

CONSERVATION CONNECTIONS



Dickinson County Conservation District Newsletter

Issue #8 January 2017

www.dkcoconservation.com



@dkconservation

Receive our quarterly newsletter via email, US Mail, or download on our website: www.dkcoconservation.com

72ND ANNUAL MEETING

All Dickinson County residents and landowners are invited to attend the 72nd Annual Meeting of the Dickinson County Conservation District. This year's meeting will be held on Thursday, February 9 at Sterl Hall, 619 North Rogers in Abilene and will begin at 6:30 PM. A complimentary dinner from Ricky's Café and Marcon Pies will be sponsored by the Dickinson County Banks.

An election of one supervisor to a three year term on the District Board of Supervisors will be conducted during the business session of the meeting. Matt Gustin's term is expiring. The Board of Supervisors will also provide a review of the annual financial report and Conservation District activities in 2016.

"Healthy Soils are Full of Life" is the theme of this year's Post-

er, Limerick, and Essay contest, hosted by the Dickinson County Conservation District in conjunction with the Kansas Association of Conservation District (KACD) and the National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD). The contest is open to all youth in Dickinson County. Awards will be presented to the winning entries during the meeting.

Conservation Awards will also be presented to landowners who are recognized for their conservation efforts in the following categories: Banker's Soil Conservation Award, Young Farmer Award, No-Till Award, Buffer Award, Windbreak Award, and Grassland Award.

Reservations for the dinner and meeting are requested by February 2. Please call the Conservation District at 785-263-2787 or email cindy.dooley@ks.nacdnet.net to RSVP.

State Cost-Share Reminders

If you signed up for a state cost-share program through Dickinson County Conservation District, the deadline to complete practices is May 1, 2017. All Water Resource contracts (waterways, terraces) and Non-Point Source Pollution Control Program contracts (septic system, lagoon, abandoned well plugging) must be implemented, checked out, and all paperwork returned to the USDA Service Center prior to that date. If you expect delays, please contact Cindy at 785-263-2787 extension 332.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- ◆ December 26 – OFFICE CLOSED – Christmas Day (observed)
- ◆ January 2 – OFFICE CLOSED – New Year's Day (observed)
- ◆ January 9 – Regular Board of Supervisor's meeting
- ◆ January 16 – OFFICE CLOSED – Martin Luther King's Birthday
- ◆ February 3—CSP Application Deadline
- ◆ February 9—Regular Board of Supervisor's Meeting and Annual Meeting
- ◆ February 20—OFFICE CLOSED—George Washington's Birthday

Wildlife of Kansas



The Eastern bluebird, with its brilliant blue and rust colors and melodic song, is a bird appreciated and enjoyed by all who get the chance to see or hear it. Unfortunately, many people, especially younger folks, have never seen a bluebird in the wild. Once abundant in Kansas, the number of these cavity nesting birds has declined dramatically since the middle part of the century. This decline has resulted from a loss of natural nesting holes, increased pesticide use, and competition with the introduced house sparrow and European starling. But thanks to citizens and organizations who place nest boxes, the Eastern Bluebird is beginning to thrive once more.

How you can help:

- If you live in an open area or have a garden near farmland or fields, consider putting up nesting boxes. The bluebird has trouble reproducing because alien invader birds like the house sparrow and the starling take over their nesting places. Creating additional nesting places can diminish this threat to future generations of Eastern Bluebirds.

Visit easternbluebirdrescue.org for more information

FSA REMINDERS

- ARC/PLC contracts will be mailed to all Dickinson County producers in early January. Please complete and return to the USDA Service Center at your earliest convenience.
- Please remember to report all farm changes, such as land purchase or sale, to FSA as soon as possible.



Plant of the Month

Common Milkweed (*Asclepias syriaca*)

Also called butterfly flower, silkweed, silky swallow-wort, and Virginia silkweed, *Asclepias syriaca* is a species of clonal perennial herb growing up to 8 feet tall.

The highly fragrant flowers range from white to purple and measure about 1 inch in diameter. The leaves measure approximately 10 inches long and 5 inches wide. Seeds occur in long follicles, each with long, flossy white hairs.

Many insects visit and feed on common milkweed, including the red milkweed beetle, large milkweed bug, small milkweed bug, milkweed tiger moth, and monarch butterfly. Some insects pollinate the milk weed, including Western honey bees and bumblebees.

