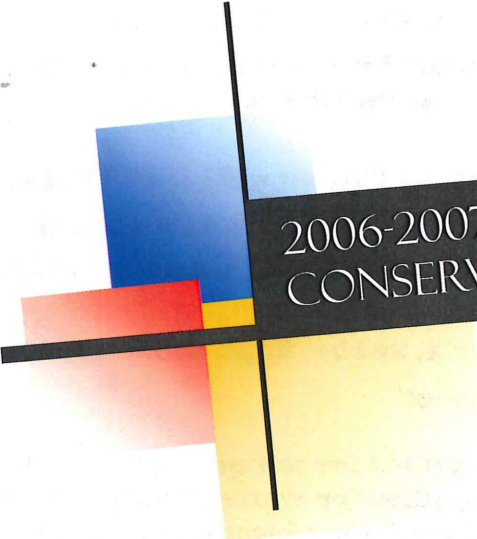




Tom E. Oswald

2006-2007 CHEROKEE COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT ANNUAL REPORT

314 Lake Street
Cherokee, Iowa 51012

We the Commissioners of the Cherokee County Soil and Water Conservation District are pleased to present this Annual Report of conservation accomplishments. It reflects the efforts of many individuals and groups working together to improve our environment through conservation programs. We hope our cooperative working relations continue as we work to protect our natural resources.

The District is always ready to assist you with any conservation problem you may have.

Along with the landowners and operators in the county we would like to thank the government agencies, news media, schools, and individuals that have assisted in the promotion and application of soil and water conservation.

Cherokee County District Commissioners



District Commissioners

Back row from L-R: Randy Husman, Aurelia; Joe Hueser, Marcus; Tom Oswald, Cleghorn; Tom Bindner, Marcus; and Linda Bindner, Marcus (Assistant Commissioner). Front row L-R: Pam Pierce, Cherokee and Ginger Walker, Aurelia (Assistant Commissioner).

SECRETARY NORTHEY ENCOURAGES FARMERS TO USE NEW ONLINE OPTION TO MANAGE CONSERVATION PRACTICES

If you haven't done so already, I encourage you to take advantage of the new FARMS (Financial and Reports Management System) website, which allows you to sign-up for and manage participation in many of the conservation programs offered by the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship.

This new web program is designed to make it easier for farmers to register and get conservation practices on the ground. There remains a great demand for filter strips, grass-waterways, and other projects that reduce runoff and improve water quality. This website will help ensure those projects happen.

Farmers can visit <https://idals.iowa.gov/FARMS/> to learn more about the programs offered and even apply for assistance. If you have previously received assistance, you can use the site to monitor the status of your projects.

In addition to making it more convenient to make inquiries and apply for assistance, the new program is designed to increase the responsiveness to requests for cost-share assistance and, as a result, speed up the processing of payments for landowners.

Your Soil and Water Conservation District and Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship will also realize benefits of the program. They will be more responsive to requests, have faster and less costly processing of payments, be able to better gauge demand for conservation measures, as well as track the progress of application of soil conservation and water quality measures on the agriculture landscape.

When you are out in the combine and running grain carts or scouting your fields in the spring, take a good look at your land and see if any areas could benefit from additional conservation practices. This new program will allow you to quickly apply when and where it's convenient to you to address problem areas.

Iowa farmers are great stewards of the land and this new resource will help you continue that tradition.

PERSONNEL

Commissioners

Tom Oswald, Chairman	Cleghorn
Randy Husman, Vice-Chair	Aurelia
Pam Pierce, Co-Treasurer	Cherokee
Tom Bindner, Co-Treasurer	Marcus
Joe Hueser	Marcus

Assistant Commissioners

Linda Bindner	Marcus
Ginger Walker	Aurelia

Field Office Staff

Renee Braun	District Conservationist
Julia Gubbels	Soil Conservation Tech.
Randy Jipp	State Technician
Amy Johnson	District Technician
Michelle Harman	District Technician
Tracy Rasmussen	State Secretary



Back row left to right: Julia Gubbels, Michelle Harman, and Renee Braun. Front row left to right: Tracy Rasmussen & Randy Jipp.

CONTRIBUTIONS

Contributions are the primary source for financing educational and promotional activities. We would like to thank the following contributors who donated money from October 2006 through September 2007. Your generosity is greatly appreciated.

