

Board Of Supervisors**District Staff****NRCS**

June 2009

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2010 Cost Share Sign UP

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 June 15th to July 15th. 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, 2009 – June 30, 2010. 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 are also available for livestock waste projects, plugging abandoned wells, upgrading failed septic systems, the clean up of abandoned dumpsites, pasture management, brush management and riparian area protection.

Funds for the Non-Point Source 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. By 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.

This would also be a good time to get signed up for the Conservation Reserve Program. If you are having issues with erosion in your fields because of all this rain we have been getting you might want to sign up for buffer strips. You could sign up for filter strips or a riparian strip along field edges adjacent to streams. You could also plant Contour Grass buffer strips along your terraces. There are several programs that help with erosion and top soil reduction.

There are a few requirements:

- *Must have a cropping history of 4 of the 6 years between (1996-2001).
- *The landowner must have had ownership for 1 Year.
- *The land must be cropland.

If you are interested in any of these services please come by the office, 100 Angela Suite 3, Paola, KS, 66071

Fiscal Year 2010

Conservation Program Cuts

The President recently released details of his proposed FY 2010 budget. The budget reflects substantial cuts to programs across most every department and agency in the federal government. Included were over \$400 million in cuts to MANDATORY conservation programs under the Department of Agriculture just for next year alone.

NACD and conservation districts fought hard for increased funding for conservation programs during the development of the 2008 Farm Bill. We were successful in gaining increases to important programs such as EQIP, Farmland Protection, and funding to continue WRP, WHIP and GRP. Less than one year since Congress approved the increased funding for conservation, the President is recommending eliminating a portion of these funds. We cannot allow these cuts to become part of the final FY10 agriculture appropriations bill.

Specific programs, original funding contained in the 2008 Farm Bill, and proposed cuts include:

Program	2008 Farm Bill	FY 10 Proposed Cut
Wetlands Reserve Program	\$473 million	\$184 million
Environmental Quality	\$1.45 billion	\$250 million
Farm and Ranchland Protection	\$150 million	\$30 million
Agricultural Management	\$15 million	\$5 million
Wildlife Habitat Incentives	\$85 million	\$43 million
Healthy Forests Reserve	\$9.75 million	\$5 million

The budget also makes a legislative reduction to the Conservation Reserve Program incentives for Public Access. These cuts represent significant loss of conservation on our nation's private farmlands, ranchlands and forestlands.

Contacts

Now is the time to contact Congress and urge their support of full funding of Farm Bill conservation programs in FY10. Congress will be taking up appropriations bills in the very near future to set actual FY10 spending levels. During this process, Congress will have the ability to reject the President's proposed cuts to conservation programs and ensure full funding of Farm Bill conservation programs in the agriculture appropriations bill. Tell them to keep full conservation program funding in the FY10 agriculture appropriations bill.

Members of Congress will be returning home to observe the Memorial Day Recess the week of May 25. This presents an excellent opportunity for conservation districts to discuss in person support for full funding of conservation programs in FY10 agriculture appropriations. Call to request a meeting or check newspapers and other media outlets for announcements of public meetings with your Members of Congress.

Talking Points:

Below are some sample talking points for letters, phone contacts, or for discussion with your Members of Congress:

- Farm Bill Conservation programs provide critical assistance to farmers, ranchers and forest landowners to address natural resource issues on their operations
- Conservation programs address critical environmental issues such as improved water quality, soil health and habitat. Many of the practices also sequester carbon to mitigate climate change
- Conservation practices and technical assistance must be tailored to crop production type, landscape, soil type, water resources, habitat needs and many other issues that vary across the United States
- Conservation programs may allow producers to take environmentally sensitive land out of production, provide cost-share funds to make structural improvements in their operations, or incentives to undertake new management practices
- Most of these programs only provide a partial payment for the conservation practice, so producers must also provide part of the funding
- The 2008 Farm Bill was finalized in June of last year. It is important for the new law to be given a chance to work without financial reductions in the fiscal year 2010 budget
- Congress provided funding for these program and approved this legislation less than a year ago so now is not the time to make changes

Contact Information:

Members of Congress can be contacted through telephone, email and web contact information. This information can be accessed at the following websites:

U.S. House of Representatives: <http://www.house.gov/writerep>

U.S. Senate: http://www.senate.gov/general/contact_information/senators_cfm.cfm

You can also contact your Members of Congress by calling the U.S. Capitol switchboard at 202-224-3121.

(Please remember when contacting Members of Congress that use of federally owned equipment is prohibited. This includes fax machines, computers, email or any other method which involves federal property.)

Report Back

We rely on your feedback to know which Members of Congress have been contacted, what questions or feedback they have, and where additional information may be needed. Please report your contacts to jeremy-peters@nacdnet.org.

Equipment Available:	<u>300 Bushel Manure Spreader</u>
	\$60/day
	<u>10ft No-Till Drill</u>
	\$8/acre, \$50 minimum
	<u>Construction Fabric</u>
	\$2.50/linear ft
	<u>Tree Tubes—Call For Current Price.</u>
	<u>Drip Torches— No Charge</u>
	<u>Root Plow-No Charge</u>
	<u>Soil Probe— No Charge</u>

2009 Affiliate Members

Beachner Grain

TeamBank

First Option Bank

Miami County Farm Bureau

Feyh Farm Seed Co.

