

# Technology biggest change in farming winner believes

By Tom Betz

*The Goodland Star-News*

Technology changes have been the biggest difference the 2005 Bankers Award winner has seen since he began farming in 1973.

Steve Duell's first crop was harvested in 1974 north of Ruleton, and he has been farming ever since.

"I was enrolled in Vocational-Technical school," Duell said, "but John Golden talked me into renting some land from him, and I dropped out of school."

"You could say Golden got me into farming, and he has been a wonderful landlord."

Today, Duell farms about 4,000 acres rented from Golden and five other landlords.

His first crop was sugar beets, and the beet plant near Goodland was in operation, but he said that did not last long. The plant closed in 1983.

Duell was born in Goodland on Aug. 9, 1955, the son of

Marvin and Bonnie Duell. He grew up in the Ruleton area and went to grade school in Ruleton and then junior high and high school in Goodland. He graduated in 1973.

When he started, he said, he used his father's equipment, but then started acquiring his own tractors and combines.

He bought a half section with a house 7 1/2 miles north of Ruleton in 1976, and continued to expand his farming operation.

When Duell and his wife Colleen married on March 15, 1986, he says, he was working about 2,000 acres.

Of the 4,000 acres that Duell farms today, he said 2,500 are irrigated and the rest is summer fallow and dryland.

The main crop is corn, but he does raise wheat, milo, pinto beans and some sunflowers. He said one year he tried raising sesame seeds, but that was a flop.

When the sesame pods were ready to be harvested, it rained,

and he couldn't get into the field. By the time he could, all the pods had opened and the seeds were gone. He was glad the test was only a few acres.

Duell said the conservation changes he has made in his operation include adding drop nozzles to the sprinklers to get the water closer to the ground, and he is doing a lot of ridge tilling.

He said ridge tilling is planting back on the same ground without plowing the field from the previous year.

Ridge tilling is where farmers use special machinery to form the soil into ridges and then plant the seeds on top of the ridges. The soil and residue from the previous crop between the ridges are not disturbed during planting and cultivation. Plant and soil material is not broken loose by the machinery, and it is less likely to erode.

**See DUELL, Page 10**



Duell Farms is 7 1/2 miles north of Ruleton, and you may be greeted by the family dog Sam out front by the sign. Colleen, Adam, Steve and Aaron have a great view around the family home where the wheat and corn fields surrounding outside the windbreaks which protect the home from the winds.

Star-News

Photos by Tom Betz / The Goodland



## CONSERVATIONISTS OF THE YEAR

Mr. and Mrs. Burk Farms

Mr. And Mrs. Glenn Burk

Mr. and Mrs. Mike Burk

## BANKERS AWARD

Mr. and Mrs. Steve Duell

## FRIEND OF CONSERVATION AWARD

Dana Belshe

## WINDBREAK AWARD

Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Elliott

## 3rd place State Poster Contest

Brook Redlin



# Letters bring couple together

In 1984, Colleen Peters, was working for a lawyer in Englewood, Colo., after graduating from high school in 1978.

She said she saw a article in a farming magazine about how tough it was for younger rural people to develop contacts.

The magazine offered to list names and addresses to help connect people.

She said she wrote in, and when the list came out the next year, both she and her future husband, Steve Duell, started writing letters to people on the

list.

Colleen said she wrote to several, and received letters from some. One of those was from Steve, who picked her name out of the list because she

**See FAMILY, Page 12**

# Technology largest change seen

**DUELL, from Page 9**

He said he is going to try some strip tillage this year, where you put the fertilizer on in a strip between rows of the previous crop.

"Today's equipment is much better," Duell said, "and they are perfecting the new farming techniques that keep more cover on the ground. There is less erosion, and this should save water and take less fuel.

"We do have to work the ground for the pinto beans."

He said they summer fallow and then go through a cycle where they plant wheat, corn, summer fallow and then back to wheat.

"This can get you two crops in three years if you get moisture," Duell said. "That has not been the case here. This is a dry hole; we're about 5-6 inches below normal."

Duell said the new technology with the global positioning is helping to pinpoint things like weeds.

"Dean Graber, an agriculture consultant, can come out and survey a field," Duell said, "and he can pinpoint where the weeds are in the field so they can be spot treated instead of having to spray the whole field. That saves time and money.

