

Greenwood County
Conservation District
1819 E River St
Eureka, KS 67045

GWCCD 2018 Newsletter

Greenwood County Conservation District

1819 E River St, Eureka, KS 67045
gwcokansasconservation@gmail.com

District Board of Supervisors

Robert Brink, Chairman
Eric Bitler, Vice Chairman
Preston Beeman, Treasurer
Andrew Davis, Member
Matthew Marshall, Member

District Staff

Keila Sherman, Manager
NRCS
Luke Westerman, Conservationist
Garan Belt, Rangeland Specialist

Farm Service Agency

Cindy Coon, Program Technician
Brandi Dimick, Program Technician
Velma Larimer, Executive Director
*The Service Center is open
Monday through Friday 8:00am to 4:30pm
Closed on all federal holidays.*



The Greenwood County Conservation District and the Natural Resources Conservation Service prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, or marital or family status.

Greenwood County Conservation District Newsletter

Spring 2018



2019 State Cost

Share Sign-up

Beginning June 1, 2018.

Important Dates

- April 25- Annual Water Festival
- May 28- Memorial Day
- June—Livestock/Fish Management Workshop
- June- 2019 Cost Share Sign-up
- June 20— Women in Ag
- June 30- End of 2018 Cost Share Year
- July 4— Independence Day

Cost-share Sign-up

Do you own land in Greenwood County? Are you interested in improving the environmental quality of your land? If so, stop by the conservation office and find out how you could possibly qualify for state financial assistance to improve your land.

The Conservation District will be conducting a county-wide sign up for interested owners and operators to accept requests for state cost share assistance beginning June 1 for the 2019 program year. The cost share programs are administered by the State Conservation Commission (SCC) through the conservation districts which provides landowners financial assistance to implement approved conservation practices.

These conservation practices must comply with USDA NRCS Field Office Technical Guide Standards and specifications, or other standards specifications approved by the SCC. Applica-

tions receiving approval from the Greenwood County Conservation District and SCC may start implementation. Any project completed prior to approval by either the District or SCC will not be available for cost share assistance. Participating in the sign-up does not guarantee approval or cost share assistance.

Program funds have been allocated to the conservation. Money comes from the State Water Plan Fund. Anyone interested in receiving cost share assistance from either the Water Resources Cost Share Program or the Non Point Source Pollution Program is encouraged to contact the Conservation District Office to sign up.

If you have any questions or concerns about these programs please call the office at (620) 583-6461. *"Funding provided by the Division of Conservation, Kansas Department of Agriculture through appropriation from the Kansas Water Plan Fund."*

Native Landscaping Makes Sense

There are many reasons to choose native plants. Chances are, there are several that will appeal to you when using natives in your outdoor spaces. Creating a sanctuary to support and encourage thriving wildlife is one of the most direct and positive impacts you can have on the environment and in your community. Besides the "feel good by doing good" aspect of planting native landscapes, you might be able to spend less time on maintenance activities like mowing, raking, watering, and trimming.

With reduced water needs and higher survival rates of native plants during drought, you might find yourself buying fewer replacements each year and

saving money on water bills. People also tend to utilize fewer chemicals to eliminate pests or promote growth in native gardens, which translates into cleaner runoff and safer water supplies, and less chemical exposure for you, your children, pets, and neighbors. Roll out a red welcome carpet for wildlife by promoting native plants in your landscape. If you're wondering what you can do to make a transition towards growing more native plants in your yard or public space, here are a few steps you can take:

- ◆ Remove invasive trees, shrubs, or weeds to make room for native plants. Invasive plants can aggressively take over an area and reduce space that could be better used for valuable habitat resources. We refer to this and any action that encourages native

- ◆ plants, as "managing for natives."
- ◆ Reduce the size of your lawn. This high-maintenance, low-value environment can be replaced by smothering with newspaper and mulch in the fall and planted with native plants in the spring.
- ◆ Make better selections for your existing gardens. Make informed decisions when choosing what to plant. Find local native plant nurseries as well, so you can avoid the big box stores.
- ◆ Grow native plants in pots, planters, and other containers. Container gardening allows you to control the soil types, moisture levels, and sun exposure to grow an incredible variety of native species in any location.

