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 Bob Allen          Conservation Technician

March 2008

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

## CCRP Practice CP 38E Now Available for Kansas Upland Game Birds

Bill R. Fuller, State Executive Director of the Kansas USDA Farm Service Agency announced approval of a Kansas project under the Conservation Reserve Program's (CRP) State Acres for Wildlife Enhancement (SAFE) practice CP38E.

The goal of the Kansas Upland Game birds SAFE project is to improve populations of bob-white quail, ring neck pheasant, greater prairie chicken and other grassland associated wildlife by creating nesting/brood-rearing habitat on portions of crop fields. This SAFE project will establish and maintain 30,100 acres of CRP consisting of diverse native grass and forbs cover. Quail, pheasant and other grassland birds are species that will benefit from SAFE enrollments. Priority will be given to using SAFE to complement local efforts, and project coordinators expect upland birds should respond with in the first year of planting. Acres

enrolled in the SAFE project will also provide water quality and reduce soil erosion.

Land must meet the basic CRP eligibility requirements. Acceptable land is cropland that was , planted or considered planted to an agricultural commodity in four out of six years between 1996 and 2001 and which is also physical and legally capable of being planted in a normal manner to an agricultural commodity.

A one-time up front signing incentive payment of \$100 per acre for CRP contracts of 10 years or more will be paid by FSA after eligibility criteria are met and the CRP contract is approved. A one-time practice incentive equal to 40 percent of the eligible installation costs will be paid after CRP practice is installed, eligible costs are verified and other payment eligibility criteria are met. FSA will also pay cost-share payments up to 50 percent of the

eligible costs of establishing a permanent cover.

Contracts are for not less than 10, nor more than 15 years. The effective date of the CRP contract is the first day of the month following the month of approval. In certain circumstances, producers may defer the effective date for up to six months.

Maximum acreage enrollment is 5 acres for fields less than 25 acres, or 20 percent of a field for fields 25 acres or greater, with a maximum acreage of 80 acres per field. Fields less than 5 acres may be enrolled in their entirety.

For more information contact the Miami County Conservation District, located at 100 N Angela St. Ste. 3 or call us at 913-294-3751 Ext 101.

MIAMI COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Water Wisdom

### Change in Miami County Office Staff:

As of March 31st, 2008 the Paola Field Office will have one less full time staff member. Now that Franklin, Miami, Johnson, Wyandotte County are a part of the NRCS Management Unit, duties had to be spread out among them. The District Conservationist in Franklin County retired as of March 31st, as a result Gary Bruner is now the District Conservationists in Franklin County. His primary duties are to Franklin County, but as a part of the Management Unit, he will be helping us with Miami County. Debbie Sumner will be the Supervisory District Conservationists responsible for Franklin, Miami, Johnson and Wyandotte County Management Unit.

## New District Employee: Mark Peters

As a retired Natural Resources Conservation Service employee I am excited to be back in a field office as a Conservation District Program Coordinator. At the annual meeting I met some of you, and am looking forward to meeting others as we work together to conserve our natural resources.

For 31 years I worked for SCS/NRCS until retiring four years ago. My first job was in Overbrook with the Wakarusa Watershed office. Then I spent the majority of my career in Fredonia as the Soil Conservation Technician. While there I greatly enjoyed working with the landowners, and assisting the Conservation District with their many education projects.

Some years back (really many years) I graduated from Smith Center HS and have lived throughout central and eastern Kansas. My wife, Pam, is a retired school nurse and we have two grown children. Our son's family lives in Louisburg, and that had a lot to do with our move to Paola before the grandkids got much older. Our daughter's

family lives in Mesa, Az. so it's nice being closer to the airport. Visiting in Miami county for the last few years we have gotten quite familiar with the area.

Being back in the conservation office makes me realize how much I've missed being a part of a team whose goal it is to help landowners conserve and improve our natural resources. Of course one of our greatest natural resources is the children of Miami county, and we have several conservation programs scheduled already in the coming weeks.

The CCRP Practice CP38E, explained further in this newsletter, is a program that may be of particular interest in Miami county as it allows landowners to enter a whole field into the program if it is 5 acres or less. If you have questions about any of the buffer programs that we offer just call, or stop by the office, so we can see what your needs are and we'll see what programs may benefit your land. In the months ahead I'm looking forward to meeting more of you and helping with whatever conservation needs you may have.

## Fiscal Year 2009 Cost Share Funds will Soon Be Available: Sign Up in June

We will be having sign up in June for FY 09 Cost Share Funds. If you have some resource needs that you would like to address, please contact us to submit an application. Remember, funds are based on first come first served with emphasis on High Priority Areas.

# SOIL IS MORE THAN JUST DIRT!

Nature requires 500 years to form each inch of soil.

Soil Formation is a slow process. Nature requires 500 years to form each inch of soil. Here are some fascinating "factoids" from the National Soil Survey Center that show why soil is such an important resource

A single spade full of rich garden soil contains more species of organisms than can be found above ground in the entire Amazon Rain Forest.

Although the soil surface appears solid, air moves freely in and out of it. The air in the upper 8 inches of a well-drained soil is completely renewed about every hour.

The plants growing in a 2-acre wheat field can have more that

30,000 miles of roots, greater than the circumference of the Earth.

The tips of small plant roots move through the soil with a twisting screw-like motion. Mature trees can have as many as 5 million active root tips.

Shrinking and swelling of some kinds of soil damage buildings, roads, and other structures. Repairing this damage costs our Nation more each year than repairing the total damage from hurricanes, tornados and floods.

The American Midwest has the largest area of Prime Farmland soils in the world. Other large areas are in South American and in Eastern

Europe and Russia  
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About 10 percent of the world's land is used to grow plants and to feed either animals or humans. About 20 percent of the land in the U.S. is used to grow crops.

In the spring of 1934, a single dust storm originating in the Great Plains carried an estimated 200 million tons of soil to the Northeastern United States and out to the sea. This storm caused "muddy rains" in New York and "black snows" in Vermont.

It takes about 4,000 to 6,000 pounds of crop residue per year to maintain the content of organic matter in the soil.

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.

## Miami County Conservation District

Miami County Conservation District  
100 N Angela Ste. 3  
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E-mail: [jenny.jasper@ks.nacdnet.net](mailto:jenny.jasper@ks.nacdnet.net)

**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.*

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## Did you Know...

- At one time it was against the law to serve ice cream on cherry pie in Kansas.
- Smith County is the geographical center of the 48 contiguous states.
- Silent comedian Buster Keaton, of early film success, was from Piqua, Kansas.
- There are 27 Walnut Creeks in the state.
- In 1990 Kansas wheat farmers produced enough wheat to make 33 billion loaves of bread, or enough to provide each person on earth with 6 loaves.