

Farmer divides land into strips to conserve

BANKERS, from Page 5

they have tried four crops: dryland sunflowers, milo, corn and soybeans.

With the new equipment John has developed his farm ground into three strips, and said he feels the system helps with a more consistent seedbed.

"The planting only disturbs the strip you are working," he said.

With special equipment in front of the tractor pulling the planter, John said he can place fertilizer below the seeds where it is needed.

With this, he said, the land is divided into spring crop, summer fallow and wheat.

John said he feels the strips are a good means of conservation because the strip means less surface area for wind erosion. He says they do have some terracing as well.

"Mother Nature is still the boss," he said. "We still need moisture to grow dryland crops."

Harvesting a spring crop and summer crop in one year also helps with water erosion because there is more surface cover.

"We do have some center pivot irrigation,"

he said. "You try things that look good to you. They have to lead to profitability, but we cannot forget we are also stewards of the ground.

"If I keep bringing trees back from Arkansas, maybe some day I'll win the windbreak award," he said.

John participated in a Rotary International exchange in 1989 and went to Germany in the spring of 1990 when the Berlin Wall was coming down.

"Here I was in Berlin and looking at the wall. On it was painted 'Elway sucks' and I realized I couldn't get away from anything,"

he said.

He is the local Rotary exchange chairman, and a co-chairman of Leadership Sherman County. He serves on the city Planning Commission, and is a past trustee of the United Methodist Church. He is a board member on High Plains Sunflower Association, and the Sherman County Wheat growers.

He favors a Kansas sunflower checkoff of 3¢ per hwt to help promote sunflowers.

"When asked why I like to farm," John said. "I say it is challenging frustrating and rewarding at the same time."

GOODLAND MACHINE & AUTOMOTIVE LLC THE TRI-STATE AREA'S QUALITY AUTO REPAIR CENTER & STATE OF THE ART ENGINE REBUILDING CENTER

"AAA Auto Repair Facility" and "NAPA Autocare Center"

Auto Services:

1. Oil Change & Service:
With Free Inspection of Vehicle
2. Tire Sales & Service:
Flat Tire Repair Computer Balancing
3. Computer Diagnostics of Any Make of Vehicle
4. Air Conditioning Service
Includes R- 12 & R- 134
5. Maintenance Service &
Repair of Any Make of Vehicle

Irrigation Services:

1. In Field Service Work:
(Ask about our special mileage program)
2. New & Re-built Irrigation Motors
3. New & Used Gearheads and Parts
4. Exchange Heads
5. Engine Kits
6. Cooling Coils

Machine Shop:

1. All New Sunnen Equipment
2. Thermal Cleaning
3. Align Hone
4. Torque Plate Honing
5. Flywheel Surfacing
6. Surfacing of Blocks & Heads
7. Rod Reconditioning
8. Belt Surfacing

GRAND OPENING - OPEN HOUSE AND 1ST YEAR ANNIVERSARY FEB. 25TH THRU FEB. 28TH - SPECIALS FOR THIS WEEK



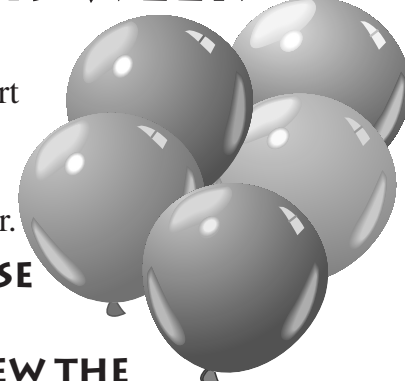
1. 10% Discount on all Labor for Seniors 65 and up (20.00 Limit)
2. AAA New Memberships purchased here with 15.00 off. Visit with Glen Everheart the Kansas AAA representative about all the AAA benefits. - Here Feb. 28th
3. 10% Disc on Transmission Service:

This is a maintenance that is many times forgotten to lengthen the life of your car.

FREE REFRESHMENTS SERVED ALL WEEK DURING THE OPEN HOUSE

REGISTER FOR FREE PRIZES TO BE GIVEN AWAY THIS WEEK

FREE HOT DOGS SERVED ON THURS. 11:00 TO 1:00. COME EAT AND VIEW THE SHOP AND MEET THE EMPLOYEES AND OWNERS



CONGRATULATIONS TO THE AREA CONSERVATION AWARD WINNERS!

