



FISHERMEN DRESSED FOR THE COLD WEATHER on Sunday. After stocking Keller Pond with 400 pounds of trout, the Cheyenne County Wildlife organization holds a fishing contest each year. Despite the cold temperatures that were accompanied with a brisk wind, 24 teams showed up to throw their lines in the water. There were 207 pounds of fish brought in so that leaves 200 pounds of fish in the pond just waiting to be caught.

Herald staff photo by Karen Krien

Apply for funds to improve Kansas windbreaks

March 4, is this year's deadline for Kansas landowners to apply for cost-share funds available through a special program called the Cooperative Conservation Partnership Initiative. The funds are earmarked to help two declining natural resources: the region's aging and/or damaged windbreaks and riparian (streamside) forests.

"More than \$200,000 is available for the Kansas landowners who qualify. That amount could have far-reaching impacts," said Bob Atchison, rural forestry coordinator for the Kansas Forest Service.

The provision can cover the majority of costs for improving or renovating windbreaks, forests and

woodlands and for establishing riparian plantings. Such projects can take more than one funding year to complete, Atchison explained. In turn, the finished projects are highly likely to help protect and conserve additional resources, such as soil, water and energy.

"Recent surveys and satellite research revealed that the needs in Kansas are becoming critical," he added. "For example, 44 percent of Kansas windbreaks are in fair to poor condition now. Many were planted as a result of what we learned during the Dust Bowl. But they're no longer providing the conservation benefits they once had."

"Many of the trees that lined our major rivers and streams are gone or in decline now, too, due to changes in river channels and stream flows. As often as not, those changes were human-caused."

Mr. Atchison said the following examples of the costs that forestry Cooperative Conservation Partnership Initiative funds can help cover:

- Using heavy equipment such as a bulldozer to remove unhealthy, dead or undesirable trees.
- Planting quality trees and shrubs.
- Using weed barrier fabric or herbicide applications to control competing weeds and grasses.

- Installing fencing or tree shelters to protect young seedlings from animal damage.

- Cutting back trees that will produce new sprouts from stumps or roots (coppicing).

- Installing a per-seedling micro-irrigation drip system.

For landowners, participation in the Cooperative Conservation Partnership Initiative is both voluntary and competitive, Mr. Atchison said. The program can address all kinds of natural resource needs associated with agricultural lands. Its priorities can vary by location.

Program funds are administered through the United States Department of Agriculture's

Environmental Quality Incentive Program. As a result, landowners apply for these funds at the Natural Resource Conservation Service office in their local Service Center.

The offices can take applications at any time. Applications that miss a particular year's deadline simply go into the next fiscal year's selection pool.

To help interested Kansans get started, self-assessment worksheets are available on the Web at http://www.ks.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/eqip/2011/self_assessment.html.

