

2004 Annual Report Materials

Scholarship Winner

2004

**Senior Scholarship Recipients
(will provide pictures)**

Zach Van Cleave, son of Robert & Lisa Van Cleave, Atlantic, was one of two receiving a \$300 Conservation Senior Scholarship in 2004. Zach graduated from Atlantic High School in May, 2004. He is attending Iowa State University in Ames. Zach said his ultimate career goal was to work in Iowa, helping to restore and preserve natural resource and wildlife. He said he would like to be in fisheries or a wildlife biologist.

Being involved in many school activities left little time for Zach to hold a job, but he did work at Hy-Vee for a short time. Zach commented "I also have had the chance to work and job shadow DNR fisheries biologist Chris Larson and DNR officer Eric Sansgaard." Zach attributes his love for the outdoors, hunting and fishing to his father.

While attending Atlantic High School, Zack was involved in cross country (9-12) and was senior captain' basketball (9-12) and was senior captain; track (10-11); golf (9); baseball (9-12); National Honor Society (11-12); Senior Class Vice-President; and FFA (12). Church and community activities include Catholic Youth Group; 2) National Honors Society; 3) community service day; 4) Bloodmobile; food pantry; fundraisers; animal shelter; and trash clean-up.

Scholarship Winner

2004



Gach Van Cleave
Can Co.

2004 Scholarship
Winner





Courtney Blake
Cass Co.

2004 Scholarship
Winner



Great Plains Drill

After a slow usage year in 2003 of only 171 acres, the District's Great Plains drill was used on 649 acres through the 2004 fiscal year. This was largely due to CRP sign-ups. Dennis Hockenberry, hired by the District, continued to take charge of delivering the drill to the site and picking it up after the landowner has finished with it. The drill rents for \$10/acre with a \$50 deposit required at the time of application. Although designed for native grasses, the drill works equally well in seeding cool season grasses.

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To no one's surprise, Zach enjoys hunting, fishing, camping, reading, writing, and trap shooting.

The second \$300 scholarship winner was Courtney Blake. Courtney is the daughter of Roger and Gerri Blake, Walnut. She was also a graduate of the Atlantic High School Class of 2004. Courtney's plans were to study biology because of her interest in science, animals, and people. She is currently enrolled at Colorado College in Colorado Springs, CO.

Courtney has held several positions of part-time employment – one being assisting her mother in her business, *Special Occasions*. Courtney was also employed as an algebra tutor during the summer of 2003 and said she loved this experience because of her love for math. She was employed by KSOM/KS95 radio stations from 2002 until leaving for college. Her employment at the radio stations, she said, improved her speaking and communications skills and helped her to be more effective when multi-tasking.

Courtney's long list of school activities, church and community service include: varsity cross country team (9-12); concert, marching and pep bands (9-12); Southwest Iowa Honor Band (9-12); National Honor Society member; Bloodmobile Committee Chair (11-12); 5th grade tutor (9,11); FFA member (9-12) and held the offices of Reporter as a Junior and President as a senior; French Club member (9-11); school newspaper/yearbook reporter (11); Polar Bears (9-11); track (9-11); Student Council (9); Dam to Dam 20K race participant (9-11) "Speak Out for Agriculture" (10-12) and Planning Committee (9-11); 6th grade Math Bee coach (9-12); Clover Kids Helper (11-12). As a 4-H member, Courtney was Junior Superintendent (9-12); club president (10), secretary (9, 12) and treasurer (11). 4-H activities also included County Youth Council (11); Youth Action Committee (11-12); Southwest Area Council Member (11-12); State 4-H Council Member (11-12); National 4-H Congress Delegate (11) and Beef State Project Award(11). "My 4-H and FFA activities helped in acquiring leadership,

citizenship, and communication skills essential in any career field", stated Courtney.

She served as worship assistant for three years at her church, United Church of Christ, Atlantic. Somehow, Courtney managed to take piano lessons during her four years of high school as well.

Her hobbies include snow skiing and snowboarding, water skiing, and showing calves and lambs.

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Calendar of Events

January

Esbeck reported that information had been sent to the Cass County schools regarding the two \$300 scholarships being offered by the District.

An O&M bill for \$807.50 was approved for reshaping Crooked Creek Site 7C to its original specifications.

A motion was approved to pay NACD dues for \$775 and CDI dues for \$700.

Six property tax exemption applications were approved totaling 52.3 acres.

Twenty CRP plans and two compliance plans were approved.

February

Forty-six property tax exemptions, totaling 532 acres, were approved.

Two teams from CAM FFA were sponsored by the District for the Envirothon Contest. The District also voted to share expenses with Adair County for a training session for the teams.

Cathie Graves, Field Representative, attended the District's meeting on February 23.

Five CRP plans and two compliance plans were approved.

March

Applications for the District's conservation scholarships were reviewed. Zach Van Cleave and Courtney Blake were chosen to receive the two \$300 scholarships.

Esbeck and Seidel attended the Regional Commissioner's meeting at Springbrook on March 24.

Twenty-eight contractors attended the Contractor's Meeting held in Massena.

O&M inspection began in Turkey, Troublesome, and Crooked Creek Watersheds by Bob Anderson.

The District offered a \$100 scholarship for a 4-H youth to attend a conference entitled "The Starting Line for Success" on the ISU campus.

Two sodbust plans were approved totaling 54.9 acres.

Twelve CRP plans were approved totaling 89.6 acres.

April

An O&M bill for \$1,220.86 for tile and labor on Crooked Creek Watershed was approved. Another bill for \$331.28 for approved for O&M inspection and mileage for Turkey, Troublesome and Crooked Creek Watersheds.

There were no applications from teachers to attend "The Food, Land & People 2003-04 Workshops" from Cass County. The District had offered two scholarships.

Copies of the O&M inspection reports for Turkey, Troublesome and Crooked Creek Watersheds were reviewed by the Board.

District's were informed that they could no longer payroll District employees effective 7/1/04.

The District's tree sales program was successful again this year. Trees and shrubs were picked up at the Cass County Fairgrounds on April 13th.

One compliance plan was approved for 40 acres and three CRP plans were approved for 63.8 acres.

May

Commissioner Fred Kay presented \$300 scholarships to Zach Van Cleave, Atlantic and Courtney Blake, Lewis at Atlantic's Class Night.

Amanda Phippen, Atlantic, received the \$100 scholarship to attend the "Touch the Land" 4-H Workshop in Ames.

115 sixth graders attended the field day presented by thirteen instructors at eleven stations.

Commissioner Mike Hall presented a plaque and a \$200 check to Dean Downer, teacher at the CAM Schools for his involvement with youth in conservation programs for many years. This took place at an assembly at the school of May 17.

One sodbuster plan for 58.1 acres, two compliance plans totaling 213.9 acres, and four CRP plans and modifications totaling 38.1 acres were approved.

Jensen reported that she was in the process of determining wind and flood damages from recent rains.

June

Payrolling of the District's employee will be handling by the county auditor.

One sodbuster plan for 6.0 acres, four compliance plans totaling 508 acres and four CRP plans totaling 25.6 acres were approved.

July

The District had a booth at the Cass County Fair grounds. Holly Barry's conservation art display was set up in the booth manned by the commissioners, state technician and state secretary. Collapsible can koozies were given as handouts.

Commissioners continue to work with landowners on soil loss complaints filed earlier in the year.

A request for Crooked Creek Site 7C (waterway) to be released from District obligation will be sent to the NRCS state conservationist.

Copies of all financial account reports for the fiscal year were distributed to all commissioners.

An application was filed with CDI for funds to payroll the District's employee.

August

Petitions were filed for Commissioners Hoskins, Wilson, and Hall, all of whom will seek another term of office.

Commissioners Greg Zellmer and Fred Kay and District Conservationist Ed Seidel attended the Fall Regional Meeting in Walnut.

Forty (Conservation Security Program) CSP contracts are being offered to landowners and operators in Cass County.

One Grassland Reserve Program (GRP) contract was accepted.

An O&M bill was approved for \$208.17 for materials, labor, trip and backhoe for Turkey Creek Watershed Site 39-9.

A Project Agreement was signed for Turkey Creek Watershed Sites 10-26 and 53-5.

Sindra Jensen announced a Backyard Conservation meeting to be held at the Beulah and Dick Follmann home in Massena in September.

One CRP plan totaling 17.7 acres was approved.

