Area people attend water planning tour

By SALLY VANDERPOEL
TORRINGTON — Some 50 people joined the Wyoming Water Development Association board in a tour of water resources and conservation measures established and proposed in Goshen and Platte Counties Wednesday.

The day-long tour, planned by Don Broz, the Extension irrigation specialist for the University of Wyoming, the Torrington Chamber of Commerce and C.H. Brown, executive secretary for the Corn Creek Irrigation Project, began in Torrington.

After viewing the national award winning "beautiful cover-up" project, which covered 13 blocks of irrigation ditch running through the heart of Torrington, the group heard from Mrs. Neva Rogers, explain the series of mini-parks and landscaping created above the ditch.

During a stop at the Holly Sugar Co., visitors heard specifics of water usage and re-useage in the sugar manufacturing process.

Louis Garcia, factory superintendent, explained the treatment of water from the North Platte River, which is clarified and reused to provide the necessary 2,800-3,000 gallons per minute needed for processing, from October through February.

Also at Holly, the two new sugar storage silos were studied.

The tour continued along the extensive Andrews Brothers Rock Ranch which holds one of the oldest territorial water rights in Wyoming.

After a brief stop at the Old Ft. Laramie, the tour proceeded through Habig Draw and Bovee Canyon where State Rep. Don Scott (D-Goshen) explained the series of dams which control flash floods and reduce erosion.

Next stop covered the Goshen Hole Development Area where an additional 15,000 acres are expected to be added to irrigable land under the Corn Creek Project following construction of the Grayrocks Dam in eastern Platte County.

The site of the Grayrocks Dam on the Laramie River was explained while the tour followed the Laramie River to Wheatland.

LeGrand Page, chairman of the board of the Wheatland Irrigation District, explained the project, which is one of the oldest projects in the nation, irrigating some 45,000 acres in Platte County.

After viewing the Johnson Reservoir and the Center Pivot Sprinkler Irrigation north of Wheatland, the group continued on to the Guernsey Reservoir and power plant.

At the Whalen Diversion Dam, the group saw the source of irrigation water for the Ft. Laramie Gering Canal, which irrigates some 54,000 acres.

On return to Torrington the tour concluded with a visit at the UAW experimental station and Bob Pearson's Christmas Tree farm.

At the farm 230,000 trees are grown on 189 acres. Annual shearing of the trees was demonstrated by two crews of youths at work there.

Storm's Crop Damage Light

SCOTTBLUFF — In the aftermath of Wednesday night's thunderstorm that swept across western Nebraska, preliminary reports from the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service (ASCS), showed damage in the Panhandle region was not considerable.

According to the ASCS offices in many of the counties, the storm dropped very little hail although winds were heavy throughout the day.

According to Leonard Henderson, Nebraska agricultural manager for Great Western Sugar Co., a total damage of less than 10 per cent occurred to local beet crops.

Henderson said that at this stage of beet growth, heavy damage does not mean a loss of crop but a setback in growth of about two to three weeks.

Henderson reported damage to beet crops was estimated at 856 acres of heavy damage, 1,845 medium, and 4,766 acres of light damage. Henderson also said that at this time his office is attributing the light damage to heavy winds.

Officials of the Chester Brown Bean Co. at Minatare reported moderate to minor damage of crops between Minatare and Lake Minatare. According to the company, there was more water damage in evidence than hail damage.

THE COMPANY also said a majority of the damage was to local beet and corn crops and not bean crops because of the leafiness of the other crops as compared to beans at this stage in growth.

In the northern areas of the Panhandle, damage was reported as minor despite heavy winds. The Box Butte ASCS office did report heavy damage to several pivot irrigation systems in the area and one wheat field was overturned by heavy winds.

In Dawes County, ASCS Manager Joe Counselor, reported no damage to crops although one farmer lost 25 acres of already-cut alfalfa that was lying on the ground ready for baling.

In Sioux and Banner Counties, light rain, no hail and heavy winds did no considerable damage to crops, according to preliminary reports from the ASCS.