

CONSERVATION THEMES like the "Plant some trees and save the soil" poster drawn by third grader Zach Bainter and the "Soil is good for crops" poster by first

grader Troy Bainter, both of Jennings, won their creators a chance at the state-wide soil conservation contest to be held in Wichita.

Students win conservation poster awards

Three Decatur County students qualified to have their posters entered in the state-wide conservation poster contest to be held in Wichita.

The state entries were awarded to first grader Troy Bainter, son of Dave and Vicki Bainter; third grader Zachary Bainter, son of Dave and Vicki Bainter; and sixth grader Toliver Bird, son of Jim and Theresa Bird. All are students

at Prairie Heights Elementary School in Jennings.

In order to qualify for state competition, students from Oberlin and Jennings elementary schools made conservation posters as a class project in October.

In November the posters, 105 of them, were delivered to the Decatur County Soil Conserva-

tion District office to be judged.

First and second place trophies were awarded in first through sixth grades.

Decatur County winners were:

First grade — first place, Troy Bainter, Jennings; and second, Brianna Reiter, Oberlin.

Second grade — first, Marissa Baker, Jennings; and second, Nolan Wasson, Oberlin.

Third grade — first, Zachary Bainter, Jennings; and second, Ryan McEvoy, Jennings.

Fourth grade — Brittany Ritter, Jennings; and second, Ashley Huntley, Oberlin.

Fifth grade — first, Seth Ritter, Jennings; and second, Brian Miller, Jennings.

Sixth grade — first, Toliver Bird, Jennings; and second, Tanya Givens, Jennings.

YOUR ONE SOURCE for SUPPLIES & SERVICE
 Complete Domestic
 Care for all Large
 and Small Animals

CHECK WITH US NOW
 FOR CALVING SUPPLIES.

Congratulations... Bankers Award Winners!
Countryside Veterinary Clinic
 Of Oberlin, P.A.

785-475-3808 or 1-800-953-3808

24 Hours a Day.

Mark R. Olson, D.V.M. — Travis A. Hissong, D.V.M.



Congratulations, Award Winners!

Stay with us in our...

- Newly Redecorated Rooms
- Air Conditioned
- Cable / Color
- Heated Pool
- D.D. Phones

Dine in
 or carry out...
 Family-style Dinner

- Noon Buffets
- Night Specials
- Homemade Pies
- Fresh Rolls



**FRONTIER
 MOTEL**

New Owners:
 Wanda and Van Trussell
 East Highway 36 — Oberlin
785-475-2203

**JANEY'S
 FRONTIER
 RESTAURANT**

Your Host:
 Janey Jacobson
 East Highway 36 — Oberlin
785-475-3429

*Congratulations to the
 1999 Conservation Winners*

Livestock sale every Monday

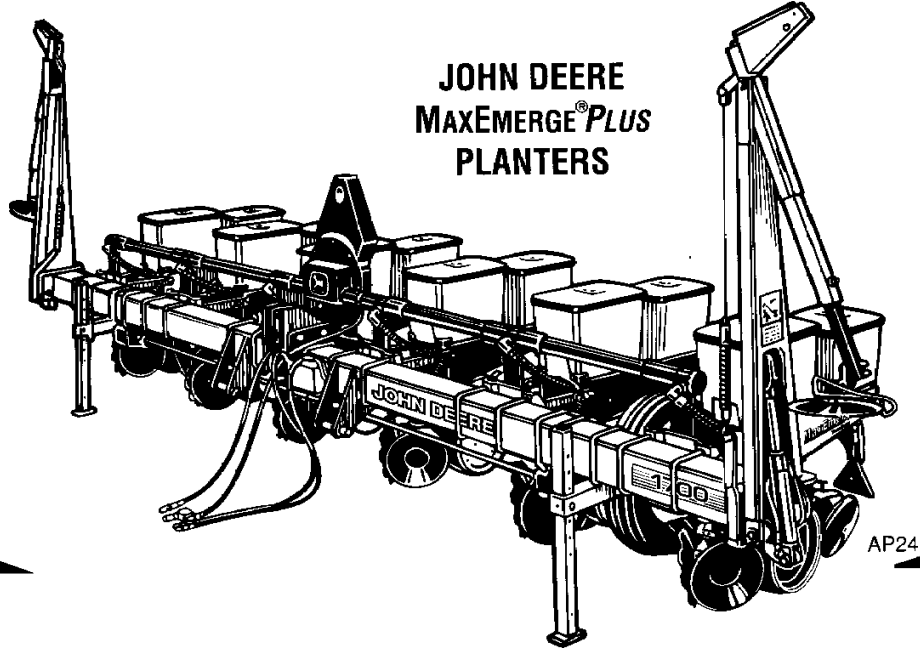
Oberlin Livestock Auction, Inc.