"We are much more efficient in the use of water. We use half of what we used to. When I

started, we had 12 miles of irrigation pipe. Now everything is on a sprinkler."

Talking about water, Duell said he has been interested in the efforts to extend the life of the Ogallala aquifer. He said one area nearby has seen a recharge of over one foot, but that other areas have gone down.

"It seems there is some recharge," Duell said, "maybe from the Rocky Mountains, and if the snow gets back to normal, it might help out here. It has to come from somewhere."

He said eventually, though, farmers will have to change to things that take less water.



Aaron Duell worked on the stats for the Cowboy wrestling team after league tournament.



Adam Duell shows off the two ring-neck pheasant cocks he has been raising for 4-H.

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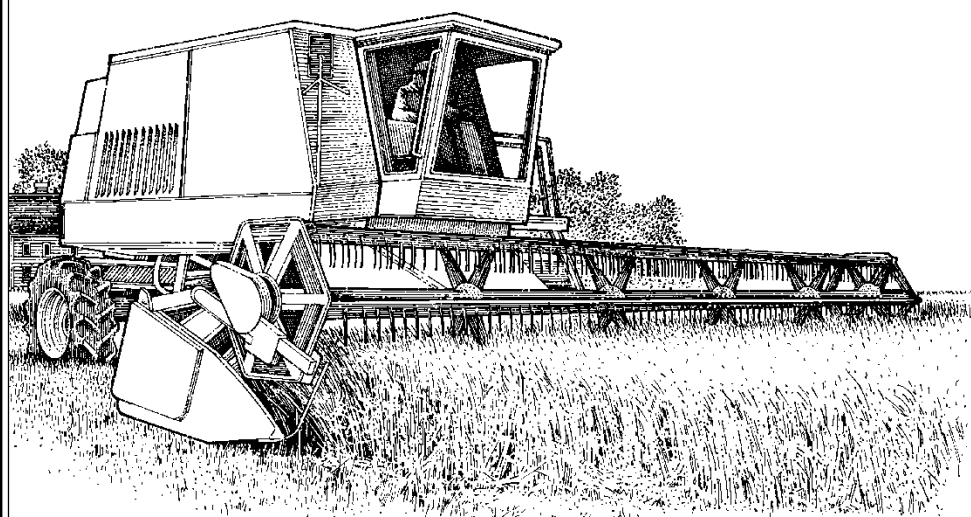
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# Extension agent friend of conservation

By Kathryn Burke

The Goodland Star-News

County Extension Agent Dana Belshe will receive the 2005 Friend of Conservation award from the Sherman County Conservation District.

Belshe didn't expect the award, but was thankful for the honor.

"Anytime that somebody recognizes you," he said, "I think that you're excited about it."

Belshe has worked closely with the U.S. National Resources Conservation Service.

He regularly sits on the committee to give out the conservation awards. He is responsible for requesting nominations and helping those winners.

Through the years, he said, he has worked closely with the conservation service on shared programs.

"We done a few shared education programs," he said add-

ing they do demonstrations together, too. "We've gotten a lot of work done together."

Belshe has worked in concert with the conservation district to set up demonstrations on erosion. A few years ago, he said, the groups brought a wind erosion lab and another time they brought out a rainfall simulator.

He said the simulations helped demonstrate ways to control runoff and prevent erosion.

"That was quite interesting," he said.

Sandy Rodgers, county conservation district manager, said the conservation board picked Belshe because of his service over the years.

"We picked somebody that has supported our conservation program," she said.

Rodgers said Belshe has given freely of his time and expertise to the conservation

district.

"He's always there," she said, "whenever we need something."

Belshe was born in Scott City, but considers himself a native to northwest Kansas since he went to school in Colby and graduated from Colby High School.

He began his career at Kansas State University earning a bachelor of science in Animal Science in 1971. After college he worked in construction and farming locally before accepting a job as extension agent in Rawlins County. He stayed there for 4 years before coming to Goodland in 1986.

He wasn't sure exactly what he wanted to do after college and he just fell into the extension job.

"The opportunity came about," he said, "and I've always liked working with people."

Today, a regular day of work for Belshe includes working on several education projects. He

assists people with livestock, crops and horticulture.

