

## **FEATURE – EROSION CONTROL SAVES HOMES**

**INTRO:** Some homeowners in Pottawattamie County, Kansas can rest easier this Spring knowing that their homes are safer from collapsing creek banks due to a USDA stabilization project. The USDA's Bob Ellison has more. (1:40)

**THIS PAST SUMMER HOMES IN POTTAWATTAMIE COUNTY KANSAS WERE SAVED FROM DAMAGE AND DESTRUCTION THROUGH A U-S DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE PROGRAM. PARTNERING WITH LOCAL OFFICIALS AND USING THE EMERGENCY WATERSHED PROTECTION PROGRAM, U-S-D-A'S NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE STABILIZED THE RAPIDLY ERODING BANKS OF THE ELBO CREEK.**

John Boyd, Pottawattamie County Official: Back in the spring of two thousand six we started realizing some severe water conditions in the southwestern part of our county and involved some spring rains that come through which was dumping five, six inches at a time in a short amount of time. This was causing some erosion issues. We had some structures in this neighborhood that were being exposed to some bank erosion.

**N-R-C-S OFFICIALS STUDIED THE PROBLEM AND WORKED WITH HOMEOWNERS AND LOCAL OFFICIALS TO COME UP WITH A PLAN TO SAVE THE BUILDINGS. THE JOINT EFFORT STABILIZED THE BANKS AND PREVENTED DAMAGE TO THE HOMES.**

Eric Banks, USDA NRCS: NRCS developed a design for the recovery measures and hired the contractor to install the measures. NRCS also provided construction oversight.

Corwin Seamans, Pottawattamie County Commissioner: They said they were going to fix it, so consequently we said well we'll participate in that and it's actually gone really smoothly.

**BANKS SAYS THE CREEK-BANK REPAIR EFFORTS HAVE PREVENTED PROPERTY DAMAGE.**

Banks: If we had not completed this project with Pottawattamie County, in the event that there would have been another flood event the homes and the outbuildings would have been damaged severely.

**TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE EMERGENCY WATERSHED PROTECTION PROGRAM VISIT NRCS DOT USDA DOT. GOV. I'M BOB ELLISON FOR THE U-S DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE.**