

OFFERS

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in Sherman and Cheyenne counties, with portions of Rawlins and Thomas included," Mr. Breininger said. Farmers, who use the system, will lease the cement steps from Goodland Greenline. They will need to purchase the receiver equipment, which is an RTK radio and activation.

"The advantages of the sub-inch accuracy and repeatability will pay for the equipment in a matter of years," Mr. Breininger said.

The innovations that led to this technology began in the late 1990s with parallel tracking.

This allowed the farmer to know where his tractor should be, using positioning systems. However, the tractor still needed to be steered.

This was followed by auto-track, where the tractor could steer itself. Auto-track became available within the last five to six years, but the driver still has to turn the machine at the end of each row.

Today, John Deere offers the I-Tec Pro on their 8030 series tractors.

"This allows the tractor to turn itself," Mr. Breininger said. "The farmer is in the cab mostly for safety reasons."

INCREASE

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the east basement doorway for being to short. However, did not demand it be fixed immediately. Mr. Lacy said the cement steps are in poor condition and if they are fixed, the door will need to be raised. There is a parking problem around the hospital and the east side of the lot could be used for additional parking. This project could possibly be included in the kitchen remodel grant.

Ernie Ketzner, commissioner, talked about county valuations going down instead of going up, pointing out that the grassland in the state has been classified as wasteland instead of pastureland.

The also talked about when the gas and oil wells might bring the valuation up, although no one had any answers.

Mr. Lacy said that the tax valuation in homes where there is a hospital and clinic is significantly higher. He added that not only does the hospital now have two physicians but they have also taken on the county health office.

Andy Beikman, chairman, said he had heard a number of people saying that they think the hospital is going in the right direction. He asked for the board's request in writing and turned into the commissioners before they started working on the budget.

PLAN

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Colorado would not go ahead to improve the highway into Denver. Right now, the stretch of 36 just over the Kansas border is poorly maintained and he didn't see people coming all the way to Colorado only to hit a poor, two-lane road. Consequently, he thought travelers would turn off and go south at Wheeler to I-70, not even getting to St. Francis.

U.S. 36 is still the shortest route to Denver, Mr. Haynes said. He said that, with the price of gas, people are going to be looking for ways to save money while traveling.

Ernie Ketzner, commissioner, wondered why five of the counties had not committed to the \$2,000. He would like to talk to them.

Later in the day, Mr. Haynes said Rawlins County Commissioners had written a check for their share. Other counties besides Cheyenne County which have still not committed were

Smith, Jewel and Norton counties. His home county of Decatur had been the first to sign into the plan.

The commissioners questioned when is the deadline for committing to the \$2,000 for the study? Mr. Haynes said they will need the money by July.

Mr. Beikman said he had a problem with studies; that studies have wasted so much money.

"If we had a letter from Colorado stating that they would improve their highway, I would sign this \$2,000 in a heartbeat," he said. "I'd rather invest \$2,000 in a sign east of Norton stating that the highway is the shortest route to Denver."

Mr. Haynes said the plan is just the beginning and will be used as leverage. It is something that the association members can take with them to the State for the next 10 years.

In the end, the commissioners agreed, that if Mr. Haynes could get the other four remaining counties to commit to the \$2,000 for the plan, come back and talk to them.

"We will be back!" Mr. Haynes said.

Reserve cropland eligible

Approval has been announced of a Kansas project under the Conservation Reserve Program's State Acres for Wildlife Enhancement practice CP38E. To be eligible, land must be located anywhere in Kansas and must meet the basic CRP eligibility requirements. Acceptable land is cropland that was planted or considered planted to an agricultural commodity in four out of six years between 1996 and 2001 and which is also physically and legally capable of being planted in a normal manner to an agricultural commodity. Dryland corners of center-pivot irrigation systems may also be eligible.

Rental rates are based on three predominate soils. The agency bases rental rates on the average value of dry-land cash rent for the past three years and adjusts rates to reflect the relative productivity of soils within each county. A one-time up front signing incentive payment of \$100 per acre for the conservation contracts of 10-15 years will be paid by the agency after eligibility criteria are met and the conservation contract is approved. A one-time practice incentive payment equal to 40 percent of the eligible installation costs will be paid after the conservation practice is installed, eligible costs are verified and other payment eligibility criteria are met. The agency will also pay cost-share payments up to 50 percent of the eligible cost of establishing a permanent cover.

The effective date of the conservation reserve contract is the first day of the month following the month of approval. Maximum acreage enrollment is 5 acres for fields less than 25 acres, or 20 percent of a field for fields 25 acres or greater, with a maximum acreage of 80 acres per field. Fields less than 5 acres may be enrolled in their entirety.

Signup for this runs continuously until the acreage goal of 30,100 is

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WAITING FOR INSTRUCTIONS — Teagan Landenberger, Tiernan Poling Jorge Olivares, Emmanuel Fierro and Andy Miller wait to get their instructions and seeds to begin planting. Herald staff photos by Karen Krien

Students do spring planting

St. Francis Grade School students did some spring planting Monday afternoon.

Lea Keller and Ruth Milliken, representing Carefree Gardener, talked to students about being creative about what they eat, growing vegetables and eating more veggies.

The students planted "salad gardens" in containers that they will watch and, before school is out, there should be a bowl of salad for the students.

Mrs. Milliken had a unique way of growing salad. She planted a lasagna salad in an aquarium. There were layers of material starting with wet newspapers, then dry leaves, shredded paper, potting soil, top soil and compost. The students then planted seeds for their salad.



PLANTING THE SEEDS — Kensley Krien and Sophie White shake a mixture of lettuce and radish seeds in with the onions. Lea Keller, with Carefree Gardener, helped coordinated the event.

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