September

District Operations Budget (formerly IM) was discussed.

Ken Tow was appointed Acting Director of the Division of Soil Conservation.

One property tax exemption application for forest cover totaling 45.6 acres was approved.

October

One property tax exemption application for recreational lakes totaling 4.1 acres was approved.

Resolution voting was completed.

2005 Envirothon Contest announced.

Three compliance plans totaling 170.3 acres and one sodbuster plan for 30 acres was approved.

November

Updates on soil loss complaints were discussed.

No commissioners were able to attend the annual conference..

An extension of time for the Project Agreement for Turkey Creek will be requested.

Applications for permits from Department of Natural Resources to store water prepared and signed for Turkey Creek Watershed Sites 10-26 and 53-5.

Donation of \$25.00 was made to the Iowa Network for Community Agriculture (INCA).

Five compliance plans totaling 461.1 acres and five CRP plans totaling 51.5 acres were approved.

December

Commissioners and staff held their Christmas party at Big T's in Brayton.

Commissioners voted to offer three \$300 scholarships instead of two for 2005.

Set date of Organizational Meeting for January 4, 2005.

Gardening books were purchased to place in the city library in memory of Mary Anderson, Bob Anderson's wife.

Cass County accepted the invitation to host the "Orientation for New Commissioners" meeting on January 27.

July 1, 2003 – June 30, 2004

Terraces Honor Roll

<u>Name</u>	<u>Footage</u>
Joe Newell	1150
Steve Nelson	2300
Keith A. Ticknor	5050
Lee A. Poepppe	3550
Howard Hendersen	4500
William Kragelund	1350
Don Prall	1198
John M. Thielen	2750
Robert Anstey	1550
Marjorie Ford	1500
Lloyd Pauley	1800
BiKap	2850
Sharon Wagner	2050
Dale Pauley	3850
Chris French	4150

39,598 terraces / 7.5 miles

<u>Windbreak</u>	<u>Ac.</u>
Gary Neighbors	0.4
Steve Westfall	0.5
Jon Jordan	0.5
Dwight Will	0.7
Alan W. Robinson	0.3
Rick Wheatley	0.2

Tree Planting Practice

Carl F. Lilienthal 3.7 Ac

Grade Stabilization Structure

<u>Name</u>	<u>No.</u>
Dustin, Paul, Nathan, David & Darby McLaren	1
Richard Nichols	1
Keith Mehlmann	1
Glen R. Smith	1
Carl F. Lilienthal	1
WYOWA Farms, Inc.	1
Richard P. Hansen	1
Robert Buboltz	1

Accomplishments
July 1, 2003 – June 30, 2004

Terraces	7.5 miles
Grade Stabilization Structure	8 each
Windbreak	2.6 acres
Tree Planting Practice	3.7 acres
Contour Buffer Strips	33.2 acres
Filter Strips	503.2 acres

Contributors in 2004

William Dimig
Roger Ford
Marjorie Ford

The Cass District did not solicit contributions during this fiscal year but some offered a contribution, nevertheless. We sincerely thank these people for their generous giving which will benefit our Education Fund

Conservation Field Day for 6th Graders

Due to inclement weather, the sixth grade conservation field day was held at Sunnyside Park on May 18 instead of at the property owned by Mr. & Mrs. Ralph Simmons in section 14, Benton Township. There were 115 sixth graders from Atlantic in attendance. The students were divided into eleven groups which rotated through eleven different conservation stations. Each session was approximately 15-20 minutes in length. The stations were as follows: 1) soils (Instructors Rick Bednarek and Dan Pulido); 2) conservation golf (Instructor Margaret Henderson); 3) waterways and CRP (Instructor Gary Wolfe); 4) terraces (Instructor Duane Ortgies); 5) survey instruments (Instructors Bob Anderson and Dennis Hockenberry); 6) ponds (Instructor John Klein); 7) Farm Safety 4 Just Kids (Instructor Mike Cooley); 8) trees (Instructor Jeremy Cochran, District Forester); 9) Backyard Conservation/Sustainable Agriculture (Instructor Denise O'Brien); 10) GPS (Instructor Ken O'Brien, Pelgrow); and 11) DNR birds and furs (Instructor Eric Sansgaard, Conservation Officer). In spite of the weather, it was an enjoyable event for the students, chaperones, teachers, and the presenters. Special treats were provided to all the students and presenters. The Cass County Soil and Water Conservation District would like to thank the Simmons' again for making their land available for the field day even though it couldn't be used this year and a special thank you to all the presenters that volunteered their time to make the day a success.

CASS COUNTY S.W.C.D. DISTRICT TREE SALES PROGRAM

Submitted by Connie S. Esbeck

As I write this article, the weather outside is beautiful and I have forgotten the cold north winds of just a couple months ago. But reality sets in and I know the importance of a farmstead windbreak. Others, I know are already thinking about planting a windbreak or renovating an old windbreak. If not a windbreak, then maybe just adding a few trees and/or shrubs to your yard.

The Cass County S.W.C.D. started the tree sales program in 2001. It does not limit anyone from purchasing the bareroot stock or potted trees because you do not "own" the ground on which you want to plant the trees/shrubs. Each year since we started the program, we have added something new to give you, our customers, a better selection of trees and shrubs. Our bareroot stock consists of seedlings and transplants ranging from \$1.00 - \$2.50 each. These are sold in bundles of five and ten, depending on the species. Potted trees are \$16.00 - \$21.00 each, also depending on the species. The trees will be delivered and ready for you to pick up on April 12th so we urge you to stop in the office at 503 West 7th Street or call 243-3180 for further information. Proceeds from the trees sales is used to enhance our education program. A few of them are 1) Scholarships to graduating seniors from Cass County; 2) 6th grade field day held annually at the Ralph Simmons pond and 3) sponsor teams to participate in the Envirothon Contest held annually, as well as other educational activities. We are offering three scholarships this year instead of two and have sponsored three Envirothon teams instead of two.

Any inventory of stock left by April 12th may be seen at the Cass County Fair Grounds and purchased that day, but to guarantee your order, please stop in the office as soon as possible.

The cost-share rate for a windbreak is 75% up to \$1,200. Check with the staff for more information on eligibility.

ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY INCENTIVES PROGRAM (EQIP)

Exactly what is EQIP? The Environmental Quality Incentives Program is the heart of NRCS conservation programs. With more federal funding provided in the 2002 Farm Bill, EQIP is the primary tool for private landowners who want to put soil and water conservation on the ground in the Midwest and across the nation.

How does it work? EQIP provides technical assistance and cost-share payments to producers. EQIP plan of operations are developed with producers and conservation staff.

Plans that are selected and funded receive cost-share—money to help turn that plan into a reality. The NRCS goal is to help landowners protect soil and water resources and EQIP funds are dedicated to putting dollars in the hands of those individuals. Cost-share rates vary from state to state, but in Iowa it is 50% of the cost of the conservation practice. For new or limited resource farmers, even more financial assistance is available.

EQIP addresses natural resource issues associated with livestock operations and agricultural production. Funds are directed toward operations and projects that offer the greatest environmental benefit.

How can EQIP help your operation and your land? EQIP can help with the following practices:

- Terraces
- Conservation tillage
- Nutrient management plans
- Designs and plans for animal waste management structures
- Fencing materials and designs
- Forest stand improvement, thinning
- Wetland restoration
- Grazing management plans and materials
- Streambank protection

- Grassed waterways
- Plans and seed for buffers and filter strips
- Pest management

Is EQIP for you? If you have natural resource concerns on your land and are interest in making a commitment to conservation, EQIP could be the answer,. NRCS resource professionals are here to help you make the best conservation plan for your land. EQIP could provide the funds you need to make it happen. Is EQIP your natural resource solution? Contact your local NRCS office and find out! You can also visit the NRCS website <http://ia.nrcs.usda.gov>

LIVING SNOW FENCE

The Iowa Department of Transportation is in the second year of a four year study of the effects of various herbaceous native species and the management techniques used on those species on blowing and drifting snow along roadways. In August 2003, Iowa DOT received \$50,000 from the Federal Highway Administration for a study of living snow fence technology appropriate for use in the Midwest. This practice is eligible in the CRP Continue Sign-up program through the Farm Service Agency. (Web site

<http://www.fsa.usda.gov/ia/>) The purpose of the program is to:

- ✓ Protect against prevailing winds to manage snow and decrease snow removal costs
- ✓ Enhance public safety
- ✓ Establish wildlife habitat
- ✓ Control erosion

Payments—Cost-share is 50 percent with a 40 percent practice incentive payment for establishment costs.

