

**Miami County Conservation District**

Miami County Conservation District  
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**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.*

**2009 Stewardship Week**  
**"Dig It! The Secrets of Soil"**  
**April 26-May 3, 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."

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Mark Peters Project Coordinator

**NRCS**

District Conservationist  
Conservation Technician

Mar. 2009

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

**SPRING GRASS BURNING**

Mark Peters  
Project Coordinator  
Miami County Conservation District

Burning grass in the spring is very beneficial for the grass stand. Among the benefits of prescribed burning are stimulating tiller growth, removing accumulated mulch, weed and brush control, wildlife habitat improvement, and wildfire hazard reduction. The timing of burns will do the most good if the area is burnt when the grass has about one inch of new growth.

When burning native grasses you want to burn as close to April 15 as possible. If possible don't burn before April 1 and no later than April 15. It may be too late for burning brome or fescue this spring. But when burning them it is best to burn when the new weed growth is just starting, and before the grass is large enough to be damaged.

Before burning you should have a burning plan. You need to be aware of the wind conditions, and make sure of the speed and direction of the wind. If the weather is dry you must know if a burn ban has been issued for the county. When conditions are not right either it will be very difficult to get the grass to burn, or the burn can easily get out of hand in which case unexpected damage may occur. Be sure to contact your neighbors and the sheriff's department when and where you plan to burn.

If you have further questions about conducting a spring grass burn you may contact the local conservation district or NRCS office at 913-294-3751 extension 3. The conservation district does have a drip torch available to be used for starting the fires.

**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**

# EQIP and WHIP Cutoff Dates Extended to April 10

Salina, Kansas, January 26, 2009—"The signup cutoff date has been extended from Friday, January 30, 2009, to Friday, April 10, 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 NRCS.

"The EQIP and WHIP interim rules have been received for the 2008 Farm Bill," said Banks, "and the deadline for obligating funds has changed at the national level." Although applications may be accepted on a continuing basis, they will be gathered at the close of business on April 10 for this ranking period.

Producers with agricultural land, rangeland, or forestland with any concerns listed below should apply at their NRCS local field office and work with them on a conservation plan. The office is located at your local USDA Service Center (listed in the telephone book under United States Government or on the Internet at [offices.usda.gov](http://offices.usda.gov)).

"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.

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

"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. To determine if you qualify as a socially disadvantaged, limited resource, or beginning farmer and rancher, you should go to the following Web site: [http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/SLB\\_Farmer](http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/SLB_Farmer).

## 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. The NRCS staff will help a producer secure a conservation plan.

Information about 2009 EQIP and WHIP is available on the Kansas NRCS Web site [www.ks.nrcs.usda.gov/programs](http://www.ks.nrcs.usda.gov/programs) or at Paola USDA Service Center. Producers may apply for EQIP or WHIP at the Paola Service Center at 100 Angela St. Ste 3, Paola, Ks 66071. NRCS is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

## Opportunities for all current or future Farmers and Ranchers in Johnson, Leavenworth, Miami, and Wyandotte Counties

### *Refreshments and Refreshing Ideas!*

*How to meet your production demands through natural resource management.*

### Open House

Wednesday March 25<sup>th</sup>

6:30 pm to 8:00 pm

Cabela's

(The Bears meeting room)

10300 Cabela Dr.

Kansas City, KS 66111

If you are a producer, who operates anything from or between a large scale cattle ranch to a local farmers' market supplier you are invited to attend this open house. Do you have an interest in becoming a producer? Attend to learn about the voluntary programs which are available to assist Kansas Farmers and Ranchers through financial and technical assistance from:

Farm Service Agency (FSA)

Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

County Conservation Districts

Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks (KDWP)

Kansas State University Research and Extension

Each of the above agencies will be providing those who attend the opportunity to discover and ask questions concerning:

Programs they offer

Steps to sign up

Requirements for participation in their programs

Agency representatives will be available at the end of the evening to answer individual questions or make arrangements for meeting with you on an individual basis.

## 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 1<sup>st</sup> and run until April 15<sup>th</sup>. 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 District 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.



# Conservation In The Classrooms



What can I do? Be an Earth Team Volunteer

In 2008, we traveled to 7 different schools across Miami County talking with about 700 kids. During these visits we talked to groups as big as 150 to as few as 15, ranging in ages from Kindergarten to Seniors. With such a wide range of students we were able to discuss many different conservation related issues. In addition to the individual schools we visited we also took part in a handful of water festivals in Miami County and surrounding counties, through these festivals we reach on the upwards of 1,000 students.

I bring this up as most residents of Miami County don't know what a Conservation District does. As important as the cost-share programs and support we give to our landowners and operators it is also important to know what we offer to the public as a whole.

Children are our future, it is important to educate our children to the effects of conservation and what will happen with the lack of conservation.