In the United States, milkweed populations have declined due to factors such as herbicide development and use. The population decline plays a significant role in the monarch butterfly's dramatic population decline. Efforts to increase the monarch butterfly populations by establishing butterfly gardens require particular attention to the butterfly's food preference and population cycles, as well as to the conditions needed to propagate milkweed.

USDA Announces Applications Available for Updated Conservation Stewardship Program

Program changes offers opportunity for increased payments with easier to understand ranking and evaluation tools

SALINA, Kansas, NOV. 30, 2016—Since November 14, the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s (USDA) Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) has been accepting applications for enrollment in the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP). Based on feedback from farmers, ranchers, and forestry landowners, CSP has been updated with more options to get increased payments based on new bundles of conservation practices. Also, new modeling tools have been created to show payment scenarios for various conservation practices early in the application process. Landowners still have time to submit their applications for the program.

NRCS is taking CSP applications until February 3, 2017. Information about CSP, including national and state ranking questions and enhancement descriptions, is available on the Web at www.nrcs.usda.gov/csp. Applications and program information are available in local service centers.

With over 70 million acres enrolled, CSP is the nation’s largest conservation program. It pays agricultural producers and forest landowners for actively managing, maintaining, and expanding conservation activities like cover crops, ecologically-based pest management, buffer strips, and pollinator and beneficial insect habitat—all while maintaining active agriculture production on their land.

According to Eric B. Banks, Kansas state conservationist, “This is a big deal. The CSP changes now offer greater rewards for producers who put more conservation practice on the ground.” And in speaking about the preparation for the program’s new features, Eric said, “Beside new software tools to run payment scenarios early in the application process, CSP has been redesigned to look more like other conservation programs that are familiar to farmers and ranchers. Plus, all new program information has been developed to view or download on the Web so that landowners can see all the options available for them.”

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. To find a service center near you, check on the Internet at offices.usda.gov. Follow us on Twitter @NRCS_Kansas. USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.

One of the worst dust storms in American history occurred on April 14, 1935, a day known as “Black Sunday.” After moving across Kansas, the dust cloud reached Washington, D.C. the next day. Congress took immediate action. President Roosevelt signed the bill creating the Soil Conservation Service on April 27, 1935. Now called the Natural Resources Conservation Service, we have a deeply held vision of a nation where the use of our natural resources is guided by a widely shared and heartfelt stewardship ethic.

Our approach starts with talking one-on-one with the landowner to understand their goals. We then apply science-based conservation practices to create a plan to fix problems such as soil health, grazing capacity, water and wind erosion, wildlife preservation, or wetland management. NRCS is here to help people help the land to sustain their livelihood now and for the future.

A Kansas farmer goes to Australia for a vacation. He meets an Aussie farmer and they start talking. The Aussie shows off his big wheat field and the Kansan says, "Oh, we have wheat fields that are at least twice as large." They walk around the ranch a little more and the Aussie shows off his herd of cattle. The Kansan immediately says, "Shoot. We have longhorns that are at least twice as large as your cows." The conversation dies when the Kansan sees a herd of kangaroos hopping through the field and stops to stare. "What are those?" he asks. The Aussie gives him an incredulous look. "Don't you have any grasshoppers in Kansas?"



2016 YOUTH POSTER CONTEST WINNERS

Each year, the Dickinson County Conservation District hosts a poster, essay, and limerick contest for all Dickinson County Students. Winners of the poster contest are recognized at the Annual Meeting and Awards Banquet held in February. Winning entries are automatically entered into the statewide contest, hosted by Kansas Association of Conservation Districts.

The Dickinson County Conservation District is pleased to announce that two Dickinson County students were recognized for their posters in the state contest for 2016. Jamie Rock, of Chapman High School, received Second Place for the Grade 10-12 category. Julie Rock, of Chapman Middle School, received Honorable Mention for the Grade 7-9 category. The theme for the poster contest was "We All Need Trees."

Understanding Soil Health Indicators

Steven P. Graber, Resource Soil Scientist

All across the country, farmers and ranchers are recognizing the many benefits of improved soil quality, also called soil health. Soil health refers to the ability of the soil to perform functions that are essential to people and the environment. This is not limited to agriculture, but most work and evaluation has occurred on agricultural lands.