- **Bruce & Donna Amundson - Larrabee**
- **Keith & Joan Ballantyne - Cherokee**
 - **Mike & Pam Cronin - Cleghorn**
- **Escue Auction & Realty - Cherokee**
- **First Cooperative Assoc. - Cherokee**
 - **Gustafson Realty - Cherokee**
 - **Randy & Kay Jipp - Aurelia**
- **Lundell Construction Co. Inc. - Cherokee**
- **Marvin Flewelling Earthmoving - Merville**
 - **McGuire Auction Co. Inc. - Holstein**
 - **Sand Seed Service, Inc. Marcus**
 - **Dale Jr. & Bonnie Sleezer - Aurelia**
 - **Stalcup Ag Service, Storm Lake**
- **Western Cherokee Mutual Insurance Assoc. - Marcus**
- **Wyatt Yon Trust - Storm Lake**

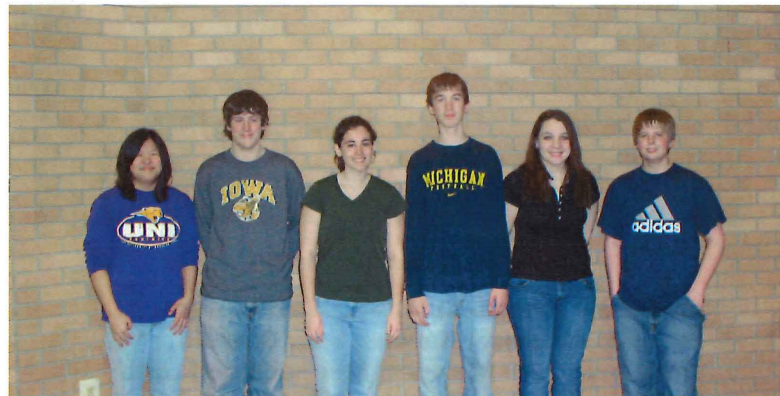
In Kind Contributions \$2256.76

Financial support for program delivery \$30,676.16 at the District level.

Cherokee County Soil & Water Conservation District And Natural Resources Conservation Service Accomplishments

(October 1, 2006– September 30, 2007)

Brush Management	12 ac
CNMP	4 no.
Conservation applied for soil quality	11,148 ac
Conservation applied for water quality	10,615 ac
Conservation Completion Incentive (1st yr)	3 no.
Conservation Cover	507 ac
Conservation Plans Written	10,922 ac
Contour Farming	549 ac
Field Border	6752 ft
Filter Strip	6 ac
Firebreak	8280 ft
Forage Harvest Management	85 ac
Grade Stabilization Structure	1 no.
Grassed Waterway	36 ac
Nutrient Management	3954 ac
Pasture & Hay Planting	85 ac
Pest Management	262 ac
Prescribed Burning	34 ac
Residue & Tillage Mngt, Mulch Till	4781 ac
Residue & Tillage Mngt, No-Till/Strip Till/Direct Seed	1834 ac
Restor/Mngt of Rare & Declining Habitats	79 ac
Sediment Basin	2 no.
Subsurface Drain	37,439 ft
Terrace	37,130 ft
Tree/Shrub Establishment	5 ac
Upland Wildlife Habitat Mngt	298 ac
Waste Storage Facility	2 no.
Water & Sediment Control Basin	9 no.
Wetland Restoration	107 ac
Wetland Wildlife Habitat Mngt	162 ac
Windbreak/Shelterbelt Estab.	1922 ft



Cherokee County's First Envirothon Team

Washington High School team members from left to right: Paige Steineke (alternate), John Bieber, Amanda Kohn, Cory Bryant, Bailey Stoneking, and Jacob Lewis.

2007 Conservation Poster Contest "Conservation's Power"

We had more kids than ever participate in the Soil and Water Conservation Poster Contest this past year. Assistant Commissioner, Ginger Walker, went to the schools to talk to the students about renewable and non-renewable energy sources and how we as individuals can reduce energy usage. Posters were judged on the following criteria: conservation message - 50%, visual effectiveness - 30%, universal appeal - 10%, and originality - 10%. For the first time, the District hosted an Awards Banquet in April at the Cherokee Community Center for all the poster contest participants. Certificates were presented to all participating students. Afterwards, certificates, ribbons, and cash awards were given out to the first, second, and third place winners. Refreshments were served following the program. Sarah McDermott was the overall winner and her poster was sent on to compete in the Conservation Districts of Iowa Regional level. All posters were on display during June at the Sanford Museum in Cherokee.

