

# Randall RC&D.....Quarterly News.....

## July~September 2009

### NATIVE PRAIRIE GARDEN.....

An old time “Garden Party” was held September 18<sup>th</sup> at the Native Prairie Garden near Kimball. Talks about the history of the area and the native plants at the Garden preceded a tour of the 15-acre area. Randall RC&D assisted in securing \$4000 to help with improvements to the walking paths, plant identification signage, garden party publicity and other things which help visitors observe over 80 species of native plants and wild flowers.



The Native Prairie Garden is located along Interstate 90 just west of Ditty’s Truck Stop. After the land was a donated to the Kimball School District, Dave Konechne and Wayne Westra formed the Native Prairie Garden Committee. The Committee’s goal is to develop the area as an outdoor classroom, a haven for native plants and a respite for travelers. Dave and Wayne are strongly dedicated to the project and a big “thanks” goes out to them for all their hard work.



*Children enjoying a nice sunny day at the Native Prairie Garden.*

### LEWIS & CLARK WATERSHED IMPLEMENTATION PROJECT.....

Last fall Randall RC&D was successful in securing needed funding to continue the Implementation project for another 2 years (Fall 2009 to Fall 2011). This was largely due to the fact that the project has been successful in working with landowners and vastly exceeding the original and upwardly revised 3 year goals. Most of the credit for the large number of practices implemented goes to the landowners for seeing the need to do their part and because of the interagency coordination between the conservation partnership. Wacey Kirkpatrick, of Midland, has been hired by the SD Association of Conservation Districts to assist Watershed Coordinator, Rocky Knippling, with much needed field and administrative work. The table below reflects the combined efforts of the Conservation Partnership.

Lewis and Clark Watershed Implementation Project  
Milestone Table  
Three year Targeted/Expected goals and actual  
Implemented goals 2006 to 2009

<b>BMP</b>	<b>Unit</b>	<b>Total Expected</b>	<b>Total Implemented</b>
Ag Waste System	Engineering Services	8	22
Ag Waste System	Nutrient Management Plans	8	33
Ag Waste System	System Installation	8	19
Critical Area Planting	ac Cropland BMPs	750	24,502
Critical Area Planting	ac Filter Strips	75	4329
Critical Area Planting	ac Grassed Waterways	15	99
Grazing Management	ac Grass seeding	350	379
Grazing Management	ac Grazing Systems	1500	8859
Grazing Management	ac Pasture/Grassland Buffers	15	124
Grazing Management	LF Fencing	15,000	63,847
Grazing Management	LF Pipelines	7500	95,888
Grazing Management	Ponds/dugouts	5	3

## AG ENERGY.....

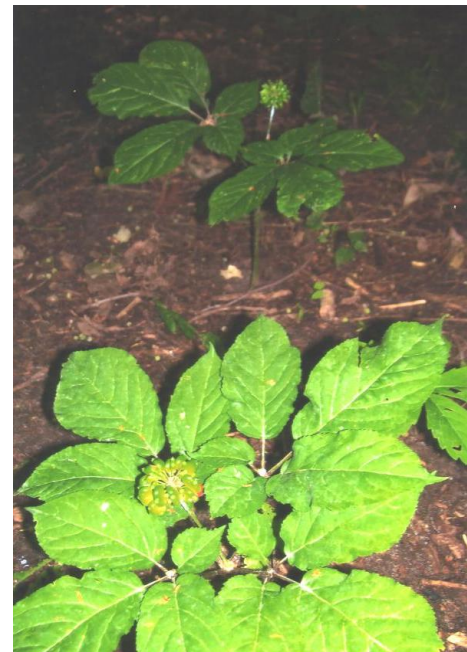
Last winter Randall RC&D teamed up with the Gregory County Conservation District and the Brule/Buffalo Conservation District and held two very successful Ag Energy Workshops. Large wind and small wind development risks and opportunities were featured parts of each workshop.



Randall RC&D decided more was needed in this area so the Council applied for a North Central Risk Management Education Center grant in the amount of \$15,000.00; the project was approved for funding this past summer. Martin Drefs, Randall RC&D council member, attended the requisite training in Minneapolis, MN in August. The next step is to host 5 workshops throughout the state to provide the public with the tools to assist them in evaluating the economic risks associated with developing small wind, large wind and land leases. The first workshop was held in Madison on September 29<sup>th</sup> with assistance from the Lower James RC&D (Mitchell).

## SPECIALTY CROPS PROJECT.....

Specialty Crops hold promise in the Missouri River breaks area, and over the last 2 years, Randall RC&D has assisted a private landowner to secure 2 small grants through the South Dakota Department of Ag Specialty Crops Program. Ginseng and hazelnut are being tried in Gregory County under these grants. Ginseng holds promise as a high value cash crop for the root and the seed. It is very specific in its soil, shade, cultural requirements and seems to be doing well so far. On September 23<sup>rd</sup>, the Forestry Division held their regional forestry tour at the Ginseng plot site. Stay tuned for some public field day events and publicity on these specialty crop trials.



*Ginseng plants growing at the trial plots.*

## COUNCIL ACTIVITIES.....

This past quarter has kept members active with monthly council meetings and their sponsor/project meetings. In addition, the council is in the beginning stages of updating the 5-Year Area Plan. The council has developed a survey questionnaire designed to get individual and community input. The council is also updating their website pages and will be kicking off an effort designed to inform the public about its mission, goals, and many projects. The goal of this effort is to recruit volunteers and potential new council members. Stay tuned for an exciting year.



*Conserve and develop.....natural and human resources.*

