

The **Goodland Star-News**

Presents

Conservation Edition 2013

February 8, 2013



Bankers Award: Jeff and Anita Henderson

Windbreak Award: Shad and Penny Sheldon

State Limerick - Second Place: Ryan Lalicker

State Limerick - Third Place: Ella Ihrig

Awards Luncheon: noon Monday, Feb. 11, Sherman County 4-H Building

Farmers and ranchers invited to lunch, meeting

By Sandy Rodgers

Sherman County Conservation District Manager

This year the Conservation District Board is planning a producer appreciation luncheon in conjunction with their annual meeting. A meal prepared by Steve Evert and sponsored by The Sherman County Conservation District, Bankwest of Kansas, First National Bank of Goodland, Peoples State Bank, Western State Bank and Farm Credit Services of Western Kansas will start off the afternoon. A short business meeting and election will follow the meal. The Kansas Banker's Awards for Soil Conservation and

Windbreak will be celebrated. The Sherman County Conservation District Board would like to congratulate Jeff and Anita Henderson and family and Shad and Penny Sheldon for being chosen to receive awards by the local Banker's Award Committee.

We are fortunate to have Eric Banks, State Conservationist, Natural Resources Conservation Service as our speaker.

Our Conservation Education Programs remain as strong as ever. Conservation programs were given to third and fourth grades. A fifth grade tour was held in December and the fourth grade will also attend a hands on Kids' Conservation Roundup

in April. The students will be awarded their prizes at a special conservation day at Central School the last part of April.

Ryan Lalicker and Ella Ihrig received State Awards at the Kansas Association of Conservation Districts Convention held in Wichita in November. They will receive their awards at the Conservation Day to be held at Central Elementary School. Congratulations to both of them for a job well done.

We are looking forward to trying something new this year and invite you to plan to attend and enjoy the afternoon.



Conservation Saves the Day

*There once was a man named Ray
Whose topsoil was washing away
He was so embarrassed
He had his field terraced
Conservation had saved the day.*

*Ryan Lalicker
Sherman County, SECOND PLACE
State Limerick Competition*

From Plowing to Spray

*There was a farmer named Ray
Who went from plowing to spray
He saved money and fuel
The weeds didn't rule
Now his farm is here to stay.*

*Ella Ihrig
Sherman County, THIRD PLACE
State Limerick Competition*



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State conservationist to speak at luncheon

Eric B. Banks became the State Conservationist for the U.S. Department of Agriculture Natural Resource Conservation Service in Kansas on June 8, 2008. His office is located in Salina, Kansas. Banks, before accepting the position in Salina, served as the Conservation Service's assistant state conservationist for financial assistance programs in Phoenix, Ariz., where he was responsible for the management of all Farm Bill programs.



Eric Banks

rial and technical positions includes acting National Grassland Reserve Program manager in Washington, D.C.; area conservationist in northeast Missouri; and resource conservationist and district conservationist in Indiana. He also held positions in South Carolina and Nebraska. He began his career with the agency as a student trainee in Wilber, Neb.

Banks has served on the Audit Remediation Team to Improve Accounting and Controls and has served as:

- Acting Associate Deputy Chief for Management
- Representative for Central Region Cultural Transformation
- Lead State Conservationist on the Five-State Lesser Prairie Chicken Initiative (Kansas, Texas, New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Colorado).

Local conservation practices



Terracing, the practice of breaking large slopes into smaller ones, are an important conservation practice. They help improve soil quality and water collection and runoff. They can even provide a nesting habitat for wildlife.

Photo by Pat Schiefen/The Goodland Star-News

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Rebecca Kling Susan Dake

Conservation District puts out annual report for 2012

This is the Annual Report of the Sherman County Conservation District for the Calendar year of 2012.

The 2012 Annual Meeting was held Feb. 6, 2012, at the VFW in Goodland. Mr. and Mrs. William Gattshall received the Banker's Award and Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Musil were recipients of the Windbreak Award. Jim Strine was recipient of the Friend of Agriculture Award.