Aurelia 4th Grade

Mary Brinkman, Teacher

1st Place – Grace Weiland

2nd Place – Erica Lockin

3rd Place – Alexander Schlafer

Aurelia 5th Grade

Mary Brinkman, Teacher

1st Place – Tayler Rohwer

2nd Place – Elizabeth Carlson

3rd Place – Mikayla Tuttle

Cherokee 4th Grade

**Vicki Freed, Kasey Stowater,
Meribeth Adams, and Jim Shima, Teachers**

1st Place – Nathan Johnson

2nd Place – Halie Kraft

3rd Place – Emily Haselhoff

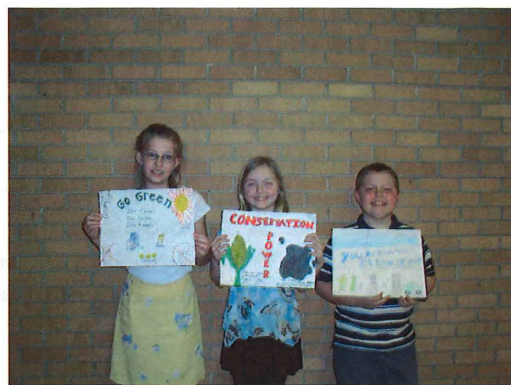
Marcus-Meriden-Cleghorn 4th Grade

Jan Brown and Missy Utesch, Teachers

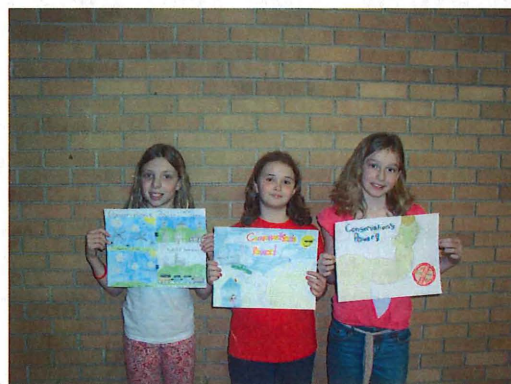
1st Place – Sarah McDermott

2nd Place – Tana Jones

3rd Place – Kaya Hantsbarger



4th Grade Aurelia Winners from Left to Right: Grace Weiland, Erica Lockin, and Alexander Schlafer.



5th Grade Aurelia Winners from Left to Right: Tayler Rohwer, Elizabeth Carlson, and Mikayla Tuttle.



4th Grade Cherokee Winners from Left to Right: Nathan Johnson, Halie Kraft, and Emily Haselhoff.



4th Grade MMC Winners from Left to Right: Sarah McDermott, Tana Jones, and Kaya Hantsbarger.

Scholarships Awarded

The Cherokee County SWCD branched out and awarded three scholarships to graduating high school seniors pursuing careers in Agriculture or Natural Resources. A \$300.00 scholarship was awarded to Joseph Wilcox and \$100.00 scholarships were given to Mitchell Erdman and Christopher Smith.

Joseph, the son of Mark and Sara Wilcox of rural Marcus, is a 2007 graduate of MMC. He has one brother and two sisters. While in high school, Joe participated in Baseball, Football, FCA, Band, Choir, 4-H, and church youth group. He was a member of the National Honor Society, Student Council, and Purple Hands. He also participated in the Mentor A Kid Program and was a MMC Leadership Team Member. Joe enjoys fishing, hunting, hanging out with friends on the weekends, and playing card games. He is also a sports enthusiast. Joe is currently attending Iowa State University in Ames where he is studying Agricultural Engineering. He would like to eventually get into the Bio-fuels field.

Mitchell, the son of Timothy and Marjorie Erdman of rural Marcus, is also a 2007 graduate of MMC. Mitch has two brothers. While in high school, Mitch participated in Football, Wrestling, Track, CYO, and Kindergarten Walking Club. He was also on the Homecoming Skit Committee and was a Homecoming King Candidate. Mitch enjoys golfing, hunting, fishing, snowmobiling, and camping. He is currently attending Iowa State University where he is studying Animal Science. He would eventually like to apply to the Veterinarian School and come back to his hometown to work with local farmers and help with the family farm.