"I have a pretty broad background," he said.

Belshe said the extension service has four areas, agriculture and natural resources, 4-H and youth, family and consumer science and community development.

He said a lot of his time is devoted to coordinating Sherman County's six 4-H clubs with over 200 members. Working with the groups he organizes summer events like a fishing clinic, bicycle safety day and a 4-H day camp to introduce the program to newcomers. He works with the fair board to set up the 4-H portion of the Northwest Kansas District Free Fair.

Belshe spends much of his time consulting, for farmers, ranchers, horticulturists and several boards. He answers questions or direct people to someone who can help.

When he isn't at work,

Belshe enjoys spending time with his wife, Laural, his four children and two step-children. The oldest is Regina Hidner, a nurse practitioner in Lawrence; followed by Matt, who owns a trucking business in Moundridge; then Damon who trucks in Goodland; and finally Toni who is a student at Kansas State University. His two step-children are Kasi and Kent Elliott who both live in Dallas, Texas.

He has four grandchildren, Rachel Hidner, 13, daughter of Regina; and Tavean, 5, Dalton, 4, and Bryce, 1, the sons of Damon.

Belshe will be awarded a plaque at the district's annual meeting and banquet at 6:30

p.m. on Monday, Feb. 14, at the Veterans of Foreign Wars hall in Goodland.

Although he knew about the award, Belshe said he didn't ever expect to get it.

"I've seen them give it before," he said. "I certainly appreciate their thoughts."

He likes working with the conservation district.

"We have a real progressive conservation here..." he said, "a good board."

He believes the farmers help make conservation work, too.

"We have a lot of good conservationists," he said. "As far as farmers and ranchers, they all take an interest in protection natural resources to pass on to future generations."

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**Bankers Award:** Mr. and Mrs. Steve Duell

**Windbreak Award:** Mr. & Mrs. Leonard Elliott

**Friend of Conservation Award:** Dana Belshe

**3rd place State Poster Contest:** Brook Redlin

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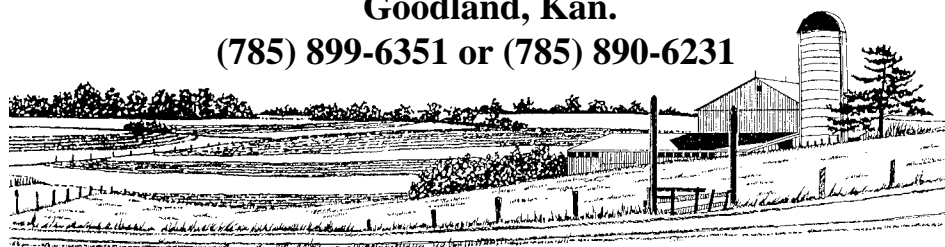
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# Letters bring couple together

**FAMILY, from Page 1**

was close to Goodland.

"It wasn't much of a letter," he recalled, "because I am not very good at writing."

They wrote letters and they sent pictures of each other. He went to Denver several times to meet her.

The first letters were sent in August, Colleen said, and they got engaged at Christmas. The couple married on March 15, 1986.

"I was working about 2,000 acres," Steve recalled.

When Colleen came to Sherman County, she worked for the U.S. Agriculture Stabilization and Conservation Service (now the Farm Service Agency) for a time, and worked at the Ruleton bean plant during harvest. Their first son, Aaron, was born in 1988 and Adam arrived in 1991.

Aaron, 17 and a junior, is manager for the Goodland High School wrestling team. He was working on the stats from the Northwest Kansas

League tournament on Sunday. The Cowboys won the league title at the event, held in Atwood on Saturday.

Adam, 13, is a member of the junior high Scholars' Bowl and participated in a tournament at Grant Junior High last month.

"We don't have any livestock," Duell said, "except the boys do have 4-H pigs and Adam has some 4-H pheasants."

Adam had five pheasant chicks, but two died and recently one of the cocks escaped.

Steve said the escapee can be seen flying around the farm. He said when the three cocks were all in the cage, it was not unusual to see wild pheasants sitting outside, talking to the birds in the cage.

"The escapee knows where he was raised," Adam said, "and keeps flying around close by."

There are about two dozen chickens that Colleen takes care of. She said she likes having fresh eggs, and gets about a dozen a day when they are laying.

