

CONSERVATION CONNECTIONS

a quarterly publication of the Dickinson County Conservation District



USDA Service Center
 328 NE 14th Street
 Abilene, KS 67410

Conservation District/NRCS—785-263-2787
FSA—785-263-1351

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Annual Meeting

The 75th Annual Meeting of the Dickinson County Conservation District will be held on Thursday, February 13th at Sterl Hall, 619 North Rogers, Abilene, Kansas at 6:30 PM. A complimentary dinner will be sponsored by Dickinson County Banks and catered by Ricky's Café of Hanover, Kansas.

After a brief business meeting, elections for Conservation District Board Supervisors will be held. The terms of Dennis Chartier and Raymond Bielefeld are expiring.

Awards for the Dickinson County Conservation District Poster, Limerick, and Essay contest will be presented to the first, second, and third place students. Winning posters, limericks, and essays are selected by NRCS and FSA employees.

The Conservation District will present awards to county land owners for implementing conservation practices that exemplify a commitment to stewardship of our natural resources.

Entertainment will be provided by the Chapman High School Vocal and Instrumental music program.

Funding for some programs provided by the Division of Conservation, Kansas Department of Agriculture through appropriation from the Kansas Water Plan Fund.

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.

2019 Poster, Limerick, and Essay Contest

The Dickinson County Conservation District invites Dickinson County students to participate in the annual youth poster, limerick, and essay contest – “Where Would We Bee Without Pollinators?”

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; and 10-12. One winner from each of the grade categories will be selected and honored at the Dickinson County Conservation District Annual Meeting in February 2020.

The winning poster in each grade category will be entered in the statewide poster contest. Winning entries in the state contest in each category will be entered in 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 Montgomery, 263-2787 extension 332.



Last year, the Conservation District received 373 entries from five Dickinson County schools and homeschool groups.

Dickinson County Cost Share Funding History

The following represents actual dollars of cost-share funding paid to landowners from 2015 to present day (Not all 2019 or 2020 contracts are implemented or paid.)

Water Resources Program		Non-Point Source Pollution Program	
2015	\$ 18,780.92	2015	\$ 12,684.42
2016	\$ 16,106.05	2016	\$ 11,973.10
2017	\$ 16,160.63	2017	\$ 15,300.00
2018	\$ 14,321.25	2018	\$ 11,610.00
2019	\$ 11,515.25	2019	\$ 10,710.00
2020	\$ 3,193.13	2020	\$ 3,750.00

KDA Re-Opens Kansas Sediment and Nutrient Reduction Initiative

MANHATTAN, Kan. — The Kansas Department of Agriculture Division of Conservation announces the re-opening of the Kansas Sediment and Nutrient Reduction Initiative. This initiative provides a onetime incentive payment for Continuous Conservation Reserve Program (CCRP) contracts for the following practices:

Grassed waterways

Shallow water areas for wildlife

Filter strips

Riparian buffers

Wetland restorations

Improvements to farmable wetland and farmable wetland buffers

The 2018 Kansas Legislature allocated \$281,312 to the KDA Division of Conservation to help promote the reduction of nutrients and sediment through the CCRP program. The initiative has been open since June 2019 to targeted watersheds specified for sediment and nutrient impairment, and funds still remain at this time which has allowed KDA-DOC to re-open the initiative to qualified applicants. Incentive payments range from \$162.50-\$225 per acre, depending on level of the impairment as identified by the Kansas Department of Health and Environment. The following counties have watersheds that fall within these targeted areas:

Atchison	Ellis	McPherson	Riley
Brown	Geary	Morris	Saline
Chase	Harvey	Nemaha	Shawnee
Clay	Jackson	Osage	Wabaunsee
Cloud	Jefferson	Pottawatomie	Washington
Coffey	Lyon	Reno	
Dickinson	Marion	Republic	
Douglas	Marshall	Rice	

Please contact your local Conservation District for more information on the Kansas Sediment and Nutrient Reduction Initiative and eligibility. You can find a directory of local Conservation Districts at agriculture.ks.gov/ConservationDistricts.