One hundred cooperators enjoyed the meal furnished by the district and local banks. Lonnie Whiteker introduced Fred Wedel who provided information on Conservation Reserve Program Burning. Lonnie Whiteker and Dean Graber were elected to the board by secret ballot

Plaques were presented at the 2012 Annual Meeting for the Poster, Limerick and Essay Contest. Sandy Rodgers, District Manager presented conservation programs prior to the contest.

The *Goodland Star-News* published the Annual Soil Conservation Edition and continues to support the efforts of conservation in Sherman County

Sherman County Farmers continue to support conservation in Sherman County. All Compliance plans are on schedule. Approximately 38 new Conservation Reserve Program contracts are in place for approximately 39,029.8 acres. The State Water Resources Cost Share funded jobs for 2012 included tanks, livestock wells, pipelines and septic systems that were failing. There are 21 active Environmental Quality Incentives Program contracts, two Wetland Reserve Program contracts, 16 Conservation Security Program contracts and one Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program contract in Sherman County.

The Sherman County Conservation District continues a strong education and information program. A fairbooth was displayed in August. Sandy Rodgers, District Manager worked with fifth graders on the Poster, Limerick, Essay Contest. The 3rd through fourth Grades also participated in the Poster and Limerick Contest. Sandy gave programs in the classroom. In April the local fourth graders along with fourth graders from area counties met in Colby and attended the fifth annual "Conservation Kids Roundup" sponsored by the Northwest Kansas



In 2012, 38 new Conservation Reserve Program contracts were put in place for about 39,029 acres. Photo by Pat Schiefen/The Goodland Star-News

Conservation and Environmental Alliance. The Sherman County Conservation District Board supported the Western Prairie Resource Conservation and Development Council. The District Board awarded Garrett Geist and Sydney Winston graduating seniors in Sherman County a scholarship to their respective colleges.

The District offers grass seed, flags, trees, rabbit netting, and weed barrier for sale as a service to area cooperators, 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 Resource, Conservation and Development Council, and the Kansas Association of Conservation District's Employees Organization.

The District works closely with their conservation partners, including State and National legislators, Natural Resource Conservation Service, County Commissioners, K-State Extension, Wildlife and Parks, Farm Service Agency, Groundwater Management District No. 4, High Plains Roosters chapter of Pheasants Forever, and many others to reach mutual conservation goals. Sandy Rodgers serves as the Conservation District's representative to the Western Prairie Resource, Conservation and Development Council with Fred Hall serving as alternate. Sandy Rodgers is currently the President of the Western Prairie Resource, Conservation and Development Council. Greg Nemechek represents the Sherman County Commissioners and serves as Vice President. Greg Nemechek and Sandy Rodgers attended the State Resource, Conservation and Development

Council meeting held at Emporia in September and the meeting at Wichita in November. The meeting was held in conjunction with the Kansas Association of Conservation Districts Convention. Sandy Rodgers serves as Secretary of the State Resource, Conservation and Development Council Association. Greg Nemechek, Sandy Rodgers, Mary Volk, Janet Rumble, and Fred Hall serve on the local advisory committee for Western Prairie Resource, Conservation and Development Council and Fred Wedel serves as an advisor to that group.

The Sherman County Conservation District Manager, Sandy Rodgers, continues to participate in the Northwest Kansas Conservation and Environmental Alliance. This group consists of District Managers representing eight County Conservation Districts. Their objective is to search for funding through grants and foundations to enhance and ensure a quality environment for future generations in Northwest Kansas. The group is planning their 7th Annual Conservation Roundup for 4th graders in April and a Women's Ag Conference in October 2013. Sandy was re-elected President of the group.

Mr. and Mrs. Dean Graber, Mr. and Mrs. Scott Jarrett, Mr. and Mrs. Dennis Shank, Greg Nemechek, Fred Wedel and Sandy Rodgers attended the Kansas Association of Conservation Districts Convention held at Wichita in November. Ryan Lalicker was awarded 2nd Place for his Limerick at the State Convention in Wichita and Ella Ihrig 3rd place for her Limerick at the State Convention.

The District reviewed their long-range program and also reviewed the memorandums of understanding with all cooperating agencies.

The Sherman County Conservation District's objective is to promote locally led conservation and to assist landowners and operators apply conservation practices to the land with the technical assistance from the Natural Resources Conservation Service. The Conservation Office is available for assistance to anyone needing help solving his or her conservation needs. The District Board meets the first Thursday after the first Tuesday of every month with the exception of July.