North Hwy. 83 — Oberlin, Kan. — 785-475-2323

Ever mindful that we are indebted to the farmers for the food that we eat...we take this means to say



THANKS for tilling and protecting our precious land.



JOHN DEERE
MAXEMERGE[®] PLUS
PLANTERS

AP24

STRENGTH. PRECISION. CONVENIENCE.

- Strongest row-unit available...four times stronger than our previous unit.
- Optional pneumatic down-force maintains consistent penetration all the time.
- Liquid-fertilizer compatible on most models.
- John Deere VacuMeter™ system provides accuracy at fast planting speeds.
- Gauge-wheel adjustment is easy; no washers needed.
- Handy "Y" chemical attachment allows placement of two chemicals into one in-furrow location.

Southwest Implement

126 N. Penn
Oberlin, KS
785-475-3833



Programs available to protect wildlife

By **KENNETH F. SHERRADEN, biologist**
Natural Resources Conservation Service
The 1996 Farm Bill provided several conservation programs that benefit wildlife.

The Conservation Reserve program, or CRP, allows cropland to be returned to grass. Nationally, 30 million acres and in Kansas some 2.5 million acres have been put into the program, which pays landowners to help with soil erosion.

Most of the land in Kansas has been planted with native grasses.

The Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program has almost 40,000 acres in Kansas. Landowners get 75 percent of the cost back for conservation practices to benefit wildlife. Groups such as Pheasants Forever and Quail Unlimited also help pay for habitat improvement.

The Wetland Reserve Program was estab-

lished to restore and enhance wetlands, which had been drained. Some 8,000 acres have been restored and enhanced in Kansas through this program. Landowners can get up to 100 percent of the costs back for participating in restoration of wetlands.

The Environmental Quality Incentive Program has 465,000 acres of Kansas rural lands to provide improved water quality with a 70 percent payback for participants. Wildlife also benefits from better water quality.

These programs are geared towards poor cropland.

Now is a great time to consider putting those hard-to-farm acres back to permanent vegetation. Contact your local Natural Resources Conservation Service or conservation district office or visit the Kansas website at www.ks.nrcs.usda.gov.

Buffers help improve land

By **KENNETH F. SHERRADEN, biologist**
Natural Resources Conservation Service

Conservation buffer refers to land with grass, trees and/or shrubs used to control soil erosion, improve water quality and provide wildlife habitat.

The term has been applied to several conservation practices including some new ways to improve water quality.

Conservation buffers traditionally used to control erosion on the Great Plains and in Kansas are field windbreaks, grassed waterways and shelterbelts.

Contour grass strips, filter strips and riparian

forest buffers are newer conservation practices used to improve water quality. They can also provide wildlife habitat.

Buffers are part of conservation management that includes conservation tillage, nutrient management and pest management to ensure sustainable soil productivity, improved water quality and a better environment.

Natural Resources Conservation Service experts are available the county U.S. Department of Agriculture Service Center to show you how buffers can help you and the land you farm.

For more information, visit our web site at www.ks.nrcs.usda.gov.

Insure with the industry leader ...don't settle for less!

Get your
Crop Insurance



to keep you financially healthy

Contact a
"Rain and Hail"
agent today!



"The Crop Insurance Industry Leader"

Fredrickson
Insurance Agency
217 N. Penn—Oberlin
785-475-3883

Ponds can provide more than water

By LEE COPELAND,
DISTRICT CONSERVATIONIST

Farmers and ranchers in Decatur County can improve the value of their land by building a pond.

Ponds can be an extra source of water for livestock, improve the landscape, enhance wildlife habitat and be a fire barrier.

Decatur County Conservationist Lee Copeland said before a pond is built three elements should be considered — type of pond needed, location and the amount of water available.

He said embankment and excavated are the two types of ponds that have been used in Decatur County.

