

# Conservation Profile

Volume 34 Issue 2 SHAWNEE COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT

June, 2021

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Cost-Share information and applications can also be found on our website at

[www.sccdistrict.com](http://www.sccdistrict.com)

Look under the "Financial Assistance" tab



## WE ARE OPEN FOR APPOINTMENTS ONLY!!!

In order to keep everyone safe and healthy, the Shawnee County Conservation District is open to the public by appointments only at this time. A face covering and social distancing will need to occur while you're in the building. Staff can be reached at (785) 338-9946 to schedule a visit.

## Annual Cost-Share Sign-up Begins

The Shawnee County Conservation District is taking FY-2022 Water Resources and Non-Point Source state cost-share applications June 1-18. Applications will be taken until funds are exhausted. Once applications are received, they will be prioritized within a group based on a point system designed solely for water quality. Approval will be made at the following month's board meeting assuming technical assistance is available to meet this deadline.

Projects already started or completed are *not* eligible for funding.

The cost-share for practices is funded at a portion of county average costs up to the project limit which varies upon the type of project. Funding will not exceed landowner actual cost. Some areas of the county are designated as high priority.

### **FY-2022 Water Resources Cost-Share Practices**

Erosion and Sediment Control  
Pasture and Rangeland Management  
Riparian Protection  
Terraces  
Grassed Waterways  
Ponds  
Qualified Restorations

### **FY-2022 NPS Cost-Share Practices**

Abandoned Water Well Plugging  
Failing On-Site Waste Water Systems  
Livestock Waste Systems  
Nutrient Management  
Riparian Protection  
Unpermitted Dump Site Remediation

Please call (785) 338-9946 for more details on Cost-Share programs and application details. All practices must be properly maintained for a minimum of ten years. *Funding provided by the Division of Conservation, Kansas Department of Agriculture through appropriations from the Kansas Water Plan Fund.*



**SHAWNEE COUNTY  
CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:**

|                 |            |
|-----------------|------------|
| RJ Dake         | Chair      |
| David Drimmel   | Vice-Chair |
| Francis Kelsey  | Treasurer  |
| Michael Bassett | Member     |
| Wayne Lukert    | Member     |

**District Staff:**

|                 |                     |
|-----------------|---------------------|
| Chalee Braun    | District Manager    |
| Dennis Brinkman | District Technician |

**NATURAL RESOURCES  
CONSERVATION SERVICE**

**FIELD OFFICE STAFF:**

|                |                              |
|----------------|------------------------------|
| Sara Bassett   | District Conservationist     |
| Christy Ronsse | Soil Conservation Technician |

**OFFICE HOURS:**  
8:00-4:30 M-F  
Closed Federal Holidays

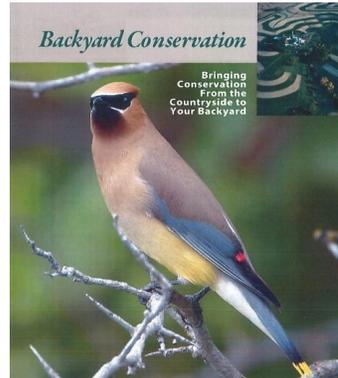
**3231 SW Van Buren Street  
Topeka, KS 66611-2469  
Office: (785) 338-9946  
Email: [sccdistrict@sccdistrict.com](mailto:sccdistrict@sccdistrict.com)**

The Conservation District Board meetings are held the first Monday of every month and are open to the public. Please call for time and location.

Conservation Profile published irregularly.

All programs and services of the SCCD are available without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, marital status, age or handicap.

# Urban Conservation



Much may be heard about “Urban Conservation” in the coming months. It’s an effort to bring to the forefront many of the conservation practices adopted in rural areas but adapting them to an urban setting.

Soil erosion in the countryside is managed with good grass cover in pastures. On cropland, terraces, waterways, reduced and no-till keeps soil erosion in check. Urban areas the parallel is, silt fences and sediment basins and surface mulches to name a few to contain sediment as construction projects proceeds. In both the countryside and urban thought is needed how to place these vital practices to make them effective.

In urban areas, the adoption of “Integrated Nutrient and Pest Management” is desired much like in rural areas. A heavy dose of fertilizer and insecticide could be done or layers of management that lessens the need for those products usually works better. In addition, the integrated approach has a significant impact in safe-guarding water quality.

