

Conservation Conversation

Official Newsletter of the
Barber County Conservation District

Bankers Winners

**Ivan & Elaine Watkins
Cliff & Gayla McKinney**
Owners Ivan & Elaine Watkins, as well as operators Cliff & Gayla McKinney, all live on the ranch located northeast of Medicine Lodge. Gayla is the Watkins' daughter. Ivan and Cliff do some tree clearing, and Cliff and Gayla do swathing as a side like to the ranch. The ranch consists of 1420 acres, all in native grass. It is well watered with ponds and a live stream running through it - all fed by springs. They have cleared a lot of cedar trees and sprayed plum thickets that had taken over areas of the pastures. The ranch is divided into 5 pastures and rotated according to a planned grazing system. They have added a cross fence and a new livestock watering tank to aid in better grazing distribution. The grass looks really good on this ranch and they are maintaining it very well.



Key Banker Steve Bryan (far l) with Banker Award Winners (l-r) Ivan & Elaine Watkins

Jim & Shawn Liebst

Jim & Shawn Leibst live in Medicine Lodge but farm land located north of Sharon on Ridge Road. Jim grew up on this farm and has taken over most of the labor of getting the crops planted and harvested. In 2005, Jim purchased a no-till drill with a friend and is now planting about 1150 acres without any tillage. He farms land for several landowners, and has entered into an EQIP contract to assist in the change from conventional tillage to the no-tillage system. The crop rotation for the dryland fields includes wheat, milo, soybeans, and corn. The exact rotation for each field is based on the water holding capacity of the various soils. Jim has seen for himself just how much water is saved by keeping some cover on the surface at all times.

Conservation Tree Program

If you're thinking of planting a windbreak or if you have the perfect spot to provide wildlife habitat through a tree/shrub planting, consider the low-cost tree and shrub seedlings available from the Kansas Forest Service for use in conservation plantings. The plants are 1 or 2 years old and their sizes vary from 12 to 18 inches, depending on species.

This cooperative state and federal program encourages landowners to plant trees and shrubs for conservation purposes. The seedlings may not be used for landscape (ornamental) plantings or resale for landscaping.

Approved uses of these plants include:

- *Windbreak - one or more rows of tree and/or shrub seedlings planted for wind protection.
- *Woodlot - an area of land planted to trees primarily managed for the production of timber products.
- *Riparian planting - a tree and/or shrub planting adjacent to creeks or rivers for bank stabilization and improvement of water quality.
- *Wildlife habitat - a group of tree and/or shrub seedlings planted to provide habitat for wildlife.
- *Christmas trees - a group of tree seedlings planted for cutting as Christmas trees.

Orders are being taken now through the first Monday in May, so stop by the conservation office to check the current list of available species and prices.

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District Staff

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Cost Share Sign-Up

Applications for the FY 2009 Water Resources Cost-Share Program (WRCSP) and Non-Point Source Pollution Control Program (NPS) will be accepted April 1-30, 2008. Contact the conservation office for information on eligible practices for these programs.

FY 2008 NPS funding is still available. Repair of failed septic systems can receive up to \$2800 per system; plugging abandoned water wells receive up to \$500 per well.

Grasslands Winners



(l-r) Ted Alexander, Deana, Ed, & Edwin Lenkner

The Lenkner farm and ranch is located west of Elm Mills. The ranch is a father and son partnership, with the partners being Edwin and Eddie Lenkner. They were one of the first ranches to sign into the Rangeland, Forage and Livestock program, RFL for short, in 1980. They have continued to improve their rangeland ever since and in 2006 signed an EQIP contract to cross fence, clear cedar trees and build a pipeline and 2 tanks on land they had just purchased. Edwin and Eddie have been good stewards of their land for many years and deserve the honor that comes with this grassland award.



(l-r) Mace Jacobs, Candace Jacobs, & Ted Alexander

This ranch is located southwest of Lake City, is owned by Candy Jacobs, and is operated by her two sons, Mike and Mace. They have done a lot of work on the ranch to improve the grass and the grazing capability. Part of the ranch is very rugged with many challenges to moving cattle between pastures. They have added cross fences, water pipelines, watering tanks, planted grass, cut cedar trees, and burned with the aid of 2 programs, the EQIP cost-share program and the Comanche Pool Prairie Resource Foundation. They have made the moving of the cattle a family affair with the kids and the whole family getting involved. The Jacobs have improved their operation greatly and deserve all the recognition that comes with this grassland award.