Rental Rate—Based on maximum soil rental rate established for the three predominant soils within the snow fence and snow catch area. Contract can be from 10-15 years. An additional \$100-\$150/acre bonus sign-up is available for the first year of the practice.

Eligibility – The north or west sides of lanes, roads, railroads and public facilities; and land that was cropped four out of the six years from 1996 to 2001.

Participating organizations include: Farm Service Agency, Natural Resources Conservation Service; Iowa Department of Natural Resources; Iowa Department of Transportation; and Pheasants Forever. The USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) provides technical help on designing your snow fence and choosing plant materials. Contact a DNR state forester for information about selecting trees and shrubs that will be hardy and adaptable for

your soils and site conditions. Contact a DNR wildlife biologist for more information about native grass and flower species suitable for your site.

The Iowa DNR recommends trees, shrubs and prairie seed grown in Iowa because these plants are suitable for Iowa's growing conditions.

**JENNIFER – NEAR THE STAFF PICTURE, PUT AN
INSERT: Duane Ortgies, technician, retired from
N.R.C.S. at the end of December after serving 38 years
in the Atlantic Field Office. An informal “farewell”
breakfast was held for him at the Massena Bar & Grill.
Duane is spending his retirement raising goats.**

Construction begins on the grade stabilization structure between the Joe Ballensiefer and Jim and Kathie Mailander farm near Wiota.

Construction is nearly completed on Turkey Creek Site 39-9. The 5.4 acre pond was built by Culver Construction Company of Red Oak.





WATERSHEDS

Three watershed sites were completed in the Turkey Creek Watershed during 2004. All were grade stabilization structures that impound water. One of the most picturesque sites is Site 58D located on the Eugene King property in Grant Township, section 27. There is five acres of permanent pool on the King property, two acres of permanent pool on the Three C's LLC property and 0.2 acre of permanent pool on the Garside Family Partnership property.

Site 39-9 was built on the Jim and Kathie Mailander and Joe Ballensiefer properties in Benton Township, section 34. The Mailander's portion has a permanent pool of 1.7 acres while the Ballensiefer portion has a permanent pool of 3.7 acres.

Site 19-29, located on the Clifford Wright property in section 27, Franklin Township, has a permanent pool of 3.3 acres with a small portion of 0.3 acres of permanent water on the Joe Ostrus property.

Conservation Reserve Program

County Practice Summary
For Signups 27 and 28

PRACTICE	NUMBER OF FARMS	ACRES	ESTIMATED COST-SHARE	ACTUAL COST-SHARE
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Signup 27

Summary

CP21	5	140.0	4,443	3,910
Total		140.0	4,443	3,910
Total Number of Farms:	5			
Total Number of Contracts for Signup:	12			

Signup 28

Summary

CP15A	3	33.2	894	893
CP21	18	330.0	11,089	7,359
Total		363.2	11,983	8,252
Total Number of Farms:	19			
Total Number of Contracts for Signup:	34			

Summary for Signups 27, and 28

CP15A	3	33.2	894	893
CP21	23	470.0	15,532	11,269
Total		503.2	16,426	12,162
Total Number of Contracts:	46			

ACTUAL COST-SH	ESTIMATED COST-SHARE	ACRES	NUMBER OF FARMS	PRACTICE OF FARMS
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Signup 27

Summary

CP21	2	140.0	4.443	
Total		140.0	4.443	
Total Number of Farms:	2			
Total Number of Contracts for Signup:	12			

Signup 28

Summary

CP15A	2	33.2	894	
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Total Number of Farms:				
Total Number of Contracts				
Summary for Signups				

15A Contour buffer strips
16 Filter strips
between
July 1, 2003
& June 30, 2004



Inside- Scholarship recipients-see page 4

March, 2005

Atlantic

Farm Monthly

Celebrating Soil Conservation



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MAR 21 2005

IDSALS-DSC

Serving Cass, Shelby, Guthrie, Audubon and Pottawattamie Counties for over 130 years.

Vol. 44 - No.3

Visit Atlantic's Website at: www.atlanticiowa.com

Three watershed sites completed in 2004



(Above) Construction begins on the grade stabilization structure between the Joe Ballensiefer and Jim and Kathie Mailander farm near Wiota.

Photo contributed

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(Below) Construction is nearly complete on Turkey Creek Site 39-9. The 5.4 acre pond was built by Culver Construction Company of Red Oak.

Photo contributed



Soil Conservation Calendar of Events

January

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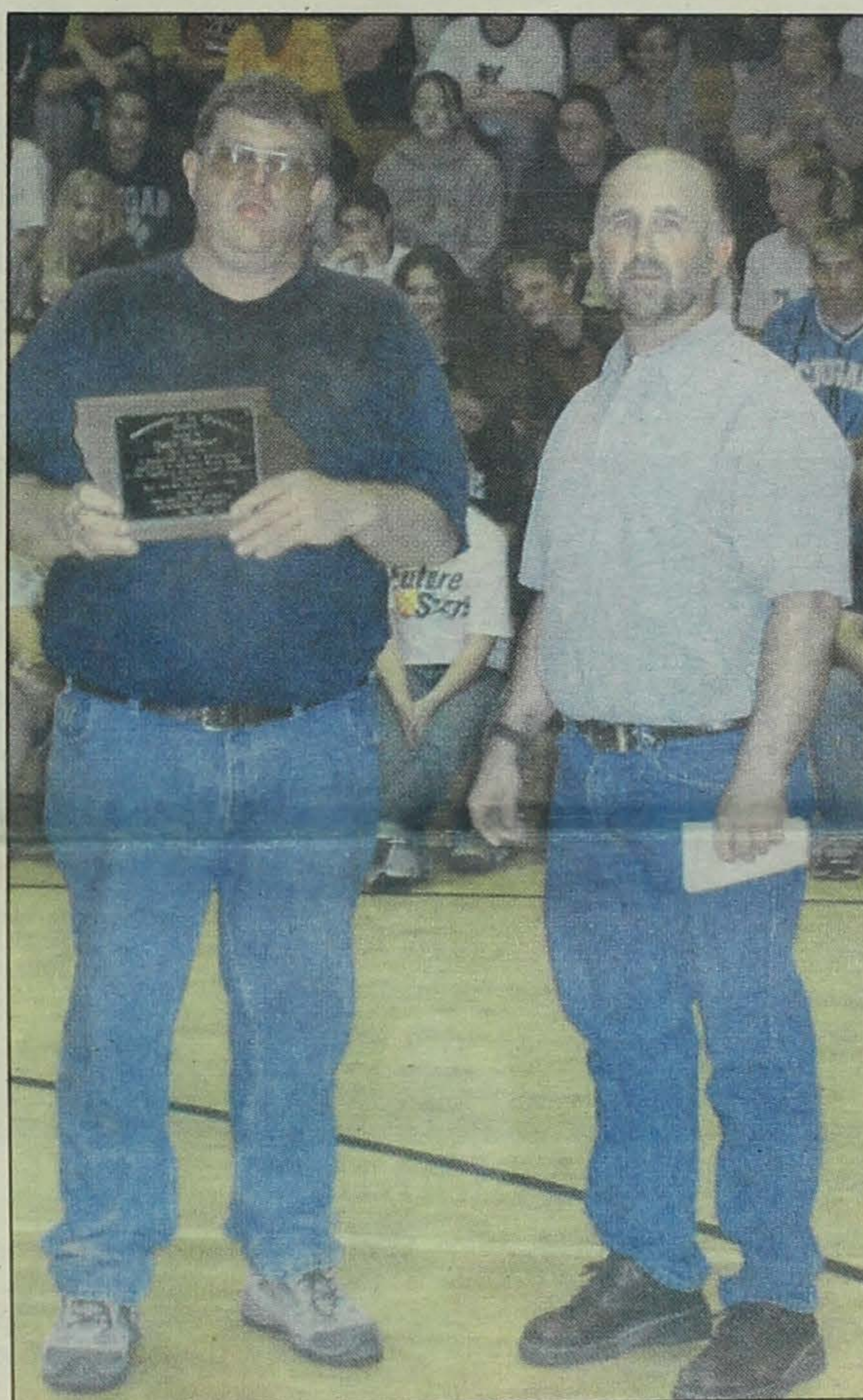
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March

Applications for the District's conservation scholarships were reviewed. Zach Van Cleave and

Calendar
see page 3

Downer awarded for conservation dedication



Dean Downer, CAM teacher (at left) has been instrumental in teaching and practicing outdoor classroom projects for many years. The Cass County Soil and Water Conservation District chose to award him for his dedication. Mike Hall, SWCD Commissioner, is shown presenting Downer with a plaque at an assembly at the CAM High School. Downer was also given a check for \$200 from the district to further his work and entered in the "Conservation Teacher of the Year" contest.

