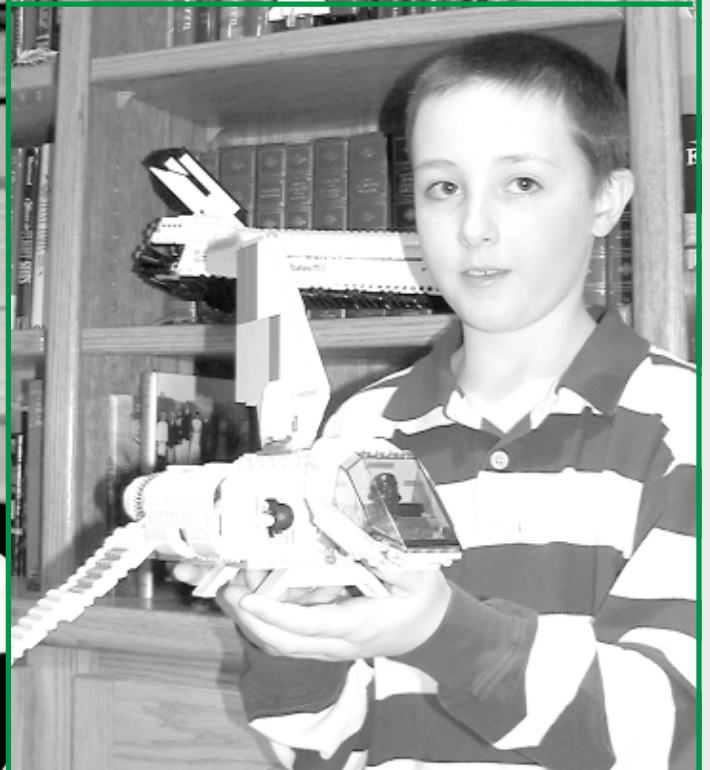


The
Goodland Star-News
presents
Conservation 2007



Conservation Award Winners: (Clockwise) Richard and Connie Allaman, Danny Farmer, Tyler Neufeld and Max and Brenda Linin.

Years of tree planting brings couple recognition

By Pat Schiefen
The Goodland Star-News

The winner of the windbreak award this year hopes to work until he dies. Richard Allaman and his wife Connie live about 15 miles north of Goodland.

Richard said he was very surprised to get the award. He has been planting and replacing trees since he and Connie moved on the farm in 1973.

In the last few years he has only been planting about 25 trees a year because of the drought. Three years ago he planted four rows of trees in the north windbreak. He said he plants Australian pines and cedars, which he gets from the conservation office.

"Cedars don't take as much rain," Richard said. "I use a drip system on the trees. In the last four or five years I have been watering the trees because of the drought."

Connie's father, Wayne Curry, planted the original east and west windbreaks in the mid 40s. At that

time cedars, pines, Russian olives and elms were used in wind breaks. Richard figured that they had to haul water in barrels and use buckets to water the trees. Water on the farm was pumped by a windmill and then Connie's dad put in a submersible pump.

"I have been replacing those trees in the wind breaks as they have died," Richard said.

Connie said you could go out in the yard when the wind was blowing and not really notice how hard it was blowing.

The Allamans own a quarter of farm ground and rent the rest that they farm. He said, "I don't raise cattle anymore. There is not a lot of grass around the farm."

The Allamans grow mainly wheat and milo and have grown sunflowers.

"We are hoping for a harvest this year," he said. They did harvest some last year.

Richard's hobby is his yard.

Around the house he has bluegrass, but the rest of the yard is in buffalo grass. On the south side of the yard by the house he has planted scotch pines and has used old farming equipment for decoration.

He said he doesn't garden much anymore with only the two of them.

The Allamans live on the ground bought by Connie's dad. Her great-grandfather homesteaded in 1886, a few miles from where they live.

Richard said when he and Connie moved on the farm there were many more neighbors than now. A lot of the homes have either been buried or are abandoned. He said they were the youngest in the area and now they are the oldest.

