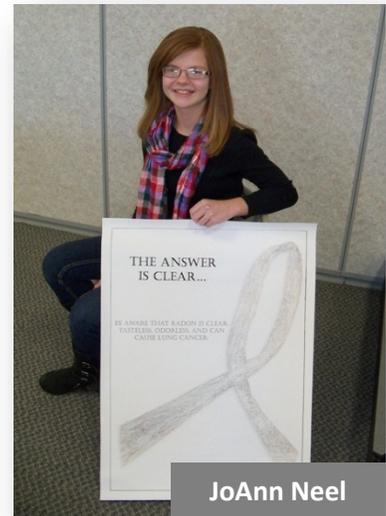


State and National Radon Poster Contest Award Presentation

JoAnn Neel, a seventh grade student at McCook Junior High School, took 1st place honors at State and 3rd place honors at the National competition for the annual Radon Poster Contest.

Southwest Nebraska Public Health Department sponsors the local poster contest every year. The contest brings awareness to the danger of radon gas radon, as it is the second-leading cause of lung cancer, causing 21,000 lung cancer deaths every year

JoAnn's poster -- "The Answer is Clear" -- features a clear ribbon, the "color" of lung awareness, warning readers that radon is "clear, tasteless, odorless and colorless, and can cause lung cancer." Her poster place 3rd among 312 poster at the local level; 1st place among 500+ at the state level and 3rd place among 800+ national entries.



JoAnn Neel

JoAnn received her awards at a special ceremony held in her honor January 31, 2013. Denise Ringenberg, Assistant Director and Environmental Coordinator at Southwest Nebraska Public Health Department, hosted the event.

Sara Morgan, Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services-Radon Program, recognized JoAnn for her efforts and awarded her a T-shirt depicting this year's National winning poster and a gift card.

Robert Dye, EPA Region 7 Office of Radiation and Indoor Air Program in Lenexa, Kansas, presented JoAnn with a commemorative EPA coin, a plaque and a gift card and also, thanked her for helping educate the public on the issues of radon. Dye said national-level poster judges look for accuracy in information and spelling, and study "how it can be used" in radon education efforts.

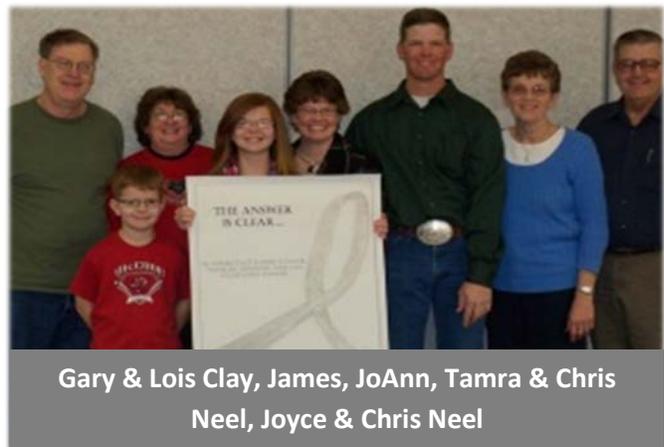
JoAnn thanked her teachers, from fifth grade and from seventh grade; the staff of Southwest Nebraska Public Health Department; McCook Christian Church, which hosted the presentation; Shelly Winder of Purple Moon Cookery, for the brownies for the presentation; her parents, Tamra and Chris, and her little brother, James; and her grandparents



JoAnn, Sara Morgan and Robert Dye



Educators: Cheri Schneider, Gayl Korus, JoAnn, Kate Repass, Dennis Berry



Gary & Lois Clay, James, JoAnn, Tamra & Chris Neel, Joyce & Chris Neel