(l-r) Paul Cox & Ted Alexander

The Cox ranch is located north of Sun City on Turkey Creek. Paul purchased the ranch in the 90's and has continuously improved the ranch by cutting cedar trees, burning, and building water developments. Paul is always looking for ways to make more improvements. Because of his improved management, he has been able to rent more rangeland from his neighbors and has doubled the size of his operation in the last few years. Paul is very enthusiastic about good grass management and is always reading and studying about new methods of grazing. Paul has worked hard to improve and deserves to be recognized with this grassland award.

Wildflower Tour

Every year on Mother's Day weekend we meet at the Medicine Lodge High School to begin a fun filled day exploring nature's wonderful wildflowers. While enjoying a continental breakfast of cinnamon rolls, fresh fruit, juice, and coffee we will view a slide show of the glorious flora of Barber County. After breakfast, we're off to the first identification stop where our expert guides will educate tour goers on the splendor of Barber County's wildflowers.

After some exciting entertainment and a delicious lunch, we head back out on the range for another gaze at nature's wonders.

This year's tour is scheduled for May 10. We offer a morning tour for \$8 and full day tour for \$15 which includes a continental breakfast, lunch with entertainment, an afternoon snack, and transportation to at least two sites.



Reservations are due by May 2.

Can't wait to see you there!!!

Comedy Corner

A 1st grade school teacher had twenty-six students in her class. She presented each child in her classroom the 1st half of a well-known proverb and asked them to come up with the remainder of the proverb. It's hard to believe these were actually done by first graders. Their insight may surprise you. While reading, keep in mind that these are first-graders, 6 year olds!

Beginning of Proverb

1. Don't change horses
2. Strike while the
3. It's always darkest before
4. Never underestimate the power of
5. You can lead a horse to water but
6. Don't bite the hand that
7. No news is
8. A miss is as good as a
9. You can't teach an old dog new
10. If you lie down with dogs, you'll
11. Love all, trust
12. The pen is mightier than the
13. An idle mind is
14. Where there's smoke there's
15. Happy the bride who
16. A penny saved is
17. Two's company, three's
18. Don't put off till tomorrow what
19. Laugh and the world laughs with you, cry and
20. There are non so blind as
21. Children should be seen and not
22. If at first you don't succeed
23. You get out of something only what you
24. When the blind lead the blind
25. A bird in the hand

Student's Responses

- until they stop running.
- bug is close.
- Daylight Saving Time.
- termites
- How?
- looks dirty.
- impossible.
- Mr.
- Math.
- stink in the morning
- Me.
- pigs.
- the best way to relax.
- pollution.
- gets all the presents.
- not much.
- the Musketeers.
- you put on to go to bed.
- you have to blow your nose.
- Stevie Wonder.
- spanked or grounded.
- get new batteries.
- see in the picture on the box!
- get out of the way!!!
- is going to poop on you!!

John Farney Memorial Scholarship

The John Farney Memorial Scholarship is a \$1000 scholarship sponsored by the Barber County Conservation District. The scholarship is awarded annually to a student who is entering at least his/her second year of college. Applicants must be pursuing a college degree in a conservation-related field. The applicant must also be a resident of Barber County. The deadline for applications will be **March 15, 2007**. Applications are available at the conservation office, 800 W. 3rd Avenue, Medicine Lodge, Kansas. You may

Watch for Upcoming Information & News Release's Regarding A New CRP Practice Titled

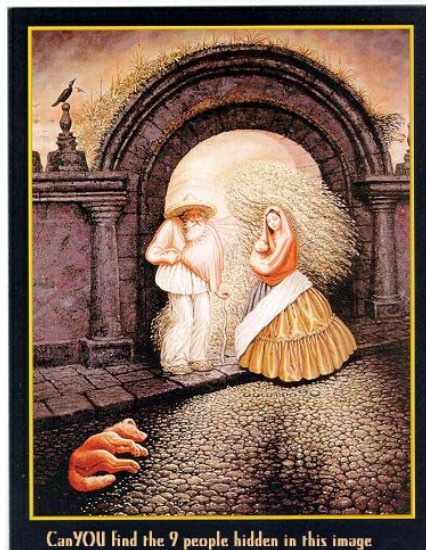
"Safe Acres For wildlife Enhancement" or SAFE.

For More Information visit:

http://www.fsa.usda.gov/Internet/FSA_File/safepr208.pdf

OR

Contact Your Local FSA Office.



CanYOU find the 9 people hidden in this image