

9-24-2001

Master Conservationist Presentations - 2001

John Owens

University of Nebraska - Lincoln, jowens2@unl.edu

Follow this and additional works at: <http://digitalcommons.unl.edu/owenspeech>

 Part of the [Agriculture Commons](#)

Owens, John, "Master Conservationist Presentations - 2001" (2001). *John Owens: Speeches & Appearances. 2.*
<http://digitalcommons.unl.edu/owenspeech/2>

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Agriculture and Natural Resources, Institute of (IANR) at DigitalCommons@University of Nebraska - Lincoln. It has been accepted for inclusion in John Owens: Speeches & Appearances by an authorized administrator of DigitalCommons@University of Nebraska - Lincoln.

MASTER CONSERVATIONIST PRESENTATIONS--2001

Rod Horn
South Platte NRD
Sydney
TO COME FORWARD
TO REPRESENT

District A

We begin the 2001 Master Conservationist program with honorees in production agriculture from District A which includes the Panhandle of Nebraska. I would like to ask Leon and Cheryl Burkhart-Kriesel (Kresel) of Gurley ^{who are unable to be present.} ~~to come forward.~~ They operated the family farm in partnership with Fred and Viola Kriesel until 1984 when Leon and Cheryl became sole owners/operators. The Kriesels produce certified wheat, millet, oats, and barley seed on 3200 dryland acres that are owned, rented, or contracted. Since 1984, 45,000 feet of terraces have been installed. Their ^{holistic} conservation plan also includes over 57,000 feet of windbreaks of mixed evergreen and broadleaf trees and shrubs. This mixture of ^{plant} species is ^{" "}unique in the Panhandle. They built an earthen dam with 11 acre-feet of permanent storage and 70.5 acre-feet of detention storage. Results include reduced soil erosion by wind and water, and ^{increased} productivity and wildlife populations. Local and international groups tour the farm. Congratulations to the Kriesels.
 & THANK YOU Rod Horn.

District B

Victor and Julianna Bodyfield of Ericson are the Master Conservationists in District B which includes north-central Nebraska. They operate 4,520 acres of crop and pasture land . Since 1959, 23,474 trees have been planted to protect soil and livestock as well as to provide habitat for wildlife. Other practices include crop-rotation on 1,362 acres, residue management on 1,362 acres, pasture and hay-land seeding/management on 22 acres, 22 water tanks, and 7.4 miles of pipeline to improve distribution of livestock and water quality. More than 18 miles of cross-fencing have been installed to subdivide grazing which has been beneficial to the pasture as well as the livestock. No-till and minimum-till planting have reduced erosion. Crop rotation has enhanced nitrogen-management as well as weed and insect control. Smaller pastures combined with a later calving season have provided greater success with herd management. This operation is a showcase for conservation tours. Let's extend congratulations to the Bodyfields.

District C

The Master Conservationist recognition in District C, northeast Nebraska, goes to Bob and Mary Dickey of Laurel. They have operated their 1200-acre diversified grain and livestock farm for 38 years. When Bob started farming, he exchanged labor with his father for use a conventional-planter. However, he was disappointed that use of a conventional planter required so many trips to prepare a seed bed and he then purchased a no-till planter. He was a pioneer in conservation practices with his corn and soybean rotation. The Dickeys later developed a man-made pond and planted shrubs and bushes to enhance wildlife. A dam was constructed in a pasture to control erosion from run-off and provide water for cattle and wildlife. A consultant makes recommendations on fertilizer and pesticide applications which provides both environmental and economic benefits. Bob has shared his enthusiasm for the value of conservation with others and as a teacher of adult education classes for veterans. Congratulations to the Dickeys.

District D

The Krutsinger Ranches of Parks were selected for Master Conservationist recognition in District D, south-central and southwest Nebraska.. Garry and Rod Krutsinger will accept the plaque. The family operation includes 16,000 acres of native or seeded grass, 660 acres of crop land, a fall calving herd, a spring calving herd, and a yearling herd. They background 3,500 head of calves between the feedlot north of Parks and at the Allen place. Since 1977, the Krutsingers have installed two miles of windbreaks, 100,000 feet of pipeline, over 25 steel bottom tanks, and approximately 25,000 feet of barbed wire ["]cross-fencing["] for a planned grazing system of 23 pastures. Conservation practices have increased carrying capacity, reduced trailing, and improved fly control. A waste storage facility was built for the feedlot north of Parks to control runoff and protect water quality of Rock Creek. The ranch hosts ["]High-School Range Judging Contests and Range Management Society Tours. Congratulations to the Krutsingers.

