

President signs new farm bill under the conservation title

On May 13 the President signed the new farm bill. Under the Conservation Title of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (Farm Bill), the Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program was reauthorized. The 2002 Farm Bill has expanded funding available to the program. Congress authorized a \$360 million budget for 2002-2007. The program provides additional tools for habitat protection.

The following questions and answers are offered to help explain the program, and how it might fit into protecting and enhancing the wildlife habitat on land you control.

What is the Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program?

It is a voluntary program that encourages creation of high quality wildlife habitats that support wildlife populations of national, state, Tribal, and local significance. Through the program, the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) provides technical and financial assistance to landowners and others to develop upland, wetland, and riparian habitat areas on their property.

What are the program's benefits?

The wildlife program offers opportunities to landowners to improve and protect wildlife habitat on private and Tribal lands. Since this program began in 1998, nationally nearly 11,000 participants have enrolled more than 1.6 million acres into the program. In Kansas over 56,000 acres have been enrolled since 1998. Most efforts have concentrated on improving upland wildlife habitat such as native prairie, but there is an increasing emphasis on improving riparian areas. The 2002 Farm Bill greatly expands the available tools for improving wildlife habitat conditions across the nation. Species that are targeted and have benefited from the program's activities in Kansas are pheasant, bob-

Who can enroll land into Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program?

A person may participate in the program if he or she owns or leases land, or can provide proof of control of the land for the agreement period.

When can producers apply in Kansas?

Applications are accepted continuously.

The application process consists of the following:

• Landowner submits an application to the local Natural Resources Conservation Service field office or county conservation district office.

• The participant works with Natural Resources Conservation Service to develop a wildlife habitat development plan. This plan becomes the basis of the cost-share agreement between the participant and Natural Resources Conservation Service. Cost-share payments are provided by Natural Resources Conservation Service to landowners under these agreements that are usually 5 to 10 years in duration, depending on the practices to be installed.

• The Natural Resources Conservation Service State Conservationist commits allocated funds to high-ranking landowner offers and enters into long-term agreements with selected participants.

• Following agreement signature by Natural Resources Conservation Service and landowner, funds are obligated to the project and the participant may begin to implement the wildlife habitat development plan.

What land is eligible under Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program?

- Privately owned land;
- Federal land when the primary benefit is on private or Tribal land;
- State and local government land on a limited basis; and
- Tribal land.

If land is determined eligible,

Natural Resources Conservation Service places emphasis on enrolling:

- Habitat areas for wildlife species experiencing declining or significantly reduced populations;
- Practices beneficial to fish and wildlife that may not otherwise be funded; and
- Wildlife and fishery habitats identified by local and state partners and Indian Tribes in each state.

Land already enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Program, Wetlands Reserve Program, Water Bank Program, or Emergency Watershed Protection Program flood plain easement component is not eligible for the program.

