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Natural Resources District

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Tri-Basin NRD Names Brell Winner of Soil Conservation Award

The Larry Brell family of rural Smithfield was awarded Tri-Basin Natural Resources District's Soil Conservation Award for 2011 at their biennial banquet in Holdrege on January 13. Brell was nominated for the award by the Gosper County Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Office staff because of his implementation of soil conservation practices throughout his farming operation. Tri-Basin NRD presented Brell with a plaque and a yard sign in recognition of his accomplishments.

Brell practices no-till on his fields and has converted several gravity fields to pivot irrigation, conserving both soil and water. He has installed several diversions with outlets on his fields to curtail soil erosion. He has also been installing livestock pipelines to prevent cattle "trailing," which causes soil erosion in pastures. The Gosper County NRCS staff notes that Larry is always willing to try new practices, such as incorporating Eastern Gammagrass, a grass that is not typically native to this area, into his pastures.