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NATURAL RESOURCES REPORT – Conservation Awards Programs**

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I'm Roger Lawson, the Information & Education Coordinator for the Middle Republican Natural Resources District in Curtis, NE

–Pause- This is the Natural Resources Report.

Natural Resources Districts across the state promote and support soil, water and wildlife conservation through education, research, cost-share, partnerships and regulation. NRD's also support conservation through recognition. Every year, NRD's throughout the state look for and nominate farmers, ranchers and community leaders that have demonstrated outstanding initiative in being good stewards of the land.

The Middle Republican NRD has three conservation awards that they offer each year: Honor Conservationist; Outstanding Grassland Conservationist; and Outstanding Tree Planter Conservationist. Past award winners or a good candidate for this year could be your neighbor. Please consider sharing a good nominee with your NRD.

In addition to the NRD awards, the Omaha World Herald offers awards for agricultural related conservation practices. Earlier this week, Stan and Marilyn Pilcher of Curtis were presented the Master Conservationist award for Southwest Nebraska. The transformation of their property north of Curtis speaks to their commitment and passion for wildlife conservation. The Middle Republican NRD is very pleased that the Pilchers of Curtis were recognized for their conservation work. They also received the NRD Outstanding Grassland Conservationist award this Spring.

For every award winner in the Middle Republican NRD, there are several other outstanding land stewards that have not yet been recognized. Do you know one of them? The NRD Office would love to hear about them. Give our office a call.

Thank you for listening. This is Roger Lawson, keeping you informed about your natural resources. Protecting Lives, Protecting Property, Protecting the Future.