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June 2007

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MIAMI COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Water Wisdom

Cost Share Sign-up Underway

The Miami County Conservation District administers two cost-share programs designed to conserve soil and protect water quality. The initial sign-up for these cost share funds is during the months of June and July. It is important landowners make application during the initial sign-up period for all practices they plan to construct during the period of July 1, 2007 – June 30, 2008. Funds are limited. The applications will be ranked as to their benefits to water quality beginning at the July board meeting and each monthly meeting thereafter. To be eligible for cost-share assistance, landowners must receive approval prior to starting construction.

In addition to funding for erosion control projects on

cropland, the funds from these programs can be used for live-stock waste projects, plugging abandoned wells, upgrading failed septic systems, clean up of abandoned dumpsites, pasture management, and riparian protection.

Funds for the Nonpoint Cost-Share and Water Resources Cost Share programs are provided by the State Conservation Commission through a grant from the State Water Plan Fund.

The watershed you live in can make a difference on the cost-share funding available to you. Special funds have been allocated to manage certain pollutants in the high priority areas of the county. Using your legal description we can quickly identify what cost-share funds are available to you.

Program Requirements

There are specific requirements to be eligible for cost-share.

- You must have a signed and approved contract before construction begins.
- All practices must be completed to required specifications
- Practices for water supply or cross fencing for pasture management must be on pastures of at least 40 acres with a grazing management plan developed.
- Cost share for septic upgrades is only available if the failed system is within 500 feet of a stream or near a well used for household water supply.

Envirothon Anyone?

Recently Annalee Nelson and myself traveled to Holton, Kansas to get a feel for what the Envirothon is all about. We were excited to find that it is truly an excellent opportunity for young people to learn about different aspects in our environment. In a nut shell it consists of a 5 member team that competes as a group. The different categories were as follows: wildlife, forestry, aquatics, current issue (changes), and soils. In the morning the teams had 30 minutes at each station, where a presenter gave a short lesson on their topic, we broke for lunch, and in the afternoon the teams returned to there rotation of the station for a test they completed as a group. Annalee and I were extremely impressed by the participants knowledge of these items, and we strongly feel that Miami County Youth would be a good addition to this competition.

Jenny Jasper

We are encouraging anyone who might be interested in helping with or being a part of an Envirothon team to please contact us here at the district at 913-294-3751.



Quail Unlimited is offering: Habitat Techniques Demonstration Day at Hillsdale Lake

Hillsdale Reservoir & Wildlife Area near Paola, Kansas has been selected as the demonstration area for this year's Habitat Techniques Demonstration Day sponsored by Quail Unlimited and KDWP. The site is a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers property in eastern Kansas that is managed by the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks and is conveniently located just an hour away from the Quail Unlimited (QU) convention site in Overland Park, KS.

The tremendous success of last year's pre-convention habitat tour in Cass County Missouri, which showcased the conservation efforts of the local private landowners and the national, award-winning West Central Missouri QU chapter, has prompted us to respond to the many requests for a sequel.

To answer some of the most common questions our QU staff members receive regarding the various aspects of quail habitat management, *this* year we're featuring a "before" habitat management scenario. This scenario more closely resembles that which many landowners are typically facing, natural plant succession, resulting in loss of habitat.

We will be offering hands-on, how-to demonstrations of different quail management practices. Attendants will be divided into groups and then guided along a demo trail to multiple stations demonstrating management practices. Actual equipment and tools will be on site for participants to see first-hand how they work and how to use them as well as recommended techniques and desired outcomes. Snack and restroom breaks will be interspersed, lunch will be included and a prescribed burn demonstration is scheduled (weather permitting) following lunch.

Tour buses will leave the Overland Park Convention Center - Courtyard level by the north main entrance at 7:30 am and return at approximately 4:00 pm. Demo day is open to the public, but **reservations must be made in advance at <http://www.qu.org/htdd> or by calling Connie Dean at 803-637-5731, ext. 223 or emailing her at cdean@qu.org. Cost is only \$35 per person** whether you drive separately or ride the tour bus (limited seating is available on a first-come, first served reservation basis).

