

Conservation district board plans work group



The Cheyenne County Conservation District Board of Supervisors will hold a Local Work Group meeting at 10 a.m. on Wednesday, Jan. 26, at the U. S. Department of Agriculture conference room in St. Francis.

"Local Work Groups are important, because they provide recommendations on local and state natural resource priorities and criteria for the Department of Agriculture conservation activities and programs to the Natural Resource Conservation Service Kansas Technical Committee," said Randy Rueb, chairperson of the Cheyenne County Conservation District.

The responsibilities of Local Work Groups are identified in the federal Department of Agriculture Conservation Program Delivery manual. They include:

- Ensuring that a conservation needs assessment to identify priority resource concerns is developed. This will be by using community stakeholder input and the conservation needs assessment to help identify program funding needs and conservation practices.
- Recommend the U.S. Department of Agriculture conservation program application and funding criteria, eligible practices (including limits on a practice payments or units) and payment rates.
- Assist the Natural Resource Conservation Service and Conservation Districts with public outreach and information efforts, and identify educational and produces' training needs.

The Local Work Groups recommendations will be reviewed by the Kansas Technical Committee for submittal to the Department of Agriculture agencies.

The Local Work Groups should be diverse and focus on agricultural interests and natural resource issues existing in the community. Membership should include agricultural producers representing the variety of crops, livestock and poultry raised within the local area; owners of nonindustrial private forest land, representatives of agricultural and environmental organizations; and governmental agencies carrying out agricultural and natural resource conservation and activities.

Local Work Groups also take into account concerns of particular historically undeserved groups and individuals including but limited to women, persons with disabilities, socially disadvantaged and limited resource groups.

For more information about the group or to become a member, contact your local Conservation District Office or Natural Resource Conservation Service staff at (785) 332-2341.

More scholarship dollars go to school

By Karen Krien

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The St. Francis Board of Education accepted gifts of money at the Thursday board meeting.

An additional \$1,000 was received and will be added to the Robert Yost Scholarship Fund. The second gift of \$550 was from Northwest EMC, Incorporated, the employer of Renee Walker, wife of Rick Walker, graduate from the St. Francis high school. Mrs. Walker's company, owned by Dean and Sue Ghizzone, has an employee-matching program for donations. The letter which accompanied the donation stated that the Ghizzones "enjoy being able to help communities like St. Francis."

Audit report

The board went through the cover letters of the audit report which had been completed by Adams, Brown, Beran and Ball. The school was again reprimanded for not having enough "internal control" which would mean hiring additional people in the offices. Overall, the audit showed the school to be in good standing.

The board will make the final approval at the February meeting.

In other business

In other business:

• The board approved the new Internal Revenue Service's privately-owned auto mileage reimbursement rate of 51 cents per mile. The old rate was 5-cents per mile. Mr. Schiltz noted that there is little mileage paid.

• Mr. Schiltz said that he had visited with the Meet-and-Confer Committee and they saw no need to meet with the board's committee.

• At the Friday basketball game, the Kansas Assessment awards were presented to students who scored exemplary in reading, math and science last year.

• Three board policies were reviewed. They included the use of equipment, public assess to school records and cooperation with local units of government. There were no changes made to the policies.

• Mr. Schiltz talked about the governor's plans for school funding. See related article.

• Thank you DVD was presented expressing appreciation from Brenda Day and her students who attended the National Journalism Convention in November.

Next meeting

The next board of education meeting has been set for 7 p.m. on Thursday, Feb. 10, in the board room at the high school.



AMY RIEGER, right, mans the St. Francis Equity booth at the Tri-State Cow/Calf Symposium and trade show which was held at Riverside on Jan. 12. Extension Agent, Marty Fear, reported around 100 people attending the show. Checking out the booth was Amy Hathaway.

Herald staff photo by Karen Krien

Hunters brave cold to call in coyotes

By Karen Krien

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It was bitter cold with snow falling from time to time but that didn't stop the callers from participating in the sixth Midwest Coyote Calling contest on Jan. 8 and 9.

"It was a good hunt even with the teams having to battle cold, snow and wind," said Brent Rueb, coordinator. "They brought in more coyotes per team than ever before, returning teams averaged a total of 4.6 coyotes per team."

"We had seven teams that came in with double-digit totals and that is the most ever. The teams that found coyotes did a great job of harvesting them."

This year, there were a total of 129 teams registering - 74 of the "Dead Coyote Class" teams and 55 of the "Hevi-Shot Class" teams. Seventy-eight teams returned on Sunday.

The coyote numbers were up over all, Mr. Rueb said. The callers reported seeing 803 coyotes and killed 364. There were 19 two-pointer coyotes killed. A two-

pointer coyote is one that has a predominately white-tipped tail (80 percent or more white than black). There are very few coyotes that have a white-tipped tail and so this competition is very unique, he said.

Mr. Rueb noted that there continues to be a mange problem which is a mite infestation on the coyote that causes them to scratch and loose fur. It is still running about 40 percent of the total number of coyotes harvested. As we continue to harvest more mange coyotes, he said, the better the chance for it to correct itself as mange is transferred from one coyote to another coyote through contact.

The final results of the contest include:

Dead Coyote Class

First place in the Dead Coyote Class were Matt Hebert, Hyannis, Neb., and Justin Brandon, Yuma, Colo., 14 coyotes; second place: Brad Phillips and Luke Seelhoff, Burlington, 12 coyotes; third place: Cenny Burnell, Kaycee, Wyo., and Dave McCartney,

Chadron, Neb., 10 coyotes; fourth place: Josh Mahar and Eric Rice, Gothenburg, Neb., 10 coyotes; fifth: Jerome Humrich and Jason McArthur, Burlington, 10 coyotes; sixth: Joel Crisman, Highlands Ranch, Colo., and Stan Cure, Goodland, 10 coyotes.

Hevi-Shot Class

Taking first place in the Hevi-Shot Class were Nick Bowley, Loveland, Colo., and Dustin Patterson, Ogden, with eight coyotes. Second place went to Travis Fonte and Eric Schafer, Wray, seven coyotes; third, Johnathan Bopp, Loveland, and Matt Brown, Wellington, Colo.,

seven coyotes; fourth, Lance Long and Matt Smull, St. Francis, seven coyotes; fifth, Judd Kravig, Karval, Colo., and Jason Kravig, Lamar, Colo., five coyotes; sixth place, Jordan Reed, Colby, and Matt Hartwell, Brewster, five coyotes.

Two-pointer placers

Taking first place in the two-pointer contest (where the coyote is predominately white) were Cenny Burnell and Dave McCartney, three coyotes, 31.0 pounds; and second, Jerome Humrich and Jason McArthur, two coyotes, 33.6 pounds.

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7 Blk 556 - \$156.00
9 Blk 657 - \$129.00
JH Farms: 8 Red 407 - \$159.00
Blecha: 15 Blk 621 - \$139.00
10 Blk 789 - \$125.00
5 Red 684 - \$125.00

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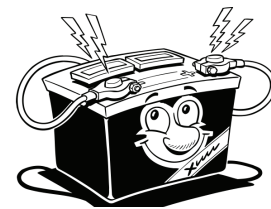
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