



Bill Selby, Goodland Veterans of Foreign Wars commander, looked at a plaque with stamps honoring veterans Wednesday. It was presented to him at the Goodland Post Office. The Goodland American Legion received a similar plaque.
Photo by Janet Craft/The Goodland Daily News

Stamp honors those who fought

Goodland Postmaster Kenton Krehbiehl presented plaques with stamps honoring U.S. veterans to commanders of the Goodland American Legion and Veterans of Foreign Wars posts Wednesday morning at the Goodland post office.

The ceremony marked the first day the 34-cent stamp could be sold.

The new stamp has "honoring veter-

erans" written at the top and "continuing to serve" at the bottom, with a picture of the American flag in the center.

Krehbiehl talked about what veterans had done for America and its citizens.

Mark Heckman of Goodland, commander of the American Legion for three years, and Bill Selby of

Brewster, commander of the Veterans of Foreign Wars for two and a half years, accepted the plaques.

Heckman was in the Army for 23 years, enlisting at the end of World War II and serving in Korea and Vietnam.

Selby is a veteran of the Korean War, where he served in the Army for two years.

Irrigation slurps water supplies

TOUR, from Page 1

gallons, the dinner rolls were 15 gallons, the margarine 92 gallons and the ice cream for dessert 143 gallons. He also had figures for the salad and drinks, to bring the total to nearly 3,000 gallons.

Lamm said not all of the impact was felt in Kansas, because several parts of the dinner probably did not come from in-state producers.

Irrigation is the largest impact on water supplies, he said, with 3 million total land acres in Kansas. Over half that, 1.6 million acres, is irrigated corn. "You get 1-2 pounds of corn to each 54 gallons of water," he said. "Corn is the highest of all the grains in water use, but it is also the most efficient for water use compared to yield."

"We are facing a choice of reducing the acres of crops being irrigated or to improve water conservation to save the Ogallala aquifer," Lamm said. "We will probably be required to do both—conserve and use efficiently."

"The decisions have to be based on intellectual information, not on emotions," he said. "The recharge rates are high enough for domestic, municipal and infrastructure uses."

Lamm said improvements in irrigation efficiency have reduced the impact of irrigation on supplies, but there remains a slow decline in the aquifer level. The use of center pivot and other types of sprinklers in northwest Kansas has increased over the past 26 years from 28 percent of fields in 1974 to about 85 percent today.

He planned to take the group on a tour of his subsurface drip irrigation project Thursday morning before the tour headed back east to finish in Lawrence today.

"A leak that pays," Lamm called the drip irrigation system. "Any incremental improvement we can make can buy us more time to make wise decisions."

The second presentation of the evening on water issues was given by Wayne Bossert, manager of the Northwest Kansas Groundwater District No. 4, headquartered in Colby.

He gave the faculty an overview of the Ogallala aquifer and how the impact of irrigation has changed over the past 100 years since the aquifer began being developed.

The depletion of the aquifer has slowed since the 1980s, Bossert said, but the drop is about 24 inches per year. "One size doesn't fit all," he said about looking at future solutions to

saving the aquifer. "We have to face the fact that 97.7 percent of the water used is irrigation, and that choices will have economic impacts on the area."

He said the Kansas Legislature decided in 1972 that all the water belonged to the public and passed laws to regulate the use and establish the Department of Water Resources and the Kansas Water Office, which are responsible for overseeing all of the water use in the state.

Bossert said the groundwater districts were created through this law to be a local entity to oversee water use. "We have a wide variety of responsibilities," Bossert said. "If there is something that deals with water use, we can be involved."

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