Adapted from article by Carrie Ginane, Cornell Lab of Ornithology

Manage Nitrogen When Using Cover Crops

By Donald Gastineau, NRCS

Cover crops can provide many benefits. They can reduce erosion, increase beneficial soil organisms, and add nutrients to the soil—particularly nitrogen fixed from the air by legumes. They can also provide forage for livestock. The roots of cover crops help hold soil particles together. Roots and their fungal extensions act like threads of fabric through the soil. Root exudates function like “soil glue,” making soil more durable than it would be without living roots present in the field between crops.

Cover crops increase beneficial soil organisms. As fungal hyphae colonize roots of cover crops, the reach of those roots into the soil is increased. This is especially beneficial to plants growing in soil that is low in moisture or soils with low available phosphorus. These fungi leave spores behind that can colonize the roots of the following cash crop, which reduces moisture stress of the crop and increases the amount of available soil phosphorus.

Cover crops can add nitrogen to the soil. Decomposed roots and shoots leave nutrients in the soil for future plants. Please note, depending on the carbon to nitrogen ratio of the residue, microbes will scavenge soil nitrogen while decomposing dead plants. Research by USDA Agricultural Research Service scientists in 1994⁽¹⁾ found decomposing wheat residue can scavenge soil

nitrogen for weeks or even months, depending on moisture conditions. It is important to plan for the nitrogen demand of microbes in order to avoid yield loss in the cash crop that follows. Over the long-term, nitrogen is added to the soil system by cover crops, but deficits occur while residues are being decomposed. This microbial nitrogen demand must be managed to avoid damage to the following cash crop.

The growing cover crop stores carbon, phosphorus, nitrogen, sulfur, etc. in plant tissue. Once the cover crop is terminated, microbes decompose the plant parts. Some of the nutrients from the cover crop are mineralized in the soil. These are available immediately. The remaining nutrients from the plant residue are either processed and excreted by the decomposers or stored in their “bodies.” The nutrients stored in the dead microbes are released as those microbes decompose. More research is needed to develop systems that manage the nutrient cycling in a way that benefits not only the soil resource, but also the cropping system.

Grazing animals can enhance or decrease the benefits of cover crops depending on how they are managed. Some producers have used “mob grazing” of cover crops to improve soil health. Livestock grazing and trampling of cover crops can accelerate nutrient cycling. If cover crops are grazed too early, too heavily, or both, the soil

can be degraded. The livestock enterprise may benefit at the expense of the soil resource.

In order for cover crops to provide benefits, they need time to grow. Benefits will be very limited if the cover crop doesn’t have time to develop before it is terminated. Managing the nitrogen demand of decomposers is important to success.

For assistance, please contact your local Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) office or conservation district office, located at your local county U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Service Center (listed in the telephone book under U.S. Government or on the internet at offices.usda.gov). More information is also available on the Kansas NRCS Web site at www.ks.nrcs.usda.gov. Follow us on Twitter @NRCS_Kansas. USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.

(1) Decomposition and Nitrogen Dynamics of Crop Residues: Residue Quality and Water Effects H. H. Schomberg, J. L. Steiner, and P. W. Unger, Published in Soil Science Society of American Journal 58:372-381, 1994.



Conservation Gateway is a secure web portal that lets you work with NRCS online. Landowners and land managers, can track their payments, report completed practices, request assistance, and electronically sign documents.

More information about Conservation Client Gateway may be found on the following Website- <https://www.ks.nrcs.usda.gov> or by calling Eureka Service Center 620-583-6461

Recycling in Greenwood County

Recycling is maintained by the County Road & Bridge Department. Located at the County Shop ~ 510 S. Jefferson St in Eureka. Other items are accepted in the household dumpsters for a fee. Hazardous waste is taken free of charge as well. Tires may be recycled at the County Shop for the cost recycle company charges only. The County Construction & Demolition Landfill is available Monday & Wednesday 8am to noon; Fridays 8am to 3pm. For the complete list visit: greenwoodcounty.org look under the Department tab for Road & Bridge, Recycle & Solid Waste.