Rental Cars Available thru Rent-A-Ride 899-6628



Approved
Auto Repair

Terry Selbe and Pam Mendenhall - owners

419 E. 19th • Goodland, Kan.

(785) 899-6628 • (785) 899-3444



Farm conservation plans were less attractive in 90s

PLANS, from Page 1

more of a regulatory tool instead of a voluntary one. However, most producers complied with the Food Security Act and implemented their farm plans.

As the 1990s passed, the conservation farm plan became less attractive to producers because of the perception that the government was going to tell farmers what they could and could not do on their own land.

Now that most of the Food Security Act plans have been implemented, the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is striving to turn the mandatory planning perception around to one that is, once again, more farmer-friendly. However, the task is one that will require time and patience on the part of the public and NRCS. The environmental concerns of today will demand that conservation plans be more specific, detailed, flexible, have attainable objectives, and, most of all, be voluntary.

To do this, NRCS has implemented a planning strategy that will bring back our planning expertise and abilities. Through increased employee training, each NRCS planner will be certified to produce good, comprehensive farm plans. Furthermore, NRCS employees have been provided new

conservation planning computer software to help development of conservation plans.

The Customer Service Tool kit (CST) provides NRCS employees with a better tool to develop conservation plans faster, neater, and without maintaining big databases.

Another new tool that NRCS is utilizing is ARCVIEW. This particular computer tool allows NRCS employees to develop conservation plan maps. By using more up-to-date photography, the ARCVIEW maps are more detailed and neater. Another added benefit is that color can be used in the plan map. The ability to use color makes field boundaries, structural practices, range sites, and other details more identifiable and easier to locate.

The NRCS has always viewed our natural resources as important, and the use of conservation farm plans was the major tool we had to offer producers who wanted to maintain their resources. By utilizing the new planning tools, procedures, and planner certifications, NRCS is bringing back the idea that the conservation plan will be the basis for all the technical assistance the agency provides now and in the future.

For more information about conservation planning, contact your local Natural Resources Conservation Service or conservation district office.

Contest winners named

Posters — Third and Fourth Grade
First, Brock Wilkens; Second, Mary Williams; Third, Michael Pettibone; Honorable Mention, Jade Herl, Andrew Shores, Christy Studer and Katlyn Topliff.

Posters — Fifth to Eighth Grade
First, Alexis Schields; Second, Jonathan McClung; Third, Chris Irvin; Honorable Mention, Brittney Ford, Sandra Redlin, Marisa Acuff and Grant Wilkens.

Limericks — Third and Fourth Grade

First, Nathan Deeds; Second, Dane Frazier; Third, Mila Bell; Honorable Mention, Ross Townsend, David Murray and

Erika Fyfe.

Limericks — Fifth to Eighth Grade
First, Casey Henderson; Second, Jana McKee; Third, Brett Zwegardt; Honorable Mention, Chelsee Gausman, Danielle Pettibone and Andrew Philbrick.

Essays
First, Devon Mangus; Second, Heidi Yonkey; Third Alison Milke; Honorable Mention, Greg Long.

HyperStudio Stacks
First, Danielle Pettibone; Second, Ashley Christians; Third, Ben Davis; Honorable Mention, Erica Fenner, Shawnie Butts and Tashaya Abbott.

It's 'tree time' in the district

Winter is "tree time" at every county Conservation District Office across Kansas.

That's when the price lists, order blanks and other information show up for the following spring's Kansas Conservation Tree Planting Program.

The Kansas Forest Service started the program 46 years ago. Since then, it has shipped nearly 47 million low-cost trees and shrubs to people statewide.

No one can buy and/or resell these plants for landscaping.

"They're seedlings meant to help indi-

vidual Kansans establish good conservation practices on land they own or control," explained forester Bill Loucks, program coordinator.

Typically, Kansans have planted the hardy seedlings to get home, livestock or field windbreak protection. But they've also used them to establish wildlife-attracting habitat, to protect streams and lakes, to block out noise or ugly views, or to start a woodlot or Christmas tree farm.

Contact the Conservation District office for the current price list and order form.

Goodland Yost Farm Supply would like to Congratulate the following progressive farmers & ranchers!