Embankment ponds are made by building a dam across an existing stream where the depth of the bed is 10 or more feet deep.

Excavated ponds are made by digging a pit in an area that can collect rain run off from nearby fields and pastures.

One such pond was dug about two years ago in Custer Township.

Lawrence Jennings, of rural Jennings, said with the help of a government cost sharing program he was able to dig an average-size pond, about 12 feet deep, in one of his pastures.

He said a preliminary study was done by the Natural Resources Conservation Services about two years ago and a layout planned.

The study determined the acres of land that would drain into the pond site, the surrounding land uses and the type of soil in that area.

Mr. Copeland said a pond located too close to cropland may cause a high sediment content to run off into the pond and lower the quality of water.

Soil type was also checked to ensure that the



District Conservationist Lee Copeland

soil had enough clay to prevent the pond and dam from leaking which is important when digging a livestock pond.

Mr. Copeland said anyone interested in digging a pond can contact the Natural Resources Conservation Service for more information.

Burning off land improves quality

By JEANETTE KRIZEK

Spring controlled burning is an inexpensive method farmers and cattlemen in Decatur County can use to improve their land and help with wildlife habitat.

Cattlemen use control burning techniques as a grass management tool to suppress weeds and small brush, which can take over a pasture.

Conservation Technician Lee Don Scott said always check the weather before burning. Winds over 10 mph are considered unsafe and the project should be postponed.

He said taking time to create a fire break by plowing around the area to be burned will protect buildings, gas wells and equipment.

The fire department should be notified of a controlled burned and asked to be on hand as a safety measure.

If a problem occurs the fire department can quickly get it under control.

Also ask friends or neighbors to be on hand with shovels, rakes, water tanks and sprayers, just in case a problem arises.

Mr. Scott said that burning is an inexpensive and reliable tool provided the fire is planned and treated with respect.

He also added that getting rid of old mulch and weeds will encourage new growth and make a better habitat for wildlife.

For more information on controlled burning methods contact the Natural Resources Conservation Service in Decatur County at (785) 475-3131.

LAST MONTH'S PHONE BILL WAS WHAT?



If your phone bill was too high last month it may be time to hook your computer up to the Internet. Why not e-mail your relatives and business associates? Sign up now for as low as \$16.63 a month*. The nwkansas.com offers Internet and e-mail service. We have fast modems, superior service and unlimited active usage. Call today to get hooked up. For more information call:

The Oberlin Herald
(785) 475-2206

Internet access as low as \$16.63/month*



nwkansas.com

*Price based on sign-up special at *The Oberlin Herald*. Prices will vary in different towns. Normal monthly rates are \$24.⁹⁵.

Spray for **\$.48** an acre.

Utilize your existing tractor investment and spray for as little as \$.48 an acre all season long. The Three-Point Sprayer offers highly accurate application in widths up to 60' with a large

500 gallon tank capacity. The unit directly mounts to your tractor three-point providing unmatched crop clearance for late-season post-emerge spraying capabilities.

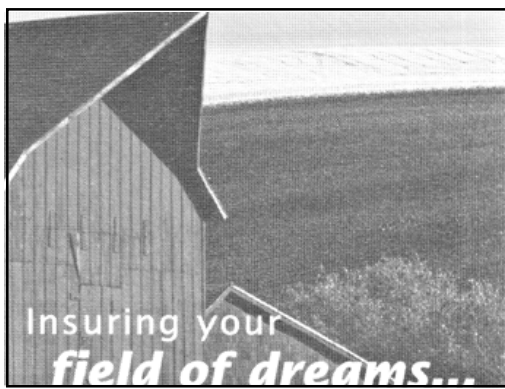


McCook Farm Equipment

708 East "B" Street

McCook, Neb.

(308) 345-4480



Insuring your
field of dreams...

State Farm Crop Insurance can help you insure a successful harvest. Call me, your State Farm agent, for more information.

