

## **Firme named Outstanding Conservationist of the Year**

Written by Holyoke Enterprise

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Dennis Firme received the Outstanding District Conservationist of the Year award at the 63rd annual meeting of the Haxtun Conservation District.

Since 2006, he has installed over four miles of livestock pipeline, eight watering facilities, three miles of cross fencing, reseeded 250 acres of marginal farm ground back to pasture and developed a rotational grazing system. Firme worked with the Haxtun Conservation District and the Holyoke Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) to implement these practices. He gave credit for much of his success to Josh Saunders, NRCS multi-county rangeland specialist, for help in planning and implementing the projects.

Also at the annual meeting, District Manager Denise Swanson reported the years' activities highlighting the 3rd Annual Backyard Conservation Camp in June. This camp, held near the South Platte River, had over 40 participants from Phillips and Sedgwick counties.

Other activities this year included district cost share projects, Waterfest, the Garry Haynes Memorial Scholarship awarded to Grant Edwards, the Wally Bruce award given to Holyoke Schools, elementary Arbor Day programs, annual tree sales and Walk-In Hunting Access signup.

The evening meeting concluded with a humorous talk by Gary Hodgson of Livestock News Radio Network and author of the weekly column "Under the Wire."