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June 2008

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

Ducks Unlimited Banquet Supports Conservation Education

Mark Peters, Program Coordinator
 Miami County Conservation District

The Miami County Conservation District and the Ducks Unlimited Chapter of Miami County are working together in promoting conservation education. While the Conservation District is continuing to give programs in several of the county schools Ducks Unlimited, along with other businesses, is going to assist in buying T-shirts for all participants in the poster, essay, limerick and speech contests for students in K-12. This year there are expected to be 500-600 students participating in the environmental program, which is a large increase over previous years. The winners of each grade will be invited to a pizza dinner with their families and supporting teacher.

It has been a commitment by the Ducks Unlimited organization to improve

outdoor and environmental education for school children of all ages. They have joined a group that is actively supporting the "No Child Left Inside" bill that also maintains the same commitment. One of the primary fund raisers for the local chapter is through the banquet and auction being held on October 18 at the Miami County Fairgrounds at 6:00. Besides supporting environmental education Ducks Unlimited has long been an advocate of conserving, restoring and managing wetlands and other habitat for North America's waterfowl. They realize that a wetland is the habitat most widely used by different species of wildlife as well as being a valuable asset to people. If you have questions about Ducks Unlimited or the banquet you may get in touch with Jim Johnson, Jr. at (913) 294-2314.

Water Wisdom

Save the Date!

November 6, 2008

Demonstration Field Date

Livestock Waste Projects
 Alternative Water Supplies
 Solar Pumping System
 Rotational Grazing

Meal and Transportation will be provided.

Look for more information as the date gets closer!

Root Plowing for Fun and Profit

Mark Peters, Program Coordinator
Miami County Conservation District

Root plowing can be beneficial to the landowner and to wildlife. The way you manage hedgerows and the trees along streams will help determine how much wildlife you have to enjoy, and can add some crop yield at harvest.

Trees along field edges can take moisture away from several rows of crops. It is especially noticeable in dry years. But trees along fields can have beneficial functions as well. They reduce wind speeds that dry out the ground. This action can increase crop yields and the benefits will extend out into the field for up to ten times the height of the trees. Trees will also produce an even covering of snow over a field in winter instead of the snow all being blown off. This practice can add significant soil moisture and the nutrients to the crop fields. Trees along streams hold the soil and provide filtering of runoff.

Fortunately, there is a way to keep the trees and eliminate the problem of the trees removing moisture from the edge of the crop field. Using a root plow is an effective way to accomplish the task. Root plowing is done with a deep shank ripper or chisel at a depth of 20 to 30 inches. This operation should be parallel to the hedgerow or tree line and out into the field 15 to 20 feet, or at the tree drip line. Just be sure that you can cultivate over the root plow line in case any tree sprouts come up from the roots.

The ripper blade must be large enough to sever the lateral root system of the trees and may need to be done in two passes. Be careful not to cut buried cables or pipelines so call 1-800-DIG-SAFE a few days before you begin.

Crop yield data in fields next to root plowed hedgerows have shown up to a 40 percent increase in yields along the field edge that can be affected up to 75 feet from the trees. The roots usually grow back at a rate of 1 to 1 ½ feet per year so it should be several years before root plowing is needed again. Root plowing has shown no effect on the growth and health of the trees receiving the treatment even when done on both sides of a tree row.

Not only does root plowing provide you better crop yields adjacent to tree lines, but it also retains moisture in the soil. This management action can save your hedgerow, save you money, and provide habitat and travel lanes for wildlife.

The Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks has made a root plow available to Miami County landowners at no charge. Jim Bracken manages the use of the root plow, and landowners interested in using it can contact him at 913-294-2706 or the Miami County Conservation District office at 913-294-3751 extension 3.

For further assistance on this excellent management alternative, contact your Natural Resources Conservation Service located at the county USDA Service Center in Paola (913-296-3751 ex. 3) or visit their web site at www.ks.nrcs.usda.gov. Or you could contact Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks (913-894-9113) or check their web site at www.kdwp.state.ks.us.

NRCS Welcomes New State Conservationist

Eric B. Banks has been selected as the new State Conservationist for the U.S. Department of Agriculture NRCS in Kansas. He began his assignment June 9, 2008. His office is located in Salina. Banks, before accepting the position in Salina, served as the NRCS Assistant State Conservationist for Financial Assistance Programs in Arizona, where he is responsible for the management of all Farm Bill programs. Banks brings a background of diverse experience to the Kansas natural resources conservation partnership. His experience in a variety of

NRCS managerial and technical positions includes Acting National Grassland Reserve Program Manager in Washington, D.C.; area conservationist in northeast Missouri; and resource conservationist and district conservationist in Indiana. He also held positions in South Carolina and Nebraska. He began his career with the agency as a student trainee in Wilber, Nebraska. Originally from Tuscaloosa, Alabama, Banks graduated from Alcorn State University with a degree in Ag. Economics.

FSA Employees out of Office Oct. 21st to 24th

“FSA County Office will remain open October 21-24, but will be staffed with temporary employees, County Committee members, or other Agency staff”

The Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (Farm Bill) was recently enacted. The USDA Farm Service Agency is responsible for implementing many of the commodity, live-stock, conservation, disaster, and credit programs in the new Farm Bill.

Bill R. Fuller, State Executive Director of the Kansas Farm Service Agency announced today that all Kansas FSA farm program employees will attend Farm Bill Training on October 21-24, 2008. A state-wide Farm Bill training will ensure that all Kansas FSA employees receive the same training to better serve Kansas farmers and ranchers.

All permanent Farm Program staff will attend this training; however, your local FSA County Office will remain open October 21-24, but will be staffed with temporary employees, County Committee members, or other Agency staff. These employees will have limited knowledge of FSA farm

programs and services, and limited resources. The computers for farm programs will remain off and payments will not be issued during this time. Issues that arise during this time will be promptly addressed by staff when they return to the office on October 27.

Farm Loan Staff will be available at certain FSA County Offices to address any farm loan issues.

Any questions pertaining to staff availability during October 21-24 should be forwarded to the County Executive Director at the local USDA Service Center.

"We appreciate the cooperation and understanding of all our customers," emphasized Fuller. "Soon after this training, FSA County Offices will conduct Farm Bill Informational Meetings to ensure Kansas farmers and ranchers are knowledgeable of new program policies and eligibility criteria."

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
100 N Angela St. Ste. 3
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E-mail: 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**

"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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To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326W, Whitten Building, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410, or call (202) 720-5964 (voice and TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

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Mark & Pam Peters

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Ken Taylor

Paola School District #368

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The affiliate members help us fund our education programs throughout the year. For details on how **YOU** can become an affiliate member call our office at 913-294-3751 ext. 3 ask for Jenny or Mark.