

Bon Homme County Conservation District (No. 07)

In 1935, Congress approved the establishment of the Soil Conservation Service (SCS), now called the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). The Soil Conservation District Law was passed in SD in 1937. The Emanuel Choteau Creek Soil & Water Conservation District was organized in February, 1939. In June of 1941, the Scotland Soil & Water Conservation District was organized. On December 8, 1972, the Secretary of State certified combining the Emanuel Choteau Creek and Scotland Conservation Districts into one district called the Bon Homme County Conservation District.

The original 12 conservation districts which included Emanuel Choteau Creek (now Bon Homme Conservation District) organized in February 1942, the South Dakota Association of Conservation Districts. E.B. Dwight of Springfield was a member of the Association's first governing officers and the chair of the first board of directors.

Emanuel Choteau Creek Conservation District included these townships – Avon, Franklin, Jefferson, Albion, Hancock, Springfield, Bon Homme, Running Water and two townships in Charles Mix County - Lone Tree and Rouse until 1968 then they became part of the Charles Mix Conservation District.

Settlers came in 1859 to the Emanuel Choteau Creek area. At first wheat and other grains were the chief crops. About the time of World War I, corn became the chief crop. After a few years of more cultivated crops and without seeding back to grass for soil protection, the soil began to lose its binding properties and became subject to severe water erosion, both sheet erosion and gully erosion. Pastures were overgrazed and natural stands of grass were badly damaged. Erosion on cropland was severe. Gullies developed on cropland and also on the pastures and some grass land. People were interested in doing something and tried some simple practices but needed help. They had heard about the Soil Conservation Districts. Petitions were circulated and a hearing was held at Perkins to organize a conservation district. This was organized in 1939 on 202,504 acres. Ed Dwight was the leading figure in all these activities.

Emanuel-Choteau Creek Soil and Water Conservation District first supervisors were Ed B. Dwight, Springfield; William Raabe, Tyndall, William Hornstra, Springfield; M.P. Babcock, Springfield, and Rudolph Engel, Avon. Others who helped develop interest and encouraged the organization were Ted Schwartz, George Genant, Kenneth Crouse and Ted Fennema.

The supervisors specified these problems: sheet erosion on sloping land from too much runoff; gullying; overgrazed pastures. The following practices were used to meet these problems: contour farming; stock dams; terracing; diversions; tree planting; pasture furrow; grass seeding; crop rotation; pasture and range management.

Scotland Conservation District included – Monroe, Emanuel, Washington, Scotland, Jackson, Lincoln, Cleveland and Tabor townships.

Early settlers found the land in the Scotland area nearly level to gently undulating and covered with a lush growth of mixed natural grasses. It also had a deep fertile soil consisting mostly of loams which made it easy to farm. During periods of heavy rainfalls, gullies had begun to show up on cropland, especially where there was some slope. The gullies became a problem as years passed. When the wind erosion began to take its toll during the 1930's the people became concerned. The farmers suggested organizing a Scotland Conservation District at a

meeting sponsored by the Scotland Commercial Club and the Smith-Hughes Department of Agriculture. Petitions for organizing a soil conservation district were signed by 101 landowners requesting the State Soil Conservation Committee to hold a hearing. On March 19, 1941 a hearing was held in Scotland attended by 200 people. J.E. Lehman (hearing chairman) and Clarence Bower were nominated to preside at the hearing. The referendum was conducted on May 17, 1941 with 75.6% of the landowners voting and 81.7% of the vote being favorable.

The first board of supervisors for Scotland Soil & Water Conservation District consisted of: J.L. Lehman, Scotland, Chairman; John Cole, Tyndall, vice chairman; Sylvester Petrik, treasurer; Tom Voy, Scotland; Joe Stverak; and Melvin Jensen, County Agent, Tyndall, secretary. Others who were interested in getting the program started were: Emil Buchholz, Tyndall; Jacob Bauder, Scotland; Emil Blazak, Tyndall; Mads Smith, Tabor and Emil Jilek, Tyndall.

The supervisors prepared the plan of work and specified some of the problems as being wind and water erosion on cropland; gullies in crop and pasture lands; overgrazed and weedy pastures; limited stock water facilities; not enough land in pasture. The Conservation District assisted the farmers with the following conservation practices: gully control; weed control; pasture renovation and furrows; construction of dams; grass seeding; dam construction for livestock water; soil erosion; tree planting; water conservation; wildlife dams; contour furrows. In addition to the above activities, the supervisors provided bait spreaders during the grasshopper years. They provided duck-foot equipment for weed control and subsurface tillage, as well as a blade and heavy equipment for earth moving.

The first District Conservationist for Emanuel Choteau Creek Soil Conservation was B.R. Fenn and I.R. Trumbower was the first District Conservationist for the Scotland Conservation District.

Emanuel Choteau Creek District

1939 The necessary legal steps were taken to organize the Emanuel Choteau Creek Conservation District. Supervisors were appointed to the Conservation District.

1940 The Conservation District office was established in Springfield, SD. The Memorandum of Understanding was entered into between the Emanuel Choteau Creek Soil Conservation, County Highway Department and Board of County Commissioners. Jack Dysktra was hired as the tractor operator. Bill Fender and Cliff Warrington were the blade operators.