Eureka – Wednesday and Thursday of each week from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Hamilton – Full time location west of the fire barn ~ 12 Main St

Severy – Thursday at 9:00 a.m. all weekend until Tuesday at 9:00 a.m. located across the street from the City Hall ~ 100 N Kansas Ave

Madison– Trailer is available between the Lyon County State Bank and Casey’s. This trailer is not part of the County program. Contracted through the city. Items accepted: Cardboard, office paper, newspapers, magazines, brown & clear glass, tin cans, aluminum.

Currently, all Greenwood County Recycling is being taken to The Recycling Center in Emporia ~3100 W. South Ave. The City of Emporia takes all recycling as “mixed”, meaning all papers, plastics, glass, and aluminum can be placed in any of our available bins. Cardboard must be kept separate however, and a detached cage can be found at all of our locations.

A separate bin for aluminum cans can be found at the **Eureka location only. We do ask that you separate aluminum out at this site. We do sell the aluminum to offset the cost of hauling the recycling**

Accepted Items:

- ◆ Newspaper
- ◆ Junk Mail
- ◆ Small Magazines
- ◆ Phone Books
- ◆ Office Waste
- ◆ Shredded Paper
- ◆ Cardboard
- ◆ Paper Feed sacks (not plastic on or inside)
- ◆ Plastic Containers (plastic pop/water bottles, colored plastic like laundry detergent bottles, opaque in color like milk and vinegar jugs [ALL MUST BE RINSED OUT])
- ◆ Aluminum cans [MUST BE FLATTENED]
- ◆ Steel cans [MUST BE MAGNETIC AND RINSED OUT]
- ◆ Glass bottles and jars of any color

Items NOT Accepted

- ◆ Plastic Bags [EVEN THOSE USED TO STORE RECYCLING]
- ◆ Waxed Cardboard
- ◆ Light bulbs, windshields, mirrors, and pottery
- ◆ Batteries
- ◆ Styrofoam, packing peanuts, and bubble rap-Napkins, Paper Towels, Kleenexes, & Paper Plates, Tissue Paper & Wrapping paper
- ◆ Tin foil, Pie pans, and any cans that aren’t magnetic
- ◆ Candy Wrappers & Lids from soft drinks
- ◆ Ink Cartridges
- ◆ Please keep in mind what is trash and what is not. Recycle plants can turn us away for not following their rules.



Keep up with USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) news with : Gov Delivery Emails & Text Messages. No office? No problem! Receive text message alerts from FSA while on-the-go, in the field, on the tractor or even on horseback. Subscribe to text message alerts to receive timely updates on: Deadline Reminders, Program Notifications, Reporting Requirements, Local Outreach Events. Standard text messaging rates apply. Contact your wireless carrier for details. Expect to receive no more than two text messages from FSA each month, on average. Participants may unsubscribe at any time. For more in-depth FSA program information, we offer our standard electronic news bulleting by email. Visit www.fsa.usda.gov/subscribe, or contact your Greenwood/Elk County office. 620-583-5544 To subscribe to text message alerts from Greenwood/Elk County- Text **KSGreenwood** to **FSANOW** (372-669)

Please remember to report all changes to your farm as soon as possible!



Rain Barrels

Rain barrels are a great way to harvest rainfall to be used when needed. There are more benefits to collecting rain than to just use at a later time. Using a rain barrel is a great way to help the environment. Impervious surfaces are surfaces in the landscape that can not infiltrate rainfall. For example concrete, rooftops and compacted earth. Impervious surfaces alter the natural rainfall runoff and has the potential to damage sensitive ecosystems. Rain barrels reduce the amount of storm water runoff and improve water quality in your community. Rainfall patterns are inconsistent in different areas. At times during the summer months water restrictions may be enforced. This practice can provide you with a water source during those dry spells. There are many different styles of containers. Shop around to find what meets your needs.

Be a water conservationist. Remember every living thing needs water!

Benefits

- ◇ Contribute to erosion prevention-catching rain will slow the speed of water into drainage areas
- ◇ Rain water is a key to keeping compost moist and eco-friendly.
- ◇ Reduce water bill.
- ◇ Collecting water controls water around your homes foundation.
- ◇ Gardens and flowers love the rain water.
- ◇ Reduce water pollutions by preventing storm water runoff containing pollutants like sediment, oil, grease, bacteria
- ◇ Rainwater does not contain chlorine, lime or calcium. It is best!

