



A Quality Environment

DICKINSON SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

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

MARCH 2002

State Cost Share Programs Available

Funds are available through State cost-share programs which provide 50% - 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, field windbreaks and wetland restorations.

A \$10 per acre no-till or ridge-till incentive is available to producers who plant up to 80 acres using these tillage systems. This incentive is offered on a one-time, per producer basis.

The Dickinson Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) also offers permanent wetland easements located in the Iowa Great Lakes Watershed. These easement areas improve water quality and wildlife habitat by restoring wetlands and providing habitat for wildlife.

Please contact the Dickinson Soil and

Water Conservation District at the USDA Service Center in Spirit Lake or by calling 712-336-3782, Ext. 3 for more information on these cost-share programs and/or to receive technical assistance.

Conservation Compliance

Winter is a good time for farmers to plan ahead for drainage activities. It is also a good time to review highly erodible land (HEL) plans.

Farmers can request that a certified wetland determination be completed by NRCS for areas they plan to do drainage activities. A certified wetland determination will give farm program participants the information they need to say in compliance with the wetland-conservation provisions of the farm bill.

If farmers plan to add a less soil-conserving crop to their crop rotation, and/or reduce the amount of residue after planting their HEL fields, they should contact NRCS to set up a time to discuss these revisions before the planting season begins.

Producers can contact the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) at the USDA Service Center or by calling 712-336-3782, Ext. 3, if they have any questions about their drainage and/or HEL plans for 2002.

**The Dickinson SWCD
Foundation still has some
species of
trees and shrubs
available on their
2002 Tree Sale.**

**These trees and shrubs are
excellent choices for USDA
programs including:**

**Windbreaks, Shelterbelts
Riparian Tree Buffers
Wildlife Plantings**

**Call Tree Sale Coordinators
Mark or Kim Ingwersen
at 712-336-3616
or the NRCS-SWCD office at
712-336-3782, Ext. 3,
for more information
or to place an order.**

District Commissioners

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

Assistant Commissioners

Tom Koster 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.

Contact us by e-mail at: swcd@rconnect.com

Visit the following web site for information on Dickinson County SWCD and other area offices:

www.theconservationstation.org

Continuous CRP Program

As opposed to the General CRP Program, with a set signup period and bidding process, in the Continuous CRP:

- The landowner can sign up any-time during the year.
- There is no bidding process. After NRCS / FSA staff determine that the land fits the practice and meets the criteria, the offer can be made.
- Rental rates are based on soil type for most practices.
- The offer is applied to specific conservation practices aimed at erosion control and wildlife habitat.
- A cost share of up to 50% towards cost of installation.

In addition, new incentives are available from FSA including a one-time signup incentive of \$100 to \$150 per acre dependent upon the length of the contract and a practice incentive payment of 40% of the eligible costs to establish the practice.



CRP Buffer Strip located in Dickinson County

NRCS Staff:

Carroll Oskvig, District Conservationist
Tim Moran, Soil Conservation Technician

The Farmable Wetlands Pilot Program

The USDA has a new CRP program called the Farmable Wetlands Pilot Program. This program allows landowners to enroll small wetland areas and adjacent buffers in the continuous signup of the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP). There is a maximum enrollment of 100,000 acres for Iowa. **Interested land-owners need to contact the NRCS office as soon as possible before the acreage capacity for the State is reached.**

To be eligible, the areas **must have been cropped in at least 3 of the last 10 years** and wetland area must be 5 acres or less. Wetlands in the floodplain of perennial streams will not be eligible. Wetland restoration must not impede upstream drainage.

The adjacent buffer can be three times the area of the farmable wetland or an average maximum of 150 ft. The maximum enrollment of wetland and adjacent buffer is 40 acres per tract.

The restored wetland can be farmed again after the CRP contract expires. Contract lengths can be 10 or 15 years in length. Rental rates are based on soil type and are the same as those available for filter strips and riparian buffers. A 20% incentive is added to the rental rate. A Signing Incentive Payment of \$10

IDALS-DSC Staff:

Maxine Butler, State Secretary
Tim Terrill, Environmental Specialist

per acre per year of contract is paid one time up front. Restoration costs are 50% cost shared with an additional 40% of eligible installation costs paid as a Practice Incentive Payment, which results in up to 90% total cost share.

Stop in at the FSA office to begin the sign-up process for any CRP Program.

Spring 2002!!

While we certainly shouldn't complain about the winter we've had so far, wishing for spring is the norm this time of year. So before you start working on the machinery we would like to take a minute to talk to you about the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP).

If you have a CRP practice, you have three years to get it established. Maintenance is a large part of that job. Correct planting of native grass seeds, then mowing and/or fire burning at the proper times will help this practice to become established. If your practice involves trees and or shrubs, you should replace any that have died over the winter in order to maintain the 60% percent survival rate or better. If there are thistles and broad leaves in your tree planting you may need to spray them a little later in the spring. Mowing between the rows of trees/shrubs also helps to keep the weeds and grasses from shading the trees and helps to slow moisture loss.

A practice takes time and work, but the rewards are worth it.

District Staff:

Steve Anderson, CWA Coordinator
Sue Ehret, Soil Conservation Aide

Contact your local
USDA Service
Center for more
information on
CRP
and
State Cost Share
programs available

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in its programs on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, and marital or family status. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotapes, etc.) should contact the USDA Office of Communications at (202) 720-5881 (voice) or (202) 720-7808 (TDD). To file a complaint, write Secretary of Agriculture, US Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250, or call (202) 720-7327 (voice) or (202) 720-1127 (TDD). USDA is an equal employment opportunity employer.