1941 Discussion held on creating a new Conservation District in Bon Homme County. The Conservation District entered into a weed control agreement with the Federal Land Bank of Omaha. The bank paid 40¢ per acre for cultivation. Conservation District rented a Farmall H from Maurice DeJong, used for weed control. Supervisors paid \$2.00/meeting plus 3¢/mile.

1942 Fenn reported on the splendid cooperation this spring by the County Commissioners on the construction of 3 terraces, a dam, a water diversion and blading of 5 gullies with the county patrol. Martin Daub was approved as the Conservation District cat operator. Highway right of ways were seeded with brome grass and crested wheat grass. This was done with cooperation between the county and Conservation District. The county provided the brome grass seed with the Conservation District providing the crested wheat grass seed and doing the planting.

1943 Mr. Bjorklund, District Conservationist proposed combining of the two offices due to the work load was in the western and southern parts of the Conservation Districts. It was reported by Fenn that Emanuel Choteau Creek had accomplished as much work as any conservation district in the State. Policy was set that the supervisors hold a regular meeting every month with the meeting to be held on the first Thursday of each month.

1945 Letters were sent to our senators and congressmen requesting the legislation pass that the surplus war equipment be made available to the conservation districts. Bud Martin was hired to operate tractor on the weed ring.

1946 Three farms (Harold Hornstra, Springfield; Albert Ratzlaff, Avon; Maurice Babcock, Springfield) were selected to represent the Conservation District in the State Soil and Moisture Contest.

1947 Ed Schneider was the heavy equipment operator for the Conservation District. The Conservation District entered the GSDA Soil Conservation Achievement contest. Mr. Hicks, District Conservationist discussed moving the Conservation District office from Springfield to Tyndall. The supervisors opposed the move since it would be outside the Conservation District boundaries if located in Tyndall. The Conservation District accepted the room in the basement of the Bank building. It would be available as soon as the library moved to the Community building. The room was offered free of rent and heat would be furnished.

1948 It was decided to hold a Conservation District plow terrace contest. The Supervisors were in favor of having an annual report printed and sent to the cooperators.

1949 Tree planting ads were placed in the Avon Informer and the Springfield Money Saver. The supervisors decided to publish the annual report in the newspapers (Avon Informer; Springfield Money Saver) rather than sending it out to the cooperators. Albert Ratzlaff and Harold Hornstra attended the National Plow Contest at West Point, Nebraska.

1951 The annual report was printed in such a way that a contest for finding the most mistakes was included to make sure the cooperators read the report. The district will give the winner a \$25.00 defense bond. George Genant won the annual report contest. Albert Ratzlaff was the area winner in the Achievement contest.

1952 The supervisors contributed \$25 to the Crawford Memorial Scholarship Fund which is in connection with the Southern State Teachers College. The Conservation District requested that a set of plans be prepared for constructing a building to house Conservation District owned equipment at Springfield.

1953 The films owned by the Area I Committee were deposited in the Film Library at Southern State Teachers College. A request was made to re-locate and return the SCS to Springfield from Tyndall. The following three farmers: Harold Hornstra, Clifford Knight, and John Unruh were selected as the entries in the Journal-Tribune Soil Conservation contest.

1954 Discussion of a living snow fence program was brought up to help keep snow from blocking roads. The county was contacted to see if they would help sponsor a program. The Conservation District won the area contest sponsored by the Sioux City Journal and Tribune. The Conservation District paid membership fee for the Work Unit Conservationist to be a member of the Isaac Walton League local chapter.

1955 The possibility of buying a lot in Springfield suitable for constructing a building that will fit the Conservation District needs for equipment storage, office space for the Conservation District and area for the SCS personnel assisting the Conservation District was discussed. The Conservation District approved purchasing the south ½ of lots 6 & 7, blk 28, City of Springfield (72' x 88') from the Catholic Church.

1956 It was decided to wait until fall to begin the construction on the Conservation District building. The Conservation District hired Robert Nelson, Springfield to draw up plans for the Conservation District building (30' x 60') to house equipment and office. John Unruh was selected as the Conservation Farmer for 1955-1956. Stewardship week pamphlets were delivered to churches in the Conservation District. Stewardship material was provided to the churches in the Conservation District every year after this and is still being done at the present time (2011).

1957 Conservation District provided funds to the County Agent for mileage for their leaders and students to attend Conservation Camp. The Conservation District passed a resolution asking

the Corp of Engineers not to lower the level of Lewis & Clark Lake below 12.06 ft in order to decrease the rate of silt accumulation in the lake. This resolution stirred up action. The Corp sent representatives to inspect the lake and check the silt readings and changes in the channel. 1958 Financial aid was provided to Davison County Soil Conservation District to assist them in the furnishing of farm labor to the local supervisors. George Genant was selected as a candidate for the Mississippi Valley Association award.

1959 Ben Fender was the Conservation Districts earth moving equipment operator. Three farms were selected as entries in the Permanent Agriculture Program, Garret Fennema & Son; Clarence Ludens and Walter Halsey. The Conservation District dug the Avon Swimming Pool.

1960 Ed Schneider and Hugo Bauer were retained to do the tree planting. Jim Bochman was the Conservation District tractor operator. Clark Thomas and Albert Ratzlaff were plowing contestants for the State Plowing matches.