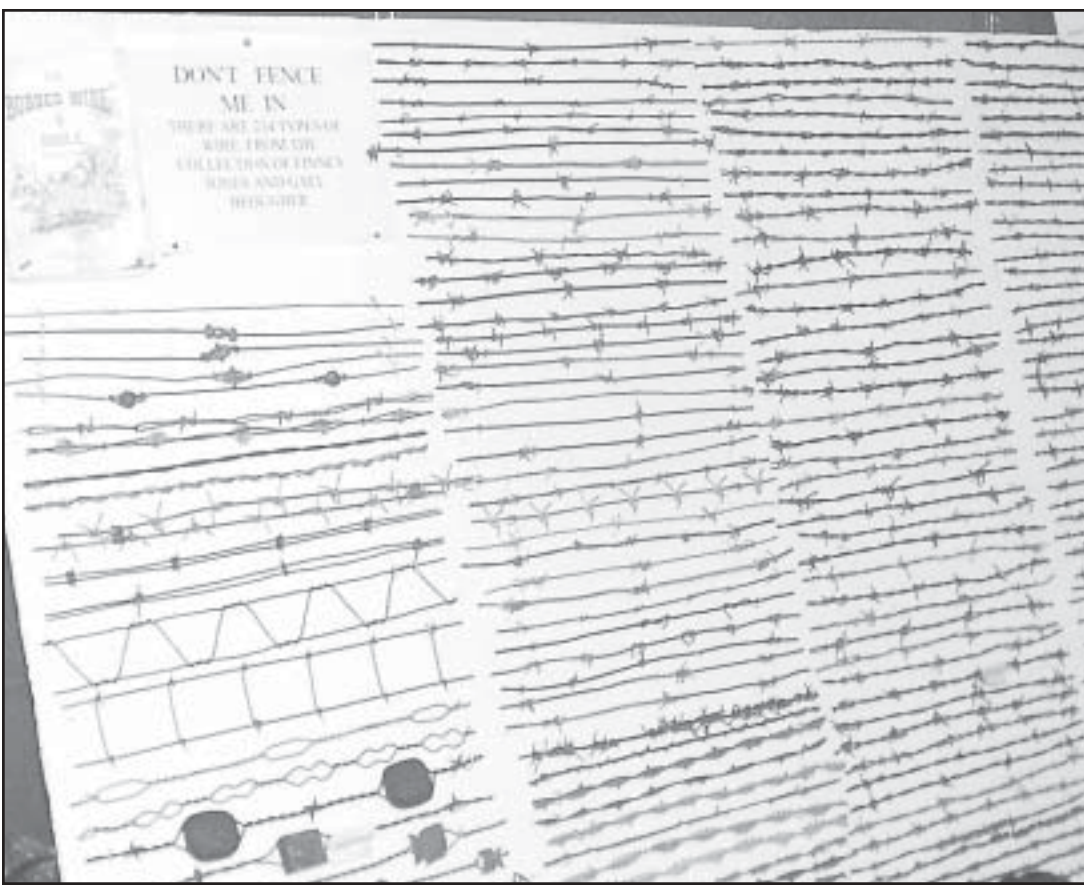
How do producers sort through the many programs available to them?

Producers should talk to their Natural Resources Conservation Service local district conservationist or county conservation district office staff and explain the natural resource concerns on their farm or ranch. They can assist producers with the different conservation practices that can address their resource concerns and work with the producer on what conservation programs are available to address those concerns.

Where can producers access information about conservation practices or programs?

Information can be found at <http://www.ks.usda.nrcs.gov> or www.ks.usda.nrcs.gov, click on the Farm Bill logo.

Again, the best thing for producers to do is visit their local conservation office. Agriculture in Kansas, north to south and east to west, is diversified. Your local conservation office will be able to assist you in addressing the natural resource concerns in your area.



ANTIQUÉ BARBED WIRE was on display at Kansas Day held on Jan. 29 in Bird City. The Tri-State Antique Engine and Thresher Association presented both the antique barbed wire and antique wrenches.

Times staff photo by Peggy Horinek

Bulletin Board

Womens' Auxiliary

The Womens' Auxiliary will meet at 2 p.m. on Friday at the Legion Hall in Bird City.

Bird City Community Club

The Bird City Community Club meets at 7 p.m., Monday, Feb. 10, in the LeBow Manor meeting room.

AARP

AARP will be meeting at the senior citizen center at 2:30 p.m. on Feb. 10. Please note change of date and time.

Cheyenne County Historical Society

The Cheyenne County Historical Society will meet at 5 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 11, at the Cheyenne County Museum in St. Francis.

Taxaide

People Helping People Income Tax Assistance volunteers will assist you in preparing and filing your tax return.

They will be at the St. Francis Public Library from 2 to 5 on Wednesdays and at the St. Francis Senior Citizens Center from 2 to 5 p.m. on Thursdays. For appointments call Annette Erskin at 332-3304; Rowland Roelfs at 332-

3490 or Wayne Keefer at 332-3428.

Alzheimer's Support Group

The Alzheimer's Support Group will meet at 7:30 p.m. Monday at the St. Francis Public Library.

Fair Board

The Cheyenne County Fair Board will meet at 8 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 6 in the commissioner's room in the courthouse.

Workshop set at Jennings

Heritage Associates of Jennings will hold its second meeting, "Establishing the Best Practices at the Czech Memorial Museum" at 9 a.m. on Thursday, Feb. 13, at the Royal Neighbor building.

Anyone wishing to attend is asked to contact Lila Jennings at 678-2299 or Neoma Tacha 678-2470 by Feb. 12 and March 12.