**Applications are still being accepted for all NRCS programs. Visit the
USDA Service Center in Abilene for information and applications.**

Conservation District Scholarships Open for Dickinson County Students

The Dickinson County Conservation District is offering up to two (2) individual \$1,000 college scholarships for the 2020-21 academic year to all Dickinson County students.

Since 2008, the Conservation District has awarded \$26,000 to twenty-four Dickinson County students.

The scholarship is intended to encourage qualified students to increase their interest in conservation, to obtain technical competence in some phase of conservation, and to pursue a career in conservation, agriculture, or related field of study.

To qualify, an applicant must be a Dickinson County high school senior or a graduate of a Dickinson County high school with a grade point average of 2.5 or greater. The applicant must also be enrolled as a full-time student in an agricultural or natural resource conservation-related curriculum, such as agronomy, range management, forestry, geography, agriculture journalism, agricultural education, wildlife management, or related field.

The first half of the scholarship will be awarded at the beginning of college enrollment in the fall of 2020. The second half of the scholarship will be awarded upon successful completion of the first semester of college and proof of enrollment for the next semester.

Applications are available at all Dickinson County high schools, online at <http://www.dkcoconservation.com/resources-forms-and-publications>, or at the USDA Service Center, 328 NE 14th Street, Abilene. Call Cindy at 263-2787 extension 332 for more information. All applications must be returned to the Dickinson County Conservation District no later than April 3, 2020. Scholarship recipients will be chosen by the Board of Supervisors at the regular Board Meeting on April 13, 2020 and notified shortly thereafter.



Winter Water Technology Expo in Garden City

TOPEKA, Kan. — Farmers and ranchers in southwest and southcentral Kansas who want to learn more about improving their bottom line through water management tools, soil moisture monitoring, crop selection and other technologies are encouraged to attend the Winter Water Technology Expo on January 9 in Garden City.

The Expo will be at the Finney County Fairgrounds – Exhibition Building at 409 Lake Ave in Garden City, KS from 4 to 8 p.m., and will feature a wide variety of companies and organizations focused on helping producers with overall profitability as well as water technology issues and opportunities. Attendees will be eligible for many great door prizes and will hear from farmers who are using the tools and how it's improved their operations. They can also enjoy heavy hors d'oeuvres and beverages as well as live music and a golf simulator throughout the evening. The Winter Water Technology Expo is free and open to the public, but participants are encouraged to RSVP at www.kwo.ks.gov.

The Winter Water Technology Expo is hosted by the Kansas Water Office with help from local volunteers with a strong interest in the area's water resources. Major sponsors for the event include Hy-Plains Feedyard, Zimmatic by Lindsay, Conestoga Energy Partners, Ceres Imaging, Kansas Department of Agriculture, and Samy's Spirits & Steakhouse. For more information, go to www.kwo.ks.gov or email: Alexandra.Geisler@kwo.ks.gov.

Where Would We Be Without Pollinators?

Buzz or Blunder: Fact or Fiction



Write the number of the statement on the left next to the correct fact or fiction statement that it matches on the right.

1. There are more than 200,000 species of animals that are pollinators. 

2. Pollinators that are active during the day are usually attracted to flowers that are brightly colored. 

3. Pollen is yellow. 

4. The world's chocolate supply depends upon pollination by bats. 

5. A lot of the commodities we make use of each day wouldn't exist without pollinators. 

Fact: Coffee in the morning and soft cotton sheets at night are just two of the things considered worth having by a lot of people. 

Fiction: The nutrition that pollinators seek comes in a variety of colors. 

Fact: Most are insects; only about 1,000 of the species are birds, bats, or other small mammals. 

Fiction: The midge, a fly with two wings, pollinates cacao flowers. 