Things to remember

Do not collect water for drinking, cooking or bathing.

Keep a screen on the rain barrel.

Keep lid secure to keep it clean.

Multiple barrels can be used and linked together.

Elevate the barrel for easy spigot access; increase water pressure.

2nd Annual Women In Ag will be held June 20th.

Range Youth Camp

The Kansas Section of the Society for Range Management will once again be sponsoring the Kansas Range Youth Camp this year from June 19th - 22nd. This camp has been held for 57 years, and the purpose of the camp is to educate youth about what rangelands are, why they are important, and how best to manage these lands sustainably.

The camp is held at Camp Mennoscah in Kingman County, and high school students that are currently freshmen, sophomores, or juniors are eligible to attend. Any student that is interested in livestock, wildlife management, soils, native plants, or natural resources is sure to learn something interesting and have a fun time doing it. There is a lot of time spent outdoors doing 'hands-on' activities, and several field trips will allow students to see first hand some local operations.

Registration is going on right now and ends May 15th. The cost of camp is \$250, but many county conservation districts and other local organizations will sponsor a local student. Interested students are encourage to contact the conservation district to inquire about funding. Greenwood County Conservation District may be reached at 620-583-6461 or keila.sherman@ks.nacdn.net.

To request district sponsorship, forms must be received by May 1, 2018 in the district office, 1819 E River St. Eureka, Ks 67045. More information as well as forms can be found on the Kansas SRM website: <http://rangelands.org/kansas/kansas-range-youth-camp/>. The camp coordinator, James Ungerer, can be contacted at james.ungerer@ks.usda.gov or 785-223-3705 with questions.



4th Grade

Water Festival is planned. APRIL 25, 2018!

Greenwood County Conservation District is a licensed native grass and wildflower seed dealer. Seed orders can be placed at anytime.



2017 District Annual Report

The Greenwood County Conservation District completed its 67th year of operation on December 31, 2017. Many activities dealing with administering state cost-share programs, watershed, information and education projects as well as maintaining district finances were undertaken. This report contains highlights of those activities. We provided information pertaining to Old World Bluestem and all the services NRCS and the District provide at the local county fair. The District publishes a newsletter and provides it digitally and hard copy to be mailed to local producers. We use our two local newspapers for advertising. The District helps with the outdoor classrooms at the area schools and also other schools in the management unit. The District helps with three stations at the annual Day on the Farm which is sponsored by Farm Bureau, the District, Greenwood County Cattlemen and Cattlewomen. Around 100 second graders and 50 high school students. We use the Stream Model Trailer, Nature Walk and Grains Grown in Kansas. The District sponsors two high school students to attend the Range Youth Camp each summer. Adults receive scholarships for teachers to attend the annual Ag in the Classroom. We also sponsor a team to attend regional and state Envirothon from the Madison School District. The conservation poster contest is done every year. Starting in 2015, the district began going to the schools and giving presentations on the theme for the year. In 2016, we visited the schools on 7 different occasions to present information on trees and water quality to area elementary students for the

poster contest. For the year 2017, the soil tunnel trailer was used at the area schools for the year's theme of soil health. We have a field day once or twice a year where we highlight the current conservation issues. The District also has a website and Facebook page. The District partnered with the county to utilize a portion of their website.

The 2018 Budget and work plan were approved. Support was received from the Board of Greenwood County Commissioners granting the District a \$250 increase in funds for the year 2018 bringing our budget total to \$17,500. Training for the District staff included Employee Organization Meetings, SCC Fall Meeting, KACD Spring and Fall workshops, and the KACD Annual Convention.

The District was awarded on November 20, 2017 by the Governor of Kansas. The award recognizes the dedicated service, implementing soil and water conservation programs, and improving and protecting Kansas Natural Resources. District hosted its first Women in Ag event in August 2017. We had 48 adults and 3 children attend the program. It was well received and the District has plans to make it an annual event. We have a unique contest for our county called The "King of the Prairie" contest. This an annual event held during Greenwood County Cattleman's Weekend. Each participant brings in the tallest stalk of Big Bluestem grass they can find. It is held to recognize rancher's good management and give everyone a chance to celebrate our amazing prairie. We partner with local business to provide prizes for the

winners. The District holds the annual County Water Festival every spring. There were 80 students in the 4th grade from three Greenwood County Schools. We use an Enviroscape among other teaching tools and games for the children. The District gives the students a water bottle for attending festival. The District also helps with the Woodson and Wilson County Water Festival. The first time to use the Earth Balloon was in spring of 2016. The District has made the balloon an annual part of their education program.