Photo contributed

USDA provides \$10.7 million to restore and protect wetlands in Illinois

Agreement with the nature conservancy establishes framework of cooperation

Agriculture Secretary Mike Johanns announced that USDA is contributing \$10.7 million to help restore a vast area of Illinois wetlands through the Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP) and a partnership between the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and The Nature Conservancy (Conservancy). WRP is a voluntary conservation program that offers landowners the opportunity to protect, restore and enhance wetlands on their property.

"This unique project with the Conservancy is a prime example of President Bush's cooperative conservation initiative that is needed to continue achieving our national conservation objectives," Johanns said. "It will restore diverse plant and animal com-

Wetlands see page 2

Cass County Soil and Water Conservation District Commissioners



Pictured above are the Cass County Soil and Water Conservation District Commissioners (front row, left to right) Commissioners Mike Hall, Ray Wilson and Terry Hoskins (who is also the chairman of the group); and (back row) Commissioner Fred Kay and Assistant Commissioner Russell Joyce. Not pictured is Commissioner Greg Zellmer.

Photo by Jennifer Nichols



Field Office Staff

Members of the Field Office Staff are: (front row, left to right) Sindra Jensen, Soil Conservationist; and Connie S. Esbeck, State Secretary; and (back row) Gary Wolfe, State Technician; Duane Ortgies, Soil Conservation Technician; Ed Seidel, District Conservationist; and Dennis Hockenberry, District Employee.

Photo contributed

Wetlands *continued from page one*



munities in the wetlands and improve water quality in the watershed. This partnership project will help achieve the President's goal to restore, improve and protect at least 3 million acres of wetlands."

Called the Emiquon Project, this 7,000-acre tract of land along the Illinois River in Fulton County is one of the largest floodplain restoration projects in the country. The WRP project will restore approximately 6,400 acres of wetlands. USDA funds will be used for easements, restoration activities and administrative costs. NRCS will develop a restoration plan in collaboration with the Conservancy as well as monitor and manage the site for the next 30 years.

A national memorandum of understanding between NRCS and the Conservancy formalizes the working partnership and establishes a framework to collaborate on mutually-agreed upon activities, such as Illinois' Emiquon Project and other natural resource related initiatives across the country. Primary purposes of the agreement are to protect or restore plants, animals and natural communities on private lands; promote the gathering and sharing of scientific data and research; and foster demonstration projects to test promising new conservation approaches.

Additional information on WRP is on the Web at <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/wrp>.

Story courtesy of National Resources Conservation Service

SPRING PARTS SPECIAL

Up to 25% Off
Special Priced
Kinze Planter Parts



10% off reg.
Priced Kinze planter parts



10% off parts
for discs, field
cultivators, drills

Lindeman Tractor, Inc.

10% Off Parts
March 14th through 24th



10% off parts
for Blades, Mowers,
Seeders



Great Plains
10% off parts
For drills, turbo till,
planters

10% off all
New Holland Parts



10% off all
New Holland Parts



10% off parts
For Disc Mowers,
Conditioners, Rakes

LINDEMAN TRACTOR, INC.

W. 7th Street • Atlantic
712-243-3735 or 1-800-546-6565
www.lindemantractor.com

Drought • Hail • Flood Crop Circles [huh?]

Cass County Insurance Agency can help you plan for many adverse conditions.

That's because our sole focus is offering you the right crop insurance coverage plan through RCIS®. RCIS is known for delivering fast and fair claims services year in and year out.

For almost any risk, (sorry NOT crop circles) contact Cass County Insurance today.



People You Know...People You Trust

2 E. 6th St. 507 Main St.
Atlantic Griswold
712-243-6557 712-778-2575
800-370-9974 800-964-9449

Calender *continued from page one*

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May

Commissioner Fred Kay presented \$300 scholarships to Zach Van Cleave, Atlantic and Courtney Blake, Lewis at Atlantic's Class Night.

Amanda Phippen, Atlantic, received the \$100 scholarship to attend the "Touch the Land" 4-H Workshop in Ames.

One hundred fifteen sixth graders attended the field day presented by 13 instructors at 11 stations.

Commissioner Mike Hall presented a plaque and a \$200 check to Dean Downer, teacher at the CAM Schools for his involvement with youth in conservation programs for many years. This took place at an assembly at the school of May 17.

One sodbuster plan for 58.1 acres, two compliance plans totaling 213.9 acres, and four CRP plans and modifications totaling 38.1 acres were approved.

Jensen reported that she was in the process of determining

wind and flood damages from recent rains.

June

Payrolling of the District's employee will be handling by the county auditor.

One sodbuster plan for 6.0 acres, four compliance plans totaling 508 acres and four CRP plans totaling 25.6 acres were approved.

July

The District had a booth at the Cass County Fair grounds. Holly Barry's conservation art display was set up in the booth manned by the commissioners, state technician and state secretary. Collapsible can koozies were given as handouts.

Commissioners continue to work with landowners on soil loss complaints filed earlier in the year.

A request for Crooked Creek Site 7C (waterway) to be released from District obligation will be sent to the NRCS state conservationist.

Copies of all financial account reports for the fiscal year were distributed to all commissioners.

An application was filed with CDI for funds to payroll the District's employee.

August

Petitions were filed for Commissioners Hoskins, Wilson, and Hall, all of whom will seek another term of office.

Commissioners Greg Zellmer and Fred Kay and District Conservationist Ed Seidel attended the Fall Regional Meeting in Walnut.

Forty (Conservation Security Program) CSP contracts are being offered to landowners and operators in Cass County.

One Grassland Reserve Program (GRP) contract was accepted.

An O&M bill was approved

for \$208.17 for materials, labor, trip and backhoe for Turkey Creek Watershed Site 39-9.

A Project Agreement was signed for Turkey Creek Watershed Sites 10-26 and 53-5.

Sindra Jensen announced a Backyard Conservation meeting to be held at the Beulah and Dick Follmann home in Massena in September.

One CRP plan totaling 17.7 acres was approved.

September

District Operations Budget (formerly IM) was discussed.

Ken Tow was appointed Acting Director of the Division of Soil Conservation.

One property tax exemption application for forest cover totaling 45.6 acres was approved.

October

One property tax exemption application for recreational lakes totaling 4.1 acres was approved.

Resolution voting was completed.

2005 Envirothon Contest announced.

Three compliance plans totaling 170.3 acres and one sodbuster plan for 30 acres was approved.

November

Updates on soil loss complaints were discussed.

No commissioners were able to attend the annual conference.

An extension of time for the Project Agreement for Turkey Creek will be requested.

Applications for permits from Department of Natural Resources to store water prepared and signed for Turkey Creek Watershed Sites 10-26 and 53-5.

Donation of \$25 was made to the Iowa Network for Community Agriculture (INCA).

Five compliance plans totaling 461.1 acres and five CRP

plans totaling 51.5 acres were approved.

December

Commissioners and staff held their Christmas party at Big T's in Brayton.

Commissioners voted to offer three \$300 scholarships instead of two for 2005.

Set date for Organizational Meeting for January 4, 2005.

Gardening books were purchased to place in the city library in memory of Mary Anderson, Bob Anderson's wife.

Cass County accepted the invitation to host the "Orientation for New Commissioners" meeting on Jan. 27.