1961 Frank Odens and Steve Mudder were hired as the equipment operators. A stubble mulch demonstration was held on Elvin Grimme farm south of Tyndall. Results of the Soil and Moisture Achievement contest were as follows: 1st – Lawrence Namminga, 2nd – Emil & Dennis Plihal, 3rd – Kenneth Schultz.

1962 Joint meeting of the Charles Mix Soil Conservation District & Emanuel Choteau Creek Soil Conservation District was held to discuss the proposed Spring & Bull Watershed District. The farms nominated to the Soil & Moisture Conservation Contest were John Nagel, Tom Ruppel, Vert Burma, and Delbert Beeson.

1963 Discussion was held about the possibility of approaching the county commissioners for a minimum of \$500 to be used for clerical or part-time field help. The Conservation District agreed to sell a lot owned in Springfield to a local man if an agreeable price could be met.

1964 Gerrit Heusinkveld was hired as the equipment operator for 1964-1965. Charles Mix County was approved for the Cropland Conversion Program which applies to the Charles Mix townships in the Emanuel Choteau Creek Conservation District.

1965 The organizational form to complete the organization of the Spring-Bull Creek Watershed was signed and forwarded to Pierre. Gordon Raysby was hired to operate the Conservation District equipment. Farmers selected for the conservation contest were Delbert Beeson, Lloyd Halsey and Lawrence Heimstra.

1966 The Spring-Bull Watershed work plan agreement was signed by the chairman and secretary of the Emanuel Choteau Creek Conservation District.

1968 A letter was sent to the State Conservation Commission requesting a hearing to be held to determine if Rouse & Lone Tree townships should be included in the Charles Mix Conservation District.

1969 Due to the transfer of Rouse & Lone Tree Township to the Charles Mix Conservation District the Emanuel Choteau Creek Soil Conservation District was informed by the State Conservationist that the Conservation District has no responsibility in the Spring-Bull Creek Watershed.

1970 Representatives from the Conservation District were appointed to meet in July with the County Commissioners to ask for funds for the Conservation Districts to use in hiring part-time clerical help in the Conservation District office. Discussion was held relative to consolidating both Soil Conservation Districts in Bon Homme County.

1971 RC&D project measure work plans were discussed and approved on several RC&D structures.

Emanuel Choteau Creek Conservation District Supervisors: E.B. Dwight, Wm Raabe, Wm Hornstra, Rudolph Engle, Maurice P. Babcock; Tom Ptak; Ted Schwarz; Kenneth Crouse; Neil Thomas; Ted Fennema; George Genant; and Kent Dempster

Work Unit Conservation/District Conservationist: Lowell Graves; Arnold Reich; Roger Slaikey; Dee Watson

Scotland Conservation District

1941 Meeting was held in the Scotland City Hall. Procedures were reviewed on establishing Soil Conservation District. J.E Lehman was elected as chairman for the hearing. Supervisors were appointed to the Conservation District. It was decided that the tractor operator be the same for both Conservation Districts.

1942 Work done by the Conservation District included constructing ponds and dams; rip rapping; excavating; planting tree & shrubs; seeding; constructing feed stations; diversion ditches; fencing; back sloping. A duckfoot cultivator was purchased for weed control in the Conservation District.

1943 Al Bjorklund, district conservationist, from Alcester informed the Conservation District board that as of September 1, 1943 the work of the Scotland Conservation District would be carried on from the Springfield Office due to so few requests for assistance in the Scotland Conservation District. I.R. Trumbower the present district conservationist would be moved to another Conservation District.

1944 An election of supervisors was held in May. The election was held on Saturday night from 8:00-10:00 pm. There were two polling places, the Cargill elevator in Scotland and at Tyndall the Tyndall Auditorium. Only landowners and land operators were eligible to vote or hold office. Nominating petitions were secured at the County Agent office in Tyndall. Every two years an election of supervisors was held if necessary. Other recorded locations used for polling places were Farmers State Bank, Norby's Service Station in Tabor, Tyndall Soil Conservation Office, Brown & Donly Hardware Store, John Deere store and Sportsman Cafe in Scotland, County Extension Office and Svanda Implement in Tyndall.

Elections today (2011) vary from those held in the early times of the conservation districts. Today the petitions are held at the County Auditor's office and by the Conservation District Manager at the Conservation office. There are still 5 positions on the board which consist of 3 landowner or occupiers, 1 urban member, 1 taxpayer of real property. It is an at large nonpolitical position therefore; all registered voters in that conservation district are eligible to vote. This means all registered voters in Bon Homme County are eligible to vote on the district board supervisor positions. All supervisors are elected for four-year terms. There are 5 polling places. One in each of the voting conservation districts set by the County Commissioners. The supervisor election is held with the county general election in November.

1945 The supervisors requested that Ross Davies, State Conservationist take action to restore the office at Scotland with personnel assigned solely to the Scotland Conservation District. There is no documentation if any action was taken.

1946 Al Ford complimented the Scotland Conservation District on the work that had been accomplished by the Conservation District in the past year.