In order to evaluate soil quality, you must use a set of indicators. These indicators may be qualitative or quantitative. The indicators should integrate physical, chemical, and biological properties, and be accessible to many users. These indicators should be responsive to different management operations, and must be adaptable to differing climates. Most producers are comfortable and knowledgeable with the chemical aspects of this equation, since many utilize soil tests for fertility. The physical and biological aspects are much more elusive and not as easily understood.

Examples of physical indicators include available water capacity, bulk density, and infiltration. These three indicators are often grouped together into one common scenario. Following years of intensive tillage, much of our cropland has developed a hardpan. Hardpans can form after prolonged use of sweep plows operating at depths of 4 to 5 inches where intense pressure has been exerted on the soil at and below this depth. This results in a severe degree of compaction at the 4- to 6-inch layer, increasing the bulk density of the soil in this zone. The higher the bulk density, often expressed in grams per cubic centimeter, the greater the density of the soil.

When soil has an increased bulk density in the hardpan layer, water infiltration is severely limited. If rainfall is unable to penetrate into the soil, it runs off. The more rainfall that runs off, the less available water there is for plant use. This is a good example of a basic problem that can have significant impacts on soil health and future crop productivity.

Another problem caused by high bulk density is the inability of plant roots to penetrate the compacted zone. This has been evident in many fields during the past few years of drought. I have seen fields with failing crops where moisture is present below the hardpan, but the roots are unable to reach it and the crops are unable to utilize the water.

Another important set of indicators of soil health fall in the biological category. Soil organisms are responsible for the decomposition of organic matter, and cycling of nutrients. An easily recognizable biological indicator is the worm activity in the soil. Healthy soils should be filled with many earthworms. Earthworms play a key role in modifying the physical structure of soils by producing new aggregates and pores, which improves soil tilth, aeration, infiltration, and drainage. They improve soil porosity by burrowing and mixing soil, and roots often follow earthworm burrows and use available nutrients associated with the worm casts.

One of the best tools to observe some physical and biological indicators in your soil is a basic shovel. Dig a hole in your field and observe what the soil looks like. Can you recognize the hardpan? Are the crop roots affected by the hardpan? Are there earthworms? If you do this, a whole new subterranean world of soil health indicators will be opened up to you.

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. To find a service center near you, check on the Internet at offices.usda.gov. Follow us on Twitter @NRCS Kansas. USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.



Find us on:
facebook®

dkcoconservation

Knowing Your Soil

David J. Kohake, Resource Soil Scientist

Whether you are farming thousands of acres or simply have a small backyard garden, it is important to know some basic information about your soils. Most farmers and gardeners have a general idea of what type of soils they have due to planting, harvesting, and working the ground for many years. It doesn't take too long to figure out where those wet, rocky, or clayey areas are; or where the good high yielding soils are versus more marginal areas. But what if you want to know something more or you are thinking of buying some new land that you are not familiar with? Your soil survey is a great place to start!

Many people are fairly familiar with their published county soil survey. Throughout the latter half of the 20th century, soil scientists walked the land, digging holes, and mapping the different soil types that occurred across the state. The soil survey for the entire state of Kansas was completed when the Washington County soil survey was finished in 1993. These original soil surveys were good and provided great information for general planning purposes. Now, due to advances in computers and technology, your official soil survey information is provided via the Internet using the Web Soil Survey computer application.

Although some people feel more comfortable using the old hard copy county soil survey to look up their soils information, the Web Soil Survey is not difficult to use. Web Soil Survey provides the user with the most up-to-date soils information available and is free and downloadable.

So how do you get started with Web Soil Survey?

First, go to the Web Soil Survey homepage at <http://websoilsurvey.nrcs.usda.gov/> and click on the large green button that says "Start WSS" or simply search for it using your favorite web search engine. Next, you will need to navigate to the area you are interested in. There are numerous options for this, but the

easiest, and most commonly used, is by address or by PLSS (Public Land Survey System), if the section, township, and range are known. Once you have navigated to the area you are interested in, you must define your area of interest (AOI). This is done simply by selecting an "AOI" button to draw a rectangle or irregular polygon that defines the AOI. After this is done, the rest is simply clicking on various tabs to find the soils information that is desired.

