

Mobile field office is new pilot project

Enhancing the customer service of the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is the driving force behind the new concept of the "mobile" field office, a pilot project in Kansas.

The use of current technology and scientific information enables service employees to help landowners voluntarily address the resource concerns and meet the goals for their land.

In the fall of 2006, State Conservationist Harold Klaege for Natural Resources Conservation Service in Kansas, decided it was time to free the employees from the brick-and-mortar of a building and allow them to do more conservation planning where it should be done, from the grasslands and croplands of Kansas.

Today, with the latest portable equipment at their fingertips, such as laptop computers, Geographic Information System (GIS) technology, printers, cell phones, and more, the service's field staff can meet with a farmer or rancher on the land and develop a conservation plan on-site," said Mr. Klaege.

Chris Tecklenburg, Natural Resources Conservation Service Rangeland Management Specialist, South Hutchinson Field Office, is just one of 15 Kansas employees who is participating in this statewide pilot project. His equipment consists of a truck equipped with the latest technological tools; for example, a portable computer tablet, printer, scanner, laptop, Geographic Information System, and Global Positioning System (GPS).

Colby is one of a number of other "mobile" locations.

Natural Resources Conservation Service employees are able to provide immediate access to natural resource data, such as soils, range sites, aerial photography maps, and Field Office Technical Guide (FOTG) information. This data will help the employee develop a conservation plan on-site with producers. Mr. Tecklenburg is able to assist producers like Derek Zongker, Sylvia, who lives 40 miles from his local service office.

For the last seven years, Zongker has worked with Natural Resources Conservation Service to address resource concerns on his grazing land. "Anytime you're able to go out on the ground and actually see what it

is you're talking about, it is a good thing," said Mr. Zongker. From their discussions, a conservation plan was developed and appropriate conservation practices identified to address these concerns.

Mr. Zongker was accepted in Natural Resources Conservation Service' Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) to receive cost-share assistance on practices like a watering system and interior fences and incentive payments to do rotational grazing. He attributes his one-on-one discussions (in the field) in developing his grazing plan to fit his operation.

For Mr. Zongker, Mr. Tecklenburg can gather necessary rangeland information and use the technology in order to create a plan in the field. Once this information is gathered, it is transferred into the Geographic Information System.

"I can create a grazing plan, print it, and give it to him right then," explains Mr. Tecklenburg. Time is a valuable commodity. "It makes sense to do everything right here in the field that way I can focus on the customer. Back at the office, interruptions are inevitable and it's sometimes hard to stay focused on a single job for a period of time."

Another tool being used is the electronic Field Office Technical Guide (eFOTG). The old guide was a traditional, paper-based reference used in field offices as the primary scientific reference containing technical information about the conservation of soil, water, air, and related plant and animal resources.

"Anyone, landowners and conservation planners, can access this information online. This is just another valuable conservation tool farmers and ranchers have access to in managing their land," explains Tecklenburg.

"The merging of these technologies, Global Positioning System, Geographic Information System, and mobile hardware, has enabled us to accomplish more work in the field, provide immediate access to landowners' natural resource data while developing a conservation plan on-site," said Tecklenburg.

"The more we can do out in the field, the better," he added.

Technical assistance is available at your local U.S. Department of Agriculture Service Center



CHEYENNE COUNTY MUSEUM appreciation open house brought over 90 people to tour and visit at the museum. Wilma

Lampe, left, visited with Dee Dorsch and Lucille Rossbach.

Times photo by Janet Carpenter

Open house brings crowd to museum

Over 90 people attended the appreciation open house at the Cheyenne County Museum on Sunday afternoon.

Several people were there that had served all 40 years and many others

had been involved for the last 20. These people had built the Historical Society and the museum with a good foundation for younger people to build upon.

Punch and cookies were enjoyed

as they browsed around and viewed the changes and new donations that are on display.

There was the opportunity to discuss new projects that are being worked on at the present time and the

plans to get the Ye Olde Country Church back into a good condition.

The next meeting will be on 5 p.m. on May 8 at the museum. Tom Keller and Althea LeBow will present a time-line program.

Association reviews previous meeting

By Karen Krien

Following the public Cheyenne Initiative Association meeting on March 30, there have been weekly core team meetings.

Tom Keller, chairman, reports that the team is currently reviewing the top 12 issues that were brought out in the March meeting. The list of volunteers are being reviewed and individuals to chair the various project teams are being called.

He noted that David Butler, the

new Cheyenne County Development coordinator; and Joan Gienger, District conservationist, will help the core team in the process.

The core team has begun work on the first six of the 12 suggestions made at the public meeting. Later, they will take on the next six.

The questions that need to be answered with each project include: who will work on the projects, goals, objective and costs involved with the project; and finally, the timeline

it will take to complete it.

The top project which the public thought would be beneficial to the county and the people was harnessing wind energy. Rick Reeser heads that project. Others on the committee include J.R. Landenberger, Steve Christy and Jim Soehner.

The remaining five which are being explored are:

- Develop a market for the agriculture population.
- Maintain school population and

quality.

- Develop funding for starting up businesses.

- Create a team to market the county through technology.

- Develop technology-based businesses.

Everyone is welcome to participate in these meetings and help with plans to boost the county. People are needed.

For more information, contact Mr. Keller at 785-332-2145.

Obituary

Richard (Dick) Boswell

Sept. 11, 1934 - April 13, 2007

Richard (Dick) Boswell, 72, of Bird City died April 13, 2007, at Sky Ridge Memorial Hospital in Lone Tree, Colo., after many health related complications.