Christopher, the son of Jerome and Linda Smith of rural Cherokee, is a 2007 graduate of Washington High School in Cherokee. He has one brother and one sister. While in high school, Chris participated in Football and was a NFL flag football coach. He was also a member of the National Honor Society and the local Pheasants Forever Chapter. His hobbies include hunting, fishing, hiking, camping, and trapping. Chris is currently studying Natural Resource Ecology and Management at Iowa State University. He would like to pursue a career in Fisheries Management.

Best wishes go to each of the recipients of the Cherokee County Soil and Water Conservation District Scholarship as they further their education and pursue careers in Agriculture and Natural Resources.



Joseph Wilcox



Mitchell Erdman



Christopher Smith

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

The Cherokee Soil and Water Conservation District is again taking orders for bare root trees and shrubs. Proceeds from the tree sales are used to enhance our education program. In recent years, tree proceeds have enabled us to give ag scholarships to graduating seniors from Cherokee County, sponsor a Conservation Poster Contest for area fourth graders, and sponsor a Grazing Conference for local farmers.

Species available in Deciduous Trees are: Arrowwood, River Birch, Silver Maple, Sugar Maple, Bur Oak, Red Oak, Black Walnut, and Hybrid Willow. Shrubs available include: ChokeCherry, American Cranberry, Red Dogwood, ElderBerry, Villosa Lilac, NannyBerry, Ninebark, and American Plum. Conifers available are: Concolor Fir, Ponderosa Pine, Black Hills Spruce, and Norway Spruce. Other varieties may be available upon request. All deciduous trees and shrubs will be 2 to 3 foot tall and conifers range from 7" - 15". They will be excellent stock for use in riparian buffer plantings, wildlife plantings, or farmstead and feedlot windbreaks. The trees will be delivered and ready for you to pick up in mid April. Order early for good selection.

The District still has cost share available for windbreaks. 75% cost share up to \$15.00 per tree and \$2.25 per shrub can be received through the Resource Enhancement and Protection (REAP) Program. A person may receive up to \$1200.00 cost share per year on windbreaks. As of July 1, 2007 applicants no longer need to farm or own more than ten acres of land. Now would be a good time to apply as cost share funds are still available and there is still time for planning. A Soil Conservation Technician will assist all applicants on the design of the windbreak and come up with a cost estimate for the project. To apply for REAP cost share stop in our office. A belt of trees or shrubs established next to a farmstead, acreage, or feedlot can conserve energy, control snow deposition, prevent wind damage to farmsteads, provide shelter for livestock, beautify an area or improve an area of wildlife.



Low Interest Loans Available for Conservation Practices

The Cherokee Soil and Water Conservation District is offering a new program to area landowners. A product of the Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF), the Local Water Protection Program (LWPP) will offer three percent loans for water quality projects in an effort to reduce the amount of sediment, nutrients, and pesticides negatively impacting local streams and lakes.

Landowners can use the low interest loan to cover 100 percent of the costs - up to \$50,000 - associated with water quality protection projects such as terraces, waste storage structures, water and sediment control basins, pasture and hay land planting, and grade stabilization structures.

The LWPP is a revolving loan fund that can provide \$6 million in loans each year. A linked deposit loan structure enables landowners to work with their personal lenders. Lenders participating with the program agree to provide loans at no more than 3% with terms up to ten years. A list of participating lenders is available at www.ifaprograms.com.

Participating lenders are offering a real service to their customers - Most realize the important role their customers play in protecting water quality.

Applications are now being accepted year round by the Cherokee SWCD. Livestock water quality projects under \$50,000 are eligible under the LWPP, however, it is limited to smaller animal feeding operations. New animal waste structures or projects involving concentrated animal feeding operations are not eligible.

For further program details you can contact the Cherokee SWCD or Tony Toigo with the Division of Soil Conservation at tony.toigo@idals.state.ia.us or by phone at 515-281-6148.

Apply Now for REAP Cost Share on a windbreak.

