

# Decisions near on CRP land

By Michael A. Debes

*Resource Conservationist*

What to do with your expiring Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) acreage can be simple or complicated. For most landowners, that decision depends on their individual land use desires. Many have waited for years to be able to build a fence around those acres and graze it with cattle. Others cannot wait to till the land again or to re-enroll it in another CRP contract.

Any one of these decisions can be correct if it matches your individual land use desires. Each landowner must investigate the options and make his/her own land use decisions that fit the operation.

Both the general CRP and the Continuous CRP (CCRP) are voluntary programs for agricultural landowners. The Farm Service Agency (FSA) administers the program while the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) provides technical support to participants. In order to make an informed decision on your expiring acres, you need to know where to go for information. Both agencies, FSA and NRCS, are co-located at the local USDA Service Center at 210 W. 10th, Goodland. FSA handles administrative questions relating to payments, contract, and sign-up information. NRCS will provide information relating to technical questions, such as cover type, management/maintenance practices, and cover establishment.

The total CRP and CCRP acres in the nation will be

## State Limerick Winner

*Farmer Dwain*

*There once was a farmer named Dwain,  
Who built a shelter on his terrain,  
His cows were protected,  
The wind was deflected,  
And his crops produced lots of grain.*

The First Place State Limerick Winner for grades three through eight was Courtney McBride. She is the daughter of Bobbi Wolski.

lowered due to Congressional mandates of the 2008 Farm Bill. As of August 2009, national FSA records show approximately 33,796,489 acres enrolled in the two programs. Of this amount, 3,099,333 acres are in Kansas. The majority of CRP acres in Kansas (2,989,890 acres) were enrolled through general CRP. The CCRP acres in Kansas are rising while the general acres are declining at a steady pace. Approximately 363,949 acres enrolled in general CRP in Kansas were eligible to expire on September 30, 2009.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) encourages all landowners, local and absentee, with acres expiring soon in either CRP or CCRP to contact your local NRCS or conservation district office located at your local county USDA Service Center and to discuss options and/or alternatives for the expiring acres.

To learn more about NRCS, visit the Kansas NRCS Web site at [www.ks.nrcs.usda.gov](http://www.ks.nrcs.usda.gov).

# Safety instructors county natives

NATIVES, from Page 9

working for John Deere in Wamego. Alex is married and expecting their first grandchild in April.

Steve has been involved in the Northwest Kansas District Fair for 25 years. He has been working with the wrestling team as an official for 25 years and is in his fourth year as an assistant coach.

He farms about 2,300 acres, growing sunflowers, corn, pinto beans, wheat and milo.

He said he does some no-till, some strip till and some conventional tilling.

He farmed with his father until he died in 1983. His mother died in 2008.

**Greg Nemechek**

Greg did not attend college after high school, but went to the Northwest Kansas Technical School to learn farming diesel, now called diesel tech.

He started farming in 1978 after his father died. He farms with his brothers and mother, and has been doing it a long time.

His wife is Judi and they have three children, Brandon, Bryant and BreAnna.

Brandon is a process engineer for GE Aircraft in Wichita.

Bryant is carpentry instructor at Northwest Tech, and is in charge of the college's 'green' house project.

BreAnna is a student at Laramie Community College in Wyoming studying business.

Greg says they farm about 2,100 acres growing wheat, sunflowers, corn and milo.

He said they do some no-till, or minimum till depending on what crop they are growing.

He is the vice president of Western Prairie Resource Conservation and Development.

Greg and his wife, Judi, are previous Sherman County Conservation District Bankers Award winners from 2001.

# Two honored for farm safety efforts

FRIENDS, from Page 9

"We have changed a lot of things. CPR used to be five compression to a breath and now it is 30 compressions to two breaths. That get the oxygenated blood moving in the body better. "Some things are not going to change like getting the airway open is not going to change."

He said the ambulance people have learned more about the AIDS issue, and that Hepatitis

and TB are big issues. He said hepatitis is more of a serious problem because the contamination lasts longer.

"Every time we go on a call it is a life threat to us and our families," Greg said.

Steve has been on the ambulance for 13 years and Greg for 10 years.

The two are rural first responders, and use their private vehicles to go to an accident scene. He said he covers the west part of Sherman County and Greg covers the east part.



Bankers Award winner Melvin Nemechek stood by the cab of his tractor that he had just serviced to get ready for spring work. The tractor has treads and will drive itself down a straight line in a field. Photo by Pat Schiefel/The Goodland Star-News

# Bankers Award winner has always been a farmer

BANKERS, from Page 2

Connor, who is in the eighth grade and a daughter, Mya, who is four years old. Shannon works at the farm services office.

Melvin said he was one of the 11 children of Carl and Lucille Nemechek and we always had chores and were milking cows. He said that his dad and two of his brothers, Steve and Leo, had the opportunity to move to Goodland to farm in the 1940's. The land owner lived in WaKeeney where they lived.

"Mom was Dad's right hand," he said. "She drove truck at harvest and took care of 11 kids."

"The first painful job I had was shocking for other farmers when I was a kid," he said. Shocking is where sheaves of grain are stood up in a teepee shape to dry out in a field.

Melvin graduated from Goodland High School in 1985 and went into farming after he graduated. He worked for other farmers until his dad retired in 1985. His mother is still living. He is the only one of his siblings who took up farming.

"I was always the quiet and shy type," he said with a twinkle in his eye. "My high school years were the funnest."

"We have a good educational system here. We need to appreciate what our schools have. They're safe and I enjoy going to the activities."

"This is a great place to raise a family," Melvin said. "I had the chance to live in other places."

"It could be an interesting year," Melvin said. "We have to wait for the surprise."

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