Steve said the boys are going

to do pigs again this year. He feels the new goat program is good because it allows the kids to work with an animal smaller than a calf or steer.

He has been on the Sherman County Fair Board since 1991, and has been the president for four years.

"Steve Evert talked me into that," Steve said. "We have a great fair, and I learned a lot from Evert. It is a great fair board, and they are good to work with. It makes things a lot easier."

Evert served on the fair board for 20 years, but Duell doesn't think he will try to break that record.

Duell has served on the home-owned carnival board since that program began in 1999, and believes it has been a good addition to the fair.

Besides being the manager of the wrestling team, Aaron, has several 4-H projects including woodworking, photography, cooking and pigs. He is a member of the 4-H Ambassadors, president of 4-H Coun-

cil and a member of the Junior Leaders. He is president of the Ruleton Eager Beavers club and is the leader for the first-year woodworking program.

Adam's 4-H projects include pheasants, pigs, shooting and sport fishing. He said he is going to try photography this year. He is a junior leader and secretary of the Eager Beavers.

Colleen is the fair superintendent for foods and leader for the Eager Beavers. She said the club has 18 kids, but it has been getting smaller as more families grow up and leave the area.

There is a good windbreak around the family house that was planed in 1978. Duell said the windbreak had some huge elm trees, but a freeze several years ago killed those.

A hail storm on June 10, 1999, stripped the trees, but he has been surprised how many survived. Another hail storm in August 2002 did some damage, but it came from a different direction.

Adam said the hail broke windows in the house.

## Poster, limerick contest winners

Sherman County Conservation District poster, limerick and essay contest winners

### Posters

#### 3rd and 4th grade

1st Holton Witman

2nd Shaley Miller

3rd Bracelyn Redlin

Honorable mention

Jed Gray, Talen

Smith, Garrett Taylor

and Hope Cochran

#### 4th and 5th grade

1st Nathan Deeds

2nd Brock Wilkens

3rd Jade Herl

Honorable mention

Eric Linnell, Ashley

Archer, Sydney Win-

ston and Jessica We-

ber

### Limericks

3rd and 4th grade

1st Holton Witman

2nd Ellie House

3rd Holly Wilkening

Honorable mention  
Ian Bonsall, Megan  
Siruta and Garrett Tay-

### 5th and 6th grade

1st Joel Linin

2nd Abby Jolly

3rd Nicole Hendrich

Honorable mention

Jamie Gittinger, Kay-

ler Rietcheck and Cas-

sie Battistoni

### Essays

1st Andrew Shores

2nd Breana Lynn

Cross

3rd Kaitlyn Lammers

Honorable Mention

Ryder Kling

### HyperStudio Stacks

1st Kayler Rietcheck

2nd Hazen Deeds

3rd Reed Bellamy

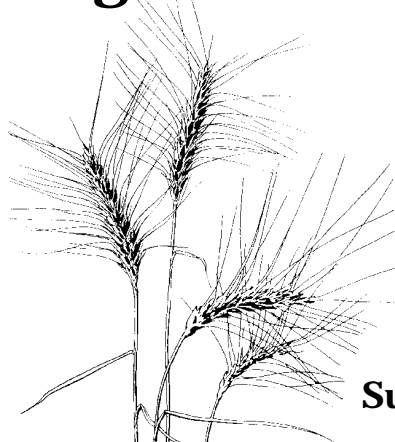
Honorable mention

Bryan Guyer, Bryan

Smith and Brock Wilk-

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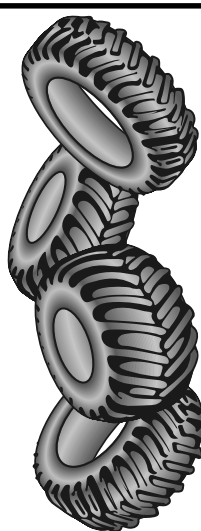
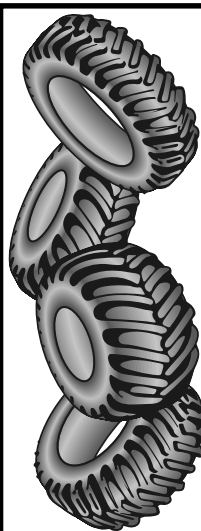
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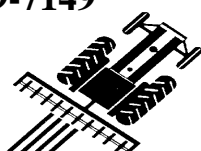


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# Sherman County district annual report for 2004

This is the Annual Report of the Sherman County Conservation District for the Calendar year of 2004.

