

CONSERVATION NEWS

Greenwood County Conservation District



DECEMBER 2018

Things You Need to Know



Farm Service Agency
Market Facilitation
Program



Old World Bluestem
Mark Your Calendar for
the 2019 Workshop



WRAPS
Funds are available

Calendar

December 2018

- 24- Christmas Eve
- 25- Christmas Day
(office closed)
- 31- New Year's Eve

January 2019

- 1- New Year's Day
(office closed)
- 9- Board Meeting
- 21- Martin Luther King
birthday (office closed)

February 2019

- 20- Annual Meeting

Market Facilitation Program (MFP)



The Market Facilitation Program (MFP) provides direct payments to help corn, cotton, sorghum, soybean, wheat, dairy, hog, shelled almonds and fresh sweet cherries producers who have been directly impacted by illegal retaliatory tariffs, resulting in the loss of traditional exports. The MFP is established under the statutory authority of the Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) Charter Act and is under the administration of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Farm Service Agency (FSA). The Charter Act authorizes CCC to assist in the expansion of domestic markets

or development of new and additional markets and uses. **Producers may apply for MFP through January 15, 2019.** For more information please contact the Eureka Farm Service Agency office 620-583-5544 Ext. 2.

Old World Bluestem—A Threat to Our Native Grasses



A field day is planned for the last week of May 2019 identifying and control of OWB. Watch for more details in April! Real World Concerns with Old World Bluestems

James L. Ungerer, Rangeland Management Specialist- Rapid expansion of Old World Bluestems (OWB) is an ever-growing concern and a very real threat to native prairies. As more land managers discover the presence of OWB on their prairies, the need to address this challenging resource concern is long overdue. Caucasian and yellow bluestems were introduced into the United States in the early 1900s for use as forage and erosion control. It is now realized these invasive species have created extreme problems on the landscape. OWB appear to accelerate erosion on rangelands because they can cause an altered carbon-to-nitrogen ratio that inhibits the growth of native plants. These grasses are also less palatable to livestock, in comparison to native bluestem species, and can tolerate extreme grazing pressure. Invasive species, like OWB, harm the natural ecological systems of native prairies. If left uncontrolled, OWB will damage ranching economies to the point of threatening cattle producers' livelihoods due to the extreme costs and profit loss. As OWB invades and takes over rangelands, native wildlife is also negatively impacted. Early detection is key to addressing and controlling of OWB before it can completely take over a landscape. However, identification of these grasses can be difficult to the untrained eye looking out across the native prairie. For more information, visit the Kansas NRCS Web site www.ks.nrcs.usda.gov/programs or your local U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Service Center. Follow us on Twitter @NRCS_Kansas. USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender. For complete news release see the NRCS website.

KAWs/WRAPS



If you have erosion concerns or water quality concerns on your land, 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 ending up in the two federal reservoirs located in these watersheds, Fall River and Toronto. One of the defining elements of WRAPS is the establishment of target areas within each watershed. The Target Areas represent the portions of the watershed that are contributing the most sediment and where projects

can have the largest benefit. However, even if your land lies outside the target area, you are still encouraged to contact us as other assistance is usually available. WRAPS work closely with the Conservation District and Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) in Greenwood County on all projects. NRCS standards and specifications are utilized to guarantee a quality product and ensure longevity. For more information 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.

District Activities



The District has been busy with educational presentations around the county. Cattleman's Tour was held on September 5 which had a great turnout. The Earth Balloon was presented in September to the area schools. The 6th grade classes at all schools in the county attended. The kindergarten and pre-k classes in Eureka were able to take a tour on the inside as well. A Forestry Workshop was held on October 24th. This was in conjunction with Westar Energy tree planting for damaged areas in Eureka from the June tornado. On November 2nd, our district manager spent time with Eureka 6th grade classes discussing our native grasses and the damages invasive species do to our pastures when over grazed. District presented the AR Sandbox at the annual Cattleman's Day celebrations in Eureka on November 3rd. This is a fantastic way of learning about our soils and topographic maps. On November 15th, the district worked along side the Greenwood County Cattlewomen with their program You are HERE! The Soil Tunnel Trailer was presented to the 4th grade classes in the county. As always this educational tool is a great way to teach soil health.

Greenwood County Conservation District

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