

Miami County Conservation District

Miami County Conservation District
100 N Angela Ste. 3
Paola, Ks 66071

Phone: 913-294-3751 Ext. 101
Fax: 913-294-3386
E-mail: jenny.jasper@ks.nacdnet.net

«AddressBlock»

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.

IT HAPPENED IN KANSAS...

THE PIONEER BILL-BOARD WAS A BUFFALO SKULL~
THE BROAD WHITE FOREHEAD OF A BUFFALO SKULL MADE AN IDEAL PLACE TO WRITE A MESSAGE AND THE PIONEERS USED THEM TO LEAVE MESSAGES FOR THEIR FRIENDS.

The following non discrimination provision is being complied with and has been included in revisions of basic memorandums of understanding between the District and the United States Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service. "The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, and marital or family status. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD).

To file a complaint of discrimination write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 14th and Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (202) 720-5964 (voice or TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer."

Board Of Supervisors

Harrison McCollop Chairman
John Vickers Vice Chairman
Kenny Nelson Treasurer
Jim Meinig Member
Jerry Eggleston Member

District Staff

Jenny Jasper District Manager
Mark Peters Project Coordinator

NRCS

District Conservationist
Conservation Technician

Dec. 2008

Auxiliary Advisors: Annalee Nelson, Dolly McCollop, Nettie Vickers, Mary Ann Eggleston, Linda Meinig

Plan to Attend the 63rd Annual Meeting

The 63rd Annual meeting of the Miami County Conservation District will be held **Monday, January 26th, at 6:30 p.m.** at the Miami County Fair Grounds in Paola. At this meeting, the Board of Supervisors will make a full report of the Districts' activities and financial affairs. Dinner will be served courtesy of the Miami County Bankers Association. **Reservations can be made by calling the District office at 294-3751 Extension 3, by Thursday January 22nd.**

No Till Drill

The drill is ready for rent! We fully expect a busy spring, so get your name on the list early to rent the District's Truax Drill.

Call Miami County Conservation District at 913-294-3751 Ext. 3 to get your name on the list today!

MIAMI COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Water Wisdom

Special Hunt on Private Land

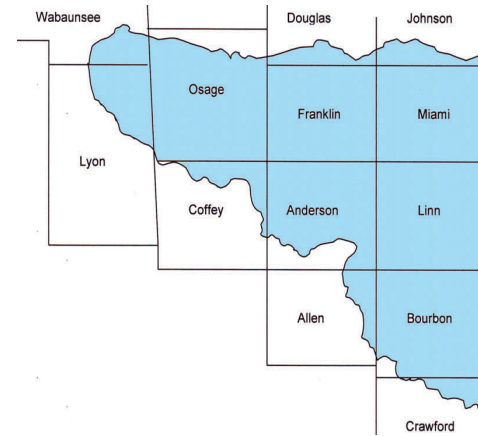
For a number of years Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks has offered a Walk-In Hunting and Fishing program that makes private land and water available for public use through a lease agreement between the KDWP and landowners. Participating landowners receive payments, and the department posts signs on the land, produces maps for hunters, and patrols the areas.

Recently a Special Hunts on Private Lands Program was started which will lease private land for public hunting, but access will be limited. Landowners working with KDWP Wildlife Biologist will determine how many days and what type of hunting they will allow on their property. Random drawings will determine which hunters will be allowed to hunt properties on specific dates. The selected hunters will be given permits to be placed on the dash of their vehicle and carried with them so that both the landowner and KDWP officers can easily determine that each hunter has permission. Payment to landowners will be based on the amount of

acreage enrolled, species allowed to be hunted and the number of days allowed to be hunted.

State law provides that private landowners that lease their land to the state for recreational purposes are immune from damages or injuries resulting from ordinary negligence. The Special Hunt Program will provide the landowner the opportunity to know who is on their land on each scheduled hunt day. Landowners may select specific species, dates, and hunt types that meet their desires for their property. Access to the land enrolled in the special hunt program will be limited to foot traffic only, unless posted otherwise.

Anyone interested in this program should contact Andy Friesen, District Wildlife Biologist with the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks at 913) 894-9154, extension 16.



Funds Available for water quality improvement projects for livestock operators.

October 1, 2008 marked that start of the third year for the Marais des Cygnes Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategies (WRAPS) Livestock Grant Project. The WRAPS Livestock Project services producers throughout the Marais des Cygnes basin, including Miami County. Cost share funds are available at a payment rate of 55%; with an additional 5% incentive payment for projects completed within six months. The payment is based off actual cost, a current contractor bid is used during the application process so you are not limited by prices that were set months ago like several other cost share programs. The only set rate used is for fencing, \$2.00 per foot is the cap set by the livestock grant committee. Funds are not limited to cattle operations; in the past two years the grant has assisted cattlemen, horsemen, dairy farmers and even a goat operation. Since July 2006 the WRAPS Livestock Project has paid \$196,549 direct to producers throughout the MdC Basin for projects they have completed through the grant. The Livestock Project received an allocation of funds through KDHE from EPA Section 319 Grant funds in the amount of \$53,000 to continue the livestock project into 2009. Producers are encouraged to contact the Miami County Conservation District at 913-294-3751, or the Miami County K-State Research and Extension Service at 913-294-4306. K-State Watershed Specialist Herschel George is also available to assist producers and make field visits to evaluate projects before applications are submitted and throughout the course of the project; he can be reached at 913-294-6021.