July 1, 2003 - June 30, 2004**Terraces Honor Roll**

Name	Footage
Joe Newell	1,150
Steve Nelson	2,300
Keith A. Ticknor	5,050
Lee A. Poeppe	3,550
Howard Hendersen	4,500
William Kragelund	1,350
Don Prall	1,198
John M. Thielen	2,750
Robert Anstey	1,550
Marjorie Ford	1,500
Lloyd Pauley	1,800
BiKap	2,850
Sharon Wagner	2,050
Dale Pauley	3,850
Chris French	4,150

39,598 terraces / 7.5 miles

Windbreak

Name	Ac.
Gary Neighbors	0.4
Steve Westfall	0.5
Jon Jordan	0.5
Dwight Will	0.7
Alan W. Robinson	0.3
Rick Wheatley	0.2

Tree Planting Practice

Carl F. Lilienthal 3.7 Ac

Numbers
*see page 4***Great Plains Drill**

After a slow usage year in 2003 of only 171 acres, the District's Great Plains drill was used on 649 acres through the 2004 fiscal year. This was largely due to CRP sign-ups. Dennis Hockenberry, hired by the District, continued to take charge of delivering the drill to the site and picking it up after the landowner has finished with it. The drill rents for \$10/acre with a \$50 deposit required at the time of application. Although designed for native grasses, the drill works equally well in seeding cool season grasses.

FARMS FOR SALE

- 345 Acres, M/L: Located 9 miles N.W. of Atlantic or 2-1/2 miles west of Marne on Highway 83. Appr. 97% tillable with an average CSR of 63.7. 31,000 bu. Grain storage. \$2774 per acre.
- 224.24 Acres, M/L: Located 6 miles S.W. of Villisca in Page County. 88% tillable, level bottom cropland. \$2386 per acre.
- 204 Acres, M/L: Located 1/2 mile S. of Bridgewater in Adams County. 88% tillable, 65.7 CSR, balance open fenced pasture. \$1642 per acre.
- 80 Acres, M/L: Located 5-1/4 miles west of Exira in Audubon County. 76.3 acres cropland. No buildings. \$2100 per acre.
- 40 Acres, M/L: Located 10 miles S.E. of Emerson or 9-1/2 miles S.W. of Red Oak in Montgomery County. All tillable Marshall & Judson soils. 72.5 CSR. No buildings. \$2800 per acre.
- 173 Acres, M/L: Located 1/2 mile north of Marne. 147.2 acres cropland. Machine shed & grain storage. \$2050 per acre.
- 171 Acres, M/L: Borders the south side of Red Oak airport. All level Nishnabotna River bottom soils. 84.1 CSR. 91% tillable. \$3,100 per acres.
- 120 Acres, M/L: Located 1/2 mile S.W. of Stuart. 67.9 acres CRP, balance tillable. \$1165 per acre.
- 47 Acres, M/L: Located 1/2 mile S.E. of Massena. 93% tillable. 69% CSR. Level to gently rolling, high quality S. soils. \$2234 per acre.

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Time: **Film at 10 & 1 Lunch 11:30-1:00**

Location: **Our store**



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Senior scholarship recipients

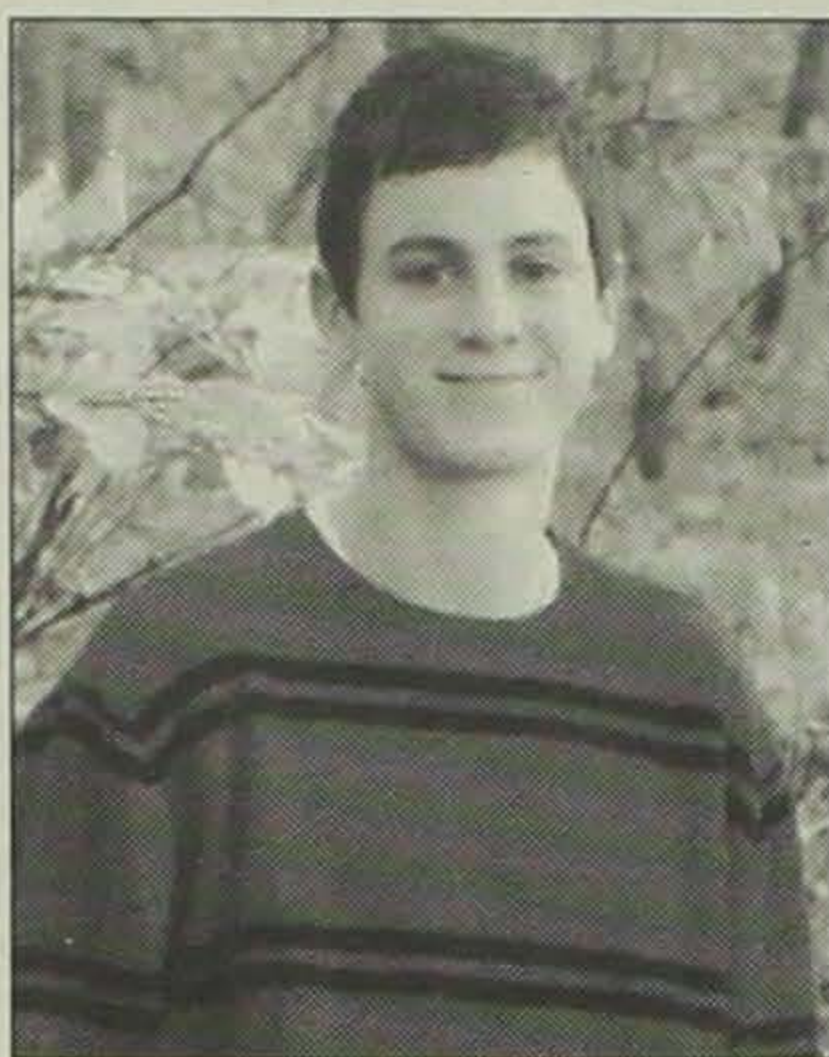
Zach Van Cleave, son of Robert and Lisa Van Cleave, Atlantic, was one of two receiving a \$300 Conservation Senior Scholarship in 2004. Zach graduated from Atlantic High School in May, 2004. He is attending Iowa State University in Ames. Zach said his ultimate career goal was to work in Iowa, helping to restore and preserve natural resource and wildlife. He said he would like to be in fisheries or a wildlife biologist.

Being involved in many school activities left little time for Zach to hold a job, but he did work at Hy-Vee for a short time. Zach commented, "I also have had the chance to work and job shadow DNR fisheries biologist Chris Larson and DNR officer Eric Sansgaard." Zach attributes his love for the outdoors, hunting and fishing to his father.

While attending Atlantic High School, Zach was involved in cross country (9-12) and was senior captain basketball (9-12) and was senior captain track (10-11); golf (9); baseball (9-12); National Honor Society (11-12); Senior Class Vice-President; and FFA (12). Church and community activities include Catholic Youth Group; 2) National Honors Society; 3) community service day; 4) Bloodmobile; food pantry; fundraisers; animal shelter; and trash clean-up.

To no one's surprise, Zach enjoys hunting, fishing, camping, reading, writing, and trap

shooting.



Zach Van Cleave

The second \$300 scholarship winner was Courtney Blake. Courtney is the daughter of Roger and Gerri Blake, Walnut. She was also a graduate of the Atlantic High School Class of 2004. Courtney's plans were to study biology because of her interest in science, animals, and people. She is currently enrolled at Colorado College in Colorado Springs, Colo.

Courtney has held several positions of part-time employment - one being assisting her mother in her business, Special Occasions. Courtney was also employed as an algebra tutor during the summer of 2003 and said she loved this experience because of her love for math. She was employed by KSOM/KS95 radio stations from 2002 until leaving for college. Her employment at the radio stations, she said, improved her speaking and communications skills and helped her to be more effective when

multi-tasking.

Courtney's long list of school activities, church and community service include: varsity cross country team (9-12); concert, marching and pep bands (9-12); Southwest Iowa Honor Band (9-12); National Honor Society member; Bloodmobile Committee Chair (11-12); fifth grade tutor (9,11); FFA member (9-12) and held the offices of Reporter as a Junior and President as a senior; French Club member (9-11); school newspaper/yearbook reporter (11); Polar Bears (9-11); track (9-11); Student Council (9); Dam to Dam 20K race participant (9-11) "Speak Out for Agriculture" (10-12) and Planning Committee (9-11); 6th grade Math Bee coach (9-12); Clover Kids Helper (11-12). As a 4-H member, Courtney was Junior Superintendent (9-12); club president (10), secretary (9, 12) and treasurer (11). 4-H activities also included County Youth Council (11); Youth Action Committee (11-12); Southwest Area Council Member (11-12); State 4-H Council Member (11-12); National 4-H Congress Delegate (11) and Beef State Project Award(11). "My 4-H and FFA activities helped in acquiring leadership, citizenship, and communication skills essential in any career field," stated Courtney.

