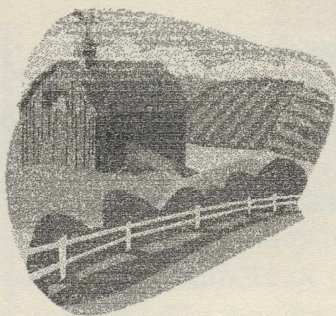




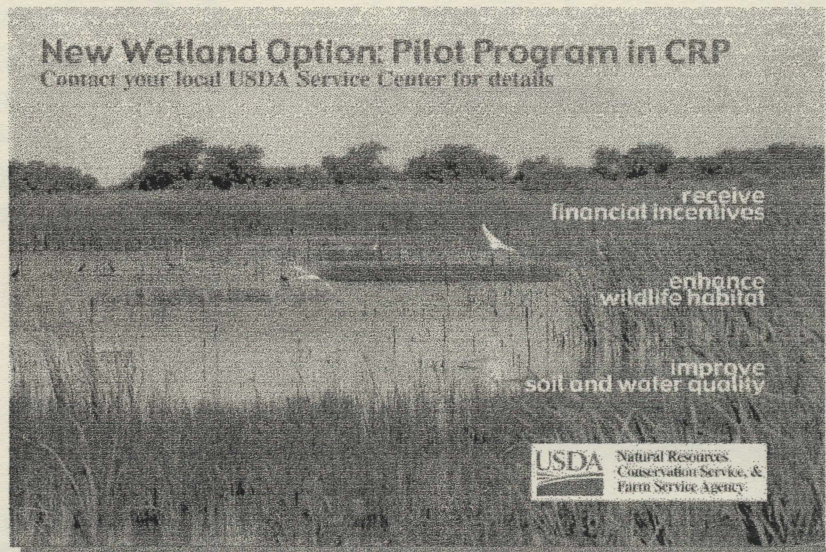
DICKINSON SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

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

JUNE 2001

NEW CRP PROGRAM!!!! THE FARMABLE WETLANDS PILOT PROGRAM

The USDA has introduced a new CRP program called the **Farmable Wetlands Pilot Program**. This program will allow landowners to enroll small wetland areas and adjacent buffers in the continuous signup of the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP). Iowa is one of only six States eligible for this program. There is a maximum enrollment of 100,000 acres for Iowa. A large signup is expected so **interested landowners need to contact the USDA Service Center 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.

Adjacent buffer may not ex-

ceed three times the area of the farmable wetland (15 acres). 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

District Commissioners

Mark Ingwersen — Chairperson
Chris Hoffman — Vice Chair
Scott Mitchell — Secretary
Orville Berg — Treasurer
Bill Northey — Commissioner
Tom Koster, Keith Van Kleek — Assistant Commissioners

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 sites for information on local SWCDs, NRCS and FSA:

www.theconservationstation.org www.ia.nrcs.usda.gov www.fsa.usda.gov/ia.dickinson

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 \$10.00 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. See example below:

New CRP Farmable Wetlands Pilot Program Example:

Landowner wants 15-year contract on a drained/tiled wetland that has been cropped in all but wet years.

Plan: Tile can be broken without affecting upstream drainage. Seed buffer to Switch grass, Big Bluestem and Indian Grass.

Wetland area 4.0 acres + buffer area 12.0 acres = 16.0 acres total

<u>Acres</u>	<u>soil type</u>	<u>Soil rental rate per acre</u>	
4.0	Okoboji	\$99.00	= \$396.00
6.0	Webster	\$129.00	= \$774.00
6.0	Nicollet Loam	\$136.00	= \$816.00
			<u>\$1986.00</u>

divided by 16.0 acres = \$124.12 per acre

\$124.12	soil rental rate per acre
\$ 24.82	20% incentive added to the base rate
<u>\$ 5.00</u>	maintenance fee

\$153.94 payment per acre per year

Signup Incentive payment = 16 acres x \$10.00 x 15 years = \$2400.00 one time up front payment

Cost Share of Restoration

50% paid for by USDA + 40% of eligible installation costs Practice Incentive Payment = up to 90% total cost share

