

KACD Youth & Education Committee
2011 Kansas Envirothon
Submitted by: Roberta Spencer, Chair

Kansas Envirothon had an exciting and yet ever-changing year. The Kansas Envirothon committee selected Tom Meek, Clay County Conservation District Manager, as Vice-Chair. The committee set a three year term limit for the Chair position with the Vice-Chair stepping into the position. Jan Klaus, representing the Soil and Water Conservation Society, joined the Kansas Envirothon committee. Kansas Envirothon was represented at each of the KACD Area meetings providing updates to those in attendance. Roberta Spencer met with eight SE Kansas Conservation Districts/NRCS on September 20, 2011 in Iola. The meeting was a basic introduction to Kansas Envirothon. Kansas Envirothon is hosting a booth at the KACD Convention in which they will raffle off a quilt, made in part by Deb Schopper, who passed away on October 1, 2011. Deb was an active Kansas Envirothon committee member. All proceeds for the quilt going to support Kansas Envirothon activities. The Kansas Envirothon thanks KACD for providing a website used as public outreach for teams with a link to the Canon Envirothon website.

In April, 2011, two Regional Envirothon competitions were held. On April 13th, Banner Creek Reservoir in Jackson County had 26 teams competing with Rock Creek, Valley Heights, and Axtell taking the top three places. On April 20th, Council Grove Reservoir in Morris County had 12 teams competing with Wakefield, Mission Valley and White City taking the top three places. Approximately 190 students participated in the two regional meets.

The 2011 Kansas Envirothon was held May 11, 2011 at the Webster Conference Center in Salina, Kansas. Seventeen Envirothon teams competed in the Kansas Envirothon competition. High School teams included: CAPS Environmental Club, (Johnson County); Junction City (Geary County); Riley County (Riley); Mission Valley (Wabaunsee County); White City (Morris County); Wakefield (Clay County); Salina South (Saline); Linn (FFA) (Washington County); Hillsboro (FFA) (Marion County); Centralia (Nemaha County); Clay Center Community (Clay County); Holton (FFA) (Jackson County); Northern Heights (Lyon County); Rock Creek (FFA) (Pottawatomie County); Valley Heights (FFA) (Marshall County); Wathena (Doniphan County); Individual gold, silver and bronze medals were awarded to the top three places in each resource category.

Resource presenters included: Aquatics: Ely Sprenkle, Manhattan District Fisheries Biologist and assisted by Neil Waner with the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks; Forestry: Jim Strine, District Forester, Northwest District, Kansas Forest Service, Hays; Soils: Robert Murphy, Resource Soil Scientist, (NRCS), Jim McDowell, Technical Soil Services Specialist, (NRCS), Salina; Wildlife: Luke Kramer, Biologist, and assisted by Pat Reise, Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks; and Current Issue – “Fresh and Salt Water Estuaries” Pat Silovsky, Director, Milford Nature Center.

Rusty Rierson, Country Artist, from El Dorado provided the afternoon entertainment.

Sponsors for the 2011 Kansas Envirothon competition were: Canon Envirothon, KACD – Kansas Association of Conservation Districts, Sharp Brothers Seed Company, Healy; Kansas Forest Service, Feyh Farm Seed Company, Alma; KACD Auxiliary, Central National Bank, Junction City; Enel Green Power, Monsanto, Soil and Water Conservation Society and Wolf Creek Nuclear Operating Corporation.

The all-around traveling plaque and winner of the state competition was Wakefield High School. Team members included Joshua Cox, Joshua Keim, Brandi Bergmeier, AJ Reinke and Spencer Mitchell along with their advisor Elby Adamson. Emily Williams was the alternate to the Canon Envirothon competition replacing Spencer Mitchell who was reporting for military service. The team represented Kansas at the Canon Envirothon competition held July 24-29, 2011 at Mount Allison University in Sackville, New Brunswick, Canada. Fifty-four teams representing 45 U.S. states, eight Canadian provinces and one Canadian territory tested their knowledge on various environmental issues and natural resource conservation, while competing for a share of more than \$125,000 in scholarships and Canon products.