Doug Pueser

Wade Quarries

Rew Ranch

Nicholson Law Office

Clark Excavating

Miami County Newspaper/NPG

Elizabeth Smith

Mark & Pam Peters

Sharp Brothers Seed Co.

Paola USD #368

The UPS Store

Alpacas R Diamonds

Conservation Brings in Dollars

The Miami County Conservation District would like to thank the Miami County Board of Commissioners for their ongoing support of conservation through their annual budget allocation to the Conservation District. The Miami County Conservation District was created on June 27, 1945 as a subdivision of state government, established under the terms of Conservation Law by the State of Kansas. The Conservation District is fortunate to receive funding through both the Miami County Board of Commissioners and the State of Kansas to assist with our operating expenses. On May 29, we received notification from the State Conservation Commission that the Omnibus Bill had passed giving the State a Fiscal Year 2010 State budget; but unfortunately the SFY2010 budget included a nearly 2% reduction in State Aid to Conservation Districts. In order to continue to provide the best level of service possible for the residents of Miami County in the field of conservation it is important that we continue to receive a stable level of funding through the Miami County Board of Commissioners to offset the reductions we are faced with from the State.

Operating expenses cover salaries for two conservation district employees and the administrative fees for all of our conservation education programs we offer. Throughout the year we do a number of different events, which include our Bankers Tour, Annual Meeting, Demonstration Tours, Poster/Essay/Limerick Contest, Informative Meetings, Rain Barrel Workshops, and many other events that may arise as the years pass. One of our many endeavors in 2009 was providing the "Earth Balloon" for the 2009 Miami County Earth Festival. The "Earth Balloon" is a 19 foot diameter, fabric, inflatable balloon; made to scale with high resolution satellite imagery printed on it of the Earth to give participants a different view of our world.

The Conservation District promotes and assists with the following federal programs; CRP, EQIP, WRP and WHIP programs, which many county residents benefit from. If the Conservation District was unable to assist NRCS with the promotion and implementation of these programs, the natural resources of Miami County would be in grave danger. Through the programs offered at the USDA Service Center in Paola, which includes Natural Resources Conservation Service, Farm Service Agency and the Conservation District, approx \$1 million worth of funding was distributed to Miami County Landowners and Operators in 2008 for agriculture and conservation programs.

If you have participated in or benefited from any of these programs, or if you simply believe in the work the Miami County Conservation District is doing for the conservation of our natural resources for future generations please thank the Miami County Board of Commissioners for their support of conservation. Let them know how important funding is for the Conservation District and for the future of natural resources in Miami County. Please contact us at 913-294-3751 Ext. 101 for any questions about services we may provide to you.

Rain Barrel Workshop

**Friday June 19, 2009
2:00 pm to 4:00 pm at the
Miami County Extension Office
Miami County Conservation District
100 Angela St.
Paola, KS 66071
913-294-3751 x101**

**RSVP Required by June 15, 2009
Registration limited to 30 participants**

- ◆ ***Learn the savings and benefits that come from using rain barrels***
- ◆ ***Discover the ease of assembling a barrel to fit your desired look***
- ◆ ***Find out how easy the barrels are to install***
- ◆ ***Opportunity to assemble a barrel you can take home***

Dry Hydrant Installation Demonstration

Saturday June 20, 2009

Noon to 4 p.m. Miami County Kansas

Free Lunch!

Please RSVP by June 17th, so we can plan for lunch!!

YouthFront Camp

Enter 1/4 mile south of 215th on Spoon Creek Rd

- ▶ A dry hydrant is a non-pressurized pipe system permanently installed in existing lakes, ponds and streams that provides a suction supply of water to a fire department tank truck.
- ▶ In rural areas, a lack of water mains and pressurized fire hydrants can sometimes impair a fire department's ability to do its job quickly and efficiently.
- ▶ The success of a fire departments operation hinges on the distance a truck must travel to fill-up and return to the fire.
- ▶ Planning for dry hydrants involves several considerations and should involve all those affected so a coordinated effort can take place.

Some factors to consider are:

Current and future population and building trends.

Property values protected.

Potential for loss.

Fire history of the area protected.



Attend the Dry Hydrant demonstration at Noon on Saturday June 20, 2009 in Miami County to learn the benefits of dry hydrants and how they can be an inexpensive way to keep you safe.

Watch for signs the day of the event. For more information contact:

Miami County Conservation District

100 Angela St. Ste. 3

Paola, Ks 66071

913-294-3751 X 101

www.miamicountycd.com



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

It's Your District!
The Miami County Conservation District is a tax supported sub-division 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.

Congratulations Mr. Rush!

Mike Rush of Osawatomie High School has been awarded the Kansas Association of Conservation Districts Conservation Education and Youth Committee Teacher of the Year Award for 2009.

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."