The District serves as a local source for native grass, wildflower seeds, and geotextile fabric. By having the geotextile fabric on hand we are able to conveniently provide the needed fabric to our landowner implementing conservation practices. The District works with other Districts in the Management Unit and partner with WRAPS- District partner with local schools, area businesses, 4-H groups, FFA groups, and local organizations such as Cattlemen and Women's groups. The district has a strong working relationship with our neighboring counties: Lyon, Woodson, Wilson, Elk, and Butler. We also work alongside with WRAPS and Kansas State Extension on many projects to reach similar goals for our county.



2018 Poster Contest



Hunting Leases Wanted by Vickie Cikanek, Biologist

The Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks (KDWP) is currently enrolling tracts into the Walk-In Hunting Areas (WIHA) program through July. With over one million acres enrolled in the program statewide, WIHA has become very popular among hunters and landowners alike. It generates millions in revenue for landowners and small communities across the state, and provides hunting opportunity to everyone, young and old, rich and poor. This program also helps to spread hunters out across our public lands. We are currently looking to increase acres in the eastern part of the state, so give us a call! A few of the most common WIHA related questions are answered below, addressing popular topics such as liability, safety, and payment concerns. For more information regarding the program or to discuss the enrollment of your property, please contact Vickie Cikanek with KDWP at 785-501-0867.

Q: How much does it pay?

A: Payments are variable depending on the lease dates and total number of acres per contract and the quality of the land for a variety of hunting opportunities, but may be as high as \$7-8/ac annually (primarily for Fall & Spring lease payments combined).

Q: Am I protected if there is an injury or damage to property?

A: Yes, you are immune from damage or injuries that result from ordinary negligence by a hunter.

Hunting Leases Wanted cont.

Q: If I sign a WIHA contract and change my mind about wanting in the program, can I back out?

A: You can withdraw from the program at any time without a fee, with a 30 day written notice. Any due payment will be prorated and "no longer enrolled" signs will be placed on the property.

Q: What if there is a house or shed within or bordering the tract that I don't want hunters shooting towards or hunting around?

A: These areas may be posted with red "Safety Zone" signs to notify hunters of the building and will be excluded from the lease acres.

Q: The thought of high power rifles on my property during deer season makes me nervous, what can be done to help ease my concerns?

A: Properties can be made "Hunting with Archery or Shotshell Only" with no reduction in payment, provided there is a reasonable reason for not allowing rifles (e.g. too close to town, house on property, cattle on property during hunting season, etc).



Want to plant new trees? Wonder what kind to buy?

How do I manage my woodlands?

Kansas Forest Service has a fantastic digital map you can input your legal land description in and BAM! You have a list of trees and shrubs that will grow in the soil found on your property. This map and more information can be found at <http://www.kansasforests.org>

Dennis Carlson, District 6 Forester 2803 N. Lorraine, Ste. J, Hutchinson, KS 67502

dcarlson@ksu.edu 620-921-3554

Women In Ag

The 2nd Annual Women In Ag event will be held on June 20, 2018 at the Eureka Jr/Sr High School in Eureka, Kansas from 9am to 3pm. We encourage you to spread the word! This event will be available to all. There will be many important topics discussed.

- ◆ Inspiration & entertainment by Chef Alli of Mayetta, KS
- ◆ Cost share financial statements
- ◆ Pollinators and Birds and Blooms
- ◆ Farm Loans & Programs
- ◆ Ag Estate Planning
- ◆ Tree Identification & Maintenance
- ◆ Rain Simulator-erosion
- ◆ Invasive Species
- ◆ Pond Fencing & the Benefits, Tire Tanks
- ◆ Meth & Marijuana Awareness on your property

This event encourages, educates and empowers women to meet the challenge of growing food, fuel and fiber. 28% of Kansas farmers are women. Visit USDA.gov for more statistics and information.