The 2004 Annual Meeting was held February 23rd, 2004 at the VFW in Goodland. Mr. & Mrs. Brady Philbrick were named Conservationists of the Year. Mr. & Mrs. David Leonard were awarded the Banker's award and Mr. & Mrs. Vernon Isaac were recipients of the Windbreak Award. KLOE/KKCI/KWGB Radio and *The Goodland Star-News* were recipients of the Friends of Conservation Award.

One hundred seventy-five cooperators enjoyed the meal furnished by the District and local banks. Bill Selby introduced the Sweet Adelines who provided the entertainment for the evening. Lynn Ihrig was re-elected to the board by secret ballot.

Thirty-six plaques were presented at the 2004 Annual Meeting for the Poster, Limerick, Essay and Hyper-Studio Stack Contest. Sandy Rodgers,

District Manager, Fred Wedel, District Conservationist and Dan Farmer, Technician presented conservation programs prior to the contest.

*The Goodland Star-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 473 CRP contracts are in place for approximately 57,773 acres. The State Water Resources Cost Share funded jobs for 2004 included irrigation system upgrades, tanks, livestock wells, terraces and diversions and septic systems that were failing. There are twenty-five active EQIP contracts, one Wetland Reserve Program contract and three Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program contracts in Sherman County.

The Sherman County Conservation District continues a

strong education and information program. A fairbooth was displayed in August. Fred Wedel, District Conservationist, Dan Farmer, Technician and Sandy Rodgers, District Manager worked with 5th and 6th graders on the Poster, Limerick, Essay and Hyper-Studio Stack Contest. The 3rd through 4th

Grades also participated in the Poster and Limerick Contest. Sandy gave programs in the classroom and Fred and Dan took 5th and 6th graders on a mini tour to look at conservation practices in the field. The District Board voted to give 3 scholarships to graduating seniors in Sherman County who plan on attending a higher learning institution, with their choice of study being related to agriculture. The scholarships were given to Amy Anderson, Michael Mangus and Megan Leonard.

The District offers grass seed, flags, trees, rabbit netting, weed barrier, polymer and gyp blocks for sale as a ser-

vice 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 RC&D, and the Kansas Association of Conservation District's Employees Organization.

The District works closely with their conservation partners, including State and National legislators, NRCS, County Commissioners, K-State Extension, Wildlife and Parks, FSA, Groundwater Management District #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 MOU for tree plantings. Sharon Bowker continues as the repre-

sentative to the Western Prairie RC&D with Sandy Rodgers serving as alternate. Sandy Rodgers serves on the local advisory committee for Western Prairie RC&D 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 six 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. This group hosted the Statewide Envirothon in 2004. Sandy currently serves as President.

The District offered prize money to 4-H and individual fairbooths that carried a conservation theme.

National Wildlife Week and Soil Stewardship weeks were

observed by distributing educational material to the schools, public library, various offices and churches in Goodland.

Mr. & Mrs. Dean Graber and Fred Wedel attended the KACD Convention held at Wichita in November. Brook Redlin won 3rd Place in the State Poster Contest.

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.

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## Congratulations to Sherman County Conservation District Award Winners

<p><b>Conservationists of the Year</b> Burk Farms Mr. &amp; Mrs. Glenn Burk Mr. and Mrs. Mike Burk</p>	<p><b>Windbreak Award</b> Mr. &amp; Mrs. Leonard Elliott <b>Bankers Award</b> Mr. and Mrs. Steve Duell <b>Friend of Conservation Award</b> Dana Belshe</p>
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# Sherman County Conversation District Work Plan

## WORK PLAN 2005

Purpose of the Annual Work Plan:

The purpose of the Annual Work Plan, in conjunction with the Conservation Partnership, is to schedule and plan the conservation work needed that is essential to a sound soil and water conservation program for Sherman County. Additionally, the Annual Work Plan will allow for optimum planning with regards to our on-going Conservation District programs for the coming year.

