

Presented by Thomas E. Oswald  
Representing Cherokee SWCD  
District 1 CDI Regional  
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## District Tours in Cherokee County

## Cherokee SWCD Commissioners



## Cherokee County



## Cherokee County



## What does it cost, What could it pay?

- ▶ **Education and Training**
  - ▶ Unification project between board and staff
  - ▶ Learn, see, touch projects we are involved in
- ▶ **Public Interaction/Exposure**
  - ▶ Low pressure, fun experience
  - ▶ Easy to advertise, say our message
- ▶ **Appreciation and Engagement with Cooperators**
  - ▶ "We think your project is worthy, Thanks!"
  - ▶ "Working with the SWCD, look at what we accomplished"
  - ▶ Shared morale builder

## Tour Date and Topic Examples

- ▶ **Dates**
  - ▶ July 18, 2006
  - ▶ July 16, 2007
  - ▶ July 15, 2008
- ▶ Seems like a good time
- ▶ Crop work "done"
- ▶ Plantings growing
- ▶ Warm
- ▶ Potentially less muddy
- ▶ Schedule as best as possible
- ▶ **Grade Stabilization**
- ▶ Terraces
- ▶ Waterways
- ▶ No-Till
- ▶ Problem Fields/Structures
- ▶ County Collaboration
- ▶ Prescribed Burns
- ▶ Solar Pump
- ▶ Riparian Buffers
- ▶ CRP plantings
- ▶ Windbreaks

## Tour Planning

- ▶ Commissioners offer broad guidelines
  - ▶ "We want to see..."
  - ▶ "Do you have a project you are really proud of?"
  - ▶ Something unconventional for the area
    - ▶ No-till on "flat land"
    - ▶ Solar Pump
    - ▶ Road structure
- ▶ Staff often suggests projects ... they've seen them
- ▶ Rotate around county as dictated by successes or issues....
  - ▶ Targeted watersheds
  - ▶ Unique structures, projects
- ▶ Invite widely
  - ▶ Newspaper, radio, email
  - ▶ Not just farmers.... landlords, investors, city/county officials, neighboring SWCDs and other stakeholders
  - ▶ Potential donors
  - ▶ Make sure state/fed politicians/staff are invited

## Tour Guide

The Cherokee County Soil & Water Conservation District Commissioners would like to extend a big thank you to the landowners and tenants who allowed their sites to be a part of our 2008 Conservation Tour.

We would also like to thank the following people and businesses for contributing to the District during the past year:

Bruce & Donna Amundson  
Larry & Sheryl Carlson  
Mike & Pam Cronin  
Farmers State Bank  
First Cooperative Association  
Gustafson Realty  
Lundell Construction Co. Inc.  
McGuire Auction Co. Inc.  
Saxel Seed Service, Inc.  
Stalcup Agricultural Service Inc.  
Western Cherokee Mutual Insurance

2008 Cherokee County  
Soil & Water Conservation  
District Tour  
July 15, 2008

Sells' Grade Stab Structure



We appreciate everyone coming out for the tour tonight. If you have any questions or comments, please let us know.

### Tour Schedule

Cherokee USDA Service Center - 9:00 p.m.  
314 Lake Street  
712-225-3799  
Welcome by Chairman Tom Overhill

Depart USDA Service Center at 9:15 p.m.

#### STOP # 1

John & Jennifer Sells (owners)  
Spring 13  
Grade Stabilization Structure, Prescribed Burn, and Brush Management.  
Presenter: John Sells (owner) & Randy Jipp (Technician)  
Arrive: 9:35 p.m.

CRP SAFE Program—Mark Van Arh (FSA CED)

Leave for stop #2 at 9:50 p.m.

#### STOP # 2

RTCP Farms  
Richard Luster (owner) Dennis & Cheryl Dunnington and  
Mark & Scott Carlson (operators)  
Spring 8  
Solar Pump Project  
Presenter: Jeff Kestel (Dava Lakes RCAD Coordinator)  
Arrive: 9:40 p.m.

Leave for Dancy's at 7:20

Dancy's Sports Spot  
1013 South 2nd Street - Cherokee  
Sawyer & Commissioner's Meeting  
Arrive: 7:50 p.m.

### Description of Practices

#### John & Jennifer Sells—Spring 13

Grade Stabilization Structure funded via LERP (Little Sikes Flood Prevention)  
Purpose: to stabilize the grade, reduce gully erosion, and improve water quality.

Brush Management funded via WHIP (Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program)  
Purpose: to enhance wildlife habitat by reducing/eliminating the competition for space, moisture, and sunlight by unwanted woody vegetation.

Prescribed Burn funded via WHIP (Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program)  
Purpose: to enhance wildlife habitat by creating and/or restoring the desired plant community.

#### RTCP Farms—Spring 8

Solar Pump Project funded via a grant from NRCS & administered through Dava Lakes RCAD.

Purpose: to keep the cattle out of the creek and streams and to make better use of the grasses on the hillside.

Brush Management funded via a Private Lands Stewardship Grant.

Everyone is invited to Dancy's Sports Spot after the tour. Snapper will be provided courtesy of the Cherokee County Soil & Water Conservation District.

## The Tour

- ▶ Start at the Office late afternoon
  - ▶ Introductions, short meeting inside
  - ▶ Map and contact information taped to office door for late comers
- ▶ Cooler with bottled water on ice is brought along
  - ▶ Everyone can drink it, fits all tastes
  - ▶ Easily stored if not used, not messy
- ▶ Caravan/carpool
  - ▶ Allows interaction among people on tour
  - ▶ Have a handful of 4 x 4 pickups/SUVs on tour to keep cars from hazards and rough lands
  - ▶ Easy to flex as crowd size varies, saves cost compared to bus
- ▶ End at restaurant with dinner and monthly District meeting
  - ▶ Have estimate once tour starts who is going
  - ▶ Nice to pull event together
  - ▶ Allows observance of monthly meeting for those interested

## Results

- ▶ Newspaper articles
- ▶ Expanded awareness
  - ▶ "I didn't know that you were doing...."
- ▶ Visual appreciation of County resources
- ▶ Returning Guests
- ▶ Donations

## Newspaper Article



Tour Stop Part Two: Completed



Owner Presentation



Presentation



Happy Owner



FSA Update



Solar Panels



Hilltop Water Tank