This program is funded in part by the Kansas Humanities Council, a nonprofit organization promoting understanding of the history, traditions and ideas that shape our lives and the communities in which we live.

Hospice Service

Hospice Services Inc., has infor-

mation available about end-of-life care, advance care planning, and other related topics. Hospice Service, Inc. is available to provide programs for groups and organizations. For more information, please call 800-315-5122.

Alcoholics Anonymous/Al-Anon date change

Alcoholic Anonymous and Al-Anon open meeting, held at 8:30 p.m. Thursday at the Methodist Educational Building, upstairs. Contact 332-2168 or 332-2078.

Northwest Kansas Family Shelter

Northwest Kansas Family Shelter provides 24-hour 7 day-a-week services to victims of domestic violence and sexual assault.

Weekly support groups are available for women and children within the northwest Kansas area. For information or if you are in need of assistance, please call the toll-free number 1-800-794-4624.

Need a Helping Hand

The Cheyenne County Helping Hands Coalition can help. Call the SRS office at (785) 332-2021.

Real Estate

Karen A. Nicks, et al to Tim E. Poling, et ux, all of lots 1 and 2 in block 26 in St. Francis.

Dorothy Finley, et al to Carol Redding, et al, a part of lots 5 and 6 in block 37 in St. Francis.

Lanny DeGood to Earl Crowe, et ux, the S90' of lots 7 and 8 in block 39 in St. Francis.

US Bank National Association to William Peter, et ux, lots 13, 14 and 15 in block 1 in St. Francis.

F. Ryan McAtee to Bankwest of Kansas the SW1/4 of Sec. 21, the W1/2 of Sec. 27, all of Sec. 28, the N1/2 and the E1/2SE1/4 of Sec. 33 and the W1/2 of Sec. 34 all in Township 1S-40W; and the NE1/4NW1/4 of Sec. 3-2S-40W all in Cheyenne County.

Arrilla M. Zimbelman, et al to

Marvin L. Zimbelman, et ux, lots 8, 9 and 10 in block 7 in St. Francis.

Jennifer Rueb Harper, Trustee of the Lucy Pehler Trust to Steven Frederick, et al, about 5 1/2 acres off the North end of lot 2 and about the S20 and 20.66 acres of lot 1 in Sec. 20-3S-42W in Cheyenne County.

James Shuman to Rodney K. Klepper, lot 13 and the W1/2 of lot 14 in block 47 in Bird City.

Ronelle D. Kotter, et ux, to Randall Rueb, et ux, the part of lot 2 in Sec. 17 that lies south of Colo. Rd. 15; and the N51/2 acres of lot 1 in Sec. 20; all in Township 3S-42W in Cheyenne County.

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, as Trustee of the Clayton C. and Lila A. Niefeld Charitable Trust to Harvey A. Black, the SW1/4 of Sec. 22-3S-38W in Cheyenne County.

Dennis A. Page, et al to Terry D. Glasco, et ux, a tract of land in the NE1/4NW1/4 of Sec. 36-3S-38W in Cheyenne County.

David Howard Downing, III, et ux, R. Joe Kramer, et ux, the N1/2 of Sec. 6-5S-37W in Cheyenne County.

Ron L. Jones, et ux, to James Bryan Vancura, et ux, the S1/2SE1/4 and the NW1/4SE1/4 of Sec. 14; SE1/4 of Sec. 22; N1/2 and the SW1/4 of Sec. 23; all in Township 2S-38W in Cheyenne County.

Richard P. Brubaker, et al, and Darlene L. Brubaker, et ux, to Gary S. Brubaker, et ux, each an undivided 1/2 interest in lots 8, 9 and 10 in block 55 in Bird City.

Ronnie G. Krien, et ux, to Gordon R. Ross, et ux, a tract of land in the NW1/4SW1/4 of Sec. 27-3S-40W in Cheyenne County.