The house they live in was moved in by Connie's father when she was a sophomore in high school. The house replaced an earlier adobe one. Connie said her parents remodeled and so have they.

Richard was born and raised in



Richard and Connie Allaman in front of their home north of town.

Sherman County Conservation District • Program 2007

INVOCATION	Fred Wedel
Meal furnished by the Sherman County Conservation District, BANKWEST OF KANSAS, First National Bank, Western State Bank, Peoples State Bank & Farm Credit Services of Western Kansas PCA-FLCA	
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PRESENTATION OF AWARDS	Lonnie Whiteker
(Recognize former Award Winners)	
Friends of Conservation Award	Sandy Rodgers
State Limerick Award	Scott Jarrett
Poster, Limerick & Essay and Computer Technology Contest	Sandy Rodgers Danny Farmer
Windbreak Award	First National Bank
Bankers Award	First National Bank
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Spruces and pines were part of the windbreak on the west side of the Allaman home (above). As the older trees in the wind break died Richard Allaman replaced them. Only the head of a deer yard ornament (right photo) remained above the snow in the yard of Richard and Connie Allaman. Snow from the storms at the end of the year still cover fields and yards.
Photo by Pat Schiefen/The Goodland Star-News

Wallace County. He went to elementary school in Wallace and high school in Sharon Springs.

Richard served in the Army from 1963 to 1965 during the Vietnam War but didn't serve there. He said his two older brothers were in the military before him, and they told him to do what he was told and keep his mouth shut.

The Allamans belong to Our Lady of Perpetual Help Catholic Church. Richard belongs to Knights of Columbus and the American Legion. He said he has been on the Rural Fire Board and has worked with the home owned carnival. He used to hunt and fish.

In the past he worked for Goodland Grain spraying. In the winter he helps a carpenter with jobs in Goodland.

Connie was born in Sherman County and graduated from Sherman Community High School in 1964.

She works at Wal-Mart. She said she is amazed by how many people she recognizes and they recognize her.

The couple has two daughters, Suzanne and Kim and a son, Greg, who died in 1992. Kim is married to Mike Tompkins and has one daughter Sadie Avila. Suzanne is married to Cody Todd and they live in St. Francis. They have a son Caleb and are expecting another child soon.

Richard said he picked Caleb up from preschool last week and Caleb introduced him to his friends.

"I am not planning to retire, I can't afford to," Richard said. "I want to work until I die."

He wants to be like one of his neighbors who used a ladder to get in his tractor at 80 to harvest. After harvest he had to go to the hospital and died there.

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Tech wizard helps farmers, ranchers

By Tom Betz
The Goodland Star-News

Sitting in front of a computer the person who has been named the winner of the Friend of Conservation Award can tell a farmer or rancher about his land and make recommendations to improve his operation.

Danny Farmer, technician in the Sherman County Natural Resource Conservation Service office, says his knowledge of computers and the Geographical Information System gives him the ability to work with farmers and guarantee that the government gets what they pay for.

Farmer, 41, was born in Sayer, Okla., and moved with his family to Salina, where he graduated from Central High in 1984. He has been in Goodland since July 2002, when he was hired after a telephone interview.

Fred Wedel, conservation office supervisor, said he is glad Farmer is there to help and that without someone who knows the technology it would be hard to get the work done. "He is a big help to me," Wedel

said. "I don't know much about the computer, and he can pull things out that can show how our recommendations can help a farmer's operation."

