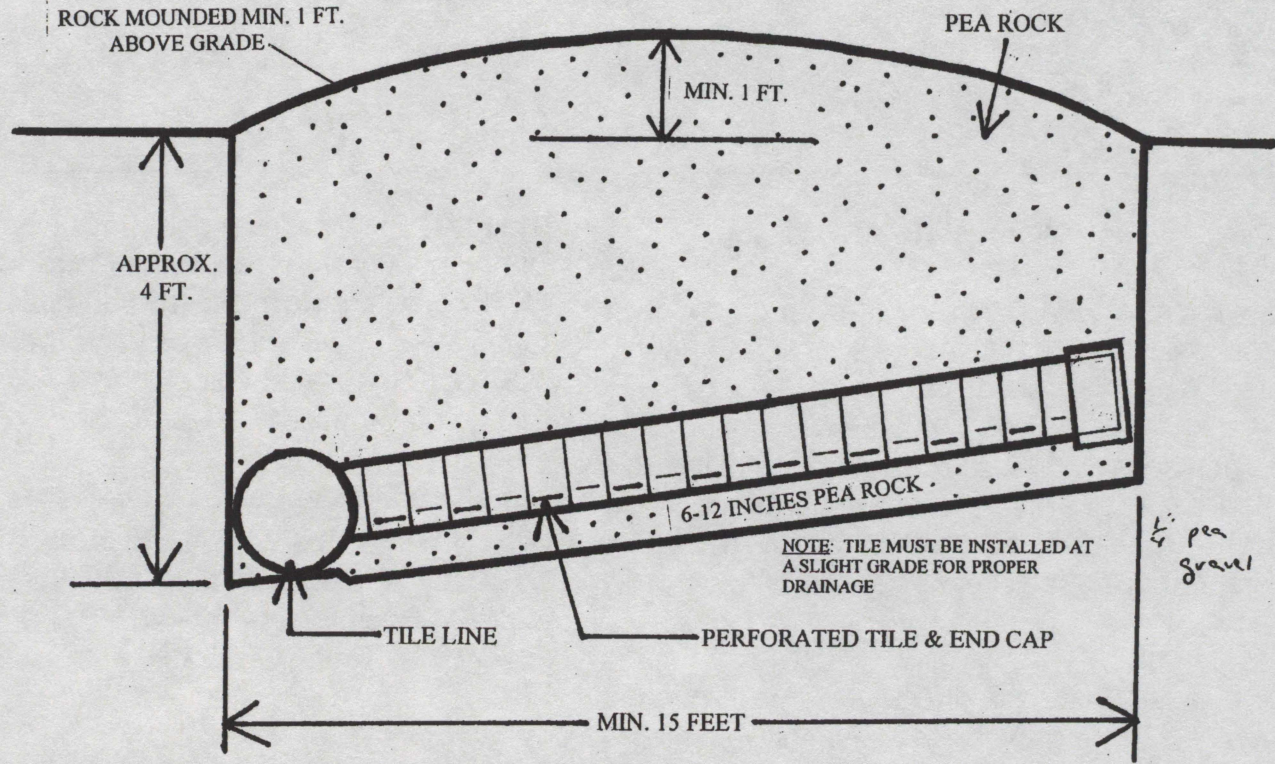
Orville Berg

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 Clarence Call at 336-3310

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