

SANDHILLS RESOURCE CONSERVATION & DEVELOPMENT



2010 FALL NEWSLETTER

Volume 2, Issue 5

"Making the Sandhills a Better Life"

Serving Grant, Hooker, Thomas, Arthur, McPherson, Logan, Keith and Lincoln Counties.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

STATE RC&D
CONFERENCE
RECAP 1

RANCHING FOR
PROFITABILITY
SERIES TO BE
HELD 2

WIND CONFER-
ENCE SET FOR
NOV. 9-10 2

GOVERNOR'S
CONFERENCE ON
RURAL DE-
VELOPMENT 3

SANDHILLS
JOURNEY SCENIC
BYWAY FACILI-
TATOR SELECTED 3

MULLEN WIND
FOR SCHOOLS
PROGRAM 4

UPCOMING
EVENTS 4

NEBRASKA RC&D STATE CONFERENCE HELD IN VALENTINE

The 2010 Nebraska RC&D Association Annual meeting was held October 4, 5, & 6 in beautiful Valentine, NE. The theme of this year's conference was "A Little R&R in Valentine - The Ranching/ Recreation Interface".



Prairie Golf Club was one of the tour options on Wednesday.



The conference began with an optional Monday afternoon float trip down the Niobrara Scenic River with a local guide to tell about area highlights and history. That evening a social hour and supper was enjoyed at a local café in the very small community of Sparks.



A local official was on hand to tell about area highlights and history. Fort Falls was one of the stops on the float trip on Monday.

The official conference began on Tuesday morning

related to traditional ranching and recreational businesses on the ranch. Panelists included Sara Sortum, Burwell, talking about her family's efforts to develop tourism on their ranch; Jim Van Winkle, Project Coordinator for the Sandhills Task

with a welcome and updates from the National RC&D Association, NRCS, and the State RC&D Association. Maxine Moul, State Director of USDA Rural Development, was on hand to give an update on the programs offered through Rural Development. Afternoon tours included Radiant Systems and either Prairie Golf Club -the new semi private golf course south of Valentine, or the Niobrara Scenic River. The annual awards banquet was held Tuesday evening with guest speaker Yvonne Hollenbeck, an award winning cowgirl poet, as the evening entertainment.

Wednesday morning spouses enjoyed an optional tour of the Nature Conservancy Niobrara Valley Preserve during the panel discussions on topics



Optional morning walks to the Niobrara River Bridge and Fort Falls were an added bonus.

Force discussing a typical year on the ranch; Tanya Storer from Whitman, speaking on some of the current challenges to traditional ranching; and Lance Kuck from Basset discussing his bison and heritage breed operations as well as his hunter outfitting business. The conference concluded with an afternoon business meeting for the state association as well as an informal meeting for the Program Assistants.

Our Mission

..to create an environment where all the citizens of the region work together to revitalize the rural economy, enhance and protect the natural resources, improve community infrastructure, and improve and increase tourism opportunities.

“RANCHING FOR PROFITABILITY” MEETINGS TO BE HELD IN JANUARY

UNL Extension is hosting the annual "Ranching for Profitability" meeting during the month of January. The Sandhills RC&D in Mullen will be the host site for the meeting on the evening of Jan. 12th.

Darrell Mark, Livestock Marketing Specialist, is going to talk about managing risk and decision making in a volatile market environment. With all the rains we've had

comes flies and more flies - Dave Boxler, entomologist educator, will discuss the fly control products for cattle and how to get the most out of those products. Dr. Richard Randle, Extension Vet, will help producers prevent pinkeye, how to doctor, and if their antibiotics need to be adjusted.

Pre-register with the

Central Sandhills Extension Office at 1.800.657.2113. Meal counts are due one week prior to the meeting and there is a \$15 registration fee for meals and handouts.

SCHEDULE:

- January 10 mid-day-O'Neill
- January 10 – evening – Brown/Rock / KeyaPaha counties

- January 11 mid-day-Broken Bow
- January 11 – evening Buffalo/Dawson county area
- January 12 mid-day- Valentine
- January 12 evening – Mullen RC&D
- January 13 mid-day - Kimball

WIND POWER 2010 CONFERENCE NOV. 9-10—KEARNEY



The 3rd Annual Nebraska Wind Power Conference will be held November 9 – 10, 2010 at the Younes Conference Centre in Kearney, Nebraska.

The Wind Power Conference, hosted by the Nebraska Wind Working Group, features 70 state and nationally known wind experts and 27 sessions on a wide range of wind related topics including:

wind transmission issues, wind incentives in other states, different kinds of farmer and community owned wind structures, as well as panels of state senators, wind developers, and small wind dealers speaking on how to move Nebraska wind development forward.

On Tuesday, one program track will feature small wind issues highlighting R. Nolan Clark of Amarillo, Texas, a retired USDA wind specialist who is recognized as one of the nation's wind industry giants for his pioneering research on wind

energy. On Wednesday, one track will feature Nebraska's rapidly expanding wind education and training opportunities, including the "Wind for Schools" program, which now includes 20 schools using small wind turbines to propel wind related curriculum and student interest in wind related careers.