FALL RIVER and TORONTO WRAPS

Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategy

Bob Culbertson – Project Coordinator – New Strawn, KS – 620-364-9485 – rculbertson@kaws.org

Jeff Davidson – Livestock and Watershed Specialist – Eureka, KS 620-583-4437 - jdavidso@ksu.edu

WRAPS Funding Still Available in 2018

Greenwood County landowners have access to financial assistance that is available at this moment! If you have erosion concerns, water quality concerns or even want to try incorporating cover crops into your operation, WRAPS may be able to help you address the issue. Sign up is continuous and projects are reimbursed within 10 days once completed and submitted for payment! On most projects, the financial assistance is about 70% of the total cost.

The Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategy, WRAPS, dates back to 2006 in Greenwood County. Both Fall River and Toronto watersheds are in the implementation phase of WRAPS, which means the goal is to put projects on the land that help reduce the sedimentation and nutrient load that is deposited in the two federal reservoirs located in these watersheds, Fall River and Toronto.

One of the defining elements of WRAPS is the establishment of priority areas within each watershed. The Priority Areas represent the portions of the watershed that are contributing the most sediment or nutrients and where projects can have the largest benefit. This is where WRAPS projects may be funded. However, even if your land lies outside the priority area, you are still encouraged to contact us as other assistance is usually available.

In 2017, \$20,500 of WRAPS cost share money was approved and helped in the completion of 9 projects. The most common practice involved fencing ponds and providing an alternative water source in the form of a tank or limited access watering lane for livestock. Two terrace projects, one sediment control basin, a critical area seeding and 70 acres of cover crop assistance rounded out the practices. Over \$37,000 is committed to current contracts, leaving \$22,000 available for new projects and best management practices in the two watershed areas.

The use of cover crops is gaining some momentum in the area as a way to improve soil health, reduce erosion, help control persistent weeds and provide additional forage for livestock. Cover crops and no till can play a big role in reducing sediment, nitrogen and phosphorus loads in the streams and reservoirs. And producers can see improvements in soil organic matter, weed control and gain additional quality forage for livestock. WRAPS is very committed in assisting landowners initiating this practice and seeing it become a common practice on cropland. Cost share is available to assist with the cost of the cover crop seed and planting cropland that is new to this practice.

In addition to the projects mentioned earlier, WRAPS funds may assist with planting buffers or entire fields to permanent vegetation, relocating livestock feeding sites, fencing streams and providing an alternative livestock watering site, repairing gully erosion in fields and many other practices.

WRAPS work closely with the Conservation District and Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) in Greenwood County on all projects. For more information or a field visit, please contact Bob Culbertson, Project Coordinator at 620-364-9485 or rculbertson@kaws.org. You may also contact Keila Sherman at the Greenwood County Conservation District Office in Eureka or Luke Westerman, Supervisory District Conservationist with NRCS.

Kansas Alliance for Wetlands and Streams (KAWS) is a private non-profit company dedicated to education and implementing projects that ensure the future of wetlands, streams, and their adjacent riparian areas as an integral part of our Kansas heritage and landscape. This project has been funded through Section 319 of the Clean Water Act.

Farm Service Agency

Farm Programs Available

- Agricultural Risk & Price Loss Coverage (ARC/PLC)
- Biomass Crop Assistance Program (BCAP)
- Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)
- Dairy Indemnity Payment Program (DIPP)
- Dairy Margin Protection Program (MPP)
- Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees, and Farm -Raised Fish (ELAP)
- Emergency Conservation Program (ECP)
- Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP)
- Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP)
- Loan Deficiency Payments (LDP)
- Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP)
- Tree Assistance Program (TAP)
- Commodity Marketing Assistance Loans (MAL)

Farm Loans Available

- Beginning Farmer & Rancher Loans
- Emergency Loans (Time Sensitive)
- Farm Operating Loans (Direct and Guaranteed)
- Farm Ownership Loans (Direct and Guaranteed)
- Farm Storage Facility Loans (FSFL)
- EZ Guarantee and Microloans
- SDA (Women/Minority) Farmer & Rancher Loans
- Youth Loans

NAP Coverage Application Closing Dates

Eligible producers must apply for coverage and pay the applicable service fees annually by the application closing date. Acreage reports are also due annually. To ensure coverage availability, please call your local office.