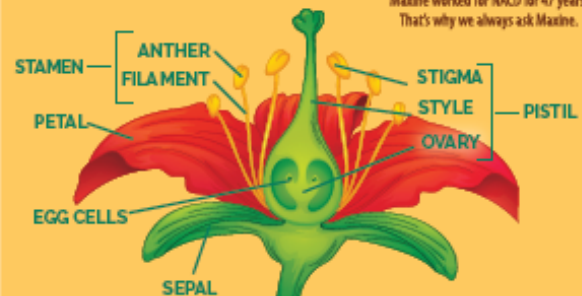
Fact: Nighttime pollinators are attracted to plants with strong odors. 

Ask MAXINE!



Maxine worked for NACD for 47 years. That's why we always ask Maxine.

Question: Since flowers have male and female parts, does that mean that some flowers are male and some flowers are female?



MALE PARTS (STAMEN)

- anther (makes pollen)
- filament

FEMALE PARTS (PISTIL)

- stigma
- style
- ovary (eggs inside)

Answer: Some flowering plants are male, some are female, and some are both. They all have one thing in common - they have to be pollinated to reproduce. Why is this important to us? We have to have plants to breathe; we have to have plants to eat; we have to have plants to build homes, etc.

For pollination to happen, pollen has to make it from the anther (the male part which produces the pollen) to the stigma (the female part which leads to the ovary).

This leads us to why pollinators are so important to us. Most plants can't move on their own, so over 70 percent of all flowering plants, including crops, rely on animal pollination. Other methods of pollination include wind and hand pollination.

Remember - we have to have plants so we HAVE to have pollinators!



National Association of Conservation Districts

National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD)
www.nacdnet.org



www.pollinator.org



Special thanks to the NACD SBE Committee and reviewers.

NACD stewardship@nacdn.net

Content Writer/Researcher: Teresa D. Southland

Booklet designed by Willow Marking, Indianapolis, IN

Visit: www.conservationalearn.org

For the educator's guide, additional worksheets and resources

Visit: <http://www.pollinator.org>

for additional resources

Booklet designed for use with Grades 6-8

© NACD 2019 www.nacdnet.org

Farm Financial Skills for Kansas Women in Agriculture



Registration deadline: December 31!

Begins January 15, 2020

Register online:

https://kstate.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_ba7iw2DgWzmp6J

Now Approved for FSA Borrowers Financial Training Credit!

This workshop series will teach principles of recordkeeping to develop a balance sheet, income statement and a cash flow statement. Participants will work with a case farm to do performance analysis and understand how these statements can help with management decisions.

The program will be a combination of broadcasted keynote speakers, local speakers, and facilitators to assist in completing the hands-on activities. The goal is for participants to acquire financial management skills they can apply directly to their farming or ranching operations.

This program is near YOU!

32 Locations Across Kansas; **Now including Scott City!**

Check out the schedule/locations/more info:

<https://www.agmanager.info/events/farm-financial-skills-kansas-women-agriculture>



Questions:

Robin Reid, robinreid@ksu.edu or 785.532.0964

LaVell Winsor, lwinsor@ksu.edu or 785.220.5451

KANSAS STATE
UNIVERSITY | Agricultural Economics

This is an informational message from Kansas State University Department of Agricultural Economics. For more information contact Rich Llewelyn, at rwl@ksu.edu

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Thank you to all our sponsors!

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
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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.

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CALENDAR

- DECEMBER 25—CHRISTMAS DAY (OFFICE CLOSED)
- JANUARY 1—New Year's Day (Office Closed)
- JANUARY 6—Regular Board Meeting
- JANUARY 20—MARTIN LUTHER KING JR BIRTHDAY (OFFICE CLOSED)
- FEBRUARY 13—REGULAR BOARD MEETING
- FEBRUARY 13—ANNUAL MEETING
- FEBRUARY 17—George Washington's Birthday (Office Closed)



Dickinson County Conservation District
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