

MORRIS COUNTY
CONSERVATION DISTRICT

81ST ANNUAL MEETING

VIA COMMUNITY INPUT
AND BALLOT

NOT IN PERSON

SATURDAY, JANUARY 30, 2021



National Association of
Conservation Districts



116 FOX STREET, COUNCIL GROVE, KS 66846

MORRIS COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT BOARD OF SUPERVISORS & ADVISORS

Jim Parker (Chairman)	.....	White City
Chad Sanford (Vice-Chairman)	.....	White City
Brian Burhoop (Treasurer)	.....	Burdick
Kent L. Bacon (Supervisor)	.....	Four Mile
Cynthia Engle (Supervisor)	.....	Council Grove
Timothy D. Biehler (Advisor)	.....	Herington
Stephen L. Euler (Advisor)	.....	Dwight
James Jost (Advisor)	.....	Burdick
G. Dean Miller (Advisor)	.....	Delavan
Leland Parker (Advisor)	.....	Council Grove
Tisha Conard Richardson (District Manager)	.....	Wilsey
Jim Henry (Twin Lakes WRAPS Technician)	.....	Council Grove
Angela Anderson (Twin Lakes WRAPS Contractor)	.....	Allen

NRCS PERSONNEL ASSISTING THE MORRIS COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Bruce Wells	.....	Assistant State Conservationist for Area 3 Field Operations
Matt Palmquist	.....	Supervisory District Conservationist
Alex Miller	.....	District Conservationist
Carl Jarboe	.....	Soil Conservation Technician

FSA PERSONNEL

Chris McAfee	.....	County Executive Director
Carolyn Andres	.....	Program Technician
Heidi Lange	.....	Program Technician

EXTENSION PERSONNEL

Shannon Spencer	.....	Flint Hills District Extension Agent, Agriculture & Natural Resources
Erica Smith	.....	Office Professional
Shandi Andres	.....	Flint Hills Family & Consumer Sciences Agent

KANSAS DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE & PARKS

Brent Konen	.....	Public Land Manager
Jeff Rue	.....	District Wildlife Biologist

KANSAS FOREST SERVICE

Howard Freerksen	.....	District Forester
Jarran Tindle	.....	Water Quality Forester
Shane Neel	Outreach Coordinator

MORRIS COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Lisa Davies, Contractor	Sanitarian
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PROGRAM

Presiding & Call Meeting to Order.....Jim Parker
Conservation District Chairman

Approve Minutes of Last Year's Meeting & Treasurer's Report.....Jim Parker
Conservation District Chairman

Introductions and Annual Report.....Brian Burhoop
Conservation District Treasurer

Election of Supervisors.....Jim Parker
Conservation District Chairman



STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP WINNER

Introductions and Award Presentation.....Chad Sanford
Conservation District Vice-Chairman
Sponsored by Morris County Conservation District

CONSERVATION AWARDS PROGRAM

Twin Lakes WRAPS Water Quality Award Presentation.....Angela Anderson
Sponsored by Twin Lakes WRAPS



Election Report.....Tim Biehler–Chairman, Chris McAfee, Jim Henry & Shannon Spencer

Enter Adult Raffle Drawing with return of ballot
Grand Prize is a \$25 Amazon Gift Card

Sponsored by Star Seed, Inc.



MORRIS COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT 80TH ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES

JANUARY 25, 2020

The Morris County Conservation District held its 80th Annual Meeting on January 25, 2020, at the Morris County Community Center located on the Morris County Fairgrounds. Courtney Parker and Shannon Ney oversaw everyone signing the Conservation District voter register. Pens, "*Conservation Edition*" newspapers, ballots, student and adult raffle prize tickets, conservation coloring books/crayons/tattoos, and press-n-stick calendars were given away at the door. Tables were decorated with "*Where Would We BEE Without Pollinators*" placemats and litanies, District program booklets and succulent plants. Exhibits consisted of student awards, raffle prize table, Kansas Department of Wildlife Parks and Tourism Exhibit, "*Conservation Edition*" newspaper display, and 2019 activities.