District E

Jerry and Bobbie Newsham (Newshum) of Ashland are the recipients of Master Conservationist recognition in southeast Nebraska, District E. Soil erosion control practices always have been important on the 3,000-acre Cedar Ridge Farm devoted to corn, soybean, and wheat production. The Newshams have constructed 44.5 miles of tile outlet terraces since they began the operation in 1961. They have established 56 acres of buffer strips 80 feet wide which total 5.8 miles. This vegetation collects sediments and pollutants and also provides habitat for wildlife. Since 1985, no-till practices have been employed except where manure is applied. They maintained a wheat base in the crop rotation which many others have abandoned. A crop advisor provides agronomic and environmentally-sound management advice. The Newshams are considered change-agents both locally and statewide. Over the years Jerry has provided input on policy development and legislation which has impacted both conservation programs and the land. Let's extend congratulations to the Newshams.

Residential

We are happy to present a Master Conservationist Award in the Residential category to John and Gloria Turnbull of York. They began planning and searching for a home-site in the 1970s and selected a two-acre site facing south. The Turnbulls began by planting windbreaks in the early 1980s before building their home. Other early activities included terracing with low retaining-walls to save water and soil, planting native prairie, and installing fish-tanks to catch precipitation that runs-off the roof of the passive solar house. They make extensive use of mulch and compost. Over the years, the Turnbulls have planted 26 varieties of trees, 63 varieties of shrubs, 19 varieties of native turf and ornamental grasses, plus many flowers and herbs. Plant selection has focused on disease resistance, suitability to resources naturally available, wildlife habitat and perennials rather than annuals. The attractive residence site is popular for tours, both organized and impromptu. Congratulations to the Turnbulls.

Community-Private Business

Master Conservationist recognition in the Community- Private Business category goes to Natural Habitats Unlimited of Syracuse, represented by owners Dave and Kimberly Nelson of Gretna. The firm developed and implemented a three-year conservation plan for the 160-acre Hunters Creek Farm in Otoe County. Activities have included 10.4 acres of windbreaks, 2 linear miles of filter strips, 4.5 acres of restored prairie, 30 acres of Conservation Reserve Program land "interseeded" to improve wildlife quality, 4 acres planted to millet for a waterfowl, and 8 acres of terraces and waterways interseeded. They conducted controlled burning of 100 acres, planted 55 acres of food plots, created 1.5 acres of wetlands, and hand-planted 2 acres of wetlands. Two "fisheries surveys" were conducted and ponds were stocked with catfish and large mouth bass. The plan was implemented "without" a negative impact on the farm's cash-flow. Natural Habitats co-hosts a Youth Mentor Hunt and other activities. Congratulations to the Nelsons.

FINAL

Community-Public

The Anderson Middle School, one of the Millard Public Schools, is the recipient ^{of} Master Conservationist recognition in the Community-Public category. Emmett Egr will accept the award. Students and staff have spent the past 12 years developing an Outdoor Classroom on three acres near the school. A total of 150 trees, shrubs, and vines were planted to provide food for wildlife along with 400 trees, shrubs, and evergreens that will mature into woods to provide "habitat." One-third of an acre "was planted" to native prairie grasses and wildflowers. An 8,000 square foot pond was built which is fed by a "drilled well" that provides year-round water at 56 degrees for wildlife. A total of 43 individuals and organizations "donated" time and materials estimated at \$10,000. Because of this direct involvement, Anderson Middle School students have a real sense of "ownership," do what is necessary to protect and enhance the site, and take pride in their achievements. Congratulations to Anderson Middle School students, staff, and others.

ADD "CONGRATULATIONS" TO TONIGHT'S AWARDEES & THEIR FAMILIES.

THESE ARE YOUR AWARDS & WE CELEBRATE YOUR ACCOMPLISHMENTS & YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS TO NEBRASKA!