



Butler, Cass, Douglas, Lancaster, Polk,
Sarpy, Saunders, Seward
and York Counties

2010 Seward County Cleanup Day



The eleventh Seward County Cleanup Day was held on Saturday, April 17th, 2010 from 7:00 am through 1:00 pm, at the city lot at the wastewater treatment plant on South Columbia Avenue.

This year's event was planned by the Seward County Chamber of Commerce, the First Impressions Committee of Seward, the City of Seward, Seward County, Four Corners Health Department, Cattle National Bank, and the Nebraska Great Plains RC&D. Volunteers included students from Seward High School FCCLA and FFA organizations and members of the Concordia College Football team. Thanks to Pac N Save and Wal-Mart for donations to this event, as well as to the Seward County Independent for publicizing the cleanup day.

206 vehicles came through the line with eligible collections during this clean up event.

This event collected 17,200 lbs of electronic waste, which included 88 computer monitors, and 83 televisions, with the heaviest weighing in at 640 lbs. Tech-Ware of Lincoln collected the electronic waste for this event.

Six large roll-offs from the Garbage Company of Seward were filled with appliances (refrigerators, freezers, stoves, air conditioners, grills, mowers, etc.)



Seward High School Students are shown with some of the electronics collected during the cleanup.

Over 200 hours of volunteer time was donated on the day of this event.



Members of the Concordia University football team load the "heavy metal" onto rolloffs.

e-Scrap Nebraska, a small grant program funded by the Nebraska Environmental Trust and administered by WasteCap Nebraska, was applied for by Seward County Bridges and was received by the Chamber to offset the costs of planning and executing an electronics recycling collection event. Small communities and under-served areas of the state are the primary targets of this program.

All electronics recycling fees have been negotiated by WasteCap Nebraska and the Nebraska Environmental Trust. Recycling service providers have been chosen based on their adherence to best management practices, experience and a negotiated rate. The recycling service provider will bill the Grantee directly for their services based on the number of pounds collected.

All fees for this grant are collected by the grantee, as WasteCap does not fund free collection events. Each vehicle or business entity was allowed to drop off electronic equipment at the following rates:

- One monitor at no cost; additional monitors at \$10.00 each
- 50 pounds of peripheral equipment at no cost; additional peripherals at \$0.25 per pound
- One television for \$5.00; additional televisions at \$0.25 per pound

Money collected at the event totaled \$1,148.75. Seward County and the Nebraska Great Plains RC&D each donated \$300.00 toward this project.



Summer Organic Transition Field Days Popular

August 19th and 21st were the dates of the summer organic field days and tours, sponsored by the Nebraska Great Plains RC&D, the Nebraska Center for Rural Affairs, and the University of Nebraska – Lincoln.

This is the third year of a three year project to promote a transition from conventional farming methods to organic practices. Use of small grains and legumes in rotations, weed control without herbicides, poultry production and grazing practices were highlighted. Terry Gompert, grazing specialist from Concord, NE was on hand at the Dave Welsh and Don Jirsa farms south of Milford. High intensity mob grazing practices were shown on both dry land and irrigated pastures. 35 people were in attendance.



Dave Welsh talks about his organic soybean crop.

Mike Ostry from Bruno hosted a tour on August 21st, showing his highly successful organic production methods. Garden produce, organic crop production and livestock were showcased. Over 60 people attended this tour.



A workshop at the RC&D office in David City discusses the organic “paper trail.”

Nebraska Great Plains RC&D Assists with West Nile Virus tracking.

The Nebraska Great Plains RC&D, in partnership with Four Corners Health Department and the Veterinary Diagnostic Center at the University of Nebraska – Lincoln, is collecting mosquito samples in Butler County. The RC&D secured a trapping location, and in May, 2010, began overnight trapping once every two weeks.

The purpose of the collections is to determine if West Nile Virus is present in local mosquito populations. With this site in Butler County, each county in the Four Corners Health Department’s area is now being monitored for the West Nile Virus.

The trap consists of a cooler, normally used for holding cold drinks, filled with dry ice. The cooler has a hole in the bottom, in which carbon dioxide (CO₂) is released when the dry ice evaporates. A battery operated light and fan is attached to the cooler, below where the CO₂ is released. The mosquitoes approach the trap, attracted by the CO₂ and the light, and are sucked into the trap by the fan.



Mosquito trap is in place for the overnight collection.

The traps are set at about 4:00 pm, and are picked up at about 9:00 am the next day. The samples are placed in a freezer at the RC&D office for about an hour to be sure of a complete kill. The mosquitoes are then separated from any other insects that were caught in the trap, mostly moths and gnats, before being counted and delivered to the Vet Diagnostic Center at East Campus in Lincoln, where they are identified by species and tested for the West Nile Virus.



Mosquitoes are sorted & counted.

As you can see from the chart below, during the collection period of July 20/21, Butler County collected over 600 mosquitoes, with 125 being from the species *Culex tarsalis*, which can carry the West Nile Virus. The RC&D will keep collecting mosquito samples through October.

Date: July 20/21	Total counts	Culex tarsalis
York: Four Corners	61	45
York: Wisconsin Ave	354	168
Seward Co	64	15
Butler Co	611	125

Nebraska Great Plains RC&D Earns Enhanced Membership

The Nebraska Great Plains RC&D earned enhanced (Tier II) membership in the National Association of Resource Conservation & Development Council's Circle of Diamonds program. Great Plains RC&D Council is the sixth Council (out of 375) nationwide to have earned this distinction for its exemplary management policies and practices.

As a standing member of the Circle of Diamonds, Nebraska Great Plains RC&D has already demonstrated its positive impact on the quality of life within its local area, accountability to the public, and commitment to the RC&D mission. In earning enhanced membership, it has gone beyond the specific benchmarks outlined in basic program guidelines. The RC&D Council's adherence to the governance practices and high management standards necessary for enhanced membership raise its credibility and effectiveness in serving the needs of the community.



Great Plains RC&D PSA Carol Speicher displays the plaque for the Tier II Enhanced membership in the Circle of Diamonds.



2009 NE Great Plains Council – Front row: Nancy Bohaty, Annette Mastny, Mary Koci
Back row: Gary Bergman, Doug Watts, Walter Bohaty, Norm Hanson, Vance Teegerstrom

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