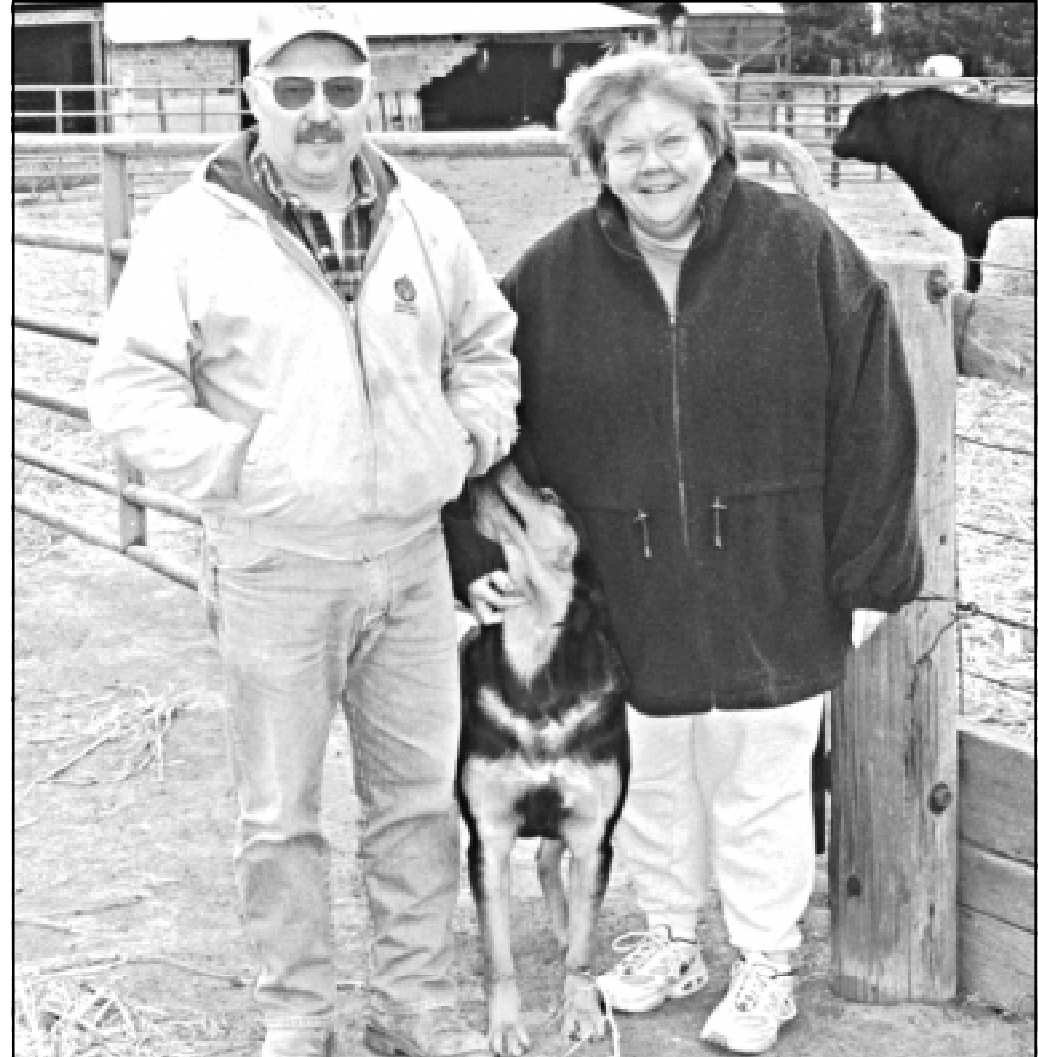
State Farm Insurance Companies

128 S. Penn
Oberlin, Kan.
(785) 475-2911



*Like a good neighbor,
State Farm is there.®*

State Farm Fire and Casualty Company
Home Office: Bloomington, Illinois



THE 1999 SOIL CONSERVATION award was given to Ron and Patti Uehlin.
— Herald staff photo by Rachel Miscall

Mow It.
Rake It.
Bale It.
Wrap It.
Move It.
Feed It.

Gator® Mowers and Mower/Conditioners

TwinRakes

500 Series "L" Balers (5-ft. widths)

SW 3500 Bale Wrapper

600 Series "L" Balers (6-ft. widths)

256 Bale Buster

The highest quality hay equipment.
The industry's best-trained hay specialists. The people who revolutionized hay production ... again.

Call today for a FREE video or live demonstration.

McCook Farm Equipment

708 East "B" Street
McCook, Neb.
(308) 345-4480



Ask About Vermeer
Credit One Financing



The Hay Specialist

No-till farming earns award for aerial sprayer

By RACHEL MISCALL

Farmer-rancher Ron Uehlin said he began no-till farming in the early 1980s, when the concept was still relatively new.