- Sept. 1 - aquaculture, canola, Christmas trees, nursery crops, turf grass sod, small grains planted for grazing and haying
- Dec. 1 - all perennial grasses, alfalfa, clover, lespedeza, mixed forage, honey, most perennial fruits and vegetables, peaches
- Jan. 1 - apples, pears
- March 15 - millet, sorghum forage, pecans, walnuts, safflower, sesame, most annual fruits and vegetables

Farm Program Deadlines

Acreage Reports

- November 15 - perennial grass, alfalfa
- December 15 - wheat and other fall-planted small grains
- July 15 - soybeans, corn and other spring-planted feed grains, CRP, all other crops.

ARC/PLC deadline for annual enrollment August 1.

Have you moved? Changed bank accounts? Contact your local FSA to update your records. 1819 E River St. Eureka, Ks 67045

Kansas Wildflower of the Year

The Kansas Native Plant Society (KNPS) chooses one of our native Kansas plants each year as the Wildflower of the Year. The plant chosen must be a plant native to Kansas. It may be common or rare. It may be selected for emphasis on habitat. The purpose of selecting a Wildflower of the Year is to increase public awareness of our native Kansas plants. The Wildflower of the Year for 2017 is Plains Coreopsis.

Plains coreopsis (*Coreopsis tinctoria*) is the Kansas Native Plant Society 2017 Wildflower of the Year (WOY). Plains coreopsis is 2 to 4 feet tall with many yellow and reddish brown terminal flowers blooming June through September. Leaves are divided, narrowly linear and oppositely arranged on the stem. This species is found in damp disturbed areas, roadside ditches and low, sandy to silty mixed grass prairies and floodplains statewide. Plains coreopsis is in the Asteraceae or sunflower family.

It is also easy to grow in gardens from seed. The Latin word tinctoria means "to impart color" and flowers can be cut and soaked to produce a colorful dye. For more photos and a detailed description of *Coreopsis tinctoria*, visit these websites: kswildflower.org and kansasnativeplantsociety.org



Soil is a living and life-giving natural resource. Visit: www.nrcs.usda.gov

Receive Future

Newsletters By E-mail

Please submit your e-mail address to gwcokansasconservation@gmail.com.

Place **subscribe** in the subject line or call 620-583-6461.

"The nation that destroys its soil, destroys itself." - Franklin Delano Roosevelt

CONSERVATION SEEDING DATES

CRITICAL AREA PLANTING

Planting Date (Statewide)

Cool-season species: Aug 15—Oct 1; Dec 1—Apr 15

Warm-season species: Dec 1—May 15

Bermuda grass sprigs: Mar 1—May 15

Note: An extension of 2 weeks to the cut-off seeding date may be given by the district conservationist, based on favorable moisture and temperature conditions.

When it is not practical to wait for the seeding periods as noted above and at the discretion of the responsible technician, permanent seeding may be completed as soon as construction work is completed. Where soil erosion is a concern or at the discretion of the responsible technician, mulch will be applied according to Conservation Practice 484, Mulching, and immediately following completion of the permanent seeding.

FORAGE AND BIOMASS PLANTING

Planting Date (Statewide)

Warm-season grasses. December 1 to May 15

Cool-season grasses. December 1 to April 15 and August 15 to October 1

Legumes. December 1 to April 15 and August 15 to October 1

Note: The responsible technician may extend the seeding dates two weeks where justified by climatic conditions.

RANGE PLANTING

Planting Date (Statewide)

March 15 to May 15 (Optimum)

December 1 to May 15 (Maximum)

November 1 to December 31 (Frost Seeding introduced legumes)

Note: The responsible technician may extend the seeding dates two weeks where justified by climatic conditions.



Conservation is a state of harmony
between men and land.
Aldo Leopold

Conservation District Services

Find the District on the World Wide Web!

[www.facebook.com/
GreenwoodCountyKansasConservationDistrict](http://www.facebook.com/GreenwoodCountyKansasConservationDistrict)

www.greenwoodcounty.org

The District has a root plow available year round to use on your land. Cost is \$20 per day of use.