Jim Parker, Chairman, welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m., and proceeded with the business session. Jim announced, "Under the provisions of Conservation District Law, each conservation district is required to hold an annual meeting to provide full disclosure of financial affairs and district activities as well as hold a public election of supervisors." Jim announced that the 2019 Annual Meeting minutes and Financial Reports were printed in the program; and asked if there were any corrections or objections. The balance in the Operations Fund as of December 31, 2019, was \$27,080.94, Savings Accounts - \$2,790.02, Petty Cash - \$43.47, Enterprise Fund was \$18,540.21 and Twin Lakes WRAPS was \$83,041.76. Brian Burhoop made a motion to accept the 2019 Annual Meeting Minutes and Financial Reports, and David Andres made a second. Motion carried.

Jim introduced Father Andy Seiler, Father for the St. Rose of Lima Catholic Church of Council Grove, who gave the invocation and litany on "*Pollinator Stewardship*." Ricky's Café of Hanover catered a delicious smothered steak/baked ham/BBQ beef brisket/BBQ meatballs meal. Approximately 180 people were served, with the Willing Workers 4-H club and the Flint Hills 4-H club members and leaders helping serve dessert, coffee, tea, and water. Jim asked for a big hand of applause for the excellent meal; thanked the banks of Morris County, contractors, suppliers and producers for their generous support to provide the meal; and thanked the two 4-H Clubs for serving the drinks and dessert.

Brian Burhoop, Supervisor and Treasurer of the Board thanked the Morris County Commissioners for their continued financial support for our efforts and made introductions. Brian stated the 2019 Annual Report was in the program booklets pages 12-14.

Jim Parker announced, "The three-year term of Chad Sanford and Brian Burhoop will expire tonight. We will now have a report from our nominating Committee chairman, Tim Biehler. To be eligible to participate in the election you must be over the age of 18 and a resident in Morris County. If you did not receive a ballot when you came in tonight, hold up your hand, and one will be brought to you." The following nominating committee: Tim Biehler, Cale Spencer and Shannon Ney; were the official ballot collectors and counters. Tim Biehler announced, "The nominating committee has met and would like to report that Chad Sanford and Brian Burhoop will accept nomination for the Conservation District Board of Supervisors." Jim Parker, Chairman, asked three times if there were any other nominations from the floor. Cynthia Engle moved, and Tim Biehler seconded that nominations cease, and no one was nominated as a write-in from the floor. Motion carried. The nominating committee collected and tallied the votes.

Tisha Conard Richardson, District Manager, thanked everyone for being there. She thanked her colleagues for their help and support to make the evening a success. She mentioned that she was glad to be a part of the district and thanked the board for the opportunity. She mentioned the joy it has been to witness such a kind and generous community. She grew up with a family who were primarily corn and wheat farmers and that positive life experience helped to cultivate a heart for producers and their livelihoods. She supports the grass roots efforts of soil and water conservation as it is the health of that foundation from which the community can thrive. She acknowledged that she has big shoes to fill with the retirement of JoBea Titus-Hutchinson after 27 ½ years. She understood the value that JoBea added by helping producers and knows that JoBea will be greatly missed. There were bright colorful wooden bee houses and soft colored bee homes constructed out of recycled tin cans that were displayed as centerpieces resting on wood slices provided by Brad Richardson. The MOCOCD

supplied succulents that were also added to the centerpiece decor. They were from Neosho Garden wrapped in colorful green and yellow cellophane paper thanks to Debbie from Flint Hills Floral. She thanked Dwight and Marilyn Andres who were present and Carl Smitheran for their tremendous donation of time and talent to designing, building and painting the functional wood bee houses in beautiful bright colors and displayed as centerpieces for the dinner tables and were available for anyone who wanted to take one home. She gave Dwight and Marilyn a bouquet of flowers as a thank you. Carl Jarboe donated the plywood used for the project. She thanked Angela Anderson for her help in creating the bee houses made from recycled tin cans and painted in a pretty light green and yellow and displayed on the tables as well. She gave a bouquet of flowers to Angela for her help and support. She thanked Courtney Parker and Shannon Ney for their help with registration and announcing the raffle winners. A bouquet was given to Courtney and one was delivered later to Shannon to say thank you. She recognized and thanked Mindy Andres with two gifts cards from the district for her talent and contribution to videotaping the interviews for each conservation award winner and being available to help photograph the event and all the student award winners. Tisha reported that there were poster, limerick, essay and coloring entries; and the winners were displayed at the front and all other entries in the back. She congratulated all the winners as well as their parents and teachers. Student award winners were recognized. Student conservation awards were presented by Cynthia Engle for Posters Grades 2-9. Brian Burhoop presented the Limericks Grades 3-8, and KACD State Limerick Certificates of Excellence Awards, and Chad Sanford presented the Essays Grades 5-8 and Coloring Grades K-1 awards. First and second place winners received trophies and certificates, with Honorable Mention winners receiving certificates and ribbons. Angela Anderson, Twin Lakes WRAPS Project Coordinator, oversaw passing out the trophies. Mindy Andres took pictures of each group in front of their awards for the local newspapers to publish. Mindy also photographed spotlights of the entire meeting. The student prize drawing was held with the assistance of Courtney Parker, Shannon Ney and Cale Spencer.

Alex Miller affirmed that there would be a Kansas range Youth Camp in 2020 and eligible participants were invited to apply for a scholarship with the district to attend. Forms could be requested by calling the district or asking him. Alex Miller announced the 2019 Grassland Award Winner – Steve Moser. A video presentation by Mindy was played, and Trent Page with Star Seed assisted Alex Miller and presented Steve Moser, with a metal sign, certificate and plaque. Mindy took pictures.

Angela Anderson gave a PowerPoint presentation of the 2019 Twin Lakes WRAPS Water Quality Award Winner to Jeff Rue, Kansas Department of Wildlife and Tourism District Wildlife Biologist. Angela presented him with an acrylic water drop plaque, metal sign, and certificate sponsored by Twin Lakes WRAPS.

Mindy Andres gave a video presentation, and Dusty Manson, the 2019 Key Banker from Citizens State Bank of Council Grove and Shannon, presented the Banker Award to Shawn and Shane Tiffany with plaques, metal sign, certificates, and a Pheasants Forever wildlife print donated by John W. Conard, Jr, Hays, Kansas. Carolyn Andres oversaw the lights.

The adult prize drawing was then held by Courtney and Shannon with the grand prize being a \$25 Council Grove Merchant's gift card.

After the awards, Tim Biehler, chairman of the nominating committee, gave the election report that Chad Sandford and Brian Burhoop were re-elected for a three-year term as supervisors. Jim Parker thanked everyone for coming out tonight and asked if there was any further business. A motion was made by Brian Burhoop to adjourn the meeting and seconded by Cynthia Engle. Motion carried, and the meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.



FINANCIAL
STATEMENTS



OPERATIONAL FUND

Balance Brought Forward January 1, 2020 \$26,752.50

RECEIPTS:

County of Morris	\$28,000.00	
State of Kansas	<u>\$22,180.21</u>	
Total Receipts	\$50,180.21	\$76,932.71

EXPENDITURES:

Accumulated Sick Leave	\$980.26
Education	\$250.00
Envirothon Expense	\$0.00
Federal Withholdings	\$11,885.03
Insurance - CNA Surety	\$669.38
KACD 76th Annual Convention	\$150.00
Kansas Withholdings	\$1,503.10
KPERS	\$6,375.58
Mileage Expense	\$1,408.98
Office Supplies	\$259.42
Postage & Delivery	\$55.00
Professional Fees - Accounting Audit	\$950.00
Salaries & Wages	\$40,500.00
Supplemental Wage	\$2,410.00
Travel | Training	\$527.85
Twin Lakes Water Festival Expenses	\$0.00
Unemployment	\$167.01
Workmen's Comp Ins.	<u>\$224.00</u>
Total Expenses	\$68,316.09