For the Record

Bird City Times Forecast Feb 5th - Feb 11th

Wed 28/13	Normal High 44	Sunrise 7:48 to 7:42am
	Normal Low 18	Sunset 6:08 to 6:16pm
Thu 24/ 8	We may have to wait until late this month before we experience temperatures as warm as last week's readings. Frigid air will push across the area this week, retreat early next week, then plunge southward again the middle of next week. There will be a small chance of snow Wednesday and possibly Thursday, but amounts will be light. The ground temperature warmed up a lot during the past week, which is good news. The fresh snow cover will be slow to melt off, allowing it to soak in as it gradually melts from the bottom up. The next round of significant precipitation will come mid-month.	
Fri 32/15		
Sat 40/20		
Sun 40/18		
Mon 50/25		
Tue 50/22		

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McDonald News

Betty Lewis, Joan Tongish, Eleanor Swihart, Shirley Swihart and Marlene Johnson attended the Women's Winter Retreat at the Evangelical Free Church in McCook on Saturday.

The St. Joseph Altar Society of Bird City served a spaghetti dinner on Sunday with proceeds going to the Kansans for Life. Those attending from McDonald were Vivian Curry, Eleanor Swihart and Joan Tongish.

Cheryl Wilkinson was a Monday visitor of Zelda Knapp.

Jerry and Betty Knapp spent from Monday to Wednesday in Colorado where they attended the Western Stock Show in Denver and visited family in Denver and Strasburg.

Tunney Loker attended the boys basketball tournament in Oberlin on Friday to watch his grandson, Zack Loker play.

On Saturday, Tunney and Leila Loker drove to Grand Island to attend the 45th wedding anniversary celebration for John and Barbara Eilts.

Barney Kacirek returned to Denver on Monday morning after spending the weekend with Norman and Tessa Davis. Additional Sunday supper guests were R.J. and Susie Sabatka and Laddie and Vera Kacirek.

Fred and LaVina Waters visited Kevin and Jenna Penny in Burlington on Sunday.

Phyllis Wilkinson accompanied Sue and Mildred Heinbigner to Lincoln, Neb., for doctor's appointments last Thursday.

Death notice: Word has been received that Raymond Headrick died in Torrington, Wyo. A memorial service was to be held in Wyoming.

The Feb. 3 meeting of the McDonald Senior Citizens was postponed due to the snow and wind. Plans are to reschedule the meeting for later in the week, as the tables were all so beautifully decorated.

Vance and Betty Lewis went to Ft. Collins, Colo. where Vance had a successful back surgery on Wed. Enroute home they visited Glen and Carol Pickett in Greeley.

Vance and Betty Lewis were Friday visitors of Lenora Spicka at the Good Samaritan in Atwood.

On Sunday, Betty Lewis managed to pull off a surprise birthday party for Vance at the Senior Center. Guests who enjoyed the party and playing dominoes afterwards were Joan Tongish, Vivian Curry, Eunice Officer, Leonard Vyzourek, Judi Barnabee, Bud Moser, Ray and Marlene Johnson, Phyllis and

Owen Wingfield, Susan and Bruce Nickel, Fred and LaVina Waters, and Lindon Montgomery.

Kasey, Jennifer, and Gracie Sabatka of Springfield, Mo. arrived on Wed. to visit their parents and other relatives, returning home on Sunday. Taylor Wilson of Manhattan accompanied them for the visit.

Wed. supper guests of R.J. and Susie Sabatka were Kasey, Jennifer, and Gracie Sabatka, Taylor Wilson, and Laddie and Vera Kacirek.

Kasey and Gracie Sabatka were Friday afternoon visitors of Laddie and Vera Kacirek.

Eunice Officer was a visitor of Amelia Banister and Karlyne Atchison this past week.

Saturday visitors of Ray and Marlene Johnson were Connie Sabatka, Dana Sabatka, Mr. and Mrs. George Vandergriffe, and Mr. and Mrs. Tim Knapp. Aric and Jamie Harris and Shaylin are spending the week with Greg and Cheryl Wilkinson before moving to McCook, Neb. were Aric has accepted a job.

Leila Loker is at home recovering from a broken ankle. Visitors this past week were Les Loker, Lila Howard, and Myrtle Hazuka.

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*** GOAL ***
To raise a total of \$300,000 in donations by 12/31/2003 by using KANSAS INCOME TAX CREDITS to reduce the cost of donating.

*** PROGRESS ***
As of 2/3/2003, we have raised \$160,000 in cash and commitments toward this project.

We encourage you to visit with your tax preparer to see if you can benefit by using this project to steer your Kansas Income Tax Dollar to Cheyenne County.

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160K

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