Cherokee Soil & Water Conservation District

2007-2008 Trees For Sale

Deciduous Trees	Bundle	Type	Size	Price/Bundle	Quantity	Total
Arrowwood	10	S	2-3'	\$20.75		
River Birch	25	S	2-3'	\$43.00		
Silver Maple	25	S	3-4'	\$41.25		
Sugar Maple	25	S	18-24"	\$40.00		
Bur Oak	10	S	2-3'	\$15.50		
Red Oak	25	S	2-3'	\$43.00		
Black Walnut	25	S	2-3'	\$43.00		
Hybrid Willow	25	S	2-3'	\$44.00		
Shrubs	Bundle	Type	Size	Price/Bundle	Quantity	Total
ChokeCherry	25	S	2-3'	\$34.00		
American Cranberry	10	S	2-3'	\$22.50		
Red Dogwood	10	TR	2-3'	\$18.50		
ElderBerry	25	S	2-3'	\$41.00		
Villosa Lilac	10	TR	2-3'	\$18.50		
NannyBerry	10	S	2-3'	\$22.50		
Ninebark	10	TR	2-3'	\$22.50		
American Plum	25	S	2-3'	\$41.00		
Bare-root Evergreens	Bundle	Type	Size	Price/Bundle	Quantity	Total
Concolor Fir	10	TR	7-15"	\$15.00		
Ponderosa Pine	10	TR	7-15"	\$11.00		
Black Hills Spruce	10	TR	8-12"	\$14.00		
Norway Spruce	10	TR	7-15"	\$13.00		
	Tube		Size	Price/Tube	Quantity	Total
Tree Tubes			60"	\$4.25		

S (Seedling) - TR (Transplant)

Profit from tree sales is used for conservation education projects

Other varieties may be available upon request - please give us a call

No survival guarantee on stock sold at these prices.

All orders are subject to availability, quantities are limited; please be sure to order early to insure your best selection.

For an order form give us a call at 712-225-4151 or stop by our office at 314 Lake Street in Cherokee.

We Have REAP Cost Share Available For Windbreaks!

2007 DISTRICT ACTIVITIES

January

- * Randy Husman and Joe Hueser took the oath of office.
- * Officers were elected: Tom Oswald, Chair; Randy Husman, Vice-Chair; Pamela Pierce and Tom Bindner, Co-treasurers; and Tracy Rasmussen, Secretary.
- * Ginger Walker and Linda Bindner were reappointed Assistant Commissioners.
- * District Cost-Share Policies, Average Costs, and No-Till Incentive Program were approved.
- * The District requested \$23,710.00 in supplemental state cost share funds which it received in February.
- * Five conservation signs were installed around the county with Legacy Foundation funds.

February

- * Assistant Commissioner Ginger Walker visited the Aurelia, Cherokee, and MMC schools to go over the poster contest. She also did a presentation on this year's theme - "Conservation's Power".
- * Cherokee's Washington High School Envirothon students received training through the Legacy Foundation Grant on Forestry, Soils, Aquatics, and Wildlife.
- * Annual Report completed.
- * Received \$7077.12 in District Buffer Initiative funds for District employee.

March

- * The Cherokee SWCD hosted the Northwest Iowa Regional Envirothon which is an environmental competition for high schools.
- * Tom Oswald, Tom Bindner, Randy Husman, Renee Braun, and Tracy Rasmussen attended the Spring Regional at the Prairie Heritage Center by Peterson.
- * Scholarship applications were reviewed and posters judged.
- * Priority Development Work Session was held.

April

- * District tree sales profit benefited the Education Fund.
- * Poster Contest Banquet was held at the Cherokee Community Center. Certificates were presented to all the participants and winners from each school received cash awards, ribbons, and certificates.
- * Watershed inspections were completed.
- * Randy Husman, Tom & Linda Bindner, and Renee Braun attended a Little Sioux Works Committee Meeting.

May

- * Soil Stewardship Week (April 29 - May 5), was observed by supplying conservation placemats to three restaurants in Cherokee County.

- * Scholarships were presented to the three winners.

June

- * 4th and 5th grade posters were on display at the Sanford Museum.
- * District Cost Share Policy and Average Costs were amended.

July

- * Conservation Tour was held.
- * Bob Waters, IDALS Watershed Coordinator, talked to the District about grant opportunities available.
- * IDALS' web-based Financial and Reports Management System for managing various Soil and Water Conservation programs went live.
- * The District was approved for \$8000.00 in Farm Bill VI funds for CRP work.

August

- * Field Office Staff attended the All Employee Meeting in Storm Lake.
- * Tom Oswald, Tom & Linda Bindner, Pam Pierce, Ginger Walker, and Renee Braun attended a meeting with the State Conservationist in Spencer.
- * Tom Oswald, Tom & Linda Bindner, and Renee Braun attended Fall Regionals near Akron.
- * Performed District Audit.
- * Annual Work Plan was approved.

