

Money available for beginning farmers

Each year the Natural Resources Conservation Service administers millions of dollars worth of conservation assistance in both technical and financial form.

Historically underserved producers fall into one or more of three categories: Socially disadvantaged farmer or rancher, Beginning farmer or rancher and limited resource farmer or rancher.

The 2008 Farm Bill recognized these landowners and operators as eligible for special incentives for program participation. Those incentives may include increased payment rates, advanced payments and/or special funding pools.

A socially disadvantaged farmer or rancher is a one who has been subject to racial or ethnic prejudice without regard to his or her individual qualities. Producers qualifying for assistance as a socially disadvantaged farmer or rancher must identify themselves as a Native American or Alaskan Native, Asian, black or African American, Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander or a Hispanic.

In order for a farm or ranch of

any type to be eligible for socially disadvantaged status, at least 50 percent ownership of the farm or ranch must be controlled by a member of one of the aforementioned groups. Gender alone is not a covered group for conservation programs.

Beginning farmers or ranchers are those producers who have not operated a farm or ranch or have been operating a farm or ranch for fewer than 10 consecutive years. This requirement applies to all members of an entity to qualify as a beginning farmer or rancher.

A limited resource farmer or rancher is an individual or entity with gross farm sales of not more than the current indexed value in each of the previous two years (\$142,000 for 2010) and an adjusted gross income of less than 50 percent of the county median. Eligibility for this group is self-determined by using the online tool located at <http://www.lrftool.sc.egov.usda.gov/>.

For more information stop by the Sherman County Farm Service Center, 210 W. 10th, and visit with the National Resource Conservation Service staff (785) 899-3070.

The voyage of the S.S. Gigantic



“The last voyage of the SS Gigantic” was a Lenten dinner theatre presentation on April 3, by the First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) Thespians. The play was a spoof of the movie “Titanic.” Captain of the ship was played by Marvin Seaman, Montrose

Richer played by Tyler Jones, Molly Green played by Judi Vignery, Zach Dought played by Terry Smith, Thurston Haughty played by Ron Vignery and Jeeves Buymeoff played by Shaunna Armknecht. The show was directed by Pastor Carol Jolly.

Painting doesn't raise taxes

TAXES, from Page 1

depends on the circumstances of the seller if they are trying to leave town and have to sell their home rather than allowing it to wait for the market.

“I am not going to raise taxes on a house because it has been painted,” he said. “That may cause a fluctuation in value, but it will not be a major fluctuation in value.”

If there are sales of similar houses in the past five years the value may change, he said.

“We are always taking out an old sale and putting in a new sale in the five-year average formula,” he said. “That may cause a fluctuation in value, but it will not be a major fluctuation in value.”

City Commissioner Dave Daniels said it is the perception of the public that if they have painted their house the taxes will go up, and if they clean up around the house that will make the taxes go up even if they have not sold the house.

“We need to get the word out that cleaning and painting is not what changes the property taxes,” he said.

Ballard said after doing all that work to the house if the market goes down the valuation could go down and the taxes would go down so the two things are not tied together. It is the market that makes the difference, he said.

“I know you have said it is the state who dictates how the valuation is determined,” Daniels said, “but my problem is if I pick up a house and fix it up the taxes are going up and down all the time. My problem is the market may go up, but I cannot sell the house for that price. Why am I paying taxes on that value if I can't get that much money for it?”

“I have an appraised value,” Ballard said, “and that is why we have the hearing process to allow you to question that. I have to rely on the information from the property owner about the interior of the property. We do not go into homes.

“The three things that affect the value are condition of the property, quality of construction and size of house. I find quite often a house listed at a price twice what I have it

appraised for, and then I see the interior photos and it says this has been remodeled, this has been done and that has been improved. If the information I have is not correct I am going to update my information

“I tell people if you have a house that looks like hell on the outside and the inside has been totally remodeled I am going to undervalue that house. If the outside looks well maintained and the inside is not in good shape I am going to overvalue that house.”

Daniels said that was how they had come to the point.

“How do we get people to understand about normal maintenance to the house,” Daniels said. “We want to get people to fix their homes up. We don't want to have them say it will raise their taxes. The dilemma is how do we get the citizens to understand that cleaning up their neighborhood is not going to raise their taxes.”

Ballard said the county has had the Neighborhood Revitalization program since 2004, and people have taken advantage of the program. He said there is probably \$2 million of assessed value in the program, and if you multiply that

out to appraised value you have a large chunk of money.

“I have talked to a number of people and some of the service clubs,” Billinger said. “I would like to get two or three organizations together and get 50 people together on a Saturday and pick an area and get the city trucks to haul off the trash and have eight to 10 people with paint brushes. We would have to get permission of the homeowners, but we could change the whole community.”

Commissioner Chuck Thomas said he knew it was hard to explain the fluctuations to people so if they paint the house the taxes may go down and if they don't paint the taxes may go up.

“That is the point,” Billinger said. “People should clean up, and know it will not have a direct impact on the property taxes.”

Ballard said this year a lot of people will see their values go down because the market was down.

Present from the city were Commissioners Billinger, Daniels, John Garcia, Annette Fairbanks, Doug Gerber, city manager and Mary Volk, city clerk.

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Sherman County Speedway

Goodland, KS

Races April 24th

IMCA Modified, Stock, Hobby Stock, Sport Mods, and Econo.

