

Conservation Conversation

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Whitney Moreland Places First in State

By Tony Pals

As most of you know, every year the Fayette County Soil & Water Conservation District sponsors a Poster Contest for all the fourth graders in the county. We use the same theme as that used by the Association of Illinois Soil & Water Conservation Districts (AISWCD) for their annual contest, so that our local winning poster can then be entered in the state contest. This year's theme was "Water Wise". We recently received word that our contest winner this year, Whitney Moreland, from Ramsey, won first place at the state competi-



tion in her age group. Whitney and her parents, Roger and Julie Moreland and little brother, Adam, attended the AISWCD Annual Meeting in Decatur on July 31st where she was honored at the Education Luncheon, and received a framed certificate and a gift card. Whitney is the second winner from Fayette County in the last three years. Are we good or are we good?! Whitney will now be entered in the National Association of Conservation District's Poster Contest. Winners of that contest will be feted at the NACD Annual Meeting in Los Angeles, California next February. Good luck, Whitney!

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Snow's Chosen Conservation Farm Family

By Tony Pals

The Tony Snow family from near Mulberry Grove has been chosen as this year's Conservation Farm Family. Tony is a dairy farmer with 200 head of Brown Swiss. The family also has been showing their Brown Swiss at state and national competition for 20 years. Tony has been farming since 1976, and farms 312 acres. All of his rolling ground and some of his level cropland is used for pasture and hay production. He is currently enrolled in the Envi-



ronmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), which is helping him convert to a grass-based dairy. Fencing and the creation of paddocks for rotational grazing are increasing the harvest efficiency of the herd. In addition to improved permanent pastures, Tony is using summer and winter annual forages to extend the grazing season. The farm's water supply was improved with the construction of a new pond and a pipeline system to deliver water to all the paddocks. He also installed an animal waste management system in

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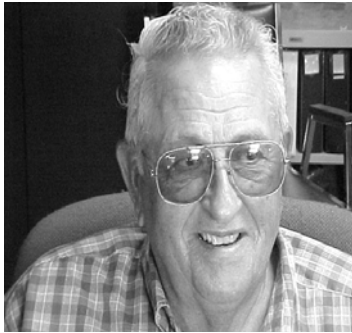
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Nelsie's News
By Nelson Torbeck

How about the temperature for the first part of July? Nice wasn't it? I went in the shop a couple of mornings, and thought about starting a fire to take the chill off? I didn't of course, but it was unusually cool for July. We'll pay for it later on, I'll bet. Could use some rain - in fact, a lot of rain. The crops are looking pretty good, but a slow inch today, a slow inch day after tomorrow, maybe a slow inch toward the end of the week would be nice. But that's not how Illinois weather happens. It rained on us when we were going into church this morning. Now there's an old saying about that; I don't know it, but there is. Something about three days of rain this week? And spotty?! It was raining when we came home from church - just showering. Got to the townhouse - nothing. Got to our lane - a little, could see the road ahead was wet. I walked out to the shop and the gutter on the north side of the shop dripped water and the gutter on the south side wasn't dripping at all. Now, I don't care what you say, that's called spotty showers! While we're on the farming subject, how about those Japanese beetles. By golly, they are a pain in the neck! We had them in the sweet corn last year, and you know what happened - no corn. So this year it was war! I'd spray and the beetles would die. Now I don't know who won the war, but we'll see in a few days. That reminds me, the coon / corn war will start real sudden. I usually win that one. We put a radio in the corn patch and let it play all night. There is one problem with it. The coons get to dancing so much they wear the grass down! But it will grow back. Ok, let's see, oh yes,