So just what are some of the conservation practices, all be it on a small scale, that can be applied in an urban area? \*Mulching in gardens, landscaping or when planting grass in a new area. \*Planting trees for shade, fruit, wildlife. \*Integrated Nutrient and Pest Management involving a mixed approach to achieve goal. \*Composting to improve soil tilth and provide some or all nutrient needs in a garden. \*Developing an area filled with a variety of native, perennial and naturally reseeding flowering plants.

As conservation work in urban areas progresses the opportunity exists to educate the public about conservation opportunities and where their food comes from. Adopting natural resource practices is important. Continual maintenance of these practices is necessary to continued success.

*Dennis Brinkman...District Technician*

**WANT TO GO PAPERLESS???**

**Did you know our newsletter is on our website? If you’d rather not receive a paper copy or have the newsletter e-mailed to you—please let us know!!!**

## GOOD LAND STEWARDS!

Do you know a good steward of the land that is deserving of recognition? The District is accepting nominations for awards in the following categories: windbreak, soil conservation, grassland, buffer, wildlife habitat, water quality, water conservation and energy conservation

## What is Envirothon?

Envirothon is a natural resource education program for high school students that is organized and coordinated by Conservation Districts. The Kansas Envirothon Committee, a part of the Kansas Association of Conservation Districts (KACD) Conservation Youth and Education Committee, oversees the Envirothon activities in Kansas.

In the Envirothon competition, teams of five students work together to complete written tests in five natural resource areas; Forestry, Soils/Land Use, Aquatic Ecology, Wildlife and a Current Issue, which changes from year to year. An oral presentation related to the current issue topic is the final part of the competition. Envirothon events are held at three levels; regional, state, and the International Envirothon for winning teams from U.S. states, Canadian provinces and China. Rangeland Management is a focus at all regional events in Kansas and incorporated into the state event.

Conservation Districts work with local schools and youth organizations to help put teams together, and may provide materials and training for the students prior to the events.



Although Envirothon is traditionally an outdoor competition the 2021 Kansas Envirothon was held as a unique virtual event on April 28, 2021.

The nine team field, was bested by the group from Manhattan High School, posting a total of 487.7 points. A \$500 cash prize was awarded.

The Current Issue for this year's competition was **“Water Resource Management: Local Control, Local Solution”** and each subject area included information on their particular challenges in that area.

The team from Manhattan will participate in the National Conservation Foundation's International Virtual Envirothon, which is hosted by the Nebraska Association of Resources Districts to be held July 25-28, 2021.

More information at:

<https://kacdnet.org/kansas-envirothon/>

<https://envirothon.org/>



*Manhattan H.S. Envirothon Team*

## 2021 Kansas Grazing Lands Coalition's Adult Range Schools Announced

Learn more about rangeland management in a friendly setting with other ranchers, land managers, range management students and natural resource professionals.

You can register at [KGLC.org](http://KGLC.org) for the schools which cost \$350 per student which covers room, board and tuition for the 2 ½ day schools. Scholarships of \$175 are available for most ranchers and eligible college students while scholarships of \$125 are available for most natural resource agency personnel.

The **Mixed Grass School** is scheduled for August 10-12 at Ringneck Ranch near Tipton, KS, for directions, Google "Ringneck Ranch Pheasant Hunting".

The **Tallgrass School** is scheduled for August 24-26 at Camp Wood YMCA near Elmdale, KS.

The new **Shortgrass School** is set for September 7-9 at Camp Lakeside at Scott Lake.

The theme for all three schools this year is "**Ranching to Regenerate Rangeland**".

There will be rancher and expert panels that will talk about how to make your rangeland the best it can be so you can plan long-term for your ranch's native grasslands to be your greatest ranching asset.

Besides learning plant identification, figuring stocking rates, monitoring vegetation response, estimating forage allocation and the rest of basics needed to manage your rangeland, there will be ranchers and natural resource professionals from NRCS and other organizations talking with you about how to plan long term for whatever nature or market forces bring to your ranching enterprise and how to respond to keep your rangeland health high and your livestock productive.

We will have the final course agendas up on our website by mid-May at the latest!

For more information check out their website, [KGLC.org](http://KGLC.org) or email [barth.crouch@gmail.com](mailto:barth.crouch@gmail.com) or call 785-452-0780 **but please register before July 28th.**



### The 2021 Topeka Water Festival

Scheduled for: September 23, 2021  
Garfield Park, Topeka  
4th Grade Educational Day!



Check out the updates on the District's website at: [www.sccdistrict.com](http://www.sccdistrict.com)  
We're also on Facebook!