She served as worship assistant for three years at her church, United Church of Christ, Atlantic. Somehow, Courtney managed to take piano lessons during her four years of high school as well.

Her hobbies include snow

skiing and snowboarding, water skiing, and showing calves and lambs.



Courtney Blake

Numbers

continued from page three

Grade Stabilization Structure

Name	No.
Dustin, Paul, Nathan, David and Darby McLaren	1
Richard Nichols	1
Keith Mehlmann	1
Glen R. Smith	1
Carl F. Lilienthal	1
WYOWA Farms, Inc.	1
Richard P. Hansen	1
Robert Buboltz	1

Accomplishments

July 1, 2003 - June 30, 2004

Terraces	7.5 miles
Grade Stabilization Structure	8 each
Windbreak	2.6 acres
Tree Planting Practice	3.7 acres
Contour Buffer Strips	33.2 acres
Filter Strips	503.2 acres

Cass County S.W.C.D. District Tree Sales Program

SUBMITTED BY
CONNIE S. ESBECK

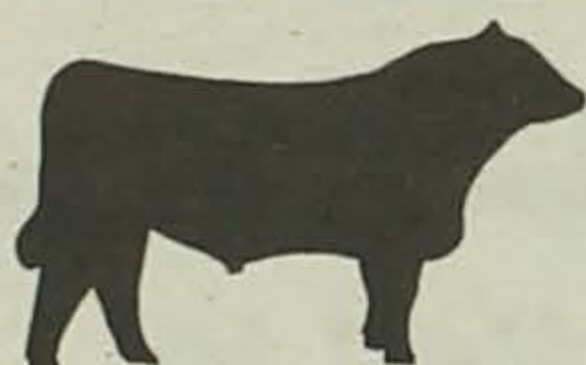
As I write this article, the weather outside is beautiful and I have forgotten the cold north winds of just a couple months ago. But reality sets in and I know the importance of a farmstead windbreak. Others, I know are already thinking about planting a windbreak or renovating an old windbreak. If not a windbreak, then maybe just adding a few trees and/or shrubs to your yard.

The Cass County S.W.C.D. started the tree sales program in 2001. It does not limit anyone from purchasing the bare-root stock or potted trees because you do not "own" the ground on which you want to plant the trees/shrubs. Each year since we started the program, we have added something new to give you, our customers, a better selection of trees and shrubs. Our bare-root stock consists of seedlings and transplants ranging from \$1 - \$2.50 each. These are sold in bundles of five and 10, depending on the species. Potted trees are \$16 - \$21 each, also depending on the species. The trees will be delivered and ready for you to pick up on April 12 so we urge you to stop in the office at 503 West Seventh Street or call 243-3180 for further information. Proceeds from the tree sales is used to enhance our education program. A few of them are 1) Scholarships to graduating seniors from Cass County; 2) Sixth grade field day held annually at the Ralph Simmons pond and 3) sponsor teams to participate in the Envirothon Contest held annually, as well as other educational activities. We are offering three scholarships this year instead of two and have sponsored three Envirothon teams instead of two.

Any inventory of stock left by April 12 may be seen at the Cass County Fairgrounds and purchased that day, but to guarantee your order, please stop in the office as soon as possible.

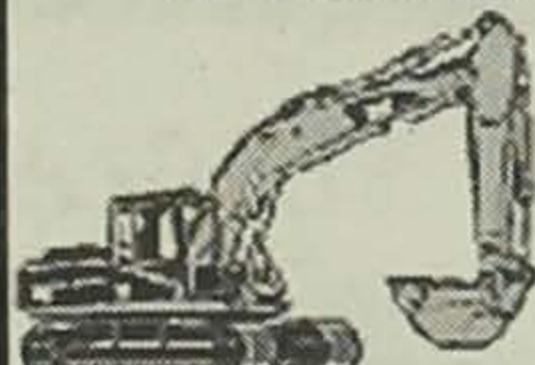
The cost-share rate for a windbreak is 75 percent up to \$1,200. Check with the staff for more information on eligibility.

ANGUS BULLS

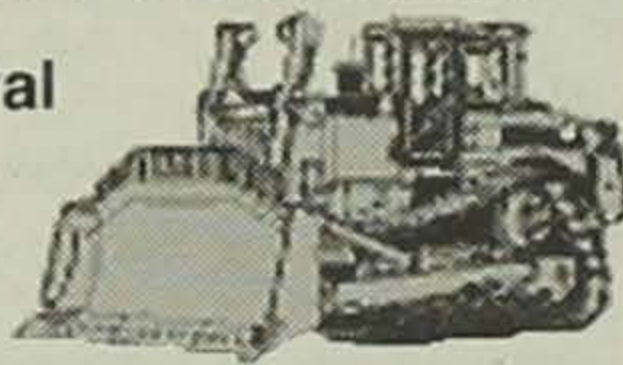


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'86 W-900 KW 3406, 13-spd.
'92 T-400 KW L-10, 9-spd., air ride

Grain Trucks

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'84 GMC 18 ft. box
'86 KW W-900 new alum. 18 ft. box
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I-M Budget

(Office Supplies/Expenses/Commissioners Expenses)
July 1, 2003 - June 30, 2004

03-04 Allocation	\$1,500.00
Commissioners Mileage/Expenses*	\$280.80
Office supplies/expenses	\$684.96
Association Dues (portion paid from I-M)	\$534.24
Total Expenditures	\$1,500.00
*After 1/15/04 all mileage was paid from District's Revolving Fund	

02-03 Allocation	\$53,939.26
(Period covers July 1, 2002-December 31, 2004)	
Cost-share warrants paid	\$53,939.26
Balance of Unobligated 2002-03 Funds	\$0.00

03-04 Allocation	\$76,459.55
(Period covers July 1, 2003-December 31, 2004)	
Cost-share warrants paid	\$76,459.55
Balance of Unobligated 2003-04 Funds	\$0.00

04-05 Allocation	\$73,113.00
(Period covers July 1, 2004-December 31, 2004)	
Cost-share warrants paid	\$42,886.14
Obligated Expenditures	\$9,562.50
	\$52,448.64
Balance of Unobligated 2004-05 funds	\$20,664.36

No-Interest Loan Fund (RLF)	
	\$487.88
Warrants paid	\$0.00
Balance of Unobligated No-Interest Loan Fund	\$487.88

2004 REAP FUNDS	
(Period covers July 1, 2003-June 30, 2004)	
REAP-P (Practices) Allocation	\$11,005.61
Warrants Paid	\$11,005.61
Balance of Unobligated REAP-P Funds	\$0.00
REAP-F (Forestry/Native Grass) Allocation	\$3,279.00
Warrants Paid	\$3,279.00
Balance of Unobligated REAP-Forestry/Native Grass Funds	\$0.00

District's Revolving Fund	
Balance on hand July 1, 2003	\$9,722.45
Receipts:	
I-M Reimbursement	\$1,500.00
Tree Sales	\$13,559.93
Contributions	\$75.00
Watersheds	\$55,953.84
Miscellaneous	\$276.38
	\$71,365.15
Expenditures:	
Commissioners Expenses	\$418.80
Postage	\$1,047.72
Education/Meeting	\$1,505.18
Office Supplies/Expenses	\$320.62
Association Dues	\$1,525.00
Tree/Shrub	\$9,105.99
Miscellaneous	\$329.31
Watersheds	\$55,883.34
	\$70,135.96
Balance on hand June 30, 2004	\$10,951.64

Grass Drill Fund	
Balance on hand July 1, 2003	\$10,814.84
Receipts:	
Drill Rental Fees	\$5,840.00
Expenditures:	
Refunds	\$30.00
Supplies/Repairs	\$802.86
Insurance	\$341.00
Payroll	\$477.67
	\$1,651.53
Balance on hand June 30, 2004	\$15,003.31

Payroll/District Employees	
Balance on hand July 1, 2003	\$1,596.55
Receipts:	
Cass County Auditor	\$2,150.00
	\$3,746.55
Expenditures:	
Payroll	\$2,915.55
Payroll taxes, benefits	\$743.00
Treasurer of State	\$88.00
	\$3,746.55
Balance on hand June 30, 2004	\$0.00

Contributors in 2004

William Dimig
Roger Ford
Marjorie Ford

The Cass District did not solicit contributions during this fiscal year but some offered a contribution, nevertheless. We sincerely thank these people for their generous giving which will benefit our Education Fund.

