

FALL 2023

CONSERVATION CONNECTIONS



2023-2024 SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED

SHANNON ANDERSON >>>

"My name is Shannon Anderson and I will be continuing to work towards my agri-business degree as a sophomore at K-State University this fall. I was thrilled to receive this scholarship and beyond thankful. I am excited for this following year in order to keep working towards my future that the Dickinson County Conservation District is helping to make possible! I have enjoyed my first year in agri-business and am thankful for the many career options it provides which I am exploring. Through this next year I plan to continue to be involved in ag business club and volunteer to lead the clover buds for College Hill 4-H club."



The Conservation District awards two \$1,000 scholarships each year. We will begin accepting applications for the 2024-2025 school year in early 2024. More details and scholarship applications will be available on our website later this year.



<<< AMARA JOHNSON

"My grandpa runs a diversified farm in central Kansas, so I have been around agriculture my whole life. I have helped work cattle, including calving, feeding, and doctoring. I also help with wheat and fall harvest. I am a ten year member of 4-H and was an active member in FFA. In 4-H, I show beef and goats. These opportunities gave me a love for agriculture, especially animals. It has made me who I am and set the course for my future plans. I want to convert my passion for large animals into knowledge that I can apply by helping deliver high quality health to animals. I want to make a difference in the agriculture community and in the lives of animals. I will be attending Kansas State University in the fall of 2023 where I will begin my undergrad work studying animal science and pre-vet. This will put me on track to soon earn my DVM degree and become a licensed Large Animal Veterinarian."





Together with the Kansas Soil Health Alliance, and Ottawa and Clay County Conservation Districts, the Dickinson County Conservation District was pleased to cohost and sponsor two days of soil health learning in Ottawa County. Both days included visits to area fields being managed to improve soil health.

The event featured Jay Fuhrer, educator at Menoken Farm, a 150-acre conservation demonstration farm owned and operated by the Burleigh County Conservation District near Menoken, North Dakota. Established in 2009, the farm focuses on using systems approach management to improve soil health and enhance erosion protection. Through his work at Menoken Farm and prior to retiring from the Natural Resources Conservation Service as a Soil health Specialist, Jay is known for developing the five principles of soil health. Candy Thomas, NRCS Regional Soil Health Specialist for Kansas, Nebraska, Iowa, and Oklahoma, was present both days, providing three decades of soil health experience in the high plains.

Field tours showed different cropping and grazing systems. Each stop has been in minimum-tillage or no-till for greater than five years, but their implementation of other management practices varied. Some had grown and grazed cover crops, others had spread manure, and others had experimented with diverse rotations and different crops. Easy, in-field soil health tests were performed at stops demonstrating how to quickly assess soil health properties. Each stop provided an opportunity to learn from the farmer, Jay Fuhrer, Candy Thomas, and each other.

Afternoon presentations and demonstrations centered on observations and discussions from field tours. A rainfall simulator was used to illustrate the differences in infiltration, runoff, and erosion for various soil management systems. Presentation topics included the soil health principles and their implementation at Menkon Farm and ways to increase carbon in the soil.

SOIL HEALTH FIELD DAY



EQUIPMENT RENTAL & SALES

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)

IMPORTANT DATES

Calendar

September 4 – Office Closed Labor Day

September 11 – Regular Board Meeting

Seeding Dates

Cool Season Grasses (brome, fescue)

• Aug. 15 - Oct. 1

• Dec. 1 - April 15 (best dates)

Warm Season Grasses (native mix)

• Dec. 1 - May 15 (best for forbs)

• March 15 - May 15 (best dates)

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

STATE COST-SHARE PROGRAM 3

The 2023-2024 cost-share year began July 1, 2023 and will run through June 30, 2024. Dickinson County Conservation District received allocations from Kansas Department of Agriculture Division of Conservation. This funding goes straight to Dickinson County landowners implement conservation practices. No portion of these amounts goes to administrative functions. All funds are currently allocated to Dickinson County landowners. If additional funds become available, we will notify landowners via social media, in the monthly Abilene Reflector-Chronicle Conservation Edition, in the next newsletter, and (for unfunded applicants) by mail.

Water Resources

(primarily terraces and waterways)

\$37,255

Non Point Source Pollution Control

(failed septic system replacements and water wells)

\$11,631

LAST FRIDAY OF EVERY MONTH

FARMER TO FARMER

JOIN US FOR COFFEE AND DOUGHNUTS

TOPICS INCLUDE SOIL HEALTH CHALLENGES AND SUCCESSSES IN 2022 AND PLANS FOR 2023

8:00 AM TO 11:00 AM

USDA SERVICE CENTER CONFERENCE ROOM

328 NE 14TH STREET

ABILENE, KS 67410



Board of Supervisors

Darren Haney, Chairman

Francis Anderson, Vice Chairman

Dennis Chartier, Treasurer

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Josh Schlesener, Board Member

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Cindy Montgomery, District Manager

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