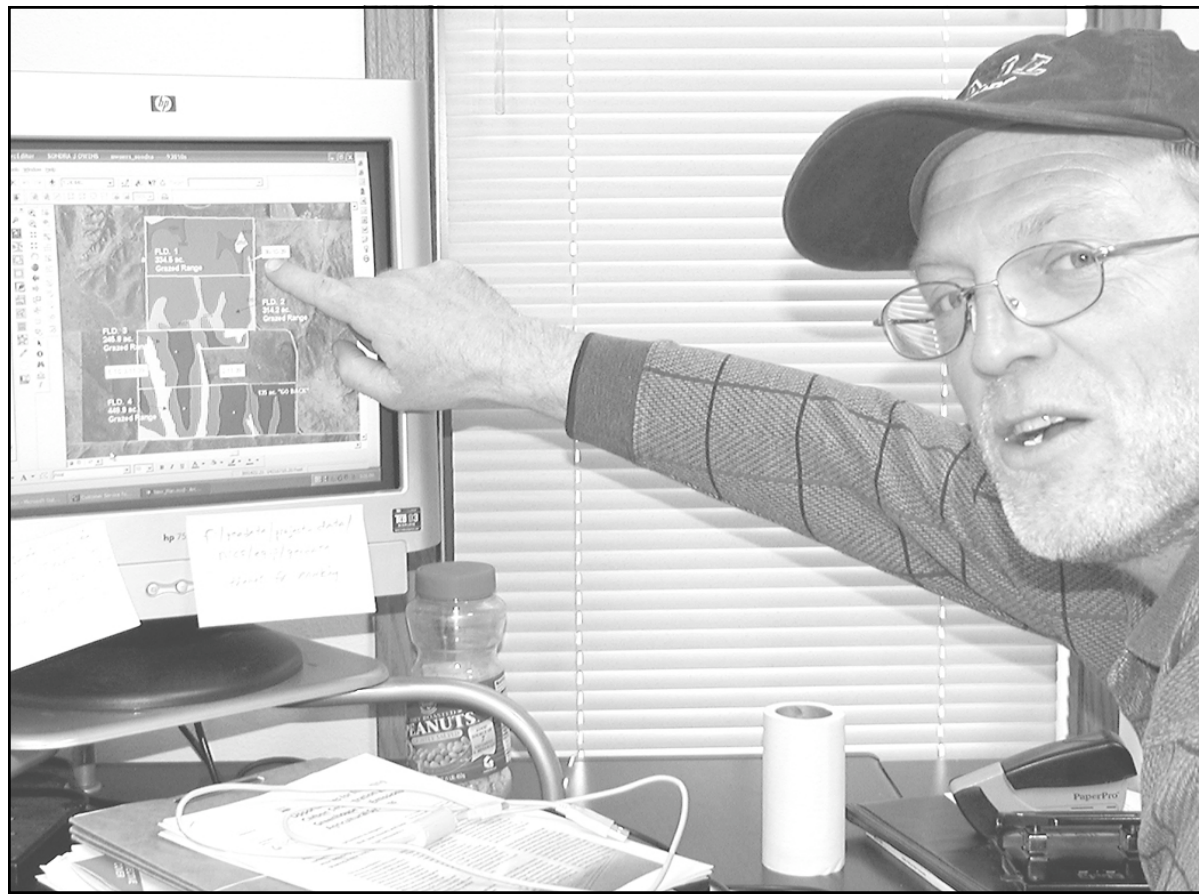
"Fred thinks I have an obsession with fishing," Farmer said of his boss. "And maybe I do. I love to go fishing."

"I know he has an obsession with fishing," Wedel said.

Farmer said he goes fishing every chance he gets and was heading over the weekend to go ice fishing at one of his favorite lakes east of Goodland.

His passion for fishing has taken Farmer to many parts of the country, and he has spent summers working on the National Boy Scouts staff. He has gone fishing and camping with Scouts in northern Minnesota's boundary waters canoe area and flown with Scouts into remote lakes of Manitoba, Canada.

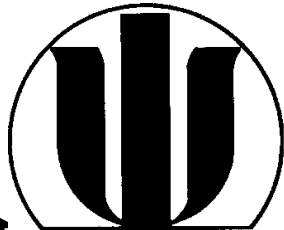
After high school Farmer said he was working construction on the Cloud County Correctional facility in Ellsworth when he fell off a building and hurt his hip.



Danny Farmer, conservation technician, uses computer technology to help farmers and ranchers plan their conservation efforts. With the Geographical Information System Farmer can pinpoint features of the land, and determine distances from water tanks to windmills for pipelines. He said with the satellite photos there is enough detail he can even count cows in the field.