## GOAL 1: REDUCE EXCESSIVE EROSION

STRATEGY: ASSIST NRCS WITH THE DEVELOPMENT OF RESOURCE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM PLANNING

- Action 1: Promote a strong public education and awareness program using the district's information program.
- Action 2: Set priorities for dispersing the SWRCSP monies.
- Action 3: Assist NRCS with conservation planning.

STRATEGY: PROMOTE

## CONSERVATION RE-SERVE PROGRAM

- Action 1: Assist NRCS with development of new CRP contracts.

- Action 2: Promote public awareness of CRP through the District Information and Education Program.

- Action 3: Have grass seed available for sale.

- Action 4: Assist landowners in locating grass drills for their use.

- Action 5: Promote mowing and burning to achieve healthy grass stands through news articles, etc.

STRATEGY: ASSIST WITH THE ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY INCENTIVES PROGRAM

- Action 1: Make resource assessment information available to all interested parties.

- Action 2: Assist NRCS with the development of EQIP contracts.

- Action 3: Promote EQIP through the District's Information and Education Program.

STRATEGY: PROMOTE CONSERVATION TILLAGE

## IN SHERMAN COUNTY

- Action 1: Use media to educate public on conservation tillage.

- Action 2: Cooperate with the Conservation Tillage Information Center.

STRATEGY: WHERE MUTUAL EROSION PROBLEMS ARE INVOLVED THE DISTRICT WILL WORK WITH THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

## GOAL 2: IMPROVE WATER MANAGEMENT

STRATEGY: ADMINISTER THE WATER RESOURCES COST SHARE PROGRAM

- Action 1: Administer the SWRCSP by setting priorities, processing applications and making every effort to disperse all monies allocated to Sherman County.

- Action 2: Promote irrigation efficiency in Sherman County through the Irrigation Initiative funds.

- Action 3: Serve as a pilot county for the Irrigation Water Management practice in

the State Water Resources Cost Share Program.

STRATEGY: COOPERATE WITH GMD#4

- Action 1: The District will cooperate with GMD#4 in implementing the Irrigation Development Plan policies as outlined in the Memorandum of Understanding between the District and GMD #4.

- Action 2: The District will cooperate with GMD#4 con-

cerning the Irrigation Initiative funds.

STRATEGY: MAKE PUBLIC AWARE OF NON-POINT SOURCE POLLUTION PLAN

- Action 1: Prepare project work plans for the NPS program and apply for NPS funds to address non-point concerns in Sherman County

- Action 2: Cooperate with the LEPC office in solving en-

vironmental concerns.

- Action 3: Administer the NPS funds by taking applications, processing them and make every effort to disburse all monies allocated to Sherman County.

## GOAL 3: IMPROVE RANGE CONDITIONS

STRATEGY: INCREASE AWARENESS OF PRIN-

See PLAN, Page 15

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Burk Farms

Mr. and Mrs. Glenn Burk

Mr. and Mrs. Mike Burke

### BANKERS AWARD

Mr. and Mrs. Steve Duell

### WINDBREAK AWARD

Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Elliott

### FRIEND OF CONSERVATION AWARD

Dana Belshe

### 3rd place State Poster Contest

Brook Redlin



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## PLAN, from Page 14

### PRINCIPLES OF RANGE MANAGEMENT

•Action 1: Offers scholarship to Range Youth Camp.

•Action 2: District will consider selection of Range Management Award.

•Action 3: The District will have native grass seed for sale.

•Action 4: The District will prioritize and evaluate all range/livestock State Water Resource Cost Share applications and prepare Grazing Management Plans for them.

•Action 5: Assist with any emergency CRP Haying and Grazing programs.

### GOAL 4: WILDLIFE HABITAT MANAGEMENT STRATEGY: PROVIDE MATERIAL FOR WIND-BREAKS AND WILDLIFE PLANTINGS

•Action 1: Trees for wind-breaks and wildlife plantings will be available for purchase through the District.

•Action 2: Promote continuous CRP sign up and CRP enhancement incentives.

•Action 3: Cooperate with the local Pheasants Forever Chapter.

### STRATEGY: DISTRICT WILL COOPERATE WITH KANSAS WILDLIFE AND PARKS.

•Action: 1 Participate in Memorandum of Understanding with Wildlife & Parks for cost share funds to promote wildlife management practices.

