



BRACELIN BROTHERS, Keith, left, and Rodney, right, play during the Riverside Rendezvous annual golf tournament.
Herald staff photo by Tim Burr

Steps to improve resources

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) offers conservation planning as a free service to landowners who are interested in improving the condition of their soil, water, air, plants, and wildlife habitat. Natural Resources Conservation Service conservation planning process encompasses nine steps where our technical experts work one-on-one with landowners to develop a conservation plan that is suited for individual needs and desired land use and natural resource outcomes.

The nine steps are these: identify problems and opportunities, determine objectives, inventory resources, analyze resource data, formulate alternatives, evaluate alternatives, make decisions, implement the plan, and evaluate the plan.

Conservation plans may have many benefits, including a complete assessment of a landowner's landscape. Conservation plans may be written on the whole farm or on a specific piece of ground.

"The inventory of a landowner's resources is an important step in the plan's development," says Bernadette Luncsford, Natural Resources Conservation Service District Conservationist (DC), St. Francis, "because you need to know what you have and current conditions to be able to make

sound management decisions." Upon meeting with the landowner or producer to identify concerns, opportunities, and objectives, the district conservationist then works with him or her to complete an inventory of resources ranging from natural to cultural to economic. The Natural Resources Conservation Service staff uses state-of-the-art technology, to analyze data and formulate alternative conservation measures that work best to achieve the desired goals.

"There are numerous conservation practices that could be included within any given conservation plan," Luncsford said.

"We will recommend and evaluate the practices best suited for an individual's situation and once the landowner makes the decision to implement the plan, we will provide implementation assistance and help the landowner evaluate the process and results." Natural Resources Conservation Service provides technical and, in certain circumstances, financial assistance to help landowners implement conservation plans.

"And, if a landowner does want financial assistance to help implement certain conservation practices, developing a conservation plan may provide priority status when applying for certain

Natural Resources Conservation Service financial assistance programs," said Luncsford.

The Natural Resources Conservation Service Fiscal Year 2012 application evaluation cutoff date for the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) and the Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP) funds has been set as November 15, 2011. Applicants who request a conservation plan prior to August 31, 2011, will receive additional points in the ranking process.

Conservation practices that improve the condition of natural resources as well as help landowners reach desired land use goals include pesticide and nutrient management, water and residue management, conservation buffers and crop rotation systems, rangeland and grazing land management, wildlife management, and air quality management.

For additional information about conservation planning, please contact your local Conservation District or Natural Resources Conservation Service field office located in the U.S. Department of Agriculture Service Center that services your county. You may also visit www.ks.nrcs.usda.gov. you can also follow on Twitter @NRCS_KS.

Donation of bench money discussed at city meeting

By Karen Krien
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The St. Francis City Council talked about the donation of money for a bench when they met on Monday, Aug. 8.

Kenny and Anita Rogers from Offerle, said they wanted to donate the Kenneth and Ellen Voeller memorial money to help purchase a bench for Sawhill Park. Two benches were donated several years ago in memory of Robert and Vodie Wiley.

Mike Day, city attorney, said the council needs to consider a policy concerning the park benches. There could be others wanting to donate a bench or money to purchase them.

The council agreed that they wanted the Voeller bench to be similar to the other two benches however, they were not sure how much the Wiley's children paid for the benches and where they could be purchased. They also agreed that anyone wanting to purchase a bench for the park should submit a design along with the plaque and location for the bench.

Roger Jensen, councilman, said he would contact Cathy Wiley Bandel to get more information. The matter will be discussed at the next meeting.

Swimming pool report

Bruce Swihart, councilman, reported that the swimming pool would close on Aug. 26. Because of lifeguard schedules and few guards, there will be an abbreviated schedule at the pool. Most of the guards indicated they would be back next year.

The guards, he said, were hard workers and were interested in having more working hours.

Remote-read water meters

Superintendent J.R. Landenberger was unable to attend the meeting. However, he had asked Mr. Jensen to request more remote-read water meters.

Earlier, he had ordered 104 meters at a cost of \$24,907. Paul Larson and one of the summer crew have those installed and Mr. Landenberger would like to order more to be installed this fall.

The council discussed if there

was some resale value in the old meters and agreed, probably not unless to sell the copper. Since the remote-read water meters are supposed to take less manpower, there could be some extra money for help at the recycling center.

There had been \$50,000 budgeted to purchase equipment such as the water meters. The council agreed to have Mr. Landenberger purchase up to \$20,000 in water meters.

In other business

In other business:

• Property cleanup letters went out after the July 25 meeting.

