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Middle Republican Natural Resources District

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Stehno Family Awarded Conservation Award

For the past 36 years, the Middle Republican Natural Resources District has honored area farmers and ranchers for their outstanding efforts in natural resources conservation. Over 150 families have been presented with the District's Honor Conservation, the Outstanding Tree Planter, and the Outstanding Grassland Awards. On March 1, during the Southwest Water Conference in McCook, the district honored the Frank & Patricia Stehno Family of Stratton with the 2006 Honor Conservation Award.

Frank Stehno operates approximately 5500 acres of cropland and rangeland in Hitchcock County. Over 1000 acres are irrigated by center pivots, which are all equipped with low pressure nozzles. The irrigated land is all minimum tilled and the dryland is all eco-fallowed. Both water and soil are conserved by these farming methods.

The dry land has over 50 miles of flat channel and conventional terraces. Eleven windbreaks have been established which make great wildlife habitat and provides good wind protection. The pasture is divided into three separate units to implement range management. Three livestock water pits help to distribute grazing. Seventy-five acres are enrolled in CRP, which provides excellent hunting.

The Natural Resources Conservation Service staff in Hitchcock County has been instrumental in assisting the Stehno family implement their conservation efforts. The Stehnos were nominated by Raymond Stehno.

Thanks go to the McCook National Bank in McCook, Frenchman Valley Farmers Cooperative, and United Agri-Products for sponsoring this award and for supporting conservation in this district.

The Middle Republican NRD will be looking for nominees for next year's award. If you would like to nominate a landowner for next year, please contact Roger Lawson at the MRNRD office at 800-873-5613 or 308-367-4281 or make a nomination online at www.mrnrd.org/awards.html. The deadline for the 2007 award nominations is May 1, 2007.