1947 The subject for the state elementary school YCL organization project is Soil Conservation. The Scotland Conservation District will provide \$12.50 for awards in the contest. Besides contributing to the contest the Conservation District provided to the schools in the district booklets for teaching conservation to students from the 1st to 8th grade. The Conservation District was very involved in all the contests presented to them over the 1940's and 1950's. This was there way to spread the conservation education.

1948 Alvin Hovorka was hired as the tractor operator. Hovorka worked for the Scotland Conservation District until July when he resigned to go work for the Emanuel Choteau Creek Conservation District. Conservation booklets were purchased to be distributed to all the schools in the district.

1949 Howard Kramer was hired on April 11 as the tractor operator. The tree planter used by the Conservation District was a Minneapolis Moline duckfoot that was converted to a tree planter. The Scotland Conservation District decided to take membership in the National Association.

1950 A contribution of \$1000.00 was made to the State Association of Soil Conservation Districts. Clyde Hicks discussed getting office space at the courthouse. Lawrence Bryne and Edgar Max were both considered for the Conservation District tractor operator. There is no record of who was hired.

1951 The year 1951 brings yet another new tractor operator for the Conservation District, Lee Gleason. He continued to work as the tractor operator until March 1953. A discussion was held regarding consolidation of the two Conservation Districts.

1952 The Conservation District purchased a Brillion drill for \$665. Left over trees were planted to hold over for next year.

1953 The board hired Oliver Chance and Dave Kniffen as the Conservation District tractor operators. The Conservation District disapproved of the Area I Committee films being donated to the College Library at Springfield.

1954 Gideon Zeeb was hired as the tractor operator. A Model M LeTerneau scraper was purchased. The Scotland Conservation District sponsored a scholarship of \$25 for a school teacher in the Scotland District to attend the Conservation workshop at Mitchell. Jennie Christian was the teacher awarded the scholarship.

1955 Bill Mammel was hired as the Cat operator. An estimated 36 acres of trees were planted for 16 cooperators. The Brillion drill seeded about 150 acres. Soil stewardship literature was distributed to the churches. This was done every year and is still done today (2011).

1956 Lawrence Bryne became the tractor operator and Dave Kniffen was hired to operate the cat. Dues were paid to the State and National Association of Soil Conservation Districts. Six series J bonds were purchased.

1957 Kenneth Mudder was hired to operate the heavy equipment. A joint resolution was drawn by the two Conservation Districts asking USDA to include Bon Homme County in the Great Plains Program. The Conservation District contributed funds for transportation of 4-H'ers to the State Conservation Camp held at Camp Lakodia. Small building on Conservation District lot was sold to Elmer Svanda.

1958 John Vavruska was hired for the job of operating the Conservation Districts tractor. The Conservation District provided trees for Arbor Day to all rural schools in the County free of charge for the rural school children to plant. The Conservation District to this day (2011) still provide trees to all 3rd grade students in the County and students that write an Arbor Day essay.

1959 Leslie Ptak became the Conservation District tractor operator. Mr. Raysby was hired to construct a low-boy for the Conservation District. Edmund Wagner was selected as the GSDA winner. A monetary contribution was made to the 4-H conservation award program.

1960 The Conservation District furnished coffee and doughnuts at the farmers' educational meeting in Scotland. Louie Kniffen was hired as the tractor operator. The total tree planting amount was 11.6 acres. Judy Hajek was selected as the contestant for the Queen of the furrow contest. Other contestants were Pearl Kriz, Florence Varliek, and Charlotte Herman. Simon Chance was the SD Soil & Moisture Conservation winner.

1961 The Conservation District winners in the GSDA contest were presented their awards at the annual Tyndall Rotary Farmer's night. The Conservation District provided the tickets for the event for these men. To this day (2011), the Conservation District presents the Farmer of the Year award at Rotary banquet and provides tickets to all previous award winners. Discussion was held on developing a wildlife area known as Merkle Lake which is located northeast of Tyndall. Speech contest was referred to the high school superintendents of Scotland, Tyndall and Tabor.

1962 Eugene Kocmick, senior from Scotland High School was the area speech winner. He competed in the State Soil and Water Speech contest. Les Lange was hired to operate Conservation District equipment. Conservation District sold the three acres of land located at the edge of Tyndall to the County for \$1000 with a contract stating the Conservation District has the right to use the lot for parking their equipment. It was agreed to give Rich Beringer the Conservation District tractor operator position.

1963 Certificates of Achievement for conservation were awarded to Carl Neth, Donnely Dvoracek and Charles Bruna at the Rotary Farmers night. Sixty acres of trees were signed up to be planted on 39 farms. Discussion was held about approaching the county commissioners for an appropriation to the Conservation District to be used for clerical or part-time field help. Farms selected for the Conservation Contest were Benny Schmahl, Leon Neuharth and Richard Hovorka. Janet Marvin, Tyndall, was the contestant for the speech contest. Richard Ireland was the equipment operator.

1964 Ray Bares became the new equipment operator. Steve Sedlacek will represent the Conservation District for the Steering Committee for RC&D projects. Word was received from the County Auditor that the request for funds from the county to help maintain a part-time clerk for the Conservation District was rejected.