Pit Gates open at 2:30 p.m. MT
Races start at 5:30 p.m. MT

Pit Pas \$25 (all ages)

Grand Stand:

0-5 FREE

6-12: \$5.00

13 and up: \$10.00

Trophies sponsored by SCSCRA

Races sponsored by
Coors, Coca-Cola
and SCSCRA

Labor department provides free posters to state employers

Employers are required by state and federal law to display wage and hour, child labor law, unemployment insurance and workers compensation posters in the workplace where employees can read them.

The Kansas Department of Labor provides these posters free of charge to Kansas businesses.

“We are pleased to provide this service to Kansas business-

es,” said Jim Garner, Kansas Secretary of Labor. “Employers should never have to pay for required state or federal workplace posters.”

Both federal and state posters can be downloaded and printed from the KDOL Web site (http://www.dol.ks.gov/es/html/posters_DBR.html) or can be requested by phone or mail. Posters printed from the department Web site and

displayed in the workplace are sufficient to remain in compliance with the law.

The state currently provides Kansas Child Labor, Unemployment Insurance and Workers Compensations posters on the site, among others.

The official Kansas Clean Air Act non-smoking sign will be available prior to the July 1, effective date.

City of Goodland Treasurer's Financial Statement

For the period from January 1, 2010 to March 31, 2010

FUNDS	PREVIOUS BALANCE	RECEIPT	CURRENT DISBURSEMENT	BALANCE
Special Highway	235,470.65	30,119.53	0.00	265,590.18
Self Insurance	397,413.30	513.83	12,500.00	385,427.13
Airport Fund	106,749.96	3,228.75	1,704.11	108,274.60
General Operating	1,690,962.31	631,565.13	500,299.53	1,822,227.91
Bond & Interest	37,798.81	163,494.86	36,369.38	164,924.29
Library	11,991.02	80,370.52	92,361.54	0.00
Sales Tax	7,550.12	44,501.96	44,242.51	7,809.57
Electric Utility	3,582,916.45	1,259,640.08	1,276,065.98	3,566,490.55
Municipal Court Div. Fees	23,987.84	862.29	0.00	24,850.13
Law Enforcement	24,331.49	21.41	4,500.00	19,852.90
Electric Meter Deposit	129,570.67	5,950.00	4,204.00	131,316.67
Water Utility	250,140.77	119,036.61	162,964.67	206,212.71
Water Service Deposit	68,160.00	5,150.00	2,750.00	70,560.00
Sewer Utility	207,374.09	89,200.71	113,677.77	182,897.03
Special Park & Rec.	56,817.09	2,410.03	0.00	59,227.12
Vehicle Inspections(VIN)	23,642.20	1,800.92	9,863.68	15,579.44
Grant Imp Reserve Fund	668,200.17	32,671.27	10,272.09	690,599.35
Street Imp Project	289,414.76	904.63	0.00	290,319.39
Solid Waste	57,967.87	104,456.23	104,423.26	58,000.84
Fire Equipment	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Airport Improvement	0.00	11,493.75	18,993.75	-7,500.00
CDBG Grant	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Capital Imp. Reserve	3,195,490.97	133,355.21	104,637.00	3,224,209.18
Insurance Proceeds	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Employee Benefit	350,502.14	315,578.99	145,196.56	520,884.57
Library Emp. Benefit	966.18	13,742.46	14,708.64	0.00
State Water Fund	4,064.37	1,352.69	1,749.10	3,667.96
Cemetery-Perp. Care	82,500.00	0.00	0.00	82,500.00
Cemetery Endowment	95,250.79	1,400.00	0.00	96,650.79
Cemetery Improvement	122,218.71	1,591.68	0.00	123,810.39
Replacement Tree	22.39	0.00	0.00	22.39
Electric Reserve	2,102,748.81	51,634.95	0.00	2,154,383.76
Water Reserve	818,483.63	835.84	0.00	819,319.47
Water System Imp. Proj.	0.00	574,655.27	576,155.27	-1,500.00
FEMA	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Sewer Reserve	803,447.24	10,884.79	0.00	814,332.03
M.E.R.F.	2,953,088.60	92,822.89	173,266.64	2,872,644.85

Total	18,399,243.40	3,785,247.28	3,410,905.48	18,773,585.20
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AVAILABLE CASH	PREVIOUS BALANCE	CURRENT BALANCE
Cashier's Change	2,000.00	2,000.00
Checking Accounts:		
BANKWEST	1,293,985.50	1,175,318.66
Investments	17,103,257.90	17,596,266.54

Total Available Cash	18,399,243.40	18,773,585.20
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LIABILITIES AND OBLIGATIONS

ST OF KS PUBLIC WATER SUPPLY LOAN	1,457,702.43
GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS, SERIES 2007	2,005,000.00
TOTAL	3,462,702.43

I, Janeil Dilling, do hereby certify that the above statement is correct.
City Treasurer

Published in The Goodland Star-News, Friday, April 16, 2010.

ADM GRAIN



ADM-GRAIN in Goodland, KS has an opportunity for a full-time Grain Accountant. Primary focus will be on grain accounting, accounts payable, payroll, and scale operations. Requirements: knowledge of computers, understanding of agriculture industry and/or commodity trading, ability to communicate clearly and concisely in verbal and written formats to all levels of employees, possesses strong organizational skills, and be willing to work in a team orientated environment. Position offers competitive wages and excellent benefits. Benefits include health and dental insurance, 401K, and paid vacation and holidays. Some weekend and over-time work required with this position. Pre-employment drug testing and background check required. Please send resume's to P.O. Box 218 Brewster, KS 67732.