To help you in reaching all required elements needed to complete your cost share practices, geotextile fabric is available for sale. Geotextile fabric may be sold for gardening or other projects where you need to have a weed barrier or hold rock in place.

Grass and wildflower seeds are available to purchase. A seed mixtures of native grasses is available on hand for seeding pond dams. Seed may be ordered anytime upon request.

Water conservation is important!



See Page 10: use of rain barrel

Days USDA Offices Are Closed

May 28 - Memorial Day

July 4 - Independence Day

Sept. 3 - Labor Day

Oct. 8 - Columbus Day

Nov. 12 - Veterans Day Observance

Nov. 22 - Thanksgiving Day

Dec. 25 - Christmas Holiday

2017 Grassland Award Winners

A family who has built their operation from scratch into one of the largest stocker operation in the county are recognized this year. Mike and Pam Collinge have been named the 2017 Grassland Award recipients. Although the Collinge Ranch didn't officially start until 1977, Mike's love for the cattle industry began at a young age. As a child, he helped his father care for bucket calves and even had his own small dairy business until his childhood home was incorporated into the city limits of Emporia. After graduating from Emporia High School, Mike attended Kansas State University to earn his Animal Sciences and Industry degree. During summers, weekends and holidays, Mike traveled to Greenwood County and learned the ropes from the Ulrich Cattle Company. "Bert and Phyllis were instrumental in getting me started in the cattle industry," commented Mike. After graduating from college, Mike purchased 160 acres in Greenwood County, approximately 3 miles southwest of Hamilton. The headquarters remains on that original acreage. Mike married Pam Smith, a fellow Emporia High School graduate, in 1978. She was raised in a small town in Colorado before moving to Kansas her junior year of high school. She earned her teaching degree from Emporia State University and has served the Eureka school district since. Pam currently teaches 6th grade science and technology at Marshall Elementary School. For the next three decades, the duo and their family, would continue to build strong relationships with neighbors and fellow ranchers that would help facilitate building a successful operation. The Collinges get valuable assistance from their family as well. Their son, Glen contributes to the day to day operation of the ranch as well as operating a joint venture grass cattle program. Collinges son-in-law, Ryan Arnold, developed a smartphone application that assists Mike with organizing the feeding of mineral and other supplement. Other family members help out when the need arises. The couple has three children; daughter Aubrey and husband Ryan Arnold who reside in Olpe; son Glen and wife Rachel of Hamilton and daughter Leslie and husband Zach Fritz of Kansas City, Mo. Collinges also have five grandchildren, Kaleb, Isaac and Thomas Arnold and Cormick and Elinor Collinge.



2017 Banker's Award-Water Quality

Three generations of the Dean family have worked to make conservation improvements to their property for more than 40 years. Kenneth Sr. and Ermine Dean, along with their son Kenneth Jr. moved to Madison when Kenneth Jr. was just seven years old. Kenneth Jr. had a love for hunting and the outdoors and first purchased acreage with a mixture of grass, cropland and timber. Approximately 1,800 acres had been purchased with 100 acres being farm ground, 160 acres in timber and the remainder in grass. Over the years, Kenneth Jr. taught his family the importance of taking care of the land. According to Paul, his father would say, "They aren't making any more land, so you better take care of what you have." Kenneth Jr. worked with local conservation officials with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Kansas Forest Service and Soil Conservation Service to do just that. Paul also shared that a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service employee once told his father that he was fencing riparian areas off and excluding cattle before it was popular to do so. Paul was referring to a fencing project that he and Kenneth Jr. worked on back in the early 1970s. Kenneth Jr. passed away in June 2016, but his legacy will continue through his wife, children and grandchildren. Paul has completed and continues to seek additional conservation measures on the properties. His wife Kristan and children Octavian and Tryphena also help with the properties. While discussing the many conservation measures, Paul noted he especially enjoys the timber stand improvement and tree planting work.



The articles in it's entirety can be found in the Conservation Edition in the Eureka Herald week of January 23, 2018.

Toronto Reservoir and Fall River Reservoir WRAPS Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategy

