

A large flock of birds, possibly starlings, is captured in flight against a clear blue sky. The birds are scattered throughout the frame, with many flying around and through the bare, light-colored branches of trees. The lighting suggests a bright, sunny day, with the birds' wings and bodies catching the light. The overall scene is dynamic and naturalistic.

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Connections

A quarterly publication of the Dickinson County Conservation District

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USDA Service Center
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Abilene, KS 67410

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

December 10 - Regular Board Meeting
 December 25 - USDA Service Center Closed
 January 1 - USDA Service Center Closed
 January 14 - Regular Board Meeting
 February 14 - Regular Board Meeting
 February 14 - Annual Meeting and Awards Dinner

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



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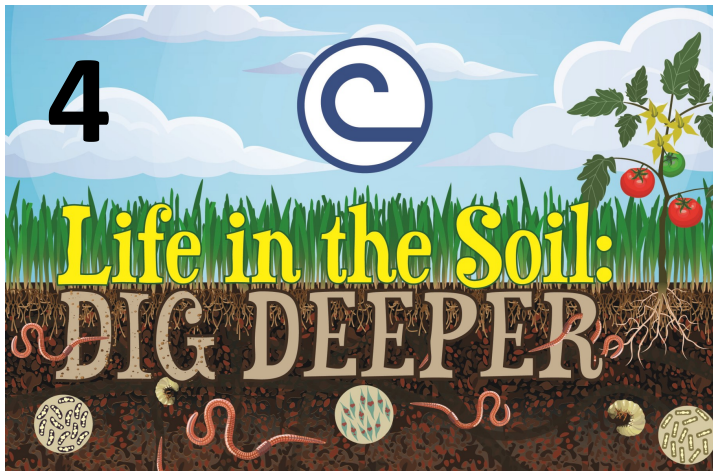


Looking for a contractor?

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Annual Poster Contest

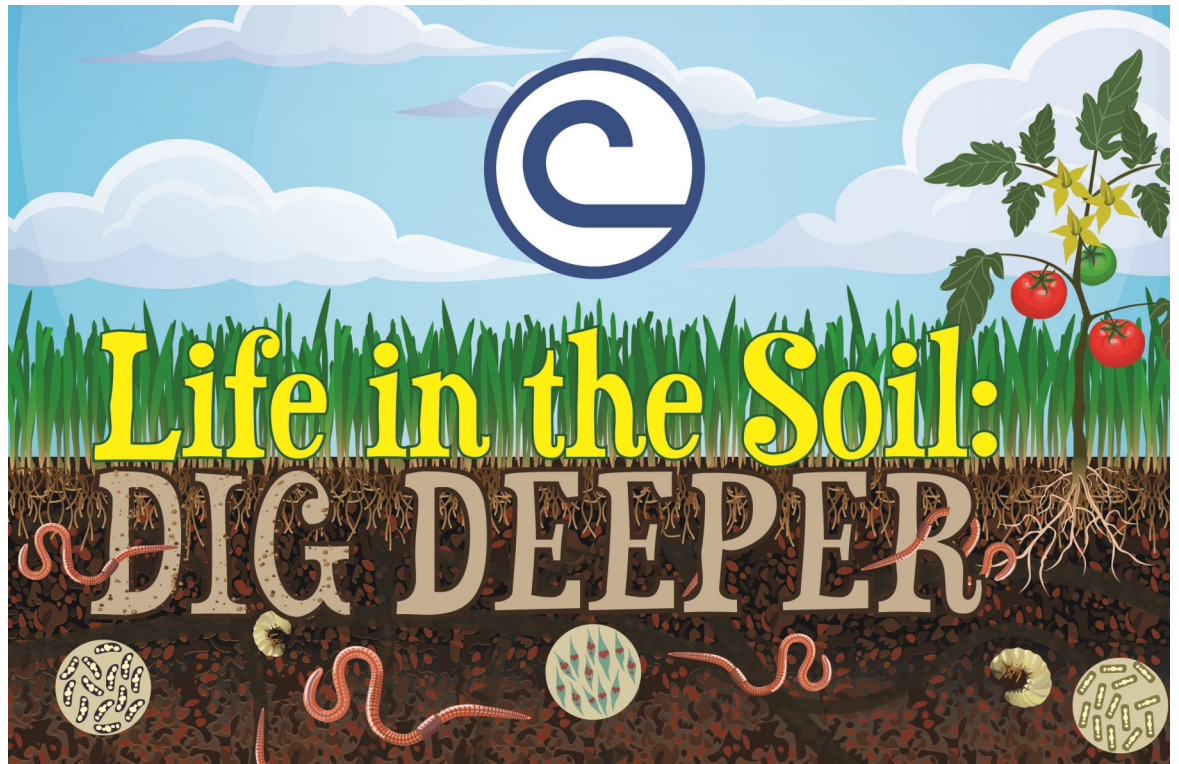
The Dickinson County Conservation District invites Dickinson County students to participate in the annual youth poster contest – “Life in the Soil: Dig Deeper.”

The poster contest is open to public, private, or home school students in Dickinson County. Students will compete in poster categories by grade: K-1; 2-3; 4-6; 7-9; 10-12. Winners from each of the grade categories will be selected and honored at the Dickinson County Conservation District Annual Meeting on February 14, 2019.

The first place poster in each grade category will be entered into the statewide poster contest. Winning entries in the state contest in each category will be entered into the national contest and will be eligible for cash prizes.