1965 The topic for the speech contest was "Soil and Water Conservation Everybody's Business". The three conservation farm winners: Roy Bowers, Wilbur Svanda and Richard Hovorka. The district sponsored the winner's trip to the Soil and Moisture Conservation School in Brooking. Today (2011), the Soil and Moisture clinic is held every other year. The Conservation District still sponsors the Farmer of Year's attendance to the clinic. Equipment operator was Marvin Mudder.

1966 Richard Hovorka represented the district at the State Plowing Contest. Local winners of the Soil Conservation & Better Farming Program were 1st-Orvin Sedlacek; 2nd-Lauren Meiers; 3rd-Walter Roth. Lynn Wagner was the Conservation District equipment operator.

1967 Tree planting charges where changed to rod basis rather than by the acre. Ivan Davis replaced Lynn Wagner as the equipment operator. Tom Svanda is head of the tree planting program. Donald Zimmerman was the GSDA winner.

1968 Annual reports were published in the newspaper. Now the Conservation District publishes a quarterly newsletter in the paper. GSDA winners were Richard Syring Jr; Edgar Bauder and Elmer Neth. Irrigation developments were discussed. Trees were planted at the 4-H grounds.

1969 Trees were planted on 38.5 acres and 271 acres were seeded with the Conservation District seeder. There were two 1st place winners in the conservation contest, Clarence Walloch and Alvin Vanecek. Donald Pesek was the 2nd place winner. The Conservation District contributed money to the County Extension Service for a 16 MM Projector. The Conservation District sold 8 lots to Bob Bouska in Rosehill addition, City of Tyndall.

1970 The Conservation District agreed to pay \$25.00 to the Conservation District speech contest winner. Excess trees were given to the Springfield Rotary Club. Approximately 200 acres were planted with the seeder this year. Discussion was held about the possibility of office secretarial help. Wilbur Svanda was selected as the GSDA winner.

1971 Reviewed required procedures to combine two conservation districts. Twenty-six acres of trees were planted. The Conservation District contributed \$26 to the college for tree research. Winners for the GSDA contest – Louis Mach – 1st; Arlo Dewald – 2nd; Emil Sejnoha – 3rd.

1972 Scotland Conservation District was in favor of accepting the land area of the Emanuel Choteau Creek Conservation District if the necessary procedures are followed to discontinue Emanuel Choteau Creek Conservation District and join Scotland Conservation District. Nine petitions were circulated with 225 total signatures from both Conservation Districts for

combining the Conservation Districts. Plans to complete the forms for the State Commission office for combining the Conservation Districts will be done before November 10, 1972.

Scotland Conservtion District Supervisors: J.E. Lehmann; J.A. Cole; Tom Voy; Joe Stverak; Sylvester Petrik; Emil Buchholz; Ross Howen as Assistant Supervisor; C.J. Bower; Rudolph Sejnoha; Ray Vellek; Steve Sedlacek; Maynard Nelson; and, Emil Jilek.

Work Unit Conservation/District Conservationist -I.R. Trumbower; Floyd Delmage; Arnold Reich
Roger Slaikey; Dee Watson

Bon Homme County Conservation District (BHCD)

1973 First meeting of the combined Conservation Districts was held. Supervisors were appointed to the new Conservation District. Dempster was the RC&D rep. About 24 acres of new trees were planned. The County Commissioners agreed to appropriate \$3000 to assist with the purchase of a special grass drill and help fund the tree planting program. Joe Vojtisek constructed a small building for storing trees. The board selected Leonard Dvoracek 1st place, Levoyd Kreber 2nd place and Ralph Sykora 3rd place in the conservation contest.

1974 Pocket gopher machine was purchased. Farms nominated for conservation farmer were Ray Vellek, Kent Dempster and George Genant. Due to Watson's workload the office is closed most of the time. The Conservation District will meet with the County Commissioners to inquire county appropriation for a secretary.

1975 An application for clerical help was submitted to the State Employment Security. It was possible that funds might be available. Report was given on the RC&D Inspection of the Operation and Maintenance of the structures that have been built.

1976 Frank Svanda was the tree planter for the Conservation District. Conservation District furnished replacement trees and planting them at the County Landfill. Watson informed the board he was transferring to Brookings County as the District Conservationist. Gary Roth and Doug Jerke helped with the tree planting. The soil scientist will start this spring on a soil survey for Bon Homme County. New DC Gary LaCompte and 2 board members will meet with the County Commissioners to obtain funding to hire a full time Conservation District clerk.

1977 Carol Burke was hired for ½ time. The commissioners were acceptable toward a clerk but it was too late to put in this years budget. George Humpal and Rudy Pavlish were hired to plant trees. Discussion was held on construction of a new pole building. Total of 35 acres of trees were planted. Bob Muller was selected as the Conservation Teacher of the Year and his name was submitted for the regional competition. The GSDA contest winners were Gordon McCann 1st, Les Bohlmann 2nd, and Clarence Stratman 3rd.

1978 The salary for a full time Conservation District Manager was now being paid by the County Commissioners. About 70 acres of trees were planned for the spring. The Conservation District sponsored Cavin Schuch, a student enrolled in the Summer Youth Employment Program. Allen Bierema 1st, Harlan Voigt 2nd, and Herb Frye 3rd for the GSDA contest winners. The Conservation District passed a resolution to sponsor any Bank Erosion projects in Bon Homme County.

