

COST SHARE OPTIONS FOR 2015 TREES

It's not too early to start the planning process for spring 2015 tree planting, particularly if you are thinking of putting a shelterbelt into an area that is now sod. Working that site up a few times yet this fall makes it a well prepared site and helps ensure better survival for the trees. Starting sooner rather than later would assure you of getting the trees you specifically want when the district places its tree order with the Big Sioux Nursery in later November, as well as more time to explore any cost share options available for tree planting. Right now there are two definite cost share programs available.

Continuous CRP:

- 50% cost share for planting trees/shrubs, plus annual payment on the acre(s), if the site meets the criteria and current cropping history determined by FSA
- Cost share for tree tubes to be put around certain species of trees
- Per acre cost share for weed control in a CCRP tree planting

The planning, field work and paper work for CRP takes some time so by coming into the NRCS and FSA offices yet this fall you will avoid the last minute rush of tree planting and the possibility of having a limited species of trees to choose from for your shelterbelt.

GFP Woody Habitat Program:

- 75% cost share for planting woody habitat for wildlife (up to \$10,000/planting/year)
- Planting must be at least 8 rows wide and a minimum of 1 acre in size
- At least half of all rows in each planting must be shrub, cedar or juniper rows
- Plantings cannot be made in native prairie/sod and cannot include Cottonwood, Blue Spruce and Russian Olive; land converted from native sod to cropland after 2008 is not eligible

Conservation District Grant:

- Offer cost share for tree/shrub plantings that would provide wildlife habitat, improve livestock protection, reduce wind erosion and/or snow management to farmsteads, roadways and croplands
- Would offer per acre cost share amount for weed control
- Would offer assistance on tree plantings that do not meet the requirements for CRP
- If awarded, this grant would be available for 2015 only and is only for a limited amount of money so eligible plantings will be first-come, first-serve

For assistance with a 2015 tree plan, or if you have any questions, be sure to stop by the NRCS and Codington Conservation District office at 1720 4th Street, NE or call 882-4989 this fall or early winter at the latest.