### GOAL 5: MANAGEMENT OF RIPARIAN AND WETLANDS

#### STRATEGY: PROMOTE RIPARIAN AND WETLANDS PROTECTION PROGRAM

•Action 1: Use the news media to educate the public concerning riparian & wetlands protection.

•Action 2: Offer tree planting in riparian areas only through the State Water Resources Cost Share Program.

### GOAL 6: INFORMATION AND EDUCATION PROGRAMS

#### STRATEGY: DISTRICT INFORMATION PROGRAM

•Action 1: The District will continue to direct an information program using the news media.

#### STRATEGY: PROMOTE EDUCATIONAL PRO-

### GRAMS

•Action 1: The District will offer their own Awards Program and select an outstanding cooperator.

•Action 2: The Annual Poster, Limerick and Essay contest along with the Hyper-Studio Stack contest will be held in cooperation with the local school district to promote interest in Soil and Water Conservation.

•Action 3: Sandy Rodgers, District Manager will make conservation talks and tours available to interested parties.

•Action 4: Awards will be offered for fairbooths which have a conservation theme.

•Action 5: The District will contact the 4-H clubs and schools regarding the KACD Speech Contest.

•Action 6: Soil Stewardship material will be provided to local churches.

•Action 7: The District will be represented at Area and State conservation meetings.

•Action 8: The District will have a fairbooth.

•Action 9: The District will support and assist the Western Prairie RC&D.

•Action 10: The District will

offer two scholarships to high school graduates going into an agricultural field.

•Action 11: The District will strive to work with high school students concerning the Envirothon and Eco Meet opportunities in our State.

### GOAL 7: MANAGEMENT SERVICES

#### STRATEGY: SUPPORT THE NORTHWEST KANSAS CONSERVATION AND ENVIRONMENTAL ALLIANCE

•Action 1: Allow the District Manager to work with the Alliance to obtain additional funding for the District.

#### STRATEGY: PREPARE ANNUAL BUDGET

•Action 1: Part of the District's financing will be accomplished by working with the County Commission and the State of Kansas for matching funds. Other District activities will supplement the financial needs of the District.

#### STRATEGY: REVIEW MEMORANDUMS OF UNDERSTANDING

•Action 1: The District will review the memorandums of understanding with each cooperating agency.

### STRATEGY: LONG RANGE PLANNING

•Action 1: The long range program will be reviewed.

### STRATEGY: PROVIDE SERVICES TO COOPERATORS

•Action 1: Along with trees and grass seed, the District will also handle marking flags, polymer, weed barrier, gyp blocks and rabbit netting.

#### STRATEGY: ANNUAL MEETING

•Action 1: Make all arrangements concerning the Annual Meeting, meals, speaker, awards, etc.

•Action 2: Cooperate with local banks, NRCS, and Extension Office to select Bankers Award recipients.

•Action 3: Prepare and distribute Annual Report and Financial Statement.

### DISTRICT PRIORITIES, PROCEDURES, & POLICIES

Work planned by District Cooperators will be laid out by the Natural Resources Conservation Service in the order requests are received. Consideration will be given to availability of equipment, materials, and labor.

Priority will be given to Highly Erodible Land and Compliance requirements regarding conservation planning.

Farmers and contractors will be used in surveys and checking out practices to more fully utilize the services of the NRCS personnel. Conservation plans will be developed whenever possible before the application of conservation practices or land use changes are made. These plans will include the proper use and treatment of soil, water and related land resources. Cooperators will be urged to maintain conservation practices already applied.

The Sherman County Conservation District will meet the first Thursday after the first Tuesday of every month with the exception of July.

The Sherman County Conservation District will hold its Annual Meeting during the month of February.

All services offered by the Sherman County Conservation District are available without regard to race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs and marital or familial status.

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## Congratulations to Sherman County Conservation District Award Winners

### Conservationists of the Year

Burk Farms

Mr. & Mrs. Glenn Burk

Mr. & Mrs. Mike Burk

### Windbreak Award

Mr. & Mrs. Leonard Elliott

### Bankers Award

Mr. & Mrs. Steve Duell

### Friend of Conservation Award

Dana Belshe



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# Congratulations

## Sherman County

### Conservation District Award

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