Balance on Hand December 31, 2020 \$18,707.94

SAVINGS ACCOUNT

Balances Brought Forward January 1, 2020 \$2,785.87

RECEIPTS

Interest Earned	<u>\$3.41</u>
Total Receipts	\$3.41

Balance on Hand December 31, 2020 \$2,789.28

PETTY CASH

Balances Brought Forward January 1, 2020 \$43.47

RECEIPTS:

Total Receipts	\$0.00	\$43.47
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EXPENDITURES:

Total Expenses	\$0.00
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Balance on Hand December 31, 2020 \$43.47

ENTERPRISE FUND

Balances Brought Forward January 1, 2020

\$19,029.88

RECEIPTS:

Annual Meeting	\$532.71
Cow Carpet	\$16,673.50
Drill Rent	\$2,216.80
Grass Seed	\$8,068.20
No-Till Drill Rent	\$8,455.33
Paid on Account	-\$159.00
Plaques	\$109.90
FHCQUWF | Repairs to NT-Drill	\$883.41
Sales Tax Income	\$1,447.95
Shipping	\$5.94
Trees	\$0.00
Wildlife Escape Ramps	<u>\$130.00</u>
Total Receipts	\$38,364.74

\$57,394.62

EXPENDITURES:

Advertising	\$303.04
Annual Meetintg	\$4,533.47
Cow Carpet Expense	\$9,430.00
Donation Expense	\$127.47
Dues & Subscriptions	\$1,297.00
Education	\$87.28
Field Equipment - 2014 No-Till Drill	\$2,738.47
Grass Seed	\$7,224.08
Insurance	\$510.71
Licenses and Permits	\$115.00
No-Till Drill Lease Expense	\$1,591.89
Office Supplies	\$805.84
Postage and Delivery	\$292.65
Fairground Rental	\$25.00
Repairs for Equipment	\$604.50
Shipping	\$3,156.11
Supervisor's Meetings	\$811.58
Travel	\$342.46
Trees	\$550.00
Wildlife Escape Ramps	\$268.80
Workshop	<u>\$21.00</u>
Total Expenses	\$34,836.35

Balance on Hand December 31, 2020

\$23,012.27

Open Invoices - 12/31/2020

\$133.20

TWIN LAKES WRAPS FUND

Balances Brought Forward January 1, 2020

\$80,898.88

RECEIPTS:

KDHE - 319 EPA Grant	\$100,352.00
Twin Lakes WRAPS Grant	\$15,000.00
County of Morris | Twin Lakes Water Festival	\$500.00
Rain Barrels	<u>\$150.00</u>
Total Receipts	\$116,002.00

\$196,900.88

EXPENDITURES:

Contractual Services

2017 BMP's	\$1,900.00
2019 BMP's	\$2,800.00
2020 BMP's	\$15,333.56
2017 RCPP's	\$142.81

Coordination Fringe

Unemployment	\$18.44
Worker's Comp Insurance	\$181.00
Commercial Auto Insurance	\$232.00

FTE

KPERS	\$4,898.07
Payroll	\$46,698.71
Federal Withholdings	\$11,943.88
Kansas Withholdings	\$1,460.40

Other

Building Rental	\$150.00
Meals	\$299.52
Professional Development	\$0.00
Registration	\$130.00

Supplies

Advertising & Promotion	\$61.00
Education Activity	\$10.47
Office Supplies	\$437.71
Postage & Delivery	\$125.00
Printing & Reproduction	\$0.00
SLT Meetings	\$169.16
Twin Lakes Water Festival	\$0.00
Workshop Supplies	\$0.00

Travel Expense

Mileage	\$582.54
Toll Changes	<u>\$10.35</u>

Total Expenses **\$87,584.62**

Balance on Hand December 31, 2019

\$113,486.86

2020 GOVERNOR'S CONSERVATION DISTRICT SERVICE AWARD

*Morris County Conservation District Board
1940-2020*



FRONT ROW:
Jimmy Parker, *Chair*
Cynthia Engle, *Supervisor*
(right to left)