Special transportation on-site will be made available for those who have difficulty walking. Prior arrangements must be made for planning purposes by calling Bob Peterson at 417-359-5807.

Several habitat management topics will be discussed, demonstrated and/or explained such as edge feathering, invasive tree removal, brush piles, native warm season grass drill set-up, adjustment, calibration and use, food plots, chainsaw safety, wildlife habitat appraisal, strip disking, herbicide application, calibrating hand-held and ATV sprayers and prescribed burning. Other topics may be included.

If you desire more information about the location and/or other recreational opportunities that may exist at Hillsdale, the area office number is 913-783-4507 and the website address is http://www.kdwp.state.ks.us/news/state_parks/locations/hillsdale. **Remember, the number to call for habitat demo day information is 803-637-5731.**

Quail Buffers are back!!!

"The timber line pulls the moisture out of your crops, at least with the buffer strips you have a chance to help the wildlife,"

Good news! We have been informed that the state of Kansas has just been allotted more Quail buffer acres! So if you have problem areas in your fields around hedge rows you could get paid to put quail buffers in those areas. "The timber line pulls the moisture out of your crops, at least with the buffer strips you have a chance to help the wildlife," said Mike Maimer of Miami County. Quail Buffer strips can also help increase the average yield for the rest of your field.

Habitat Buffers for Upland Birds, also known as Quail borders or CP-33 is a practice that pays to plant 30'-120' native grass buffer strips around the edges of existing crop fields. Benefits include an annual Continuous Conservation Reserve Program rental payment, \$100 per acre sign-up bonus and a practice incentive payment. Ninety percent of the cost of establishment is paid through cost-share, a bonus payment and a practice incentive payment. Unlike other buffer practices, eligible fields need not be adjacent to a stream in order to qualify.

Some of the eligibility requirements are:

1. the land must be crop land
2. the land must have cropping history 4 out of 6 years, between 1996 and 2001
3. the land must be owned by the applicant at least 1 year prior to application

There are a limited number of acres available to the eastern portion of Kansas for the quail habitat program. Please call in early so we can lock in the acres for you. Keep in mind the other practices that can be established through use of the Continuous Conservation Reserve Program are grassed waterways, filter strips or riparian forest buffers in cropland fields adjacent to streams, contour grass strips and shallow water areas.

Stacy Maimer-Johnson
Miami County Conservation District
Program Coordinator

Equipment Available:

The Miami County Conservation District has a 400 bushel manure spreader available for rent by Miami County landowners. The district provides this equipment as a service to landowners. Proper waste utilization is important to protect water quality and our natural resources. Please contact us at 913-294-3751 Ext 101 to schedule a time to use the spreader.

Miami County Conservation District

Miami County Conservation District
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Paola, Ks 66071

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It's Your District!

The Miami County Conservation District is a tax supported subdivision of State Government. The service it provides is governed by the board of supervisors elected by you, the voting public.



**Miami County
Conservation District**

Friends of the Earth!

"Water Wisdom" is financed by a grant from the State Conservation Commission Non Point Source Pollution Control Fund and the State Water Plan Fund.

«AddressBlock»

Did you Know...

- Each centimeter of soil can take anywhere from 20 to 1,000 years to form.
- Currently, the average rate of soil erosion on U.S. cropland is 7 tons per acre per year.
- According to a 1995 study published in Science, the loss of soil and water from U.S. cropland decreases productivity by about \$27 billion per year.
- Wind erosion can transport soil particles thousands of miles; soil particles from Africa have been found as far as Brazil and Florida.
- Every year, the U.S. spends more than \$520 million to dredge waterways clogged with soil sediment
- It is estimated that only about half of all synthetic fertilizers applied to cropland are actually absorbed by plants; the remaining chemicals pollute that atmosphere, soils, and waterways
- In 1998, the U.S. used about 20 million tons of synthetic fertilizers.
- Soil removed from farmland by erosion contains about 3 times more nutrients and 1.5 to 5 times more organic matter than the soil that remains behind.