Windbreak Award: Mr. & Mrs. Bryan Hatcher

Bankers Award: Mr. & Mrs. John Baker

Conservationists of the Year Award: Mr. & Mrs. Harlan House, Mr. & Mrs. Andy House.

Educator of the Year: Jona Neufeld



See the new midrange tractor that redefines performance & comfort.

See this unit at

Goodland Yost Farm Supply

YFS

328 W. Hwy. 24 • Goodland, Kan. 67735
Phone (785) 899-6565 • Fax (785) 899-6568



Congratulations to the Top Conservationists and Educators on the Topside of Kansas.



John & Marcia Golden

Big energy comes in small package

By Sharon Corcoran

The Goodland Daily News

The Sherman County Conservation District's choice for Teacher of the Year is an energetic young woman who is nearly the same size as her students.

Jona Neufeld may be small in size, but she is mighty in her efforts to teach. She has a love for her work and is doing what she has always wanted to do.

Neufeld said she played school with her sister when they were kids. She doesn't remember ever not wanting to be a teacher.

And teaching seems to run in her family. Her sister is now a teacher, Neufeld said, and one of her aunts teaches along with some of her great aunts.

Neufeld teaches a fifth and sixth grade multi-age class at North Elementary School, and her passion for teaching keeps her busy. In turn, she keeps her class busy.

"I love it," she said, "and try to take on too much sometimes."

Her class participated in the district's poster, limerick and essay contest, Neufeld said, that the whole school does each year.

And the students did a hyperstudio project on the computer, she said, which is like a mini slide presentation. The kids can do their own artwork and add pictures, she said, and have three to seven cards in the show. This is the second year for the project.

The projects feature many aspects of conservation, she said, for example, recycling, soil conservation, terracing, windbreaks and water conservation.

This year the program is geared toward wildlife conservation, she said. One method of wildlife conservation, she said, is the Conservation Reserve Program, which involves turning land over to native grasses to provide habitats for wildlife.

The students went on field trips with Fred Wedel, the Sherman County district conservationist, Neufeld said, on which they saw the projects they did in action. It was good for them, she said, as the projects are so much bigger in real life than on their posters. It put things into perspective for them, she said.

The students were divided into groups, she



Jona Neufeld, named Teacher of the Year by the conservation district, worked with a student on his hyperstudio project at North Elementary School.

Photo by Sharon Corcoran/The Goodland Daily News

See TEACHER, Page 9

Uniform Yields, Year after Year

Up to 75% savings in labor and reduced tillage practices.

Prevent water contamination and loss of nitrogen/chemicals caused from leaching and runoff.

Save over 50% in pumping costs. Equal to 1 billion gallons of water over 20 years on a flood irrigated field.



Save our resources for future generations.

How many more reasons do you need to stop in for details on a new Valley system?

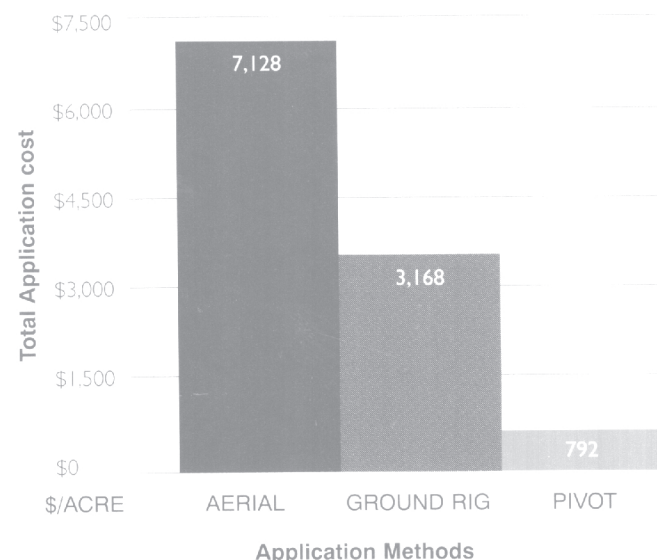


723 W. Hwy. 24 • Goodland, Kan.
(785) 899-5628 or 1-800-798-5628

Save thousands on fertilizer and chemical application costs.

Chemical Application Costs*

(Based on 132 acres and 12 applications) *Does not include the cost of chemicals.



Students use many skills

TEACHER, from Page 8

said, according to which method of conservation they used. Wedel spent a whole day late in January conducting the field trips, she said.