Congratulations to the Top Conservation District in Kansas!

John & Marcia Golden

Congratulations to the Sherman County Conservation District Award Winners!

Windbreak Award

Shad and Penny
Sheldon

Banker Award

Jeff and Anita
Henderson

Limerick Contest

2nd place: Ryan Lalicker
3rd place: Ella Ihrig



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Many ways to soil health

By Fred Wedel

District Conservationist

The annual meeting of the Sherman County Conservation District will be Feb. 11, 2012. District Manager Sandy Rodgers, the Sherman County Conservation District Board of Supervisors and I look forward to seeing you the 11th. Producers are given recognition for a job well done.

As we look forward to the 2013 growing season, I will share some thoughts about Zero Tillage Cropping Systems, Soil Health (Soil Quality), Crop Rotations, and Cover Crops.

As we look forward to the 2013 growing season, we are facing one of the driest winters and springs in many, many years. The limited moisture received in 2012 and so far in 2013 means that farmers and ranchers will have to look "outside the box" for ways to wisely manage the moisture that does come.

Tillage always dries topsoil, destroys soil structure and reduces moisture infiltration rates. Crop residue always increases soil organic matter, reduces wind speed at the soil surface, reduces moisture evaporation, minimizes runoff, reduces soil erosion and more importantly, is food for the soil micro-organisms. The soil is really a living breathing ecosystem that stores, transforms, and cycles nutrients through the soil. Remember, the air we breathe is 78 percent nitrogen. Cover crops that include legumes cycle this nitrogen into the living soil and make this nitrogen available for crop and forage production... and the nitrogen is free!

Unlock the Secrets in the SOIL

The Natural Resource Conservation Service recently launched a soil health awareness and education effort titled "Unlock the Secrets in the Soil." The effort is supported by fact sheets; videos; web, radio, and social media announcements; and local field days. In addition, the service is making programmatic changes that will give farmers and ranchers more assistance in trying and implementing healthy soil methods on their own farms and ranches.

Soil health is achieved by disturbing the soil as little as possible, keeping it covered, growing as many different species of plants as practical and keeping living plants in the soil most of the year. Soil health practices such as no-till, cover crops, buffers, etc. keep the soil in place, which improves air and water quality, reduces flooding and enhances wildlife habitat.

Former Service Chief Dave White encourages producers to adopt conservation practices that are beneficial to their operations. "We understand that soils on farms and ranches vary a great deal across the County. Our job is to provide farmers and ranchers the very best information available to meet their unique needs and help their businesses thrive".

For more information, see www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/soils/health.

Producers are always welcome to stop at the U.S. Department of Agriculture Service Center for a visit about how to improve soil health, the life blood of American Agriculture.

Award winner



Sherman County Conservation District Manager Sandy Rodgers presented Kaitlen Thompson with an honorable mention award from the State Limerick Contest at last year's Conservation Meeting. This year there are two state winners.

Photo by Sheila Smith/The Goodland Star-News

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Sherman County natives win Banker's Award

By Pat Schiefen

pjschiefen@nwkansas.com

Jeff and Anita Henderson received the Banker's Award this year. The couple were very surprised and honored when they found out.

The Hendersons utilize several soil conservation methods including crop rotation, no till and strip tillage. They have a small farming operation raising irrigate wheat and corn, dryland wheat and corn and a few acres of sunflowers. By being conservative in all aspects of the the farm they hope to get good production and maintain adequate ground cover to reduce the chance of wind erosion.

The biggest assets they said to their farm has been adding spraying capabilities. They bought their first sprayer in 2007.

"This was a great improvement from the previous years of working the ground and losing precious moisture. It also has made it easier to control weeds and protect the soil quality," said Anita Henderson.

She said the sprayer allows a person to cover a lot of acres in a short time using less fuel and less tillage. The advancements in technology and equipment have enabled farmers to be able to produce more and be more efficient.

Jeff and Anita were both raised in Sherman County. He grew up on a farm four miles south of Ruleton.

"We have been greatly influenced through

the years by very knowledgeable and outstanding people of the community," said the couple.

