

CONSERVATION
ISSUE #13 2018

Connections



A quarterly publication of the Dickinson County Conservation District

CONSERVATION *Connections*

A quarterly publication of the Dickinson County Conservation District



USDA Service Center
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Abilene, KS 67410

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 (785) 263-2787 (Conservation District/NRCS)

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 Danny Carroll.....Soil Conservation Technician

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 Ellen Alvarez.....Program Technician
 Tonya Askew.....Program Technician
 Sandy Johnson.....Program Technician
 Deb Marston.....Program Technician
 Michele Snowball.....Program Technician

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

August 1 through 6—CKFF Free Fair Booth at Abilene Armory
 August 13—Regular Board Meeting
 September 3—OFFICE CLOSED—Labor Day
 September 10—Regular Board Meeting

Seeding Dates

Cool Season Grasses
(brome, fescue)
 August 1 to October 1
 December 1 to April 15

Warm Season Grasses
(native mix)
 December 1 to May 15

Prescribed Burn Dates

CRP: Feb. 1 - April 15
 Depending on soils, July 16
 - Aug. 31 (contact FSA/
 NRCS for more information)

Rangeland: April 1 - May 5



www.dkcoconservation.com
 facebook: dkcoconservation
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CONSERVATION *Connections*

Looking for a contractor?

Contact us for a list of contractors that will help achieve all your conservation goals: earthwork, brush cleaning, prescribed burning, well-drilling, fence building, and more!

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DCCD *Updates*



Save A Drop Water Festival

350 students, parents, and volunteers from every school in Dickinson County and St. X from Junction City attended the 2018 Save A Drop Water Festival at Brown's Park on April 26. Fourth grade students took part in activities relating to water and

natural resource conservation, changing environmental attitudes, water and technology, water protection, water science and biology, and wildlife that depend on water. The students rotated through 20 minute stations that included: Build A Watershed, Water Jeopardy, Environmental Forensics, Rain Barrels, Edible Aquifers, Herpetology, Furs and Fowl, Goopy Garbage, Long Haul, Incredible Journey, Wonderful Worms, Common Waters, and Bird Pharming. Milford Nature Center presented Kansas Birds of Prey for the lunchtime entertainment. Dickinson County Conservation District was one among many sponsors/volunteers for the event. Check out our website or Facebook page for photos from the 12th Annual Save A Drop Water Festival.

Envirothon

Two Dickinson County schools participated in the 2018 Kansas Envirothon on April 12. The Kansas Envirothon is an outdoor, environmental high school competition where students learn and are tested on soils, forestry, wildlife, aquatics, a current issue and an oral presentation.. Students from twenty-one schools competed this year.

Two teams from Chapman High School and one team from Hope High School competed in the regional event held at Camp White in Council Grove.



Chapman High School Team A placed 4th overall while Team B placed 7th with a 1st place in the Wildlife division. Hope High School Team A placed 18th overall. The highest ranking team from each school are invited to attend the state contest at Lil Toledo Lodge in Chanute, Kansas. Our neighbors to the north, Clay Center High School, placed first in the state competition.



Kansas NRCS *Drought Assistance*

Contact your Legislators

Senators:

Jerry Moran
(202) 224-6521
(785) 628-6401

Pat Roberts
(202) 224-4774
(785) 295-2745

Representatives:

Roger Marshall, 1st District
(202) 225-2715
(785) 829-9000

Lynn Jenkins, 2nd District
(202) 225-6601
(785) 231-5966

Kevin Yoder, 3rd District
(202) 225-2865
(913) 621-0832

Ron Estes, 4th District
(202) 225-6216
(316) 262-8992

Salina, Kansas, July 24, 2018—Gaye L. Benfer, acting Kansas State Conservationist for the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) announced today that NRCS is offering technical and financial assistance to producers in Kansas suffering from ongoing drought conditions. Drought recovery funding assistance is available through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) Drought Initiative.

The State of Kansas declared a Drought Emergency for the following counties: Barber, Barton, Butler, Chase, Clark, Clay, Coffey, Comanche, Cowley, Dickinson, Edwards, Ellsworth, Finney, Ford, Geary, Grant, Gray, Greenwood, Hamilton, Harper, Harvey, Haskell, Hodgeman, Kearney, Kingman, Kiowa, Lincoln, Lyon, Marion, McPherson, Meade, Morris, Morton, Osage, Ottawa, Pawnee, Pottawatomie, Pratt, Reno, Rice, Riley, Saline, Sedgwick, Seward, Shawnee, Stafford, Stanton, Stevens, Sumner, and Wabaunsee.

