

## Member's Voice: Renville County

Like many North Dakota Counties, Renville County is paying out a significant amount of overtime pay to its road crew. County Auditor LeeAnn Pollman said the county's operators of its blades and trucks are working non-stop when the weather permits. "They're giving as much as they can," she said. "Now we have to find places to put the snow."

Snow is piling up in the communities such as Sherwood and Mohall, making intersections tricky as drivers have to pull in to the intersection past the snow piles to see if traffic is coming.

Pollman said the county helps when it can, but it's fully engaged in plowing county roads. She said area farmers are taking their equipment and trucks in to Renville County towns to help move the snow. Now, the issue is there are few places to put it. She said she expects a muddy spring when it melts.

Lena Bohm the Renville County NRCS District Conservationist said there are several creeks that will capture run off this spring and they all lead to the Souris River. She said she's not concerned yet that there will be flooding of the waterways because much of the snow that has fallen is dry. "Fifty-five inches of snow could end up being just 5 inches of water," she said. The ground is soft in much of the county and will absorb some of the melted snow. Bohm said, "A nice snow melt is not so bad. If we get heavy spring rains, though, that could cause problems. A lot depends on the spring rain."

Auditor Pollman said when roads open up this spring, they'll be in better shape than previous years because the county has been using surge money to upgrade roads twice as fast as in normal years. She said federal money is also being used to improve county road conditions.

Generally, activity in Renville County is quiet, Pollman said. The County Commission is discussing human resource policies such as drug testing for employees.