1979 Frank Svanda and Rudy Pavlish planted about 80 acres of trees this year. GSDA contest winners were 1st Marvin Hruska, 2nd Preston Bochmann and 3rd Stanley Schuch. Leonard Kreger, Wagner was chosen as the Marc Cox Contest winner. Conservation books were purchased for the school libraries in Bon Homme County.

1980 Fifty acres of trees are planned and confirmed with deposits. The surplus Ash trees were given to Bon Homme 4-H to plant around the horse arena. Paul Rolston was transferred from the Lake Andes SCS field office to Tyndall. Winners in the GSDA contest were Richard Turner

1st, Ronnie Hornstra 2nd, and Lawrence Hornstra 3rd. Bon Homme County received 3rd place in the Marc Cox Contest.

1981 The Conservation District will sponsor a student to attend the SD Wildlife Federation Youth Conservation Camp at Custer. Rudy Pavlish and Bill Melichar were hired as the tree planters. Sixty acres of trees were planted. The first draft of the Soil Survey Book was received. The Conservation District furnished and planted the trees around the Avon football field. Arlo Dewald won the Marc Cox Contest.

1982 The Conservation District paid the tuition for 10 teachers to attend the Conservation Workshop for teachers. Rudy Pavlish and John Nehonsky will do the tree planting this year. About 85 acres of trees were planted. Discussion was held on building new equipment shed. The Conservation District agreed to have Bryan Burke tear down the old shed in return for the usable lumber. GSDA winners are 1st Larry Talsma, 2nd David Boska, and 3rd Dennis DeBoer. 1983 Kisch Construction was awarded the bid to construct the 44' x 60' pole shed. The shed was completed in June. A plaque was presented to the local publisher for National Newspaper Week. The Conservation District sponsored two students to attend the Youth Conservation Camp.

1984 Planting trees this year for the Conservation District were Ed Slama and Rudy Pavlish. The Conservation District decided to have an entry in the Czech Day Parade. This has been done every year since and is still done today (2011). Clarence Stratman was chosen winner in the Bon Homme County contest Wm Kocourek was awarded 2nd place and 3rd Terry Schuurmans.

1985 Clarence Bower was honored as the Conservation Endowment Honoree. Richard Hovorka was the winner of the GSDA contest with Ken Becvar as the alternate winner. Since the beginning of 1986, conservation plans have been made on 5025 acres.

1986 Jarrett Chytka was the county Arbor Day essay winner. George Pravecek took care of mowing the Conservation District lot. A card was sent to Marc Gold Hammer in appreciation for all he has done for the conservation District.

1987 The Conservation District made a monetary donation to the NACD building fund for the new headquarters. Jarrett Chytka and Jeff Hauck were sponsored by the Conservation District to attend the Conservation Youth Camp. The county Arbor Day essay winner was Sara Tjeerdsma. A monetary donation, to the Endowment Fund, was made in Clarence Bower's name. The conservation farmer representing Bon Homme County in the Marc Cox Contest was John Nagel Jr. Harold Johnson was the alternate.

1988 A donation was made to the SDACD endowment fund in memory of Louis Mach. Elizabeth Ireland – Scotland was the 1st place winner in the Arbor Day essay contest. Andrea Plihal was summer help in the office. Gary Romkema was the first place winner in the Soil & Moisture Contest.

1989 The Conservation District gave one free tree to each family requesting one in Bon Homme County for the Centennial Celebration. Essay contest winner was Stephanie Paul. The Tyndall High School business class placed Debbie Potter in the Conservation District office for 4 weeks for her to gain business experience. The Conservation District donated equipment to seed and mulch at the new track at the Tyndall school. Summer help in the office was Tanya Chester. A computer was ordered through SDACD for the office.

1990 The computer was returned for the third time for repairs as it has not worked properly since it was received. A new Royal electric typewriter was purchased. Gordon Hajek and Ed Slama were hired to plant trees. Don & Allen Namminga were selected as the Conservation Farmer of the Year. Tricia Stratman was selected as the essay winner. This year's endowment donation was in memory of Maynard Nelson. Thomas Sedlacek was select as the Soil & Moisture contest winner. His name was entered in the Quad State Award Program to represent Bon Homme County. Bon Homme County was the area winner.

1991 Todd Kuhlman started work in the office as a student trainee. Robert Hlavac bid was accepted for the tree cooler and portable tree cooler. Winner in the essay contest was Jenny Rueb. Lyle Ireland was the Conservation Farmer of the Year. The Bon Homme County Endowment Honoree was Emil Jilek. In the Quad State Contest, Bon Homme Conservation District was the area winner in the Conservation Farmer portion of the contest. A 1982 Ford pickup was purchase.

1992 A new SCS student trainee, Dan Mehlafl, worked in the Tyndall Field office until May 1994. The Conservation District purchased a weed badger and 2355 JD tractor to operate the weed badger. Glen Halsey was hired to operate the weed badger. Tree planters were Carl Waller and Gordon Hajek. Arbor Day County essay winner was Jamie Hajek. Five students were sponsored to attend the Glacial Lake Conservation Camp. Around 100 acres of trees were planted in three weeks. Contracts for cleaning 43 acres of trees were signed. Les Bohlman was chosen as the Marc Cox Conservation winner. Approximately 10 acres of trees were planted around the county sanitary landfill at no cost to the county. The Conservation District will clean and maintain the trees (still cleaned by Conservation District today-2011).