BACK ROW:
Chad Sanford, *Vice-Chairperson*
Brian Burhoop, *Treasurer*
Kent Bacon, *Supervisor*
(left to right)

The Kansas Department of Agriculture, Division of Conservation (DOC) announced Morris County Conservation District Service as one of the five recipients of the Governor's Conservation District Service Award at the virtual KACD 76th Annual Meeting in November 2020. The District submitted accomplishments and practices from the year showcasing their note-worthy accomplishments and photos supporting their dedication to conservation. This recognition program was officially adopted by the State Conservation Commission (SCC) in 2006. Districts are chosen from each area on an alphabetical rotational basis to be recognized at the KACD Annual Convention with a plaque signed by the Governor recognizing the district's commitment to conservation.

USDA SERVICE CENTER STAFF
Morris County Conservation District & Partners



TISHA CONARD RICHARDSON
District Manager



ALEX MILLER
NRCS District Conservationist



CARL JARBOE
NRCS Soil Technician



JEFF RUE
*Kansas Department
Wildlife Parks & Tourism
District Wildlife Biologist*



JIM HENRY
*District Soil and Twin Lakes
WRAPS Technician*

USDA SERVICE CENTER STAFF & PARTNERS
Farm Service Agency (FSA)



HEIDI LANGE
Program Technician

CHRIS MCAFEE
County Executive Director (CED)

CAROLYN ANDRES
Program Technician
(left to right)



**FORMER TWIN LAKES
WRAPS COORDINATOR**
*now with Kansas Water Office (KWO)
as a Water Resource Planner*



SHANNON SPENCER
*Flint Hills District Extension Agent
Agriculture & Natural Resources/4-H
Youth Development Agent*

MORRIS COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Welcome!

Matt Palmquist, Supervisory District Conservationist

NRCS recently hired a new supervisory District Conservationist (SDC) for the Emporia management unit which includes Morris, Osage, Lyon and Chase counties. Matt Palmquist was selected as the SDC in the Emporia field office and started at the end of November. Matt has worked for NRCS since 2002 in multiple locations across Kansas, most recently as the SDC for the Hoxie management unit in Northwest Kansas. Matt grew up on a small farm west of Lindsborg before graduating college from Fort Hays State with his degree in Wildlife Biology. Matt, wife Jerri, and their two daughters, Ellie and Annie, made the transition from west to east to be closer to family. They found a home on the outskirts of Council Grove and are excited to explore the flint hills and be a part of the community!



KENT BACON
District Board Supervisor
2003-2020



Our very own, Kent Bacon, long-time District Supervisor since 2003 received the very prestigious and honor of “*Supervisor of the Year*”! This was a well deserving and fitting award as he has been a supervisor for the CD for seventeen years and an advocate for keeping conservation on the ground throughout his life.

“He held the office of Treasurer

on the board for most of those years overseeing monthly expenditures and deposits making sure everything balanced, plus keeping a close eye on the yearly budget. Some accomplishments during his tenure: started the Fourth Grade Conservation Tour, implemented the Twin Lakes WRAPS Project in 2003, assisted with the Twin Lakes Water Festival every year, began the Buffer program in 2003, implemented the NPS plan in 1994, judged the limerick contest every year having some State winners, and is still serving on the Neosho Regional Advisory Committee. One of the most prestigious landmarks was in 2003 when the CD was the recipient of the Governor’s Recognition of Water Quality Improvement Award that was presented at the KACD convention. Kent and his wife Rose own and manage the RK Cattle Company in the Four-Mile community. They have organized numerous tours of their farm, received the Grassland Award in 2000, and are in a documentary film at the Discovery Center in Manhattan depicting best management practices on their ranch. Your wisdom, your kindness, your contributions of time and talent will always be remembered. Your commitment and dedication helped keep conservation practices on the ground for the producers of Morris County.” (JoBea Titus-Hutchinson, *Morris County Conservation District Manager 1992-2019*)



*Thank you for your seventeen years of service to the
Morris County Conservation District!*

Happy Retirement!