The students had two and a half weeks to put together their hyperstudios, Neufeld said. The students' conservation projects covered a lot of the school's curriculum, she said, including language arts, history and doing research.

She is in her fourth year of teaching in Goodland. She and her husband, Darin, are both from Kansas, she said, but have lived in other areas.

Darin was in the Air Force five years, she said, and during that time the couple lived in Cheyenne, Wyo., and Shreveport, La.

She taught a first and second grade multi-age class in Cheyenne, Neufeld said, but didn't work in Shreveport as she stayed home when their first child was born.

Darin is an engineer with Evans, Bierly, Hutchinson and Associates. The couple has two sons Tyler, 5, and Austin, 2.

The boys are a lot of fun, she said, and they keep us busy.



Jona Neufeld, a North Elementary School teacher, looked through a book with a student as he researched his hyperstudio project for the conservation district.

Photo by Sharon Corcoran/The Goodland Daily News

Offices asked to help build, repair ponds

By Larry R. Sabata

Soil Scientist

Many field offices in Kansas receive requests each year for assistance in either building new ponds or in repairing existing ponds.

The Shawnee County Conservation District's web site at <http://www.cjnetworks.com/~scdistrict/pond.htm> contains an informative section that describes aspects of pond planning, building, and maintenance.

It provides a thorough introduction to ponds helpful to planner and landowner.

The subject area is titled "Pond Dams Built Right." It contains an opening section that describes the basic elements of a pond including definitions of all commonly used components of a pond. Other topics included in the section address pond maintenance, alternatives to consider when trying to seal a leaking pond, and a description of the processes used to replace worn or rusted pipe in an existing pond. Also available is a photo gallery that illustrates pond construction activities and maintenance concerns.

Well-designed plantings can reduce heating costs

By John R. Piskac

Resource Conservationist

Bone-chilling cold weather was upon us. It wasn't that long ago when we were sweltering in summer heat. Such are the "joys" of our Kansas climate. We can't do much about these normal temperature extremes. However, we can modify the environment in and around homes to make conditions more tolerable throughout the year.

Well-designed tree and shrub plantings can reduce home heating and cooling costs, reduce maintenance, and control snow drifting. Windbreak plans should take into consideration the site-specific need for protection and beautification.

Trees and shrubs included in the design should be adapted to the site and conditions. Many plant species that are available through nurseries will not persist under the close spacing typical in windbreak design. Plants should be selected based on their intended function, such as wind control, aesthetics, and shade. Because of their density and branching characteristics, coniferous evergreens should be the basis of all windbreak designs.

Location of the windbreak is important. Consider protecting the site from the north and west winds of winter. Plantings for summer protection are generally deciduous trees that drop leaves and allow the winter sun to penetrate. To minimize drifting snow, windbreaks should be located 150 feet away from buildings, driveways, or other areas to be protected. In the urban setting, space limitations will likely compromise the ideal design.

Young seedlings are vulnerable to harsh conditions during the first year. The new plants need moisture and sunlight to survive. Supplemental watering, protective mulch, and weed control will ensure success of the planting.

The economic value of windbreaks in terms of saving energy and enhancing the value of property should be the main concerns in the design. Additional benefits of comfort, beauty, privacy, and the attraction of birds and animals should also be considered, as these factors are important to many people. Carefully placed trees and shrubs can provide these benefits for many years.

For more information about windbreaks, contact your local Natural Resources Conservation Service office or conservation district office located at your local county USDA Service Center. For more information about NRCS programs, visit the Kansas NRCS web site at www.ks.nrcs.usda.gov.

CONGRATULATIONS

TO THE

SOIL CONSERVATION WINNERS!

Let First National Bank help with your agriculture programs:

- Leasing Programs for equipment and sprinkler systems.
- Ag Real Estate Loans
- Cattle Loans for Livestock operations and feeder cattle.

Ask about our Ag Line...
Your master note for farming operations that allows you to set up a line of credit.

"Neighbors helping Neighbors"

Colby, Goodland, Kirk, Oberlin, Quinter, Sharon Springs, & St. Francis



FIRST
NATIONAL BANK
www.fnb.com




Election held at annual meeting

This is the Annual Report of the Sherman County Conservation District for the Calendar year of 2001.