"Through this initiative, eligible landowners and producers in declared drought emergency counties will be eligible to address livestock water shortages in their operations," said Benfer.

Applications for assistance under the EQIP Drought Initiative are currently being accepted. The application evaluation cut-off period will be August 24, 2018 with contract funding to occur shortly after. Due to immediate need, applicants may apply for waivers to initiate necessary practices before contracts are funded.

Information Available

Additional information about NRCS programs is located on the Kansas NRCS website at www.ks.nrcs.usda.gov or stop by your local USDA Service Center. To find a service center near you, check your telephone book under "United States Government" or on the Internet at offices.usda.gov. Follow us on Twitter @NRCS_Kansas. USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.

2018 *Conservation Awards*

Each year, the Dickinson County Conservation District presents awards to county land owners for implementing conservation practices that exemplify a commitment to stewardship of our natural resources. Awards are presented at the Annual Meeting in February and recipients are recognized in a special supplement to the Abilene Reflector-Chronicle. Each of the awards is dedicated to a conservation practice that strives to conserve and promote healthy soils, water, forests, and wildlife.

The Banker's Award, presented to Kevin and Lorine McKeeman in 2017, recognizes best management practices that prevent erosion and maintain fertility and productivity of the land.

Ray and Merelyn Stites received the 2017 Grasslands Award for managing land in a manner that results in conservation of soil, water, and grassland resources.

The 2017 Buffer Award was presented to Larry and Karin Kellogg for establishing and maintaining buffer and filter strips that improve wildlife habitat and water quality by taking marginal land out of production and planting it in native grasses, forbs, and legumes.

No-till farming results in the reduction of soil erosion and fuel consumption. The 2017 No-Till Farming Award went to Cedar Hill, Inc. for their dedication to improving soil health and reducing soil erosion.

Rex Sandow and Jan Robinson received the 2017 Windbreak Award for establishing and managing a windbreak to protect farm resources and reduce soil erosion.

The 2017 Young Farmer Award was presented to Cameron Lang, for demonstrating an understanding of the importance of conservation, implementing conservation practices both as a joint effort and individually, demonstrating excellence and dedication in operation management, making great conservation efforts while overcoming challenges, and taking a leadership role in conserving natural resources.

Award winners are selected from a group of landowners nominated by the Dickinson County Board of Supervisors, partner organizations, and other area landowners. To be eligible to win the award, nominee must implement one or more specific conservation practices in Dickinson County and must not have been a winner the prior year.

The Dickinson County Conservation District is now accepting nominations for the Conservation Awards. Nomination may be made by phone at 785-263-2787 extension 332, by email to cindy.dooley@ks.nacdnet.net or by submitting a form on the website homepage: www.dkcoconservation.com

Conservation *Scholarship*



Jamie Rock

Riley Sleichter is a 2017 graduate of Abilene High School and will begin his sophomore year at Kansas State University in the fall of 2018. Riley is completing a bachelor's degree in Biological and Agricultural Engineering. After college, Riley intends to pursue a career in agricultural machinery engineering. Riley also plans to raise Maine-Anjou, Chianina, and Shorthorn cattle with an emphasis on raising females for the show industry.

The Conservation District will begin accepting applications for the 2019-2020 school year in early 2019. More details and scholarship applications will be available on the Resources, Forms, and Publications page of their website later this year: www.dkcoconservation.com or Facebook page: dkcoconservation

Each year, the Dickinson County Conservation District awards \$1000 scholarships to two students who plans to further their education in the conservation field or a related discipline. This year, the scholarships were awarded to Riley Sleichter and Jamie Rock.

Jamie Rock is a 2018 graduate of Chapman High School. She will continue her education at Kansas State University in the fall of 2018. Jamie intends to complete a bachelor's degree in Biological Systems Engineering with a focus on machinery. When she receives her degree, she hopes to pursue a career as an engineer for an agriculture machinery manufacturing company, such as John Deere or Great Plains Manufacturing.