Ask your child's teacher if the class is participating in the contest or stop in at the Dickinson County Conservation District office, 328 NE 14th Street in Abilene for complete rules and an entry form. All students are eligible to participate in the contest, even if their school is not participating. For more information, contact Cindy Dooley, 263-2787 extension 332.

All entries must be submitted to the Dickinson County Conservation office no later than January 11, 2018.



Kansas NRCS *EQIP Cutoff*

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

Karen A. Woodrich, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Kansas State Conservationist, announced funding to improve water quality concerns in the Milford Lake Watershed in Kansas. The Kansas Water Office and other partners have joined NRCS in a Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) to offer financial assistance to help landowners reduce Milford Watershed nutrient loading by 31,000 pounds of phosphorus per year and to decrease the frequency and duration of harmful algal blooms (HABs) on Milford Lake.

NRCS is providing funding through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP). There will be two fiscal year 2019 EQIP application evaluation periods for this RCPP project.

The first application evaluation period will be for applications received by December 21, 2018. The second application evaluation period will be for applications received by March 15, 2019.

In Kansas, portions of Jewell, Republic, Washington, Mitchell, Cloud, Clay, Riley, Dickinson, and Geary

Counties are the targeted areas where EQIP funds will be available for agricultural producers interested in implementing conservation practices. Funding will go toward water quality improvement best management practices such as nutrient management, cover crops, residue management, terraces, filter strips, grass plantings, as well as others.

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For more information, go to the Kansas NRCS website www.ks.nrcs.usda.gov/programs or visit your local U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Service Center. To find a service center near you, go to offices.usda.gov. USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.

NRCS *Monarch Habitat RCPP*

Karen A. Woodrich, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Kansas State Conservationist, announced funding to help landowners improve, restore, manage, and conserve habitat for Monarch Butterflies on agricultural and tribal lands. The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and other partners have joined NRCS in a Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) to offer financial assistance to help agricultural producers increase milkweed and nectaring plants on agricultural land to improve habitat needs for Monarch Butterflies according to Woodrich.



NRCS is providing funding through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP). There will be two fiscal year 2018 EQIP application evaluation periods for this RCPP project.

The first application evaluation period will be for applications received by December 21, 2018. The second application evaluation period will be for applications received by March 15, 2019.

Targeted areas where EQIP funds will be available for agricultural producers interested in im-

plementing conservation practices include all counties in Kansas. Funding will go toward conservation improvement practices such as milkweed plantings, pollinator plantings, brush management, prescribed grazing, as well as others.

For more information, go to the Kansas NRCS website www.ks.nrcs.usda.gov/programs or visit your local U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Service Center. To find a service center near you, go to offices.usda.gov. USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.

Improving *Native Prairie*

Karen A. Woodrich, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Kansas State Conservationist, announced funding to landowners to improve the health of some of the last native prairies in Kansas. The Nature Conservancy (TNC), Kansas State University (KSU) and other partners have joined NRCS in a Regional Conservation Partner-

ship Program (RCPP) to offer financial assistance to help landowners institute conservation practices on their land. NRCS is providing funding through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP). There will be two fiscal year 2019 EQIP application evaluation periods for this RCPP project.

The first application evaluation period will be for applications received by December 21, 2018. The second application evaluation period will be for applications received by March 15, 2019.

According to Woodrich, in Kansas, the Flint Hills and the Red Hills are the targeted areas where EQIP funds will be available for landowners interested in implementing conservation practices. Funding will go toward practices such as removal of red cedar trees or other invasive vegetation such as sericea lespedeza, developing grazing plans, or conducting prescribed burning.



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Funding from this project can also be used to clear dead cedar trees still standing after the Anderson Creek wildfire in south central Kansas. Without removal, new cedar trees will grow up under the dead trees.

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Conservation *Word Scramble*

Ria—a mixture of many gases and dust particles

Upiltnolo—the presence in or introduction into the environment of a substance or thing that has harmful or poisonous effects

Slimaan—a member of the kingdom Animalia

wetc nlaear—water that is safe to drink or to use for food preparation

ehei alctganmc—any significant long-term change in the expected patterns of average weather of a region (or the whole Earth)

Naedlwst—land consisting of marshes or swamps; saturated land.

Coeyogl—the branch of biology that deals with the relations of organisms to one another and to their physical surroundings.

Eflu—material such as coal, gas, or oil that is burned to produce heat or power

Tahbtia—the natural home or environment of an animal, plant, or other organism

Nxgyoe—a colorless, odorless reactive gas, the chemical element of atomic number 8 and the life-supporting component of the air

Ernncctosoiva—the act of conserving; prevention of injury, decay, waste, or loss; preservation

Neetoinnrmv—the natural world, as a whole or in a particular geographical area, especially as affected by human activity.

Zonoe—a colorless unstable toxic gas with a pungent odor and powerful oxidizing properties

Eedagdblibaro—Capable of being broken down (decomposed) rapidly by the action of microorganisms

Fiornatsre—a luxuriant, dense forest rich in biodiversity, found typically in tropical areas with consistently heavy rainfall.

Dilsnlfal—a place to dispose of refuse and other waste material by burying it and covering it over with soil, especially as a method of filling in or extending usable land

Eycelcr—convert (waste) into reusable material

Yerneg—power derived from the utilization of physical or chemical resources, especially to provide light and heat or to work machines.

Treha—the planet on which we live; the world

wrnbn eeeaeregyl—energy from a source that is not depleted when used, such as wind or solar power.

Olis—the upper layer of earth in which plants grow,

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The Dickinson County Conservation District provides conservation equipment rental service to area land-owners. 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)

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

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Dickinson County Conservation District
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