CYNTHIA ENGLE
District Board Supervisor
2009-2020



Your smile, your laughter around the table, your contributions of time and talent will always be remembered. Your commitment helped keep conservation practices on the ground for the producers of Morris County.

*Thank you for your eleven years of service to the
Morris County Conservation District!*

Happy Retirement!



ANNUAL REPORT *MORRIS COUNTY 2020*

The Morris County Conservation District held its 80th Annual Meeting on January 25, 2020, at the Morris County Community Center located on the Morris County Fairgrounds. Courtney Parker and Shannon Ney welcomed everyone as they entered the door and oversaw everyone signing the Conservation District voter register. Pens, "Conservation Edition" newspapers, ballots, student and adult raffle prize tickets, conservation coloring books/crayons/tattoos, and press-n-stick calendars were given away at the door. Tables were decorated with "Where Would We BEE Without Pollinators" placemats and litanies, District program booklets, succulent plants and handcrafted bee homes. Exhibits consisted of student awards, raffle prize table, Kansas Department of Wildlife Parks and Tourism Exhibit, "Conservation Edition" newspaper display, and 2019 activities.

Tisha Conard Richardson, District Manager, organized the winners' awards displayed at the front and all other entries in the back and the annual meeting. She thanked everyone for being there. She thanked her colleagues for their help and support to make the evening a success. She mentioned that she was glad to be a part of the district and thanked the board for the opportunity. She mentioned the joy it has been to witness such a kind and generous community. She grew up with a family who were primarily corn and wheat farmers and that positive life experience helped to cultivate a heart for producers and their livelihoods. She supports the grass roots efforts of soil and water conservation as it is the health of that foundation from which the community can thrive. She acknowledged that she has big shoes to fill with the retirement of JoBea Titus-Hutchinson after 27 ½ years. She understood the value that JoBea added by helping producers and knows that JoBea will be greatly missed. Her hope is to generate that level of trust and support for producers. There were bright colorful wooden bee houses and soft colored bee homes constructed out of recycled tin cans that were displayed as centerpieces resting on wood slices provided by Brad Richardson. The MOCOCD supplied succulents that were also added to the centerpiece decor. They were from Neosho Garden wrapped in colorful green and yellow cellophane paper thanks to Debbie Meierhoff from Flint Hills Floral. She thanked Dwight and Marylin Andres who were present and Carl Smitheran for their tremendous donation of time and talent to designing, building and painting the functional wood bee houses in beautiful bright colors and displayed as centerpieces for the dinner tables and were available for anyone who wanted to take one home. She gave Dwight and Marylin a bouquet of flowers as a thank you. Carl Jarboe donated the plywood used for the project. She thanked Angela Anderson for her help in creating the bee houses made from recycled tin cans and painted in a pretty light green and yellow and displayed on the tables as well. She gave a bouquet of flowers to Angela for her help and support. She thanked Courtney Parker and Shannon Ney for their help with registration and announcing the raffle winners. A bouquet was given to Courtney and one was delivered later to Shannon to say thank you. She recognized and thanked Mindy Andres with two gifts cards from the district for her talent and contribution to videotaping the interviews for each conservation award winner and being available to help photograph the event and all the student award winners.

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in the front. She congratulated all the winners as well as their parents and teachers for their contributions to the students' academic success. Student award winners were recognized. Student conservation awards were presented by Cynthia Engle for Posters Grades 2-9. Brian Burhoop presented the Limericks Grades 3-8, and Kansas Association of Conservation Districts (KACD) State Limerick Certificates of Excellence Awards, and Chad Sanford presented the Essays Grades 5-8 and Coloring Grades K-1 awards. First and second place winners received trophies and certificates, with Honorable Mention winners receiving certificates and ribbons. Angela Anderson, Twin Lakes WRAPS Project Coordinator, oversaw passing out the trophies. Mindy Andres took pictures of each group in front of their awards for the local newspapers to publish. Mindy also photographed spotlights of the entire meeting. The student prize drawing was held with the assistance of Courtney Parker, Shannon Ney and Cale Spencer.