There is a "Soil Map" tab that will display the soils map with legend. Also, there is a "Soil Data Explorer" tab that allows the user to create different soil reports or create maps for various properties or interpretations. There is a lot of information available and the user will likely feel a little overwhelmed. The best thing to do is click around, explore, and see what is all there.

Once you find the information you want, you can add it to the shopping cart. Unlike most shopping carts online, this one is free. Keep adding any other reports, interpretations, or maps that you want. Once done, you are able to create a customized report of all the soils information in the shopping cart. Instead of having a large county wide soil survey that has lots of information that may not pertain to your farm, you have a soil survey of only the soils information you want for just your farm or your area of interest all in one document.

For more information on using Web Soil Survey, visit the Web Soil Survey Web site at <http://websoilsurvey.nrcs.usda.gov/> or visit your local NRCS office.

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. To find a service center near you, check on the Internet at offices.usda.gov. Follow us on Twitter @NRCS_Kansas. USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.

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

WORD SEARCH

SOIL
 MINERALS
 ORGANICMATTER
 PARENTMATERIAL
 CHEMICAL
 TROPICAL
 SAND
 SILT
 CLAY
 FRIABILITY
 POROSITY
 PERMEABILITY
 SLOPE
 DARK
 LIGHT
 DESERT
 GRASSLAND
 DECIDUOUSFOREST
 INTERCROPPING
 AGROFORESTRY

POLY CULTURE
 EROSION
 SPLASH
 SHEET
 MASS SLIPPAGE
 RILL
 RIVETS
 GULLIES
 SALTATION
 SUSPENSION

DESERTIFICATION
 SALINIZATION
 WATERLOGGING
 SHELTERBELTS
 CONTOUR FARMING
 TERRACING
 STRIP CROPPING
 COVER CROPPING
 DRIP IRRIGATION
 ORGANIC
 INORGANIC
 HYDROPONICS

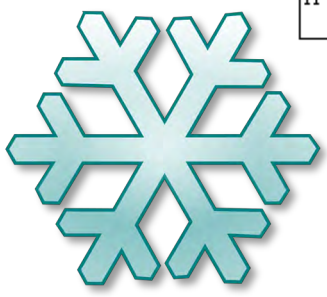


Find the solutions for these puzzles on Facebook: [dkcoconservation](https://www.facebook.com/dkcoconservation)

More conservation education booklets are available on our website: www.dkcoconservation.com



CROSS
WORD



Across

- 4. small pieces of weathered rock (parent material), broken down over time (2 words)
- 5. solution when crops are being washed away on a hillside because of water
- 10. occupation that involves the study of water and its many interactions on Earth
- 11. a loose mixture of rock fragments, organic material, water, and air that can support plant life
- 12. occupation that involves the study of rock, minerals, and Earth's formation and the processes that act on these materials
- 15. dark, organic material formed in the soil from the decayed remains of plants and animals
- 16. the continuous movement of water from the ocean to the atmosphere to the land and back to the ocean (2 words)

Down

- 1. the arrangement of soil particles (texture, air, moisture, arrangement of particles) (2 words)
- 2. method used by farmer who grows three types of crops and is having quality problems with the soil (2 words)
- 3. products derived from living organisms, like plants and animals (2 words)
- 6. engineer who designs roads, bridges, and works on buildings (2 words)
- 7. a layer of rock beneath soil
- 8. the soil quality that is based on the proportions of soil particles (2 words)
- 9. the area of the Great Plains where wind erosion caused soil loss during the 1930s (2 words)
- 13. the process by which wind, water, ice, or gravity transport soil or sediment from one location to another
- 14. the removal of substances that can be dissolved from rock or layers of soil due to the passing of water

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 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

30" Wire Stem Marking Flags—Fluorescent Pink

100 for \$10.00 or 1000 for \$100.00 (\$10 minimum)

NOTARY PUBLIC SERVICE AVAILABLE

Small acts, when multiplied by millions of people, can change the world.

“A nation that destroys the soil destroys itself.” Theodore Roosevelt

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.