Photos by Tom Betz/The Goodland Star-News

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Part of determining the grazing available on a field Danny Farmer does some range work where he clips the grass in specific areas and weighs the clippings to put into an equation for herd size and grazing.

"I am lucky to be alive," he said. "I broke my arm, but I think that saved me, as I put my arm behind my head and the arm hit the concrete first."

Farmer attended Kansas State University in 1988 with a major in horticulture and turf science, graduating in December 1992.

He worked his way through school working at the Manhattan Country Club starting as a dishwasher and ending up as the head cook.

"I had a good time working there," he said.

Farmer has spent time living and fishing in Avon, Colo., where he walked down to the creek to fish every day. He said a friend from there told him about the fishing around Nantucket Island, Mass.

He went to Nantucket for a vacation and liked it so much he took off for a year and lived and fished there. He worked at a golf course to pay the rent.

His father Larry Farmer was an electronics teacher and worked at the Kansas Institute of Technology in Salina, which is now Kansas State University Salina, and was a department head.

His dad was an officer in the Oklahoma National Guard and served with an armored battalion before transferring to a unit in Salina. He was a battalion commander and a Lt. Col. when he retired.

Farmer said he grew up around farming, and both his grandparents were cotton farmers in the Anadarko Basin in Oklahoma, which is in western Oklahoma near the Texas border.

When he came back from Nantucket, Farmer said he didn't know much about computers and decided to brush up on his skills by taking computer science courses at KSU Salina. He specifically included the courses involving the geographic information system.

"Everything is about technology," Farmer said. "It used to be location, location, location. Now it is technology, technology, technology."

Farmer says he has a good computer in the office and that he could take it to the field if necessary.

He uses the computer to review farmers' plans for installation of tanks and pipelines to see that they function properly.

He said one of the things is to guarantee a three-day supply of water in a tank that is supplied by a windmill. That is in case the wind doesn't blow for three days, which he agrees would be unusual.

He calculated that a cow can drink about 15 gallons a day and that it would take a 22-foot round tank to handle 100 cows.

Farmer does range work and has

been doing some rebuilding of terraces and protection of wetlands.

"You can't do anything on your own," Farmer said. "To do a good job, you need partners, and we are a partner."

When there isn't a layer of snow covering the grass, Farmer checks the fields to help determine stocking rates. He goes out to the field, and using a frame within a cage, he clips the grass and weighs it to see what the animals would eat. He does another clipping and weighing outside the cage for comparison.

He said the resource conservation service was not involved in grazing until about five years ago. He said the grazing program is to recommend rotational grazing and a 180-day growth program.

"I like Kansas," Farmer said. "I was in Goodland over four years before I met someone I didn't like."

Farmer said the computer he uses can make planning very accurate and that the satellite photos help because he can see the tanks and cows.

"I can plan things like pipelines within five-feet," Farmer said. "It makes planning very accurate, and the implementation of the plans goes better."

See FARMER, Page 7



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FARMER, from Page 5

When he goes fishing, he takes his dog Cyrano "Cy" for short. He is not married, and Cy is his camping and fishing buddy.

"I love to camp," Farmer said. He is into ice fishing and goes to Lake Wilson or Lake Webster. He has some favorite places that are a bit closer, and he has fished down at Scott Lake. He said he has tried Bonnie Lake in Colorado north of Burlington but thinks it is harder to catch fish there.

His parents gave him a nice canvas tent for Christmas, and he has a boat that he fishes from when the weather is warmer.

Besides fishing, Farmer is an avid reader and volunteers with the Northwest Kansas Animal Shelter.

"I am proud to receive this award," he said. "I like to keep the service in Farm Service Agency."



Danny Farmer's buddy Cy, short for Cyrano, knows his special place on the front of Farmer's fishing boat. Farmer is somewhat obsessed with fishing, and spends many of his days off dropping

a line in many of the area lakes. Farmer has been ice fishing this winter, but said a few of the cold days were too cold for him.

