

# Conservation meeting Monday

By Vera Sloan

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The Thomas County Conservation District, will hold its 65th annual meeting and dinner at 6:30 p.m. on Monday at the Colby United Methodist Church to recognize farm families and young people for the efforts they are making to preserve the land and environment.

The meeting also will highlight the latest achievements of the district's office and elect officers for the new year. Presentation of awards will follow the dinner.

"Thomas County is in Area 1, out of the 5 conservation areas in the state," said district manager Deb Potter. "Our board takes a very active role in the district's mission, and Jon Starnes of Winona, who has been on the board 15 or 16 years, is one of the state supervisors from Area 1."

The annual conservation awards are sponsored by the Kansas Bankers Association. The district uses the association's criteria to determine the awards.

In August, water quality, water conservation and energy conservation were added to Bankers' list of conservation awards. The Thomas County district, one of the oldest in the state, chose to participate in the water quality category.

Awards this year will be given for soil conservation, windbreak and water quality, Potter said.

This year's winners are Wayne Carpenter and Carpenter Cattle Co., Water Quality award; Tony Horinek, Soil Conservation award; and Gerald Tubbs Jr., Windbreak award.

In the selection process, Potter said, judges look at how the land is used, the completeness of a farm's conservation plan, the balance of farm enterprises, the quality of conservation work done, how well practices are maintained, and measures taken to protect water quality.

The district encourages children to take an interest in conservation of natural resources by taking part in a poster contest depicting good conservation practices.

The 2008 poster award contenders are kindergartners, Braden Thummel, Johah Purdy, Ryan Myers, Camden Andrews and Macie Redick; first graders, Piper Koerperich, Konnor Griffin, Kaitlyn Nelson, Brittany Foss and Jimmy Baldwin; second and third graders, Carrie Myers, Austin Bear, Shianne Phillipp, Mariah Thompson and Madisyn Lemman; and fourth and fifth graders, Laura Schroeder, Carl Mayer, Tad Holm, Audrey Puckett and Madison Wiens.

Winners will be announced at the dinner Monday.



VERA SLOAN/Colby Free Press

About 1,300 pounds of steer didn't seem to mind the 12-above-zero weather as he stood waiting for the feed truck at the environmentally friendly-Carpenter Cattle Co. feed lot 5 1/2 miles north of Brewster.

**CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL THE SOIL CONSERVATION AWARD WINNERS!**

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