



Iowa CREP News

***for Stakeholder Organizations
& Agencies of the
Iowa Conservation Reserve
Enhancement Program***

Issue #2

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US ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS REVISES AND RENEWS NATIONWIDE PERMITS including Nationwide Permit #27, Aquatic Habitat Restoration, Establishment, and Enhancement. The reissued permits were published in the Federal Register on March 12 and went into effect on March 19, 2007. The Corps claim simplified language will provide clarity and certainty. Applicability of reissued NWP #27 to the Iowa CREP is uncertain, and not likely to replace Regional Permit #34 currently authorized for CREP wetland projects requiring Clean Water Act permits.

VICKIE FRIEDOW NAMED CHIEF, AGRICULTURAL PROGRAM SPECIALIST, for the Iowa Farm Service Agency. Vickie replaces Mike Mussel who retired last October. She is responsible for FSA related Iowa CREP oversight along with other conservation compliance administration duties. Vickie's first-hand experience with the Iowa CREP will be invaluable.

USDA OFFICIALS INSTRUCT STATES TO EVALUATE AND REVISE SOIL RENTAL RATES for continuous CRP contracts. Rising land values, escalating cash-rent offers and increasing corn and soybean prices have prompted agency officials to re-visit current soil rental rates. Conservation payments are lagging commodity markets causing landowners to delay or avoid enrollment in continuous sign-up CRP. Revised rates were approved August 1, 2007 with notable change in some districts while others experienced negligible differences.

TOP USDA OFFICIALS FROM THE FARM SERVICE AGENCY visited Iowa May 14-15 to participate in a two-day meeting and tour of completed Iowa CREP wetland projects. John Johnson, FSA Deputy Administrator for Farm Programs and Derryl McLaren, Iowa FSA State Director, lead a comprehensive meeting to explore past and present program limitations while searching for opportunities to expand N-sink wetland technologies. Multiple Federal, State, and Non-governmental Agencies participated in the discussions and 7-site tour.

MAY 14-15 CREP MEETING/TOUR PROMPTS follow up meeting for officials from seven Midwest Corn Belt states. Derryl McLaren, Iowa FSA State Director, and Bill Northey, Iowa Secretary of Agriculture, welcomed key officials from Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Wisconsin, Minnesota, and Missouri to a CREP informational meeting with the expressed purpose of promoting the nitrate reduction technology delivered through the Iowa CREP. Federal and State Conservation leaders were challenged and encouraged to develop a similar nitrate reduction strategy in each of their respective states.

CREP PHOTO GALLERY



John Johnson, Deputy Administrator for Farm Programs visits with Iowa CREP tour guests.



Dickinson County CREP wetland



Stop #1 of the May 15, 2007 CREP wetland tour. This site is in Story County.

CREP NEWS FEEDBACK WELCOME! Please communicate your thoughts regarding CREP News or any CREP happenings contained within to randy.cooney@idals.state.ia.us.