President Bush reinforces commitment to cooperative conservation in 2006 budget

President Bush continued to build on the legacy of cooperative conservation established in his first term by supporting programs in the 2006 budget that promote partnerships with the American people to conserve our nation's land and water, wildlife and other natural resources.

The Interior, Agriculture, and Commerce departments and the Environmental Protection Agency all fund key partnership programs that will empower states, tribes, local communities, conservation groups, private landowners and others to undertake conservation projects. These projects range from wetlands restoration efforts occurring along Ball Bay on Upper Klamath Lake; to the removal of invasive plants in Palm Beach, Fla.; to the development and implementation of self-regulating strategies to mitigate the trend of declining marine populations in Kenai Fjords, Alaska.

The funding supports the president's executive order signed last year on "Facilitation of Cooperative Conservation." The order directs the secretaries of the Interior, Agriculture, Commerce, and Defense and the administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to promote conservation partnerships and to empower local participation in programs and projects that protect and conserve natural resources and the environment.

"From his first day in office, the president has made it clear that he believes the best thing we can do for conservation is to tap into the energy, ingenuity and love for the land of the American people," said Interior Secretary Gale A. Norton. "This budget reaffirms the president's commitment to cooperative conservation."

"The heart of voluntary conservation programs is cooperative conservation," said Agriculture Secretary Mike Johanns. "Partnerships at the local, state, and federal levels with landowners, tribes, government agencies and nongovernmental organizations are critical in this effort."

Agriculture Department

The president's budget for the Agriculture Department for fiscal year 2006 supports the direction provided in the executive order. With the budget, the department will continue to implement cooperative conservation in all relevant programs.

The fiscal year 2006 budget includes increases in several programs that support cooperative conservation, including a 4.1 percent increase for the Conservation Reserve Program, the federal government's largest conservation program on private lands. The \$2.02 billion for the Conservation Reserve Program supports USDA's goal of part-

nering with landowners to protect land, water and wildlife by planting grass and trees on retired agricultural land.

In addition to the Conservation Reserve Program key commitments in Agriculture's conservation budget include:

- \$657 million for the Conservation Technical Assistance Program that provides technical capability, including direct conservation planning and implementation assistance, to help people plan and apply conservation on the land. The president's budget reflects an increase of \$37 million for assisting owners and operators of animal feeding operations and an increase of \$11 million for the Grazing Lands Conservation Initiative specifically targeted at invasive species.

- \$274 million for the Conservation Security Program that provides financial and technical assistance to promote the conservation and improvement

of soil, water, air, energy, plant and animal life on tribal and private working lands.

- \$1 billion for the Environmental Quality Incentives Program that helps farmers and ranchers improve soil, air and water quality and related resources on private working lands.

- \$321 million for the Wetlands Reserve Program that helps landowners restore, enhance and protect wetlands. The program works to maximize wildlife habitat and wetland functions and values.

- \$60 million for the Ground and Surface Water Conservation program. This \$9 million increase provides for cost-share and incentive payments to carry out water conservation activities, including irrigation improvements, conversion to less water intensive crops, and dryland farming.

- \$60 million for the Wildlife

Bush see page 6

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Bush *continued from page five*

Habitat Incentives Program to protect and restore essential plant and animal habitat using cost-share agreements with private land owners.

In FY 2006, the USDA Forest Service will emphasize collaborative action and partnerships by leveraging more than \$500 million in partnership and collaborative work to restore watersheds, reduce hazardous fuels, and conduct joint research, construct trails, educate our youth and support economies in rural communities.

The Forest Service's State and Private Forestry program will provide a total of more than \$253 million, including:

- \$37 million, an increase of \$5 million from FY 2005, for the Forest Stewardship Program to provide technical and financial assistance to states to help non-federal landowners manage and conserve forest resources.
- \$80 million, an increase of \$23 million from FY 2005, for the Forest Legacy Program to protect environmentally sensitive forest areas across all ownerships threatened by conversion to nonforest uses.
- \$27 million in Urban and Community Forestry to protect America's natural resources by providing technical and financial assistance to local governments with a nationwide emphasis on maintaining, restoring and improving the livability of communities and urban areas through management of natural resources.

The Forest Service's Wildland Fire Management program will provide \$49 million in forest health, state fire assistance and volunteer fire assistance programs. In addition, the Forest Service's FY 2006 budget will assist in cooperative conservation through:

- \$281 million for the Hazardous Fuels program to maintain and restore forest and rangeland health from catastrophic wildfire.
- \$68 million for Research and Development's Forest Inventory and Analysis program (an increase of \$13 million from FY 2005) to provide the information needed to assess America's forests through its annual forest census.
- \$41 million for the Land Acquisition program to protect critical resource areas and to provide increased public recreation opportunities.
- \$5 million to the Forest Products Laboratory (Madison, Wis.) to implement the biomass component of the Healthy Forest Restoration Act through grants to nonprofit and local communities.
- \$3 million to the National Forest Foundation for use on conservation-related project grants and agreements that incorporate matching funds from partners.
- \$2 million to the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation for use on conservation-related project grants and agreements that incorporate matching funds from

partners.

• \$22 million in Challenge Cost-Share agreements from various budget line items, which will generate approximately \$24 million in partner contributions, for a total contribution of \$44 million.

• \$108 million in forest management trust funds.

• \$33 million in Resource Advisory Committees for local community collaboration with federal land managers in recommending projects to be conducted on federal lands or that will benefit resources on federal lands.

Interior Department

The president's budget for the Interior Department includes an increase of \$75.1 million, or 24.6 percent, for a suite of cooperative conservation grant and partnership programs administered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Bureau of Land Management and the National Park Service. These programs emphasize local input and cooperative decision making to achieve land management and resource goals. As a package, they are specifically designed to address conservation goals on both federal and private lands.

The 2006 budget includes:

- \$40 million, an 84 percent increase, for the popular Landowner Incentive program, which provides cost-share grants to states to help landowners protect and manage habitat for threatened, endangered and at-

risk species on their property.

• \$10 million, a 45 percent increase, for the Private Stewardship Grant program that provides cost-share grants to individuals and groups engaged in conservation projects to benefit threatened, endangered and at-risk species.

• \$44.8 million, a 140 percent increase, for challenge cost share grants to allow Interior agencies to work together with adjacent communities, landowners and citizens to achieve common conservation goals on federal lands.

• \$74 million, an increase of 7 percent, for the State and Tribal Wildlife Grants program that provides cost-share grants to assist states and tribes to undertake wildlife conservation projects in partnership with local communities, private landowners and other partners.

• \$49.9 million, a 33 percent increase, for the North American Wetlands Conservation Fund that provides grant support for the highly successful, multi-national North American Waterfowl Management Plan to conserve, restore and enhance wetlands and other waterfowl habitat throughout the continent.

• \$52.2 million, an increase of 10 percent, for the Partners for Fish and Wildlife program that assists landowners in voluntary habitat restoration efforts on their property.

• \$14.9 million, an increase of 27 percent, for the Coastal Program that supports partnership efforts to conserve and

restore wetlands in coastal areas, including elimination of invasive species.

• \$12.9 million, a 26 percent increase, for Migratory Bird Joint Ventures to create six new joint ventures to support the goals of the North American Waterfowl Management Plan and other conservation partnerships, such as Partners in Flight, the U.S. Shorebird Conservation Plan and the North American Waterbird Conservation Plan.

• \$80 million for the Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund that provides grants to states for activities that conserve threatened and endangered species.

Commerce Department

The president's budget for the Commerce Department includes funding for a variety of cooperative conservation programs through the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

"The budget reflects the administration's support for NOAA's strategic goals, supports improved performance in NOAA and maintains essential environmental services for the nation," said Retired Navy Vice Adm. Conrad C. Lautenbacher, under secretary of commerce for oceans and atmosphere and NOAA administrator.

The budget includes:

• \$61.2 million to address regional ecosystem research priorities in coordination with state and regional organizations through NOAA's Sea Grants program.

• \$19.6 million for actions, coordinated with regional, state and tribal entities, aimed at protecting Pacific salmon stocks.

• \$1.5 million for the NOAA Coral Reef Program to work with states and territories to address threats to the nation's coral reefs.