September

- * The District was approved for an additional \$5000.00 of Farm Bill VI funds.
- * The District paid their CDI dues.
- * The District received \$25,148.00 in supplemental State Cost Share funds.
- * Submitted an application to the State Soil Conservation Committee to designate the Little Sioux as a Priority Watershed.
- * REAP post card mailing was sent out.

October

- * Tree order forms were mailed out to past customers and prospects.

November

- * Tom Oswald and Tom & Linda Bindner attended the CDI Annual Conference in Ames.
- * Received \$20,000 in Buffer Initiative funds.
- * The Little Sioux was approved as a REAP Priority Watershed.
- * Soil & Water Conservation Week was observed the last week in November.

December

- * Contribution letters were sent out.
- * Annual Report was completed.

STATE FUNDING

(July 1, 2006 – June 30, 2007)

IFIP 2004-05 Fund (Cost-Sharing)

Allocation	\$ 25,872.00
Total cost-share paid	25,716.49
Total approved & pending	0.00
Recalled to DSC 12/31/06	<u>155.51</u>
Balance 6/30/07	\$ 0.00

IFIP 2005-06 Fund (Cost-Sharing)

Allocation	\$ 49,497.76
Total cost-share paid	46091.50
Total approved & pending	1922.00
Recalled to DSC 12/31/06	<u>1484.26</u>
Balance 6/30/07	\$ 0.00

IFIP 2006-07 Fund (Cost-Sharing)

Allocation	\$ 61,920.50
Total cost-share paid	24,830.75
Total approved & pending	<u>37,089.75</u>
Balance 6/30/07	\$ 0.00

REAP Practices Fund 2007

Allocation	\$ 7,369.29
Total cost-share paid	0.00
Total approved & pending	<u>0.00</u>
Returned to DSC 6/30/07	\$ 7,369.29

REAP Forestry/Native Grasses Fund 2007

Allocation	\$ 2,456.43
Total cost-share paid	607.50
Total approved & pending	<u>0.00</u>
Returned to DSC 6/30/07	\$ 1848.93

* The funds listed above are restricted to particular farm practices or land treatments.

I-M Budget

(July 1, 2006 – June 30, 2007)

(Funds appropriated by the legislature to reimburse commissioners for traveling expenses as well as pay for district office supplies)

Allocation	\$ 2,136.41
Expenses	\$ <u>2,136.41</u>
Balance 6/30/07	\$ 0.00

Local Water Protection Program

\$13,940.06 in low interest loans were made.

The Cherokee SWCD is an Equal Opportunity
Provider and Employer.

Little Sioux Flood Prevention Watershed Maintenance Funds

(July 1, 2006 – June 30, 2007)

(Funds collected in prior years to be used for maintaining existing structures in the county)

Balance carried forward	\$ 165,092.61
Income (Interest)	\$10,561.23
Expenses	<u>\$440.49</u>
Balance 6/30/07	\$175,213.35

General Fund (Revolving)

(July 1, 2006 – June 30, 2007)

(For District Functions)

Balance carried forward	\$8,460.04
Income	\$28,708.11
Expenses	<u>\$23,338.62</u>
Balance 6/30/07	\$13,829.53

Education Fund

(July 1, 2006 – June 30, 2007)

Balance carried forward	\$588.87
Income	\$1200.00
Expenses	<u>\$1672.61</u>
Balance 6/30/07	\$116.26

FEDERAL FUNDING

Little Sioux Funds

(October 1, 2006 – September 30, 2007)

These funds were obligated by the federal government for projects in the Little Sioux Watershed area which is nearly all of the county. For many years our county benefited from these funds which were used for structures, terraces, and water & sediment control basins. In FY07 we lost the Little Sioux program. The District obligated \$3570.00 for a water & sediment control basin in October 2006. This was the last Little Sioux project to be approved for funding in Cherokee County.

EQIP Funds

(October 1, 2006—September 30, 2007)

Funded EQIP contracts in the amount of \$244,847. \$152,348 for Livestock, \$56,008 for Soil & Water, and \$36,491.00 for Wildlife.

WHIP Funds

(October 1, 2006—September 30, 2007)

Funded WHIP contracts in the amount of \$26,062.00.

WRP Funds

(October 1, 2006—September 30, 2007)

Funded WRP contracts in the amount of \$18,831.00.