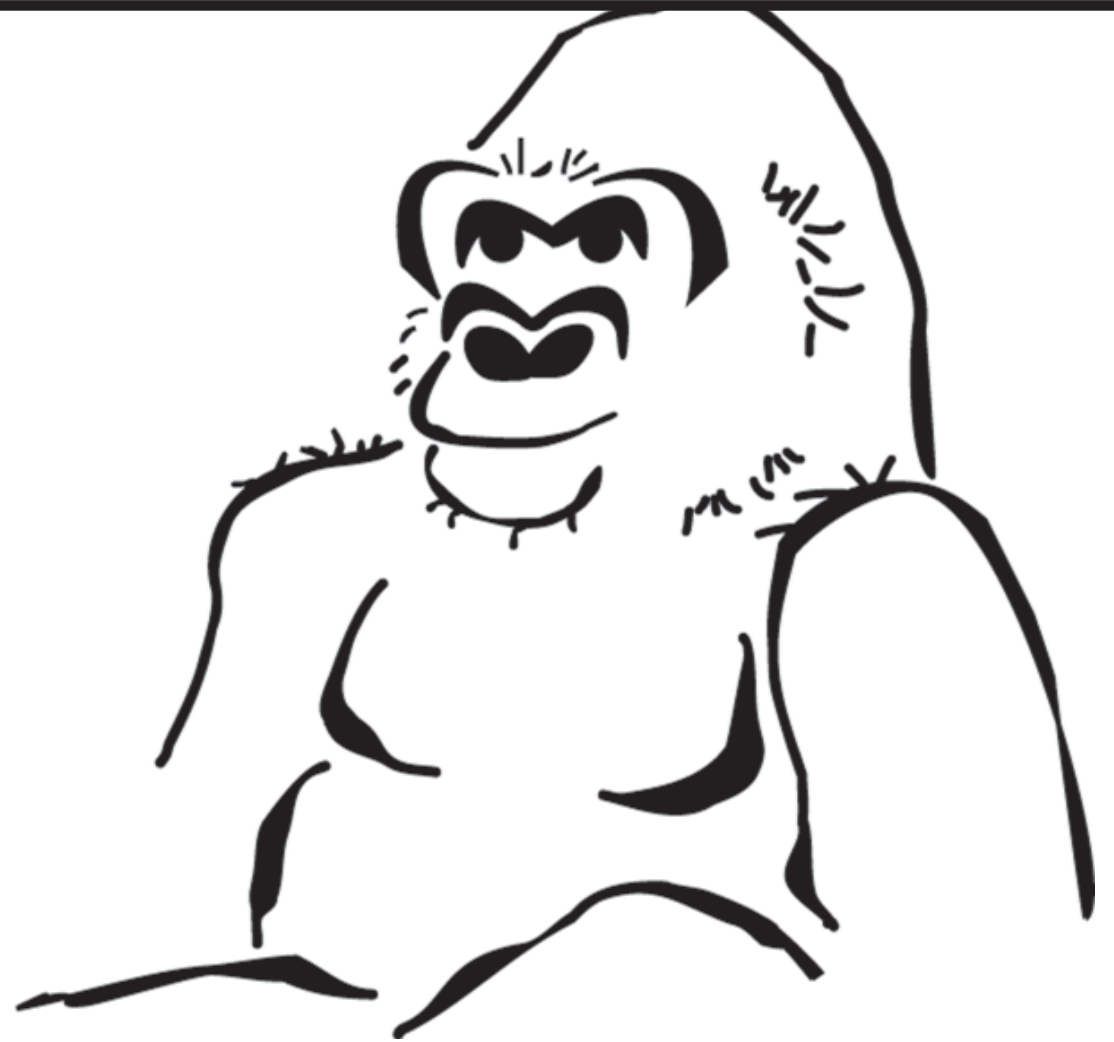
"You actually can earn extra ranking points if you complete the appropriate worksheet and

get it to your Natural Resource Conservation Service office before the application-cutoff date. For the 2011 forestry initiative, that's March 4," Mr. Atchison said.

More information about the windbreak and riparian forest initiative itself is available on the Web at <http://www.kansasforests.org/rural/lib/eqip.pdf>.

The initiative is available only in the northern High Plains states of Kansas, Nebraska and both Dakotas. Thus far, Mr. Atchison said, Congress plans to appropriate more than \$4 million dollars toward this four-state effort over the next five years.

900
~~The 800~~
 pound
 Gorilla



Just got a whole lot bigger!

That's right. The Gorilla has been growing. Already the biggest and most effective advertising medium in the Tri-State Region, **The Country Advocate** has been adding readers all year.

No more 800-pound weakling. Now **The Advocate** is the 900-pound gorilla of Northwest Kansas advertising!

First, **The Advocate** added nearly 1,550 new home-delivered households in Sherman County with readers of the all-new, all-local *Goodland Star-News*.

Then, the Gorilla picked up 1,750 new home-delivered households in Norton County when *The Norton Telegram* joined the club.

When you need to sell something,

find something or notify someone, the Gorilla is your best friend. Reaching 18,200 households with nearly 42,000 readers across northwest Kansas and eastern Colorado, the Gorilla packs a punch. It can move your refrigerator or your old car. A house? No problem for the Gorilla. And all at rates that save you money.

And **The Advocate** is nearly all

The Saint Francis Herald

Box 1050, St. Francis, Kan. 67756
 (785) 332-3162

home delivered. Some "shoppers" count on people picking them up at the filling station. It's cheap, but it can't compare to home delivery reaching nearly every house in the area.

Just try it! The Gorilla will work hard for you. Call today with your ad.

Bird City Times
 Box 220, Bird City, Kan. 67731

THE OBERLIN HERALD
 170 S. Penn Ave., Oberlin, Kan. 67749
 (785) 475-2206

COLBY FREE PRESS
 155 W. Fifth Colby, Kan. 67701
 (785) 462-3963

The Goodland Star-News
 1205 Main, Goodland, Kan. 67735
 (785) 899-2338

THE NORTON TELEGRAM
 215 S. Kansas, Norton, Kan. 67654
 (785) 877-3361