The couple were married in 1980. They moved to the country in 1988 and started farming in 1989. They also owned and ran Midwest Engine, an irrigation engine repair shop, for about 16 years. In 2000 they decided to farm full-time and Anita went back to work at the First National Bank.

"We've had a lot of great help over the years, from full-time and part-time, to those that help us through harvest. They have all been tremendous help to us and we couldn't have gotten it all done without them," they said.

The couple has two sons, Tyler and Casey. Tyler graduated from Goodland High School in 2001 and Casey in 2008.

"They both have come back to help on the farm and each farm on their own as well," said Anita. "Tyler's wife Deanna is from Australia. Tyler met her there when he was racing with a drag racing team. They were married in 2010 and live 10 miles south of Ruleton. They are expecting our first grandchild in May.

"A.J. Stephens is part of our family as well and has come back to help us on the farm. It's great to see the young kids wanting to come back. Our desire is to help the next generation step in to take over the family farms. It's tough to get started in farming with the prices what



Jeff and Anita Henderson are this year's winners of the Banker's Award. They are Sherman County natives and farm full time. Anita also has a job at First National Bank.

they are, but if we can help them somehow then maybe we can see more and more of the young people wanting to come back to live and raise their families here."

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Windbreak award goes to Sheldons

By Kevin Bottrell

kbottrell@nwkansas.com

Shad and Penny Sheldon, this year's winner of the Windbreak Award, said that due to the drought, they've recently given up on flowerbeds to focus on trees.

The Sheldon's have several windbreaks on their property, a few miles east of Goodland on U.S. 24. The winning tree stand was planted 16 years ago, Shad said, when the trees were about a foot and a half tall. The new, small trees survived just fine, Shad said, but they take a lot of water to maintain. The windbreak is flood irrigated.

This windbreak is a double, and in some places a triple, row of Austrian pine trees on the west side of the Sheldon's house. Shad said he didn't want to use cedar trees. He said they are common, but ugly, though they might be better for wildlife. As it is, the windbreak attracts plenty of wildlife, including deer, pheasants and wild turkeys.

The main purpose of the windbreak, Shad said, was to stop the snow and wind from hitting the house.

"And catch the corn husks," he said, only partially joking.

The break has worked, Penny said, effectively sheltering the house and back yard from the wind. It also has the secondary effect of dampening the noise from nearby I-70.

The couple bought 150 Austrian pines and had some left over when the planting was done. Shad said you plan to have enough to replace any that die, but in this particular windbreak, only one tree didn't make it, having been blown over by in a hailstorm.

Penny said some of their other trees are just for looks while others are more functional. Some were moved in from their previous house.



Shad and Penny Sheldon posed in front of their windbreak at their house east of Goodland. The 16-year-old windbreak is made up of several rows of Austrian pine trees, and does a good job keeping wind, snow and highway noise away from the house.
Photo by Kevin Bottrell/The Goodland Star-News

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A Salute to Area Farmers



It starts with pride. Pride in himself and the way he farms. The American farmer knows he can expect a season full of long hours and hard work. But he's up to the challenge. In fact, he wouldn't have it any other way. A good farmer is a good neighbor, too. Involved in his community and committed to the land. He's a family man. Passing knowledge on to his children so they'll be ready when it's their turn to farm. A good farmer runs a tight operation. But his eyes are always open; looking for new

ideas and tools that can make his business a little more efficient; a little more productive. He listens hard when other people talk farming. But mainly, he takes a long look at his own program and decides things for himself. Throwing out what didn't work and sticking with the things that did. Upgrading his system until his goals are reached and then upgrading some more. He's hard to please, but he's fair. A good farmer, in short, is one of America's greatest natural resources.

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Controlled burns



Controlled burns are a necessary part of rangeland management and are required by the Conservation Reserve Program. Proper precautions must always be taken, especially during drought. Photo by Kevin Bottrell/The Goodland Star-News

Conservation practices important during drought

By John E. Vavroch

Engineering Technician (Civil)
Natural Resources Conservation Service, Colby

In 2012, raising crops proved to be tough. After a good wheat harvest, the faucet dried up, and it has proven difficult to grow even a crop of weeds. Many producers have gone ahead and "dusted" in the wheat crop while praying for rain. Others waited, hoping for a little help from Mother Nature. Just as crops need moisture to grow strong roots and a sturdy base, terraces and other conservation practices also need adequate moisture during construction to stand the test of time.