Photo by Danny Farmer

Student contest winners honored

Annually the Sherman County Conservation District hosts poster, limerick, essay and computer stacks contests in the third through sixth grades, and Sandy Rodgers, district manager, goes to the schools to give the students information about conservation.

Rogers announced the winners Tuesday, and the students will be honored at the Conservation District dinner at 6:30 p.m. on Monday, Feb. 12 at the Veterans of Foreign Wars Hall, 824 Main.

Posters winners in third and fourth grade in order include Ryleigh Paxton, Gerell Miller, Braxton Redlin, Tristan Cooper and Raquel Tomsic.

Winners in fifth and sixth grade in order in-

clude Shaley Miller, Nathaniel Smith, Hope Cochran, Tanner Jones and Brook Heinrich.

Limerick winners in third and fourth in order include Dani Mangus, Steph DeLaRosa, Riley Wilson, Gerald Anderson and Katie Seeger.

Winners in fifth and sixth grade in order include Cory Sampson, Brook Lockhart, Shaley Miller, Idalia Martinez and Sadie Avila.

Essay winners in order include Amy Floyd, Trace Waugh, Ashlee Roeder and Victoria Hayes.

Computer stacks winners in order include Talen Smith, Brianna White and Ellie House. Honorable mentions went to Cooper Slough and Amber Perdew.

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SHERMAN COUNTY Farm Bureau

Bankers Award family roots in farming

By Sharon Corcoran

The Goodland Star-News

A family with their roots in farming were chosen for the Sherman County Conservation District's Bankers Award.

Max and Brenda Linin have been farming for 26 years, since moving to Sherman County in 1980. Their home is about a mile south of Goodland on K-27, and they have fields there and in every direction from their home.

The farm is medium-sized and the fields are scattered north, south, east and west, the Linins say, including some land in Cheyenne County. Their primary crops are corn and wheat, and sometimes they grow sunflowers and soybeans. It depends on the prices and other things, Max Linin said.

The Bankers Award Committee chose the Linins for the award. The committee includes representatives from the Sunflower Extension District, National Resources Conservation Service, the conservation district and a key banker. Which bank the key banker comes from rotates between the banks each year; this year's banker is from First National Bank.

The committee takes a tour of farms nominated by the conservation dis-



Max and Brenda Linin have kept up with changing times to keep their medium-sized farm successful. Their farm south of Goodland had a windbreak when they bought it, but they have had to add trees over the year and water them to keep it strong.

Photo by Sharon Corcoran/The Goodland Star-News

trict and the public, said Sandra Rodgers, district manager for the conservation district. The Kansas Bankers Association sponsors the award, she said.

The Linins both come from farm families — he grew up west of Goodland, and her parents lived on farms, her dad in Missouri and her mom in Rush County near Great Bend. Brenda Linin is from Hays, where she met Max at Fort Hays State University.

"I always wanted to live on a farm," she said.

And Goodland was a welcome move, since she had stopped in the town on the way to Colorado.

"I remember stopping in Goodland because they had nice parks," she said. "My family liked picnics and camping."

His father is the late William Linin, and his mother still lives on the family farm. His brother Brent also farms in the area.

Brenda Linin has been teaching in the Goodland School District for 22 years and is now the counselor at Grant Junior High. She is working on her Master's Degree in counseling.

Their sons, Bill, a senior at Kansas State University; Nathan, a senior at Goodland High School; and Joel, a seventh-grader, have been a big help on the farm.

They're available in the summer, Brenda Linin said, when the majority of the work gets done. Whether or not any will come back remains to be seen, she said; they need to pursue their gifts and interests.

Bill will graduate with a construction science and management degree, she said; he will be busy with his own career.

Brenda Linin said she may take a more active role in the farm down the road if needed.

"I used to drive a tractor," she said. "I can learn again."

"We'll take it as it comes," Max Linin said.

The Linins have been adjusting to changing times over the years. Among their conservation practices has been doing strip till on the corn. With the drought, Max Linin said, the dryland crops have gone to no-till.

It has been tough with the drought, he said; it's been about seven years, so we're thinking it's over now.

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