He was born Sept. 11, 1934, in Hutchinson, Kan., to Leland and Mabel Boswell. In 1949 he moved to Bird City to live with J. D. and Thelma McConnell, graduating there in 1955. He attended Garden City Junior College briefly before joining the Marine Corps in December 1955.

He was serving in 29 Palms, Calif., when he married Gwen Rambat in Bird City in 1957. There were two children born while they were in the military, Michael J. and Stephanie Lynne. Dick was a 20-year Marine, retiring as a Master Gunnery Sgt.

(E-8) in 1975. His tours of duty were in Camp Pendleton, Calif., San Diego, Calif., Okinawa, Las Vegas, Nev., Lake Mead Base, Viet Nam, Baltimore, Md., and Camp Lejeune, N. C. After retirement in 1975, the family moved to Loveland, Colo.

In 1985, Dick and Gwen traveled to various areas throughout the United States and ended back in Las Vegas, Nev., in 1989, where they remained until 2000 when they moved back to Bird City and have resided since.

He is survived by his wife Gwen; daughter, Stephanie and husband, Pat McCaffery of Loveland, Colo.; grandson Timothy McCaffery of Loveland; great-granddaughter Izabella McCaffery and her mother, Evonne of Loveland; daughter-in-law, Becky of Loveland; brother,

Ralph of Kingston, Okla.; sister, Kathy and husband, Jerry Allen of Hutchinson; brothers John Meine and Bill Meine of Oklahoma and Arkansas; sisters, Linda and husband, Jerry Reese of Puyellup, Wash., and Barbara and husband, Larry Locke of Washington; brother-in-law, Bradley and wife, Dot Rambat, along with many nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his son, Michael, parents, and two sisters.

A celebration of Dick's life along with full military honors will take place at a later date in Bird City. Cremation has taken place.

Memorials may be made to Cheyenne County Hospital and St. John Lutheran Church. Condolences may be sent to P.O. Box 125, Bird City, KS 67731.

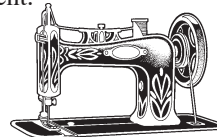
Years ago

30 years ago - 1977

Jennifer Dorsch submitted the winning name "Four Circle Co-Op" for the name change to the Bird City Equity Merchantile Exchange. She won a \$50 Savings Bond.

An open-house was held to honor the 25th wedding anniversary of Mr. and Mrs. Neal Peacock at the Bird City American Legion.

Marvin Osborn, Agency Manager for Farm Bureau Insurance in Cheyenne County has been selected as his company's Most Valuable Agent.



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Rawlins County LAND AUCTION

Thurs., April 26, 2007 10 AM

Auction Location: 4-H Building, N. Hwy 25, Atwood, KS Land Location: from Atwood, KS, 13 miles south and 6 miles East.

Auctioneer's Note: Here is an excellent opportunity to buy good cropland and grassland located along a well maintained gravel road.

MANNER OF SALE: This land will be sold in three individual tracts only. **TERMS:** 15% down, day of sale. Balance due on or before May 24th, 2007, upon approval of title. **POSSESSION:** Buyer(s) shall receive possession of all cropland presently planted to wheat, after the 2007 wheat harvest. Buyer(s) shall receive possession of all cropland not planted to wheat and all grassland at the date of closing. **TAXES:** Seller(s) shall pay 2006 and prior years. Buyer(s) shall pay the 2007 taxes and subsequent years. **MINERALS:** Seller(s) are retaining one-half the minerals for a period of ten years non-participating. **CROPS:** Buyer(s) shall receive 1/3 of the 2007 wheat crop and 1/3 of the 2007 FSA payments pertaining to the 2007 growing wheat crop. Buyer(s) shall receive 100% of all other 2007 FSA payments. **TITLE INSURANCE:** Sellers shall provide title evidence to the Buyer(s) day of sale. The premium shall be paid one-half by the buyer(s) and one-half by the Sellers. **CLOSING:** Decatur County Title and Abstract will serve as escrow agent and closing agent. The closing fee shall be paid one-half by the Seller(s) and one-half by the Buyer(s). **INSPECTION:** All bidders are responsible for their own inspections concerning facts about the property. Neither Glad Real Estate, its agents, and representatives make no warranties about the property, expressed or implied. **AGENCY:** Glad Real Estate, its agents and representatives are the exclusive agents of the Sellers. All acreages are based on US Government (FSA) measurements and are considered approximate. Selling subject to easements reservations, leases, and right-of-ways of record. Glad Real Estate is representing the seller only, in this transaction. **TRACT 1:** NE 1/4 of 18-5-32, Rawlins County, consisting of approximately 25.4 acres cropland, 129.1 acres grassland, balance improvements. **TRACT 2:** SW 1/4 of 8-5-32, Rawlins County, consisting of approximately 57.6 acres cropland, 94.4 acres grassland, balance roads and wasteland. **TRACT 3:** N 1/2 of the SW 1/4 of 17-5-32, Rawlins County, consisting of approximately 75 acres cropland, balance roads and wasteland.

Tract	Legal	Total Acres	Cropland Acres	Grass Acres	2007 Wheat	Wheat Base/YLD	Milo Base/YLD	Oats Base/YLD	Barley Base/YLD	2006 Taxes
Tract 1	NE 1/4 of 18-5-32	160	23.42	125.96	15.61	8,3/33	3,4/45	1,2/41	3/38	Est. \$321.64
Tract 2	SW 1/4 of 8-5-32	160	54.65	93.25	11.90	21,6/33	8,9/45	3,0/41	8/38	Est. \$248.13
Tract 3	N1/2 of SW 1/4 of 17-5-32	80	77.43	0	48.00	27,3/33	11,3/45	3,9/41	1/38	Est. \$238.67

For additional information and a tour of the land, contact Rocky Hayes at:

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