Terrace ridges need a good solid base to ensure their longevity. This base cannot be achieved without adequate soil moisture to provide the soil compaction necessary to withstand heavy equipment. Imagine shoveling a 1 to 1 1/2 ft high pile of flour. Stomp on it hard. Poof! It is almost gone! This is similar to what a tractor and heavy implement will do to a powdery terrace ridge. It will be squashed

down to nothing in a short time.

The soil moisture content at the time of construction should be such that, when kneaded in the hand, a ball will form which does not separate readily. A typical flat channel terrace requires a cut depth of only 0.4 to 0.6 ft to provide the earth fill necessary to construct the terrace ridge. During these extremely dry periods it is almost guaranteed that adequate soil moisture will not be available to build a good, solid-based terrace. While these drought conditions persist, the Natural Resources Conservation Service recommends delaying the construction or rebuilding of terraces and similar practices until moisture conditions become more favorable.

To learn more about conservation practices, please contact your local Natural Resources Conservation Service office or conservation district office located at your local county U. S. Department of Agriculture Service Center. More information is also available on the Kansas Web site at www.ks.nrcs.usda.gov. Follow us on Twitter @NRCS_Kansas.



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Plan ahead for rangeland

By Timothy R. Miller

Rangeland Management Specialist
Natural Resources Conservation Service, Manhattan

It is time to start thinking about planting native grasses. You can ask yourself this question: Do I have an area that the crops are just not being productive? Some pieces of land just should have never been taken out of native range.

This is the time to start thinking about planting areas of your property back into native range. A native range consists of a wide variety of species. Warm season grasses such as Indiangrass, big and little bluestem, switchgrass and sideoats grama. There can also be cool-season grasses, legumes, and various wildflowers should be considered. Native range is quite diverse and can actually have as many as 500 species of plants. We cannot recreate a native rangeland but can restore many of the native plants.

The time for planting is coming up. If you want to plant native grasses you can start planting them December 1 and finish up May 15. The optimum time to plant native grasses is March 15 to May 15. You might ask yourself, "Why plant native grass?" Well, there are more reasons than just for grazing. Grasses themselves are great for conservation practices, but they can do even more than that. Consider what a native grass planting can create for you:

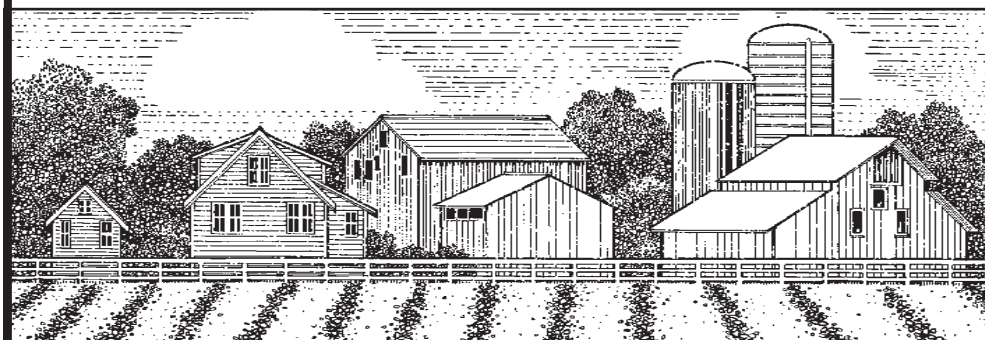
First, you will be restoring the native plant community. It will be low maintenance once the native range has been established. Warm-season grasses are adapted to this area and require only good management to persist. No fertilizer inputs are needed.

Native range plantings provide quality forages for livestock during warm summer months. We can also adjust the native planting to meet your intended use. Many people believe tame pasture such as brome, fescue, and bermudagrass are more productive due to higher potential stocking rate. That might be true, but you must consider the fertilizer inputs needed on tame pasture.

These native grass areas are also beneficial to the local wildlife. Along with the grasses, you could put in some specific forbs that would enhance the wildlife even more. These areas would then provide food as well as cover for the wildlife. Before we even start planting, you can decide on what type of wildlife you really would like to see. Then you can plant to promote for the wildlife you wish to support and/or see.