For online conference registration & detailed agenda information: visit: www.neo.ne.gov/renew/wind-working-group/2010conference/register.htm

SANDHILLS RC&D OFFICERS

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GOVERNOR'S CONFERENCE ON RURAL DEVELOPMENT

The 3rd Annual Governor's Conference on Rural Development will be held Friday, November 19th, at the Kearney Ramada and Convention center. The conference will focus on building leadership, and community and economic development capacity in rural Nebraska to create a more sustainable state.

This year's conference theme is "Rethinking Strategy for Sustainable Communities: Entrepreneurship, Innovation, and Workforce."

The focus is on implementing new, innovative solutions in your community. The conference's five tracks – community, business, technology, financial resources and the economy, and youth entrepreneurship—will provide information and examples of strategy and innovation in each area, including rethinking strategies in your own community. Youth are either encouraged to

participate in the all-day youth entrepreneurship track, or attend any other tracks of interest to their community's youth leaders.

Keynote speaker will be William Taylor, Founding Editor of *Fast Company* and co-author of *Mavericks at Work*. In a keynote address that features inspiring and instructive case studies from a wide range of fields, Bill Taylor offers a

game plan for game changers—a set of ideas and a collection of how-to practices that equips leaders and entrepreneurs to make real progress in tough times.

Conference registration is \$65 for adults and \$35 for students before Nov. 5th. For a complete list of breakout sessions or for more information visit:

<http://www.neded.org/content/view/1138/160/>

SJSB FACILITATOR HIRED



Georgeann Wearin of Hyannis Nebraska has been selected as the new Facilitator for the Sandhills Journey Scenic Byway (SJSB). Wearin has lived in the Sandhills of Nebraska for over twenty-six years having moved here from Wyoming.

Wearin is the mother of three sons and the wife of Andy Wearin. The couple makes their home on the Wearin Brothers Pitchfork Ranch outside of Hyannis.

Wearin has been involved in community service at numerous levels and is an award winning western entertainer and free-lance writer.

As an independent contractor, Wearin will assist and facilitate the Scenic Byway in carrying out the purposes and objectives of the SJSB Rural Business Enterprise Grant awarded by the USDA Rural Development Program. Some of her duties will include building relationships between the Byway and the business communities, increase business development training, expand Byway communications and create a Byway business directory.

The goal of the Rural Business Enterprise Grant is to increase traf-

fic through tourism, targeting travelers in-state, regionally and nationally. RBEG also hopes to sustain and build additional businesses along the Byway which will help our small rural communities survive.

"I am looking forward to this great opportunity," said Wearin. "I absolutely love the Sandhills and can't wait to promote our Scenic Byway."

To contact Wearin about becoming a member of the Sandhills Journey Scenic Byway or to set up an appointment to discuss the objectives and purposes of the Byway, please email her at pitchfork@neb-sandhills.net

For additional information about the SJSB visit, www.sandhillsjourney.com

SJSB Vision Statement: To improve our rural economy by working cooperatively to enhance the visitor experience.

BOARD MEMBERS

Eric Hansen

Wynn Wiens

Dan Deibler

Cliff Welsh

Merlin Ring

Toni Ring

Stan Pettit

Rex Lanka

Carl Rundback

Lonnie Peters

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We're on the web!

www.sandhillsrcd.org

SANDHILLS RC&D

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“ M A K I N G T H E S A N D H I L L S A B E T T E R L I F E ”

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Oct. 28-29—Connecting Young Nebraskans Summit—Grand Island
- Oct. 29—Sandhills Journey Scenic Byway Annual Meeting—Alliance
- Nov. 9—10—Nebraska Wind Power Conference— Kearney
- Nov. 10 - Sandhills Byway Retreat - 4-H Camp - Halsey
- Nov. 12 - New Frontiers Development Network-Ogallala
- Nov. 19 - Governor's Conference on Rural Development—Kearney
- Nov. 30 - Sandhills RC&D meeting - TBD
- Dec 15 - Jim Gerrish Grazing Seminars Curtis & Whitman
- Jan. 12—Ranching for Profitability—Mullen

MULLEN HIGH SCHOOL TO RECEIVE WIND TURBINE



MHS Physics students pictured left, Jared Simonson, Nathan Vinton, Gabriel Connealy & Trisha Young, are standing where cement will be poured in the next couple of weeks with one of the wind turbine blades.

By Gerri Peterson, Hooker Co Tribune

Mullen Public Schools recently received a check in the amount of \$16,000 from the Attorney General's Environmental Protection Fund to use in the construction of a wind turbine under the National

Renewable Energy Labs Wind for Schools program. The installation of a Skystream 3.7 (1.8 kW) wind turbine is ready to begin, with the first step being to pour cement.

The turbine, which will be located north of the bus barn at the high school, will slightly reduce the electrical costs for the school system, but its main purpose will be educational. The project will be specifically geared towards the juniors and seniors in upper level math and science classes, studying data logged by the turbine, monitoring wind speed and turbine performance.

Sandhills Resource Conservation and Development Council receives technical assistance from the United States Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service. An equal opportunity employer and provider.