

Colorado State Conservation Board 2008 Matching Grants Project:
Yuma Conservation District: Landowner Cost-Share Program

What natural resource problem(s) did the project address?

Through public meetings Yuma Conservation District identified 4 local conservation priorities and the most appropriate ways to address them. These priorities are built into the District long-range and annual plans of work and are the focus of their activities. This exemplifies all conservation districts purpose -to **identify conservation needs at the local level through public input and then find ways to address them**. The three identified priorities for Yuma District were: 1) **Water Efficiency and Quality** - in particular, well tests to meet upcoming statutory requirements for Republican River compact compliance: 2) **Rangeland Protection** - in particular, stock water development to promote better grazing distribution and reduce resource damage cause by high livestock concentration at water sources: 3) **Soil Conservation:** 4) **Wildlife Habitat** - in particular, windbreaks and shelter breaks that reduce soil erosion, provide stock and wildlife shelter/food and reduce energy use of buildings. **The District provided landowner cost-share to landowners for these key conservation practices.**

What was achieved?

- **15 well tests** completed to provide information on water and energy use
- **26,373 feet of windbreaks planted** for erosion control, wildlife habitat and reduced building energy use
- **3 wells drilled** for better livestock distribution and hence improved economic and ecological health of rangeland.
- **Landowners provide 1.5:1 matching funds** for the installed conservation practices
- **Future efforts** - the District's Pathways Regional Efficient Agriculture Communications Hub (PREACH) and Pathways to Market projects have similar conservation goals as this CSCB Matching Grants Project and will be implemented in 2009. Further grants are also being pursued to continue landowner encouragement in adopting practices to address the priority conservation needs.



Windbreaks are multi- purpose - providing shelter for livestock and wildlife, interspaced shrubs as food sources for wildlife, reducing wind erosion of soil and, if planted around buildings, reducing energy use for heating and cooling. Plastic weed barrier retains moisture and prevents weed competition to help windbreak plants establish.