Native grasses will also reduce erosion by water and wind and improve soil quality. You will not need to pay for those repairs on any of your waterways or terraces if you have native grasses planted in those unproductive croplands.

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Solar pumps ease burden

By **Kelly J. Klausmeyer**

*Agricultural Engineer
Natural Resources Conservation Service,
Hays*

The extended drought across Kansas this year has cattle operations scrambling to find and secure water resources. Ponds and creeks across the state have been drying up and are being replaced with groundwater sources such as springs and wells. Windmills have been the traditional method for developing groundwater for many years now, but a relatively new technology is becoming more and more popular. That technology is solar.

Solar pumps come in many makes, models, and sizes. A typical solar pump installation will have three components: solar panels, an electronic pump controller, and the pump itself. It is important that these components are compatible with each other. Most reputable solar pump suppliers provide the complete system that will work as intended.

Solar panels (also called Photovoltaic panels) harness the sun's energy to create a voltage that can be used to operate the pump. Panels will produce at least some energy anytime the sun hits them. However, it is important to note that the solar panel will generate its peak energy rating only for part of the day. This peak sun energy is roughly six hours per day in the summer, but reduced to about four hours per day in the winter for northwest Kansas.

Also important is panel angle. Panels are typically set at an angle that matches the latitude of the location if intended to be used year-round. For summer use only, the panel should be set 15 degrees flatter than the latitude; winter, 15 degrees steeper. This will ensure the panel receives the maximum amount of sunlight available for your location. Sun-tracking mechanisms are available but have not become popular mostly due to cost and maintenance concerns.

The panel mounting structure must be adequate to withstand all the environmental stresses that Kansas weather brings. Stands must be built heavy enough to withstand high winds. Panels and electrical components must be protected from the sun, ice, and snow. Panels must withstand hail, ice, and wind storms. Several panel suppliers warranty their panels against hail damage. The use of an existing structure to mount a solar panel is not usually recommended. Panels can be heavy, and the load may be more than an old roof or windmill can withstand.

The pump comes in two basic types: diaphragm pumps and helical shaft pumps. Both types are submersible and normally run on DC power, but some helical pump systems can also be set up to run on AC. Several different pump voltages are available. The general rule of thumb is if the array consists of four or more panels and they are located more than 50 feet from the pump, a higher voltage pump should be considered.

Grade stabilization can alleviate safety issues

By **Bradley J. Younker**

*Agricultural Engineer
Natural Resources Conservation
Service, LaCrosse*

Do you have large gullies running through your field? Are you losing more and more of your rangeland or cropland to large headcuts working back up into your field? Have you wondered how you can solve these growing problems? Are these areas becoming a safety issue?

Grade stabilization structures are used to protect the soil from gully erosion or scouring. These structures can be a drop spillway, a small dam and basin with a pipe outlet, or a lined waterway protected by rock or turf reinforcement mat.

Grade stabilization structures can be used in all different types of situations. They can be used to take out a 2-foot drop or a 15-foot drop in the channel. Grade stabilization structures decrease the erosive water flow to where the existing channel is stable again. Headcuts can occur anywhere but are prevalent along creek and river banks where the channel is deeply incised. Drainage areas for the

structures can also vary greatly from 20 acres to 1000 plus acres.

Typically the most inexpensive cost alternative is to use a lined waterway covered with permanent Turf Reinforcement Mat. These is composed of permanent high strength polypropylene matting. Turf Reinforcement Mats on average are installed at a third of the cost of rock or concrete chutes.

The lined waterway or chute is shaped and seeded prior to the installation of the mats. The seed mix used is typically the same that is used in other waterway installations. Once grass is established, the mats can handle water flow velocities of 25 feet per second.

For more information on grade stabilization structures and turf reinforcement mat, please contact your local Natural Resources Conservation Service office or conservation district office located at your local county U. S. Department of Agriculture Service Center. More information is also available on the Kansas Web site at www.ks.nrcs.usda.gov. Follow us on Twitter @NRCS_Kansas.