The 2001 Annual Meeting was held February 20, 2001 at the Veterans of Foreign Wars Hall in Goodland. Mr. & Mrs. Max Tedford received the Goodyear Award. Mr. & Mrs. Greg Nemechek were awarded the Banker's Award and Mr. & Mrs. Rod Kling were recipients of the Windbreak Award. Karen Colip and Marie Elias received the Educator of the Year Awards.

Two hundred thirty cooperators enjoyed the meal furnished by the District and local banks. Dana Belshe introduced Tammy Weeter and Darin Richardson, local 4-H members, who provided the entertainment for the evening. Lynn Ihrig was elected to the board by secret ballot.

Thirty-six plaques were presented at the 2001 Annual Meeting for the Poster, Limerick, Essay Contest and Hyper-Studio Stack Contest. Sandy Rodgers, District Manager and Fred Wedel, District Conservationist, presented conservation programs prior to the contest. The Conservation District donated \$200 to the two participating schools to be used for teaching tools benefiting conservation education.

The Goodland Daily News published the Annual Soil Conservation Edition. KLOE/

KKCI radio continues to support conservation throughout the year.

Sherman County Farmers continue to support conservation in Sherman County. All compliance plans are on schedule. Approximately 309 Conservation Reserve Program contracts are in place for approximately 42,479 acres, roughly 18-20 percent of the county. The State Water Resources Cost Share Funds have all been allocated. Practices include irrigation system upgrades, tanks, livestock wells, terraces and diversions. There are six EQIP contracts, one active Great Plains Conservation Program contract and one Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program Contract in Sherman County.

The Sherman County Conservation District continues a strong education and information program. A fair booth was displayed in August. Fred Wedel, District Conservationist, and Sandy Rodgers, District Manager, worked with fifth and sixth graders and the first Hyper Studio Contest became a reality. The third through sixth grades also participated in the Poster, Limerick and Essay Contest. Sandy gave programs in the classroom and Fred took fifth and sixth graders on a mini tour to look at conservation practices in the field.

The district offers grass seed, flags, trees, rabbit netting, weed barrier, polymer and

gyp blocks for sale as a service to area co-operators, as well as, providing additional funding for the district programs.

Sherman County Conservation District paid dues to the National Association of Conservation Districts, the Kansas Association of Conservation Districts, the KACD Auxiliary, Western Prairie RC&D, and the Kansas Association of Conservation District's Employees Organization.

The district works closely with their conservation partners, including State and Na-

tional legislators, Natural Resources Conservation Service, County Commissioners, K-State Extension, Wildlife and Parks, Farm Service Administration, Groundwater Management District No. 4 and many others to reach mutual conservation goals. The district continued their Memorandum of Understanding with Wildlife and Parks concerning cost share funds. Three producers were awarded cost share funds through this

See REPORT, Page 11



PARTNERSHIP IN AG

Some things never change ... agriculture isn't one of them.

In today's complex business world, you not only have to stay on top of what's going on in your own back pasture, you have to be aware of what's happening halfway around the world. Working together you can be both in the fields and on-line at the same time. Getting information about everything from replacement tractor parts to the cloning of beef cattle to the genetic reengineering of corn and soybeans without missing a beat.

The business of agriculture is changing every day, but Farm Credit is still the ag lending expert. We've been financing America's agri-businesses for over 80 years, so you might say we're another partner you can count on.



Western Kansas Farm Credit

Formerly the Federal Land Bank Association of Colby

Call 1-800-657-6048

www.farmcreditkansas.com

Congratulations Conservation Award Winner!



Farm Credit is an Equal Credit Opportunity and Equal Housing Lender

ALCORN/HAYDEN INC. CONGRATULATES THIS YEAR'S WINNERS OF THE CONSERVATION AWARDS!

Conservationists of the Year: Mr. & Mrs. Harlan House
Mr. & Mrs. Andy House

Windbreak Award: Mr. & Mrs. Bryan Hatcher

Bankers Award: Mr. & Mrs. John Baker

Educator of the Year: Jona Neufeld

Local and state poster & limerick contest honor students.

Exclusive Goodland Agents for **American Agri Ins.**
Offering **CRC Plus - MPC1.**

Two Locations:

1402 Main Street • 1624 S. Main Street

Goodland, Kan.

(785) 899-6351 or (785) 899-6231