• Shane Guggenmoss, police chief, said he had looked into the price of the 800 megahertz radios and found that the prices were higher than he had thought. He plans to work with the Colorado State Patrol to see if they will have some used radios for sale.

Next meeting

The next city council meeting has been set for 7:30 p.m. on Monday, Aug. 22, at city hall on Main Street.

Program application closing date near

Angie Berens, executive director for the Cheyenne County Farm Service Agency, reminds producers that Sept. 1 is the application closing date for certain crops under the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP). Crops eligible for these benefits are limited to those not insurable in the county and are produced for food or fiber.

Sept. 1 is the final date to pay the applicable service fee and obtain noninsured coverage for Triticale, Barley, Rye and Wheat for hay or grazing and triticale and rye for grain as well. Crops eligible for these benefits are limited to those not insurable "downtown" in the county, such as forage crops for livestock (mechanically harvested or grazed). Continuous crop wheat planted with the intention of harvesting as grain is not eligible for noninsured assistant program.

The administrative service fee is \$250 per crop per administra-

tive county not to exceed \$750 per producer per administrative county and a \$1875 maximum fee for multi-county producers. Interested producers must pay the fee and file form CCC-471, Application for Coverage, by the application closing deadline.

This coverage entitles eligible producers to a payment of 55 percent of an average market price for the commodity if a natural disaster caused a 50-percent production loss or greater of an eligible crop.

In the unfortunate event that a producer does suffer a loss on their particular crop, a form CCC-576, Notice of Loss, must be filed with FSA within 15 calendar days after the disaster occurrence, or the date the loss becomes apparent to the producer.

Interested producers should contact the farm service office at 785-332-2183 prior to the Sept. 1 closing date to obtain the coverage on the above crops.

Handy Tips

• Flies or bees bothering you? Spray them with hair spray and they will take a quick dive.

• Sealed envelope - put in the freezer for a few hours, then slide a knife under the flap. The envelope can then be resealed.

• Use empty toilet paper roll to store appliance cords. It keeps

them neat and you can write on the roll what appliance it belongs to.

• For icy door steps in freezing temperatures: get warm water and put Dawn dish-washing liquid in it. Pour it all over the steps. The mix won't re-freeze.

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2012

Notice of Budget Hearing

The governing body of CHEYENNE COUNTY, KANSAS will meet on the 31st day of August, 2011 at 9:00 A.M., at the County Courthouse for the purpose of hearing and answering objections of taxpayers relating to the proposed use of all funds and the amount of ad valorem tax. Detailed budget information is available at the COUNTY CLERK'S OFFICE and will be available at this hearing.

Budget Summary

Proposed Budget 2012 Expenditures and the Amount of 2011 Ad Valorem Tax establish the maximum limits of the 2012 budget. Estimated Tax Rate is subject to change depending the final assessed valuation.

Fund	Prior Year Actual for 2010		Current Year Estimate 2011		Proposed Budget for 2012		
	Expenditures	Actual Tax Rate*	Estimate of Expenditures	Actual Tax Rate*	Expenditures	Amount of 2011 Ad Valorem Tax	Est. Tax Rate*
General	2,586,404	26.783	2,553,341	52.055	2,785,536	2,062,977	54.815
Road and Bridge	1,121,501	17.568	1,118,244	22.966	1,173,125	797,045	21.178
Bridge Building	31,552	1.055	45,000	1.323	83,025	21,209	0.564
Noxious Weed	37,374	0.248	31,500	0.714	39,042	26,729	0.710
Hospital	545,876	5.203	615,000	5.461	837,000	440,000	11.691
Prairie Dog	7,278		7,600		10,826		
Special Parks & Recreation	184		1,100		7,431		
Special Alcohol	3,136		3,000		5,600		
Health Grants	18,344		32,000		54,000		
Special Machinery	5,971						
Noxious Weed Capital Outlay	0						
Spec Ambulance Cap Outlay	0						
Equipment Reserve	4,635						
Multi-Year Capital Improvemer	13,713						
Totals	4,375,968	50.857	4,406,785	82.519	4,995,585	3,347,960	88.958
Less: Transfers	317,000		265,744		295,000		
Net Expenditures	4,058,968		4,141,041		4,700,585		
Total Tax Levied	2,279,528		2,960,790				
Assessed Valuation	44,824,318		35,788,169		37,635,456		
Outstanding Indebtedness, January 1							
	2010		2011		2012		
GO Bonds	0		0		0		
Lease-Purchase	0		0		0		
Total	0		0		0		

Terry Miller
Clerk

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