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Drought conservation can increase fire danger

By Toni M. Flax
*Rangeland Management Specialist
 Natural Resources Conservation
 Service, Hill City*

One of the inherent issues of drought conditions is that it also increases our chances for wildfires. Whether it is a lightning strike, someone throwing out a cigarette, or driving a vehicle across the dry grass, a person's worst nightmare can quickly become reality. This leaves them to ask the question, "What now?"

Timing is everything. If the wildfire happens in the late spring, more than likely the grass will suffer few ill effects. The ground will warm up quickly, and the grasses will start growing, covering the ground, and not allowing for long periods of bare soil that will blow. The wildfires during drought that are of the most concern are the ones that happen during the late summer, fall, and winter months. Not only does this allow for the soil to blow, it weakens the plants themselves. By the end of July, 85 percent of the growing season has occurred in the mixed-grass prairie of Kansas. Thus, a fire that happens after the first of August leaves only 15 percent of the growing season for the plant to produce new leaves, go to the reproductive state, build roots, and store reserves for it through the winter so it can start growing next spring. In a drought, those processes are already slowed, and the plant is hurting. A fire



Sherman County had its share of grass fires in 2012. These fires can be tough on ranchers, who can lose that ground for grazing. There are several options that can be used to deal with fire-damaged areas.

will just further weaken the plant, because it will have to go through that whole growing process with little time for it to build up a root

reserve. Thus, the plant will be weak in the next spring when it comes out of dormancy.

So the question then becomes, "What do I do

next year for grass to graze?" The big concern is that cattle will graze the burned area harder and tend to camp out on those sites following a burn, overgrazing them, and undergraze other parts of the pasture.

To come up with an answer, the producer needs to consider the size of the field and how much was burned and then think about the following options:

Option 1 – Fence out the burned area and graze it separately.

Option 2 – Burn off the rest of the field with a prescribed burn when the conditions are right.

Option 3 – Rest the pasture a year, but a producer may still find differences in the forage remaining after a year of rest—differences that grazing livestock could exploit.

The most important thing to keep in mind is that the area has changed and management of that area will have to change as well. There is no cookie-cutter answer because everyone's place and management are different.

However, if you find yourself in this predicament, and you have questions or would like help formulating a range management plan that will work for your situation, contact your local Natural Resources Conservation Service office or conservation district office located at your local county USDA Service Center.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE CONSERVATION AWARD WINNERS!

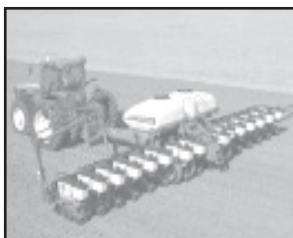
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Planting trees



Conservation can be as simple as just planting trees. This tree was planted at a Goodland park on Arbor Day last year. Photo by Kevin Bottrell/The Goodland Star-News

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you do, and your hard
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unnoticed.*

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Sherman County Conservation District • Program 2013

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Meal furnished by the Sherman County Conservation District, BANKWEST of Kansas, First National Bank, Western State Bank, Peoples State Bank and Farm Credit Services of Western Kansas PCA-FLCA	
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MEAL	Steve Evert
PROGRAM	ERIC BANKS NRCS STATE CONSERVATIONIST
INTRODUCTION OF COMMISSIONERS	Lonnie Whiteker
ELECTION	Scott Jarrett
EDUCATION REPORT	Dennis Shank, Billy Selby, Lynn Ihrig
RC&D REPORT	Sandy Rodgers
PRESENTATION OF AWARDS	Sandy Rodgers
	Lonnie Whiteker

(Recognize former Award Winners)

Windbreak Award	BANKWEST-Dean Graber
Bankers Award	BANKWEST-Dean Graber
Business	Lonnie Whiteker
Minutes & Treasurer's Report	Dean Graber

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Dennis Shank	Vice Chairman
Dean Graber	Treasurer
Scott Jarrett	Member
Bill Selby	Member
Lynn Ihrig	Advisor
Sandy Rodgers	District Manager

NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE

Fred Wedel	District Conservationist
Jason Smith	Conservation Technician
Matt Palmquist	Supervisory Dist. Conservationist

**Monday, Feb. 11th
12 p.m. MT @ 4-H Building
Sherman County Fairgrounds
Everyone Welcome!**