If you have any questions or interest, please contact me at:

Maury Muhm
cell phone number – 712-330-2562
or the USDA Service Center at 712-336-3782, ext. 2 for FSA, ext. 3 for NRCS.
e-mail: mdmuhm@rconnect.com

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

Late Spring Nitrogen Test

Courtesy of: John Creswell
Iowa State University Extension

The late spring nitrogen test is a tool that Iowa's corn producers can use to estimate the amount of nitrogen that's needed this season; especially for those who apply manure. To take a late-spring nitrogen test, sample the top twelve inches (12") of soil when the corn is between six and twelve inches (6"—12") tall.

The late spring nitrogen test can help you determine if you have enough nitrogen to optimize yields or if you need to apply more nitrogen. It can also help you reduce production costs.

Call your local county Extension office and request a copy of Publication PM-1714, Nitrogen Fertilizer Recommendations for Corn in Iowa.

Phosphorous Index

By: Carroll Oskvig
District Conservationist

The Phosphorous Index was just released by several agencies and groups in Iowa. It provides an estimate of phosphorous loading from a field into a water body.

Phosphorous is a major contributor to algae blooms in water bodies.

The Phosphorous Index includes several factors, such as:

- Soil erosion rate
- Distance from streams
- Phosphate application rates
- Phosphorous soil test levels
- Vegetative buffers
- Soil region in Iowa

The NRCS office staff is calculating the Phosphorous Index for all new cost-share applications which include the nutrient management practice, if any of the following apply:

- Phosphorous soil test levels are high or very high
- Manure is applied
- The field is located in the watershed of a state designated impaired water body

If the index is over a specified level, the farmer has several options:

1. Add a grass/tree buffer strip along streams, which will reduce the amount of phosphorous entering a water body, and
2. Reduce the amount of phosphorous applied from fertilizer/manure.

Please contact the NRCS office if you have questions on the Phosphorous Index.

Poster Contest Winners Announced

The Dickinson County Soil and Water Conservation District Commissioners are proud to announce the winners of this year's poster contest which is co-sponsored by Grinnell Mutual Reinsurance Company and the Auxiliary of the Conservation Districts of Iowa (CDI), featuring the theme "Help A Habitat".

This year, the SWCD Commissioners co-sponsored Earth Week activities with the Dickinson County Conservation Board Naturalist and Lakes Art Center. Tom Koster, Assistant Commissioner and Help-A-Habitat Coordinator, Barbara Tagami, Dickinson County Naturalist and Lissa Potter, Education Director of Lakes Art Center, met with over 700 children from Harris-Lake Park, Okoboji and Spirit Lake Elementary schools. While the children discussed different types of habitats with Tom Koster and Barbara Tagami, Lissa Potter worked with the children on developing a poster. The posters were completed at the schools and submitted to the SWCD for judging.

Over 400 posters were received this year for judging with entries in three different divisions:

- Division 1, grades K -1
- Division 2, grades 2 and 3
- Division 3, grades 4-6.

The students whose posters were chosen are:

McKenzie Colt, first grade student at Spirit Lake Elementary.

Dana Potter, second grade student at Spirit Lake Elementary. (tie)

Krista Kolegraff, third grade student at Okoboji Elementary. (tie)

Kathleen Rowley, fourth grade student at Spirit Lake Elementary.

Each of students named will receive an "Earth Week 2001" tee-shirt and a District First Place Certificate from the SWCD Commissioners. Since Dana and Krista's posters tied, a tie-breaker was made and Dana's poster, along with McKenzie's and Kathleen's posters will now be sent to be judged at regional level.

Tim Moran accepts position of Soil Conservation Technician



Tim Moran has accepted the position of Soil Conservation Technician for the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). This position

became open the beginning of May, upon the retirement of Willard Punt.

Tim is a familiar face in our office having worked for the past two years as a part-time employee for the NRCS and as a District employee.

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**DICKINSON SOIL & WATER
CONSERVATION DISTRICT**
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SPIRIT LAKE, IOWA 51360