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June 2008

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Voice your Needs or Concerns

The Miami County Conservation District Board would like to have your input on an upcoming project. The board is in the process of updating their Long-Range Plan. In doing this the board finds that it is important and imperative that we get as many Miami County citizens involved as possible. The goal of the long-range plan is to accurately carry out the Miami County Conservation Districts Mission, to protect our natural resources. In December the Miami County Conservation District will host meetings in 5 different areas of the county to give Miami County citizens a chance to provide input for the updated Long-range Plan. Once the information is compiled

from the 5 meetings, we will then bring a compilation of all of the information to the annual meeting, with hopes of receiving additional input. Our hope is that we will receive quality information that will help us better serve Miami County citizens to protect our natural resources.

The board has respectively grouped townships into 5 groups, with the hopes of accommodating as many as possible. All 5 meetings will be open to all Miami County residents and operators. If someone is unable to attend the meeting in their respective area, they are welcome to attend any meeting that best suits them.

Please contact Jenny at the Conservation District Office and let her know if you will be able to attend one of the meetings, this will help the district to prepare. Those who call in to RSVP will be sent a reminder postcard of the meeting date and location in which they expressed interest to.

Save the Dates!

December 1st @ Hillsdale Lake at the Wildlife and Parks meeting room at 8:30 a.m.

December 2nd @ Bucyrus area Location to be announced at 8:30 a.m.

December 3rd @ Louisburg at Water District #4 Office at the Tower at 8:30 a.m.

December 8th @ Miami County Ext. Office Meeting Room at 8:30 a.m.

December 10th @ Whistle Stop Café in Osawatomie at 8:30 a.m.

Buffers to Improve Wildlife Habitat

Mark Peters, Program Technician

Miami County landowners can enroll habitat buffers around cropland fields into Continuous Conservation Reserve Program (CCRP) to benefit quail and other upland bird species, as well as other wildlife. The purpose of this practice is to reverse the decline of quail and the other upland bird populations by providing needed nesting and brood rearing habitat next to cropland. These important elements of quail habitat have declined due to improved cropping practices which have eliminated weedy field borders, abandoned farmsteads, and other small waste areas.

Jim Meinig, chairman of the Miami County Conservation District Board, has reported increased numbers of quail, and more young ones, being sighted regularly around his buffer strips.

Buffers must be enrolled around the outside edges of cropland fields and must meet basic eligibility and cropping history criteria for the Conservation Reserve Program. Buffers must be an average of 30 to 120 feet wide and planted to a mix of native warm season grasses with legumes, wildflowers, or forbs. A limited amount of shrubs may be planted. Cropland Acres remaining in the field must be greater than enrolled buffer acres. The buffers are not to use for turn rows, roads, or the storage of crops or equipment.

Landowner benefits for CCRP buffer strips include:

Payments for sign up bonuses, annual rental payments, and cost share for the establishment of cover.

Improved wildlife numbers for recreational hunting, fee hunting, or just for enjoyment of wildlife watching.

Farming operations are also improved due to the buffers. Production is generally reduced while trying to farm close to trees. There is no more fighting branches or fallen trees, or having GPS equipment blocked while farming next to them. Also hard to farm fields can be squared up.

An additional benefit is the improvement of our water quality due to the filtration of runoff pollution from crop fields running through the buffers.

Enrollment is open for the field border buffer program anytime. If you have questions or would be interested in more information call, 913-294-3751 Ext. 3, or come by the USDA Service Center at 100 Angela St. Ste. 3 in Paola.

USDA CONSERVATION PROGRAMS

The newest Conservation Program from the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP). The first ranking period closed on September 30th with Kansas receiving 778 applications. Miami County received 81 applications.

This incredible response shows that conservation-minded producers and landowners want to attain higher levels of conservation stewardship. The second ranking period for CSP has been determined to rank applications received from October 1, 2009 through January 2010.

CSP is a voluntary Program and is similar to other USDA Conservation Programs such as the Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP), Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program (WHIP) and the Wetland Reserve Program (WRP). These programs are offered under continuous signup with specific dates established to rank the applications and grant approval for funding.

Stop by the office to visit with the staff to see if one of these Programs could effectively assist you on your farm to provide financial and technical assistance to conserve and enhance your soil, water, air, and related natural resources; and voluntarily implement more conservation practices that will improve, maintain, and manage existing ones.

2009 Poster/Essay/Limerick Contest

On October 19, 2009, the Miami County Conservation District honored 30 winners from over 600 entries into our poster, essay, and limerick contest. In the past several years, we have honored our winners by giving them a Pizza Party. This year we were able to utilize some of the money we raised from our Affiliate Membership Program to have the Stone Lion Puppet Theatre come to the party. The Stone Lion Puppet Theatre is a grant-funded organization that puts on large puppet shows that are focused on the environment. The Miami County Conservation District is very proud to have the highest number of entries in the State of Kansas. I would like to commend out teachers for taking part in our education programs. Every year the Miami County Conservation District hosts the above-mentioned contests for all Miami County children. The poster contest is open to grades K thru 12, the essay contest is open to grades 5 thru 8 and the limerick contest is open to grades 3-8. The Miami County Conservation District not only hosts these contests but also is also available to go to any Miami County School that requests a program. In 2009, with the help of several neighboring counties and organizations we were able to put on two mini water festivals, one for the third grade class at Broadmoor Elementary in Louisburg and one at Louisburg Middle School for the 7th grade class. We also visited Trinity Lutheran at Block. If you would like more information about our education programs please feel free to contact Jenny Jasper at 913-294-3751.



Equipment Available:

400 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.

Miami County Conservation District
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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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Paola School District #368**

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.