Nice baseball. You know, Jordy was on a good team this year again! They finished second place in league play with a 14 and 2 record. They lost both games to the same team. They had a league tournament. After 2 wins in that, Jordy's team had to play the team that beat them twice in league play. Ok, here we are, 7:30, the main field, announcer, three umpires, 2 good teams, excited mothers and grandmother's. We men, you know we're sort of cool. The umpire calls, "Play ball". We're home team. First inning it was 1-1. Second inning, 1-1. Third inning three up and three down. Now their pitcher's not pitching as well as he usually does. Our pitcher is doing real good. Jordy is playing first base. The boys from both teams are playing excellent ball. Fourth inning, its 3 up and 3 down for them. We score 4. Fifth inning, 1 out, hit, hit, 2 out, hit, score 2. Now this is getting serious. Everybody is getting excited, except on guy, our pitcher. He calmly strikes out the last batter for the win! We did the same thing to the same team last year. They finished 1st in league play but we beat them in the championship game. I'll have to admit this has been an exciting year. Jaron got back from Germany. He saw a lot of different things and places, but I think he was glad to get home. Tim and Travis just go to work. Well, I'd better wind things down. Here's a question for you: Why is a wise man and a wise guy opposite. How about a couple of short sayings? "Yesterday's luxuries are today's necessities." "It's better to do right than be right."

Transect Survey Completed
By Tony Pals

Every two years the SWCD conducts what is called a Transect Survey. This involves recording crop, tillage, soils, slope, and ephemeral (small) gully erosion information on 946 points on crop fields in the county. The transect was started in 1994. It takes two full days driving the route and recording the data, and another day to enter it into a computer program to send to the IDOA. The information is used to determine the erosion occurring at each of these sites. The data is subsequently expanded to reasonably estimate the total soil loss on the cropland in Fayette County. This can then be compared to soil loss information gathered from previous Transects to determine if soil loss is increasing or decreasing. For instance, the data from our last transect (2004) indicated that 90% of the cropland in the county had soil losses at or below what is considered acceptable. Another use for this



information is to ascertain changes in tillage methods for the various crops. As you might suspect, there continues to be an increase in no till soybeans and wheat. The 2004 report showed that 34% of our soybeans and 20% of our wheat in the county is no tilled. That's a considerable increase from when I started in 1977. In fact, when no-till was just getting started everyone was no-tilling corn and no soybeans, because there were no chemicals for no-till beans. There is even an increase in no till corn, though much more gradual than the other two crops (less than 10% according to the 2004 report). We will get the data on the results of this year's Transect later in the year. When we do, I'll put the results in the newsletter so we can compare them to the 2004 information.

Conservation Conversation
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Non Profit Organization
Permit #53
Vandalia, IL

Conservation Calendar

August

15 - Dale Jahraus Birthday
24 - Board Meeting
11 - 20 - Illinois State Fair

September 2006

4- Labor Day
9 - Steve Henna's Birthday
12-13 - Conservation Field Days
26 - Soil Judging
28 - Board Meeting

Snow's Chosen Conservation Farm Family

By Tony Pals



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1994 for an improved method of storing manure until it could be applied to his fields. Tony readily shares these experiences with anyone who has ques-

tions.

Tony and his wife, Marsha, have three children: Brad (wife, Marla), Joey, and Ashley. They also have two grandchildren: Lainey and Hunter. I guess they didn't feel like they had enough livestock to take care of, so they have recently added 96 goats to try to keep themselves busy.



Senior Humor

*--Aging: Eventually you will reach a point when you stop lying about your age and start bragging about it.

*--Some people try to turn back their odometers. Not me, I want people to know "why" I look this way. I've traveled a long way and some of the roads weren't paved.

*--Life is like a roll of toilet paper, The closer to the end you get the faster it goes.

*--Long ago when men cursed and beat the ground with sticks, it was called witchcraft. Today, it's called golf.

*--A distraught senior citizen phoned her doctor's office. "Is it true," she wanted to know "that the medication you prescribed has to be taken for the rest of my life?" "Yes, I'm afraid so," the doctor told her. There was a moment of silence before the senior lady replied, "I'm wondering, then, just how serious is my condition because this prescription is marked 'NO REFILLS'."

*--The older we get, the fewer things seem worth waiting in line for.



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