Some of the projects completed through the WRAPS Livestock Grant have included relocation of feeding sites, alternative water supplies, sediment basins, vegetative buffers/grass buffers, riparian fencing, spring development, waste collection/treatment/application. These and other best management practices which create a water quality benefit may be considered for funding through the MdC WRAPS Grant Livestock Project. Applications are accepted and reviewed for approval on a monthly basis. To learn more visit www.fccdks.org/WRAPS.htm



COOL SEASON GRASS SEEDING DATES

Although it may seem that it is rather early, the Natural Resources Conservation Service recommends seeding dates for brome and fescue start December 1st and run until April 15th. There are always the weather conditions to consider, but if conditions allow, now is not too early to start getting ready to seed.

If you do have plans to drill a cool season grass, the Miami County Conservation has a Truax No-till drill that is available to rent. If you would have an interest in renting the drill call the Conservation District office for Mark or Jenny at 913-294-3751 ext. 3 for more information.

EQIP and WHIP Cutoff Dates Extended

Salina, Kansas, December 5, 2008—"The signup cutoff date has been extended from Friday, January 9, 2009, to **Friday, January 30, 2009**, for both the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) and Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP) under the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (2008 Farm Bill)," said Eric B. Banks, state conservationist for the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS).

"Fall is a busy time of the year for many producers," said Banks, "and in particular this year with late fall harvest in many parts of the state, as well as the anticipation of 2008 Farm Bill Program rules. This extension will give those who want to signup a little more time." Although applications may be submitted anytime for the programs, they will be gathered on the extended date for ranking.

Producers with agricultural land, rangeland, or forestland with any concerns listed below should apply at their local NRCS office and work with the staff on a conservation plan. The office is located at 100 Angela St., Paola, Kansas 66071.

"Self-assessment worksheets are required again this year if farmers or ranchers apply for 2009 EQIP funding," said Banks. If a producer or rancher has already completed a worksheet, a new one will not need to be submitted.

Kansas Identifies Priority Natural Resource Concerns

The Fiscal Year (FY) 2009 Kansas EQIP eligible priority natural resource concerns are as follows:

Air Quality – Objectionable Odors

Domestic Animals – Inadequate Stock Water

Fish and Wildlife – Threatened and Endangered Species, Declining Species, and Species of Concern

Plant Condition – Noxious or Invasive Plants; Productivity, Health, Vigor (Forestland, Rangeland,

Pastureland, Hayland)

Soil Condition – Organic Matter Depletion

Soil Erosion – Streambank

Water Quality – Excessive Nutrients/Organics in Ground and/or Surface Water; Excessive Suspended

Sediment and Turbidity in Surface Water; Harmful Levels of Pesticides in Ground and/or Surface Water

Water Quantity – Aquifer Overdraft; Inefficient Water Use on Irrigated Land; Inefficient Water Use on

Non-irrigated Land; and Insufficient Flows in Water Courses

Socially Disadvantaged, Limited Resource, and Beginning Farmers and Ranchers

"In Kansas socially disadvantaged, limited resource, and beginning farmers and ranchers may receive a higher payment rate through EQIP for structural and vegetative practices," said Banks.

Applying for WHIP

The FY 2009 Kansas WHIP wildlife priorities are as follows:

Threatened and endangered species and species in need of conservation

Grassland Birds

Natural Communities

Producers wanting to address any of the wildlife concerns listed above and apply for WHIP are required to complete an application worksheet and develop a conservation plan with the NRCS staff.

Ranking and allocation distribution for EQIP and WHIP will be determined at a later date. This does not affect the application process. Applicants can expect funding decisions to be completed in the spring of 2009.

Producers may apply for EQIP and/or WHIP at their service center. Information is about 2009 EQIP and WHIP is available at the service center or on the Kansas NRCS Web site www.ks.nrcs.usda.gov/programs.

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USDA Announces 2009 DCP Sign-Up Begins Today

Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE) Program Sign Up to Begin in the Spring

Enrollment for the 2009 Direct and Counter-cyclical Payment (DCP) Program for farms with base acres begins today both online and at local USDA service centers and continues until June 1, 2009. Producers can visit the Farm Service Agency at the local USDA Service Center to complete their 2009 DCP contract or enroll online providing the right credentials have been requested.

The June 1, 2009 deadline is mandatory for all participants. USDA will not accept late-filed applications.