1993 Shawn Campbell wrote the winning Arbor Day essay. Rotary mower was purchased exclusively to maintain the Outdoor Classroom. Dennis Pravecek prepared and sprayed the tree site for the Outdoor Classroom. Donation was made to the SDACD endowment fund in memory of Tanya Talsma. Sixty-five assorted trees were given to the students of the Presbyterian Bible School. Projects (tree planting; grass plots) at the Outdoor Classroom were completed. Dennis Namminga was awarded the Bon Homme Conservation winner.

1994 The Conservation District co-sponsored an Ag Waste Management System tour with the County Extension office. Maps were put together showing the drainage of Dawsen Creek into Lake Henry. Selected as, the Arbor Day essay winner was Mike Kostal. Rudy Pavlish was selected as the Conservation Districts Endowment Honoree. Bon Homme Conservation Farmer was John Pesek. Work began on Lake Henry. Steve Meyer was the trainee in the Tyndall Field Office.

1995 Student trainee, Jay Hermann, will be in the Tyndall office for a year. Signs for the Outdoor Classroom were provided by US Fish & Wildlife Service. Brochures were made and provided by the Conservation District for the classroom. A study on the conservation practice needs for Dawsen Creek was completed. The Conservation District grant application for the Dawsen Creek Watershed Project was approved. The Conservation District Endowment Honoree was in memory of Scott Van Winkle. Dale VanGerpen was the recipient of the Conservation Farmer of the Year. The large signs for the classroom looked nice except for the misspelled word. Decals with the correct spelling were placed over the misspelled word. New signs will not be made as long as the decals stick.

1996 Operators were contacted about applying conservation practices in the Dawson Creek/Lake Henry watershed. Melissa Ryken was the county essay winner. The Conservation District Endowment honoree was Emil Jilek. Gary Kirschman will train in the Tyndall Field Office. Susan Kostal was hired to put wetland data in the computer. Conservation Farmer of the Year recipient was Willis and Marge DeJong. A tour of the Outdoor Classroom was provided for the Bon Homme High School Horticulture class. Ernie Bures is the new CED in the Bon Homme County FSA Office.

1997 A tour of the outdoor classroom was given to the Tyndall Girl Scout troop. Springfield Academy scheduled two tours of the classroom. Wayne Winckler was chosen as the Conservation Farmer of the Year. The Conservation District purchased 10 tickets for the SDACDE raffle. BH Conservation District won a Terry Redlin print from the raffle. It presently (2011) hangs in the Conservation Office. Bon Homme 7th & 8th graders visited the Outdoor Classroom. This years Endowment Honoree was Glenn (Shorty) Halsey.

1998 Overhead doors were installed on the conservation sheds. Robert Tycz was hired to replace Carl Waller who requested not to plant trees this year. Chosen as the county essay winner was Ashley Winckler. The Conservation District contributed funds toward a retirement gift for Game Warden Leroy Sorenson. Veronica Moncada from Texas began training in the Tyndall Field Office. The Conservation District seeded grass and planted trees out at the county landfill. The trees for 1.6 acres, labor for planting and cleaning the trees were all donated by the Conservation District. It was decided to build a new equipment shed (44' x 60') rather than extend the present equipment shed.

1999 Jay & Carol Romkema were chosen as the 1998 BH Conservation Farmer. Leroy Philippi was hire to plant trees with Robert Tycz and to assist Shorty with the weed badgering. An Earth Day program was presented to the 3rd & 4th graders in Tyndall. Bon Homme Colony was selected as the Conservation Farmer of the Year.

2000 The Conservation District purchased a website to post information. The Conservation District sponsored John Nagel for the National Cattlemen's Environmental Stewardship Award. The Bon Homme County Endowment Honoree was Gordon Hajek. The Conservation District named John and Delina Nagel as the BH Conservation Farmer of the Year.

2001 Vic Settje and Leroy Philippi will plant trees for the Conservation District. Randy Meline will help out when needed. Monty Steinbrecher was a trainee in the Tyndall Field Office. The county essay winner was Andy Stahl from the Bon Homme Colony School. Henry Carda was named the Endowment Honoree for BHCD. New office building was moved into in December. Winner of the Conservation Farmer was Scott and Julie VanGerpen.

2002 Approximately 200 people attended the USDA Service Center open house. Lake Henry reconstruction is schedule to begin in July. Amber Kruse, Scotland was the essay winner. Ryan Mudder received 1st place in the State Arbor Day Poster Contest. Maureen Koenig was hired as office help to do some computer work. Marty Bertsch from Miller will train in the Tyndall Field office for the next year. A county wall map was completed and sent to the Tribune for printing. Monty & Matthew Smith were chosen as Conservation Farmer.

2003 Bon Homme County Museum located in Tyndall received a Governors House partially funded by Resource Conservation & Development (RC&D). Jason Kokes was the local speech contest winner. The Conservation District made a monetary donation to the Bon Homme Heritage Museum. A fabric machine was purchased for laying the weed barrier. County essay winner was Sonya Stahl. BHCD Endowment Honoree for 2003 was Allen Sternhagen. The 2003 Conservation Farmer was Ray Schmidt. Dave Otto was the new trainee in the Tyndall Field Office.