Riley Sleichter



Conservation *Word Search*

D V R R N O N Y X E L F N C S N I E I C E E C Q K E C R R E
 E L N Q V O T O R A O R G X O R N R M S I T I S A R A P E S
 J W E F T I I E I O O J X I D B D O Z E T A T I B A H C M A
 A M S I L C H T D T O L T N R Z I V U E C P X C I S Z W U H
 D D R A Y P N W A J A A O P H S C I B A B O O S K J K N S P
 V R T X S E E E Q L C D F P H E A T M N E I S N U H L Y N V
 K A J O N B L J B I U P E U P B T I R O Q T O Y E J X S O Y
 N L I O R K Z B F C O P R R V X O R L I F R A M S E H W C G
 Z B P R M L N I A X R S O P P G R T C T Y T I L A T R O M H
 P X M N Z W N J S N S O V P G X S E X A F Y M K P S E E T F
 E C T K O G K K Q N I U I Y U V P D V V T O C M M N S M B J
 Z V W D A I I F T M K A R J V F E E M R A B N B S E X F P M
 D Z G M C X T Q U F H G T L T L C T K E R P D F Q P M I F B
 L X O R J E L I A S J M F S O Y I U N S I X K Q N C N S D V
 T I I D E S W B T V P R O D U C E R X N I K T R Z V Z U R Y
 B J W R J E I T B E E X X A M S S L E O G W L M A E G S R T
 C A R R Y I N G C A P A C I T Y M X S C V B P S E M Q A W K
 W Q O B V D G H O Q W M G I L W T U N U E V I A C I H M R R
 H E T E R O T R O P H R O C M I W D M T P V T Z O G F A P U
 U U S H D S N L Z U A G W C N M X K V I E R X M L R O X E X
 N W D M R W S H U T S F F C N C I L G S X K U P O A O D Z N
 N P H H W R M R I U C E T D H M N G P N O A A E G T D W I N
 U B D P N Y R O F J F I E P Q A S E R I Z Y M X Y I C V J Z
 M E J O F P N Y Z V O L J F A T C P N A X E J J L O H Y I V
 C W F R Q O G Z T N H A B Q F I O R A J T Q R J H N A G G R
 O G D T T K O S L G N N G H E E D U P F W I I Z G P I U Q J
 Y W L O Y K D W J K T J C S A U C W Z H L C O M M U N I T Y
 U T P T V Y T M T X A L W R L H F T J L L Q K N M W W V L S
 L U N U U K M A X Q E X P Z O Z Y F G D B M T S G C K M Y F
 D I M A R Y P Y G R E N E U N N Z I L L E Z C Y O L D O W N

AUTOTROPH BIOMAGNIFICATION BIOMASS BIOSPHERE CARRYING CAPACITY
 COMMUNITY COMPETITION CONSUMER DETRITIVORE ECOLOGY ECOSYSTEM
 EMIGRATION ENERGY PYRAMID EXPONENTIAL EXTINCTION FOOD CHAIN
 FOOD WEB GREENHOUS EEEFFECT HABITAT HETEROTROPH IMMIGRATION
 INDICATORSPECIES IN SITU CONSERVATION INVASIVE SPECIES
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ABILENE

Conservation District *Services*

Equipment Rental and Sales

The Dickinson County Conservation District provides conservation equipment rental service to area landowners. Contact Cindy Dooley at 785-263-2787 extension 332 to schedule your rental.

Great Plains No Till Drill

Delivered: \$50 Delivery Fee + \$15/Acre
First 1/2 Acre Free
Customer Pickup: \$15/Acre
\$80 Minimum

Truax Grass Seed Drill

Delivered: \$40 Delivery Fee + \$11/Acre
First 1 Acre Free
Customer Pickup: \$11/Acre
\$40 Minimum

Drip Torch

\$100 Deposit
\$5/Day 1st 3 Days
\$25/Day After 3 Days

CoCoRaHS Rain Gauge—\$32

30" Wire Stem Marking Flags—Fluorescent Pink
100 for \$10.00 or 1000 for \$100.00 (\$10 minimum)

NOTARY PUBLIC SERVICE AVAILABLE

Funding to produce this newsletter is provided in part by the Division of Conservation through appropriation from the Kansas Water Plan.

The Dickinson County Conservation District 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.

Dickinson County Conservation District
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