The electronic DCP (or eDCP) service saves producers time, reduces paperwork and speeds up contract processing at USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) offices. It is available to all producers who are eligible to participate in the DCP Program and can be accessed at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/dcp>. To access the service, producers must have an active USDA eAuthentication Level 2 account, which requires filling out an online registration form at <http://www.eauth.egov.usda.gov> followed by a visit to the local USDA Service Center for identity verification.

USDA computes DCP Program payments using base acres and payment yields established for each farm. Eligible producers receive direct payments at rates established by statute regardless of market prices. For 2009, eligible producers may request to receive advance direct payments based on 22 percent of the direct payment for each commodity associated with the farm. USDA will issue advance direct payments beginning Dec. 2008. Counter-cyclical payment rates vary depending on market prices. Counter-cyclical payments are issued only when the effective price for a commodity is statutorily set below its target price. The effective price is the higher of the national average market price received during the 12-marketing year for each covered commodity and the national average rate for a marketing assistance loan for the covered commodity.

Producers who are eligible for the DCP Program will also be eligible to enroll in the Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE) Program. The enrollment period for the ACRE Program will begin in the spring. Producers may first enroll in the DCP Program, elect to receive advance direct payments and then later modify their enrollment to include the ACRE program.

The optional ACRE Program provides a safety net based on State revenue losses and acts in place of the price-based safety net of counter-cyclical payments under DCP. A farm's payment is based on a revenue guarantee calculated using a 5-year average state yield and the most recent 2-year State price for each eligible commodity. For the 2009 crop, the 2-year price average will be based on the 2007 and 2008 crop years. An ACRE payment is issued when both the State and the farm have incurred a revenue loss.

The decision to enroll in the ACRE Program is irrevocable. The owner of the farm and all producers on the farm must agree to enroll in ACRE. Once enrolled, the farm shall be enrolled for that initial crop year and will remain in ACRE through the 2012 crop year.

Appointments can be made by calling (913)294-3751 Ext. 2

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USDA is an equal opportunity employer and provider.

Equipment

Available:

400 bushel Manure Spreader

\$60/acre

10ft No-till Drill

\$8/acre, \$50 minimum

Construction Fabric

\$2.50/linear ft

Tree Tubes—call for current price.

2008 Affiliate Members

Spring Hill Oil and Propane

State Bank of Spring Hill

Mark & Pam Peters

American Family Insurance

Miami Lumber Co.

Team Bank

First Option Bank

Miami County Farm Bureau

Sharp Brothers Seed Co.

Barry C. Coulson

Feyh Farm Seed Co.

Doug Pueser

Wade Quarries

Rew Ranch

Ken Taylor

Paola School District #368

Lang Chevrolet-Pontiac-Buick-GMC, Inc.

Nicholson Law Office

Kindergarten Posters

1st Place

Tyler Boyette

Hillsdale Elementary

2nd Place

Luke Elkinton

Hillsdale Elementary

3rd Place

Katie Sinclair

Hillsdale Elementary

3rd Grade Posters

1st Place

Jorge Flores

Trojan Elementary

2nd Place

Chloe Philgreen

Broadmoor Elementary

3rd Place

Garrett Cladwell

Broadmoor Elementary

7th Grade Posters

1st Place

Amelia Baumgardner

Louisburg Middle School

2nd Place

Nic JoRay

Louisburg Middle School

3rd Place

Kalli Morland

Louisburg Middle School

1st Grade Posters

1st Place

Cody Buczek

Hillsdale Elementary

2nd Place

Rowan West

Hillsdale Elementary

3rd Place

Brayden Hanf

Hillsdale Elementary

4th Grade Posters

1st Place

Mackenzie Grandon

Sunflower Elementary

2nd Place

Maddie Olson

Sunflower Elementary

3rd Place

Tryston Ditto

Hillsdale Elementary

4th Grade Limericks

1st Place

Alisha Lockhard

Hillsdale Elementary

2nd Place

Sam Boyce

Hillsdale Elementary

3rd Place

Darhma Byrd

Hillsdale Elementary

2nd Grade Posters

1st Place

Sydney Ball

Hillsdale Elementary

2nd Place

Kiana Meek

Hillsdale Elementary

3rd Place

Chloe DeYoung

Hillsdale Elementary

5th Grade Posters

1st Place

Cordell Cox

Sunflower Elementary

2nd Place

Amanda Wood

Sunflower Elementary

3rd Place

Anna Darling

Hillsdale Elementary

5th Grade Limericks

1st Place

Rebekah Hadle

Hillsdale Elementary

2nd Place

Nicholas Reeves

Hillsdale Elementary

3rd Place

Collin Graves

Hillsdale Elementary

Essays

1st Place: Johanna Ryckert

Paola High School

2nd Place: Nathan Peckman

Paola High School

3rd Place: Randa Oliver

Paola High School