Already in the chemical application business, the 50-year-old said he was one of the first to stop working his cropland, being that he had the equipment necessary to kill the weeds usually destroyed by tilling.

Nearly 20 years later, no-till farming, along with other soil-conserving practices, has earned him a 1999 Soil Conservation Award from the Kansas Bankers Association and the Decatur County Conservation District.

A third generation Decatur County farmer, Mr. Uehlin, and his wife Patti, own and rent about 4,000 acres of farmland eight miles east and eight miles north of Oberlin, on the Kanona-Danbury Road. Half of the acreage is cropland, said Mr. Uehlin, who owns Ron's Applying Service, and half is pasture.

The couple, married 22 years, have four grown children.

Son Brad, 26, and his wife Melissa live in Danbury and are the fourth generation of Uehlins to farm in the area.

"No-till farming has been the biggest single factor in soil conservation," said Mr. Uehlin, estimating that about 95 percent of farmers here don't till allowing more moisture and organic material to remain in the earth.

Not only was Mr. Uehlin commended for his no-till practices, but his land has some of the best looking terraces in the county this year, conservation officials said.

Preventing erosion of top soil, Mr. Uehlin said he rebuilds his terraces every three to four years with a Baker disc he borrows from the Decatur County Natural Resources Conservation Service.

Mr. Uehlin usually employs a wheat, corn and ecofallow rotation, letting the land rest for a while

before planting it to wheat or corn again.

However, he said, this year he skipped the fallow rotation and planted sunflowers in a field where corn had been. The change worked out because of high moisture in the summer months.

"As long as we get sufficient rain," he said, "we could do that every year."

Many farmers have begun to plant crops continuously, he said, because no-till helps trap moisture in the ground, giving the crop a better chance of survival.

Because of that, no-till has increased production, he said, which isn't always a good thing.

With above-average yields for the past two years, and before, Mr. Uehlin said the surplus of grain is growing, causing demand and market prices to drop.

"But," he said, "Mother Nature could take care of that in one short year."

In the lean times, Mrs. Uehlin said, they count on her husband's other business — herbicide and pesticide application — to subsidize the farming operation.

In business for 26 years, the Uehlins now own two airplanes and two ground rigs used in chemical application.

He attends state-sponsored workshops two or three times a year, he said, to update himself on the proper use and application of chemicals.

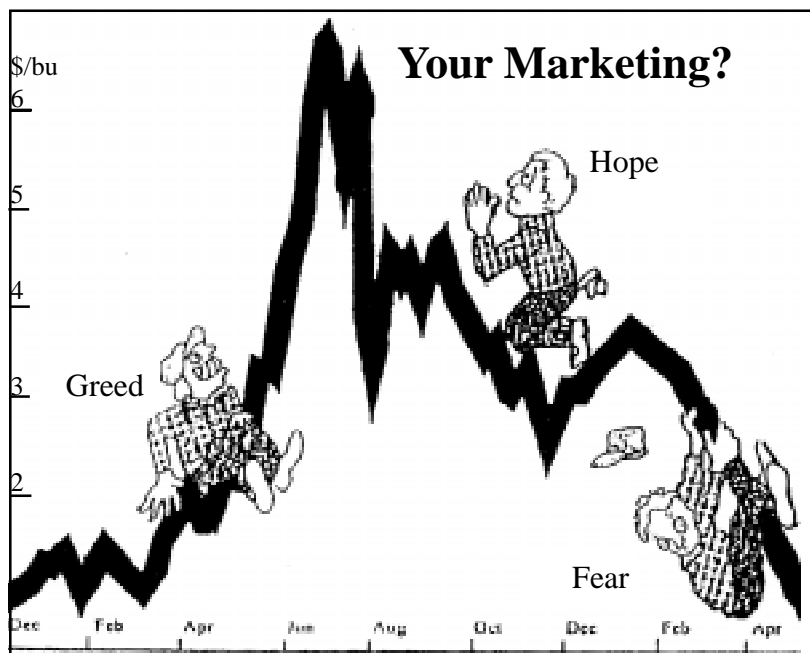
The Uehlins aren't only concerned with conserving soil, but also water.

Mrs. Uehlin said a surge system they attached to their gravity irrigation equipment makes watering fields more efficient.