2004 The Conservation District submitted an entry in the Tyndall 125 yr Celebration Parade. Melissa Wurtz, Bon Homme Colony School, was the county essay winner. Volunteer groups of people planted about 250 trees around Lake Henry. The Conservation District was awarded a \$30,000 grant to cost share conservation practices that are not eligible for any other cost share program. Bryce Bauer, Range Land management Specialist interned at the Tyndall Field Office for a year. A Cedar Control Demo Workshop was held on Dennis Namminga land. The Endowment Honoree was George Genant. Ronnie & Lois Hornstra were selected as the Conservation Farmer.

2005 Tyndall 5th grade student, Emily Roberson was the winner of the essay contest. BHCD was approved for \$35,000 grant funds to complete the Conservation Enhancement Program. Conservation Farmer of the Year selection was Dave & Peggy Walloch.

2006 Emily Bartunek, 10th grade student from Avon, was the local speech contest winner. Another state grant from the Conservation Commissioner in the amount of \$62,000 was awarded to BHCD to continue to help cost share conservation practices. Raquel Sutera was the county essay winner and Alec Weber received 2nd place. Carol Burke resigned as Conservation District Manager. Peg Haenfler was hired as the new Conservation District

manager. Dick Turner was named the Endowment Honoree. NRCS District Conservationist, Gary LaCompte resigned September 1st. William Raabe selected as Conservation Farmer. 2007 Mark Rohlfing, Soil Conservationist at the Hot Springs Field Office was hired as the new DC for NRCS Tyndall Field Office. Minutes from when the conservation districts were organized were scanned and saved on the district computer as well as on CD's that were placed in the safety deposit box. Arbor Day county essay winner was Adayla Schroeder (Tyndall 5th grader). Her essay also received 2nd place in the State Contest. Marvin Bauder ran the tractor for the fabric crew due to the absence of Vic Settje. Paul Bainbridge was honored as the Endowment Honoree. Chosen as the Conservation Farmer of the Year was Ken & Kathy Saylor. The Conservation District and County commissioners entered into a joint powers agreement which states the County will provide wages/benefits for a full time staff person to the Conservation District.

2008 The district selected Neil Thomas as the Endowment Honoree. Pheasants Forever proposed to purchase a dew drop drill and turn it over the Conservation Districts (BHCD & Yankton) to rent out to operators. The district continued to participate in the Tabor Czech Day Parade. Kyle Anderberg won the Arbor Day essay award. The board awarded the Conservation Farmer of the Year Award to Clayton & Minnie Wittmeier. Installation of conservation practices was down this year due to the high crop prices. Still doing the field work and installation of practice for the Conservation District are Leroy Philippi and Vic Settje.

2009 The Conservation District hired Jerry Pesek to grass seed the 695 acres this spring. Tree planting acres held steady at 37 acres. Jerry Pesek was unable to continue working for the Conservation District so he was replaced by Bo Coleman. Four rows of trees at the outdoor classroom were removed and replanted. Kenneth Crouse was selected as the BHCD Endowment Honoree. A JD tractor & JD no-till drill was purchased due to the 850 acres of grass seeding scheduled for dormant and next spring. The board selected, as the Bon Home Conservation Farmer of the year for 2009, Rodney and Vicki McGill. Becky Roberson was the county winner in the Arbor Day essay contest.

2010 Peg Haenfler attended the RC&D Conference in Missoula, MT. She present the Randall RC&D councils success story at the conference. Jim Stoebner was hired to grass seed and oversee the fabric crew. Danielle Johnson won the Arbor Day essay award. Leroy Philippi and Vic Settje planted 70 acres of trees. Philippi and Stoebner grass seeded 790 acres (spring) and 240 acres (dormant). Fabric crew installed 138,000' of fabric. Gary LaCompte was named as the 2010 BHCD Endowment Honoree. The 2010 Bon Homme Conservation Farmer of the year was Fred & Virginia Kubal.

2011 Roger Hisek was hired to tree plant with Vic Settje the 66 acres of trees. Jim Stoebner and Leroy Philippi did the 1300 acres of spring grass seeding. Philippi continues to do the tree cleaning. Settje is in charge of the fabric crew. Breanna Dockendorf was the County Arbor Day Essay winner. Her essay also received 2nd place honors in the state contest. The 2011 BHCD Endowment Honoree was Dennis Namminga. Six trees about 6 feet tall were moved from Skorpiks Farm to west edge of the conservation shed lot. Chad & Amy Cooper were selected as the 2011 Bon Homme Conservation Farmer of the Year.

Bon Homme Conservation District Supervisors: Kenneth Dempster, CJ Bower, George Genant, Emil Jilek, Ray Vellek; Dennis Namminga , Maynard Nelson, Neil Thomas, Paul Bainbridge, Stanley Schuch, Stanley Hieb, James Koenig, David Walloch

District Conservationist: Dee Watson, Gary LaCompte, Mark Rohlfing

Conservation District Manager: Carol Burke, Peg Haenfler