Sponsors

Phillips SEED
 ERIC WOOFER
 General Manager
 E-mail: ewoofe@phillipseed.com
 980 Highway 15 • Hope, KS 67451-9366 • Office (785) 949-2204
 Fax (785) 949-2205 • www.phillipseed.com
AgriPro  Corn - Soybeans - Sorghum
 Wheat - Alfalfa - Grass
 "Plains Tested, Plains Tough"

Basements, Ponds, Building fills, terraces
HOFFMAN CONSTRUCTION
 EARTHMOVERS
 Over 30 years experience
BOB HOFFMAN
785-479-5547
 Cell: 785-366-0443
 All your soil conservation needs

HETTENBACH CONSTRUCTION CO.
 907 NW 3rd Street • Abilene, KS 67410
785-263-5677
Paul Hettenbach
 paulhettenbach@gmail.com

Meuli, Inc.
 Dirt Contractor
Bright Meuli
 Owner/Operator
 785-479-2158
 785-479-6422
 1142 Jeep Road
 Abilene Kansas 67410

Small Engine Repair • All Makes & Models • Echo
 Toro • Snapper • Husqvarna • Cub Cadet
AR ent. A ll Inc.
Mark A. Picking
 ESA Certified Small Engine Tech.
 1701 W. 1st
 Abilene, Kansas 67410 Bus. (785) 263-7668

STAR SEED, INC.
 green and always growing™
 WWW.GOSTARSEED.COM
 TOLL FREE: 800-782-7311
 101 Industrial Ave | Osborne, KS 67423

Looking for a contractor?

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

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—February 1 to April 15
 Rangeland—Late Winter to Green-Up



Dickinson County Farm Bureau

 Helping Feed the World

UMI
 Upland Mutual Insurance, Inc.
 Serving Kansas since 1896
 2229 Lazy Drive
 Junction City, KS 66441
 783-762-4324
 www.UplandMutual.com
 Visit Your Independent Insurance Agent today!

Buffalo Brand
 SHARP BROS. SEED CO.
 NATIVE GRASSES • FORAGES • ALFALFA • COVER CROPS • TURF • WILDFLOWERS • WHEAT
 SHARP BROTHERS SEED COMPANY
 1005 SOUTH SYCAMORE STREET
 HEALY KANSAS 67850 (800)462-8483

SMART INSURANCE
 (785) 263-1920
 (800) 249-1920
 Fax (785) 263-7983
 Cell (785) 479-6196
DOUG SMART
 215 NW 15th • P.O. Box 697 • Abilene, KS 67410
 Email: doug@smart-ins.com
 Web page: www.smart-ins.com

RUTZ CONSTRUCTION
 Dirt Contractor
Justin Rutz
 Owner
 1654 2000 Ave
 Enterprise, KS 67441
 Phone: (785) 479-7587
 E-mail: rutzconst@gmail.com

North Central Kansas COOPERATIVE
 P.O. Box 157, 508 N. Main
 Hope, KS 67451
 www.nckcoop.com
 Hope
 785-366-7213
 Dillon 785-366-7228 White City 785-349-2225 Navarre 785-479-2221 Woodbine 785-257-3315
 800-956-0106

USDA United States Department of Agriculture

DICKINSON COUNTY SERVICE CENTER
328 NE 14TH STREET
ABILENE, KS 67410

The service center is open
Monday through Friday 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM
(except the following holidays)

New Year's Day
Martin Luther King Day
President's Day
Memorial Day
Independence Day
Labor Day
Columbus Day
Veteran's Day
Thanksgiving Day
Christmas Day

USDA Service Center

Conservation District

Board of Supervisors:

Dennis Marston, Chairman
Darren Haney, Vice Chairman
Raymond Bielefeld, Treasurer
Francis Anderson, Member
Matt Gustin, Member
Cindy Dooley, District Manager
Brian Lang, Drill Manager

NRCS Staff

Kenny Bowell, Supervisory District Conservationist
Danny Carroll, Soil Conservation Technician

Farm Service (FSA)

Braden Stueve, County Executive Director:
Ellen Alvarez, Program Technician
Tonya Askew, Program Technician
Sandy Johnson, Program Technician
Deb Marston, Program Technician
Michele Snowball, Program Technician

785-263-2787—Conservation District and NRCS

785-263-1351—FSA

Dickinson County Conservation District

328 NE 14th Street
Abilene, KS 67410

,

SAVE THE DATE! JOIN US AT OUR ANNUAL MEETING AND AWARDS DINNER ON FEBRUARY 9, 2017 AT 6:30