The system, which electronically monitors the water flow turning it on and off, has cut the electric bill, she said, and allowed them to water twice as much area in the same amount of time.

The Uehlin's other children are Marci Smith, 29, of Holcolm, Becky Smith, 20, of Lebanon and Dana, 18, who's studying agri-business at the University of Nebraska in Kearney.

Which Phase Are You In:



MARKET DATA, INC.

256 S. Penn, Oberlin (785) 475-3322 or 1-800-867-8289

Positive Marketing that works!

Our weekly good rates have been within 10% of the highs and our poor rating within 10% of the low for the past 3 years.

We offer the tools and one on one assistance to make a positive marketing plan work.

Thank you for your business and we look forward to working with you in the future. Call or stop by anytime.

Living snow fences offer animals shelter, beauty for highways

By JEANETTE KRIZEK

Snow can create problems for farmers and travelers when drifts pile up around homes, by cattle pens and on highways.

The Kansas Department of Transportation spends a lot of time and money on slatted wooden snow fences, which must be put up and removed each year and on highway snow removal.

An alternative is to plant a living snow fence of evergreen trees, which when established will maintain itself and provide shelter for wildlife including quail, pheasants and songbirds.

The Kansas Department of Transportation, Forest Service and Department of Wildlife and Parks and the Natural Resources Conservation Service are enlisting the help of landowners to plant these "fences" near highways or county roads.

They enhance the appearance of the landscape, can improve crop production by holding snow on the field and prevent erosion.

A Nebraska study showed that living snow fences could save \$1,383 per mile per year over traditional slatted fences during the trees 50-year life span.

"Pay back from living snow fences are tremendous," said Decatur County Conservation Department Technician Lee Don Scott. "Everyone benefits from the taxpayer, to farmers, travelers and even the animals."

He said the Living Snow Fence Program offers landowners a chance to plant trees that will help everyone.

"This year anyone interest in incorporating a living snow fence can apply under the Conservation Reserve Program," said Mr. Scott, "and receive money over the next ten years just the same as planting natural grasses."

Last year snow fences were planted 393 trees at the Oberlin airport, 204 at the gun club and 647 on ground owned by county Sheriff Ken Badsky.

Prior to that time 11,320 feet of living fence, 4,720 trees and 34,700 feet of weed barrier, had been planted in Decatur County in five areas.

Mr. Scott said he hopes to find more landowners interested in the program. For information visit the Decatur County Natural Resources Conservation Service or look at the state website at www.ks.nrcs.usda.gov/end



CropRevenue Coverage

- Security for marketing
- Security for operating loans
- Security for your future

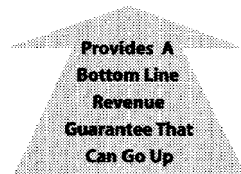
PLUS: AmAg Customers Add CRCPlus™ to increase the Minimum Revenue Guarantee

STABILITY EXPERIENCE • INNOVATIVE

American Agrinsurance, Inc.

CRCPlus liability limits apply. SIGN UP EARLY!

Are You Taking The Road to Profit?



Gold Banc Insurance Agency

183 S. Penn Ave—Oberlin—(785) 475-2283

WE SALUTE

all who work hard to protect our precious soil.



We recognize that most of what we provide for the people we serve, comes from the precious earth. We take this means to express our congratulations and appreciation to this year's outstanding soil conservationists of Decatur County, as well as to all of our friends and neighbors who tend the soil.

Raye's Grocery, Inc.

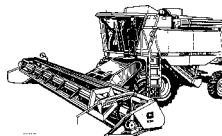
Oberlin, Kansas



"Home Owned, Home Operated"



Congratulations



Conservation Award Winners

WOOFER Pump and Well

Domestic and Irrigation Wells

DALE AND JAY WOOFER

RR 1 Box 109 — Hoxie, KS 67740 — 1-785-675-3991

Congratulations to the Decatur County Conservation Award Winners!

DOAK CONSTRUCTION

Complete General Contracting

For all your Mill & Elevator Repairs...Truck & Skid Loader Service
Commercial & Residential Remodeling
Concrete...Welding...Crane Service...Digger Derrick



Box 761
404 East B Street
McCook, NE 69001
308-345-3194

"No Job Too Big - No Job Too Small"