• \$7.4 million in programs that support the Western Governor's Association's call for a National Integrated Drought Information System, including \$4 million for a Water Resources Initiative to support development of a nationwide water resources forecasting capability, which will provide America with economically valuable water and soil conditions. This increase supports a national water-quality monitoring and prediction system.

• \$3.8 million to accelerate nationwide implementation of ozone Air Quality forecasting capability from FY 2009 to FY 2008 and to deliver an initial particulate matter forecasting capability by FY 2011.

EPA

The president's budget includes increased funding for key EPA programs such as watershed protection, Brownfields redevelopment, and



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Bush see page 7

USDA awards more than \$22 million in environmental quality incentives program funds to 17 states

Agriculture Secretary Mike Johanns announced that \$22.2 million in Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) funds would be provided to 17 states for their high levels of performance in implementing the program during 2004.

"These funds will help farmers and ranchers improve soil, air and water resources on private working lands," Johanns said. "These awards recognize states that have achieved the greatest efficiency in delivering technical and financial assistance to agricultural producers. This program also helps producers comply with federal, state and local environmental regulations."

The states receiving the performance award are Alabama, Arkansas, Georgia, Idaho, Louisiana, Maine, Mississippi, Montana, New Mexico, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Texas, Utah, Washington and Wyoming.

EQIP is a voluntary conservation program for farmers and ranchers that promotes agricultural production and environmental quality as compatible national goals. EQIP offers financial and technical help to assist eligible participants implement structural and management practices on eligible agricultural land.

The program provides a performance incentive to optimize the overall environmental bene-

fits of EQIP. In awarding the incentive, USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service considered factors such as efficiency in providing technical assistance for conservation system applications, strategic planning and program implementation, degree of emphasis on funding comprehensive nutrient management plans with live-stock producers, use of technical service providers, and contracts with limited resource farmers and ranchers.

Funding allocated per state: State Funding

Alabama	\$1,461,988
Arkansas	\$1,461,988
Georgia	\$1,169,591
Idaho	\$1,461,988
Louisiana	\$1,461,988

Maine	\$1,315,789
Mississippi	\$1,315,789
Montana	\$1,315,789
New Mexico	\$1,169,591
North Dakota	\$1,169,591
Ohio	\$1,315,789
Oklahoma	\$1,461,988
South Carolina	\$1,315,789
Texas	\$1,169,591
Utah	\$1,315,789
Washington	\$1,169,591
Wyoming	\$1,169,591
Total	\$22,222,220

Additional information on EQIP can be found at <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/eqip>.

Story courtesy of National Reserve Conservation Service



Bush

continued from page six

the Great Lakes Legacy Program that are built upon effective community involvement and partnerships.

The president's budget is requesting \$50 million, an increase of nearly \$28 million, for the Great Lakes Legacy Program, which is a large-scale collaboration among the federal government, the Great Lakes states, local communities, tribes and others.

The president's budget also calls for \$210 million, a \$46.9 million increase, in the Brownfields Program that will accelerate the cleanup and renewal of contaminated lands.

"Through programs such as these, EPA continues to build on the four cornerstones of new technologies, market incentives, collaborative networks and results to achieve greater gains in environmental protection," said EPA Acting Administrator Steve Johnson. "We are able to foster healthy communities and leverage billions of additional dollars to improve our nation's air, land and water."

Story courtesy of National Resource Conservation Service

USDA pilots conservation innovation grants state-level competitions in 12 states and the Pacific Basin

U.S. Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service Chief Bruce Knight announced that 12 states and the Pacific Basin will pilot state-level Conservation Innovation Grants (CIG) in fiscal year 2005. State-level competitions will be available in California, Colorado, Iowa, Louisiana, Mississippi, Montana, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, North Dakota, Texas and the Pacific Basin.

CIG, a component of the Environmental Quality Incentives Program, provides farmers and ranchers with the opportunity, through innovation, to address some of the country's most pressing natural resource conservation needs.

"These grants offer an opportunity to promote public-private partnerships and support the President's agenda to provide innovative technologies and approaches to environmental enhancement and protection on working agricultural lands. The state component will provide flexibility for NRCS state conservationists to target CIG funds to individual producers, groups of producers and smaller organizations that submit proposals to address the priority natural resource concerns in the state," Knight said.

The CIG final rule, published in the Federal Register on Jan. 11, 2005, provides for both a national and a state component. The state component is designed to complement the national grant competition announced by USDA on Jan. 11, 2005. Funding availability and detailed application and submission information for the distinct state-level competitions will be announced through public notices, separate from the national program.

In general, the CIG state component will use the same requirements and procedures established for the national competition. In the pilot states, members of the State Technical Committee will evaluate proposals based on the criteria for proposal evaluation identified in the national request for proposals issued Jan. 11, 2005. Final award decisions will be determined by the NRCS state conservationist.

Applicants may apply for both the state and nationwide grants, but must submit separate applications. Proposals will be funded by only one competition.

Selected applicants may receive grants up to 50 percent of the total project cost. Applicants must provide nonfederal matching funds for at least 50 percent of the project cost, of which up to 50 percent may be from in-kind contributions. The federal CIG contribution for any individual grant may not exceed \$75,000 at the state level.

Information on CIG is on the Web at <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/cig>.

Story courtesy of Natural Resources Conservation Service



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• Kinze 2600	16-30-31	TRACTORS	
• Kinze 2600	12-30-23	★New Versatile Tractors★	
• Kinze 2500	8-30-15	• Ford TW20	5000 hrs.
• Kinze RF flex	8RW-19	• Ford TW35 MFD	3000 hrs
• JD 7200	12-30-23	• JD 3155 MFD	6000 hrs
• JD 7200	8RW-15	• JD 7810 MFD	3400 hrs
• JD 7200	8-30-15	• Case D33 MFD	150 hrs
• JD 7000 flex	12-30	USED EQUIP.	
• JD 7000	12-20	• Kinze 1050	Tracks
• JD 7000	6-30	• Kinze 1050	Fltr Tires
• JD 1780	16-30-31	• Kz 1050 Cart	Row crop
• JD 1770	24-30	• Kz 1040 Row crop	
• JD 455	30'	• Kinze 850	w/ scales
• JD 1530 - no till drill	20'	• Kinze 840	Grain Cart
		• Brent 774	w/ scales
		• JD 726 soil finisher	24'

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Conservation Field Day for sixth graders

Due to inclement weather, the sixth grade conservation field day was held at Sunnyside Park on May 18 instead of at the property owned by Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Simmons in section 14, Benton Township. There were 115 sixth graders from Atlantic in attendance.

The students were divided into 11 groups which rotated through eleven different conservation stations. Each session was approximately 15-20 minutes in length. The stations were as follows: 1) soils (Instructors Rick Bednarek and Dan Pulido); 2) conservation golf (Instructor Margaret Henderson); 3) waterways and CRP (Instructor Gary Wolfe); 4) terraces (Instructor Duane Ortgies); 5) survey instruments (instructors Bob Anderson and Dennis Hockenberry); 6) ponds (Instructor John Klein); 7) Farm Safety 4 Just Kids (Instructor Mike Cooley); 8) trees (Instructor Jeremy Cochran, District Forester); 9) Backyard Conservation/Sustainable Agriculture (Instructor Denise O'Brien); 10) GPS (Instructor Ken O'Brien, Pelgrow); and 11) DNR birds and furs (Instructor Eric Sansgaard, Conservation Officer).

In spite of the weather, it was an enjoyable event for the students, chaperones, teachers, and the presenters. Special treats were provided to all the students and presenters. The Cass County Soil and Water Conservation District would like to thank the Simmons' again for making their land available for the field day even though it couldn't be used this year and a special thank you to all the presenters that volunteered their time to made the day a success.



Bob Anderson (left) and Dennis Hockenberry explain surveying of conservation practices and to read the rod.

Photo contributed



Mike Cooley (standing) Instructor for Farm Safety 4 Just Kids, explains to Atlantic sixth graders the importance of farm safety.

Photo contributed



Duane Ortgies, Soil Conservation Technician, points out the benefit of terraces with an explanation of tile outlet for the terraces.

Photo contributed



Gary Wolfe isn't really holding the students back. He's explaining how waterways function with the proper upland treatment and the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP).

Photo contributed



Dan Pulido, NRCS Soil Scientist (middle) explains soil texture to these sixth grade students.

Photo contributed