Every year the Conservation District offers a Poster/Essay/Limerick Contest as well as a speech contest. This is open to any Miami County child. The Poster contest is for Grades K thru 12, the Essay contest is for grades 5 thru 8, and the Limerick Contest is for Grades 3 thru 8. These contests are also open to home schooled children as well. We also have a special division for "special purpose" children as well. Each year there is a set theme, which is set at the National Level. This year the theme is "DIG IT! The Secrets of Soil", last year the theme was "Water is Life". We received 734 entries from area schools. With several local sponsors and the support of the Miami County Conservation District Board, we were able to provide each entrant and their teacher with a t-shirt, with the theme and year on it. The winners from each grade submitted were awarded with a pizza party as well as we were able to print the picture of their poster/limerick on the sleeve of their shirt. For more information about our contests please feel free to e-mail us at [jenny.jasper@ks.nacdnet.net](mailto:jenny.jasper@ks.nacdnet.net) or call us at 913-294-3751 Ext. 3.

Our education program cover a wide variety of topics, if you are a teacher or parent who would like more information on having us come to visit your school please contact us at [jenny.jasper@ks.nacdnet.net](mailto:jenny.jasper@ks.nacdnet.net) or call us at 913-294-3751 Ext. 3.



During 2008, 3,610 citizens volunteered their time and talents to the Kansas Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and the Conservation Districts. These volunteers donated 40,948 hours. More than a few of these people were first time volunteers and probably thought, "What can I do?" Well, no matter what your talents, interests, age, or physical ability, there is a volunteer opportunity for you. Here are a few examples:

- Schools benefit from tours, exhibits, poster contests, and festivals. Volunteers are needed to help organize events, conduct classes, take pictures, cook food, write news articles, and chaperon students on the bus. And lastly, one of the most appreciated jobs a volunteer can do is just become a glorified gofer to support staff and save them time and steps.
- Town and community groups benefit from educational meetings and publications. Volunteers are needed to present programs and speak about conservation issues. Volunteers with a history in writing can produce publications and artwork.
- Field office support is needed. This can include opportunities assisting with monthly newsletters, judging poster and essay contests, phone and office support when staff is not available, and lastly clerical assistance to help organize and file.
- Working in the outdoors presents many other opportunities for volunteers. Outdoor activities include assisting the professional staff as they work directly with farmers and ranchers. Volunteers can take notes and assist with survey equipment, make natural resource inventories, and assist in improving wildlife habitats. It is important to preserve habitat for pheasant, quail, prairie chicken, and many other native wildlife species that reside on farms and ranches.

Other outdoor activities which need volunteer assistance are the planning of community beautification and projects for water quality and erosion control. Volunteers are greatly appreciated and can be the essential link in developing programs which benefit their own community. Becoming a member of your local Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) Advisory Council is one way of seeing a need and having the opportunity to fix the problem and change your own community for the better.

Volunteers are needed and appreciated. If you would like to join other Kansas residents who already donate their time to conserve and protect our natural resources, visit your local NRCS office or conservation district office to learn more about being an Earth Team volunteer. The office is located at the Paola USDA Service Center at 100 Angela St, Paola, Ks or you can call at 913-294-3751 Ext. 101. More information is also available on the Kansas Web site at [www.ks.nrcs.usda.gov](http://www.ks.nrcs.usda.gov).

**Equipment Available:**

**300 Bushel Manure Spreader**

\$60/day

**10ft No-Till Drill**

\$8/acre, \$50 minimum

**Construction Fabric**

\$2.50/linear ft

**Tree Tubes—Call For Current Price.**

**Drip Torches— No Charge**

**Root Plow-No Charge**

**Soil Probe— No Charge**

# 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.

# 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

# 2009 DCP Farm Program Signup

The 2009 DCP (Direct and Counter-cyclical payment) program signup is ongoing and ends June 1, 2009. All producers are encouraged to call the FSA office for an appointment as soon as possible to begin the enrollment process. All signatures and related forms must be completed and returned to the FSA office by June 1, 2009. The 'NEW' signup option referred to as ACRE will be available sometime in later April. More details about this program will be available at that time. PLEASE CALL THE FSA OFFICE FOR AN APPOINTMENT. This saves you and the office time in preparing all the needed forms. (913) 294-3751 Ext. 1

## FREE Soil Test

The purpose of a soil test is to supply adequate plant nutrients for optimum forage and crop yields, lawn maintenance and garden production; minimize entry of nutrients to surface and ground water; and to maintain or improve chemical, physical, and biological condition of the soil. The assistance provided is targeted toward educating producers to change management practices that will improve water quality and impact favorably on future landowner environmental stewardship.

The Miami County Conservation District partners with Miami County Extension Office to provide soil test free of cost, with the understanding that the landowner will apply chemicals within the recommended amounts. You may contact the Extension Office at 913-294-4306.

