

# County district celebrates 60 years

The charter for the Norton County Conservation District was approved by the State of Kansas on Oct. 1, 1945. Charles Carroll, Norton, and N.H. Berry, Lenora, filed the application. The former members of the first board were: Mr. Berry, Mr. Carroll, Guy L. Allen, Van Brooks and Neil Reeves.

On May 1, 1946, the Conservation District Office opened in Norton. The Soil Conservation Service provided technical assistance from trained employees of the federal government to the farm members of the district. William A. Wade was the first work unit conservationist in charge of the Norton district.

The early mission of the Conservation District was to control erosion and conserve soil and water for the protection of the nation's productive land. The expanded mission has been to deal with complex, ever-increasing concerns for the conservation of the environment.

A terracing demonstration was held May 19, 1947. Following that, terrace building began in earnest. Farm terracing accelerated noticeably in Norton County in 1949, with three contractors constructing between 75 and 100 miles of terraces per month for several months.

In 1949, Norton County built more terraces than any other county in Kansas. The 417 miles of terracing exceeded the amount ever built by any one county in Kansas in one year. The

cost of building terraces in 1949, averaged \$125 per mile compared to \$2,534 per mile in 2005.

The decision to care for and manage the land

and natural resources must come from the people who own it and work it. The future of the people and of Kansas Agriculture depends entirely upon those who till the land.

## Questions easily answered about rebuilding terraces

By **CRAIG T. SCHEUERMAN**,  
NRCS Civil Engineering Technician

Terrace rebuilding is a subject we hear a lot about, but lately some new questions have been raised.

Do I need to rebuild every terrace in the field, or can I just rebuild every other one?

To decide about rebuilding, first you need to know something about how a terrace system is designed. Terraces are designed to contain a ten-year rain without overtopping. This means they can hold the total runoff from a rain that would occur once in ten years on the drainage area above the terrace.

When terraces are rebuilt, every terrace in the system needs to be restored to original design height for the system to have adequate capacity and work properly. If only every other terrace were rebuilt, the old terraces,

with their low capacity, would overtop. The overflow runs down the slope and is caught by the rebuilt terraces. Since these terraces are only designed to handle the runoff from the area above, the excessive runoff from the old terraces would cause the newly rebuilt terraces to overtop.

If terrace spacing is a problem, an entire new system may help. Spacing can be adjusted by installing new terraces with wider channels. In certain situations, a new system may improve alignment and farmability. Visit your local U. S. Department of Agriculture's Service Center and talk to the NRCS or conservation district staff for more information on this option.

For more information about NRCS programs, visit the Kansas NRCS Web site at [www.ks.nrcs.usda.gov](http://www.ks.nrcs.usda.gov).

## Winners announced poster, limerick, essay competition

Norton County students were given the chance to draw posters and write limericks and essays about conservation and what it means to them.

The poster winners were:

First and second grade — Morgan Olliff, first; Sylvia Estes, second; and Carson Wallace, third;

Third and fourth grade — Marc Miller, first; Marisa Maddy, second; and Teá VanPatten;

Fifth and sixth grade — Lane Archer, first; Michael Courtain, second; and Dylan Sprigg, third.

In the kindergarten coloring contest Jessica Ambrosier took first, Nicole Rumbach placed second, and Brooklyn Baker placed third.

Kurt Douglas, first; Miriah Farber, second; and Shylo Paxton, third, were the winners of the limerick contest.

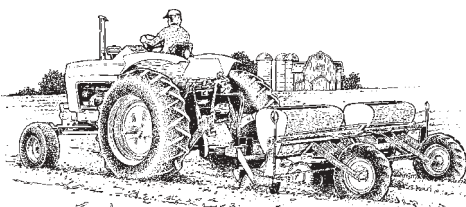
Winners of the essay contest were Destiny Chastain, first; Rhees Carlson, second; and Alexis Henson, third.

All of the first place winners will have their posters sent to the state competition in November.

Each of the winners are to be given a plaque at the Norton County Conservation District's Annual Meeting this Saturday, Jan. 21, at the Norton American Legion.

— CONSERVATION PROTECTS OUR FUTURE —

*We Salute All Who  
Work Hard to Protect  
Our Precious Soil*



We recognize that most of what we provide for the people we serve comes from the precious earth. We take this means to express our congratulations and appreciation to this year's outstanding soil conservationists of Norton County, as well as to all of our friends and neighbors who tend the soil.

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