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The adult prize drawing was then held by Courtney and Shannon with the grand prize being a \$25 Council Grove Merchant's gift card.

The District is locally organized, and a self-governing body of the Kansas Department of Agriculture's (KDA) Division of Conservation (DOC). The District has their meetings on the third Tuesday of each month. Scheduled meetings are published in the newspaper's social calendar, with the public being invited. Others in attendance at the meetings are: NRCS personnel, Farm Service Agency (FSA)'s County Executive Director, the County Extension Director, NRCS Supervisory District Conservationist from Emporia, and WRAPS Technician and former Coordinator. During these meetings, the Annual Work Plan of the CD is reviewed to see if it is continuing to meet the needs of the people of Morris County, and is continuing to address "Conservation" in needed areas. The CD's primary goal is to protect and improve the county's natural resources by encouraging volunteer cooperation of landowners and the general public through information and education. The function of the CD is to take available technical, financial, and educational resources, whatever their source, and focus or coordinate them so that they meet the needs of the local land user for conservation of soil, water, and related resources.

Financial support to the District's Operations Fund was provided by the Morris County Commissioners for a total of \$28,000.00 for the year 2020. The District will receive \$1,000 less in 2021 for a total of \$27,000. The District was not a recipient of one of the grants given to local business due to COVID-19 as a gesture of good will from the Morris County Commissioners. The MOCOCC contributed \$500 to Twin Lakes WRAPS. Additional

income sources came from the State of Kansas \$147.74 less than last year for a total of \$22,180.21, plus an additional \$15,000.00 for administrating the Twin Lakes WRAPS grant. The \$15,000 for administrating the Twin Lakes WRAPS grant is used to pay the WRAPS technician.

KDA-DOC and NRCS offered scholarships for landowners/supervisors to attend the No-till On the Plains Winter Conference in Wichita at the end of January. Tisha Conard Richardson, the District Manager (DM), attended and gain a lot of insight and enjoyed networking. She also attended the Tallgrass Range School in Elmdale, Kansas August 18-20, 2020. Both conferences were exceptional experiences!

The annual conservation contractors' steak appreciation dinner for the Management Unit area contractors was held March 4th at the North Lyon County Community Center in Allen, Kansas for Morris, Chase and Lyon County contractors. Brian Severin, NRCS Agricultural Area 3 Engineer, updated contractors on conservation design and check-outs on new practices/specifications for conservation work. This allows for conversations regarding upcoming projects, project funding and general Best Management Practices (BMPs) to take place in a casual setting. This event will, hopefully, be repeated once Covid-19 is in remission in Morris County at a location yet to be determined in Council Grove treating contractors to a supper.

The CD and WRAPS partnered with NRCS to host a Hagie/Montag Interseeder experiment. This was part of a pilot initiative by KDHE in partnership with the KWO, the MOCOCD and WRAPS. Three producers in the Twin Lakes Watershed volunteered their land to plant a total of 550 acres of cover crops into their standing corn crop on August 18-19, 2020. The cover crops ranged from: radishes, turnips, cereal rye, oats, legumes and grasses (or all of the above) with the goal of soil health, water retention and less or no erosion. Pictures were taken at various stages of the experiment so that education and workshops surrounding the planting can be in the works as a future topic of discussion. Mindy, a local video photographer, took aerial pictures and video recorded the process. A self-guided tour is planned for 2021 highlighting cover crops and a grassed waterway and depicting the benefits of these practices and how they relate to conservation and more importantly, demonstrate BMP's and explain the importance of clean water. This self-guided tour will allow people passing by to stop and with the use of their phone, scan a QR code generated by the DM and located on displayed signage. The QR code will link the phone to a pre-recorded message discussing the particular BMP shown in that field.

Tisha Conard Richardson, DM, and Angela Anderson, WRAPS Contractor, attended a couple of different conferences including the 76th Annual KACD Virtual Convention November 22-24th. The CD was recognized for being a maximum club member and was awarded the 2020 Governor's Conservation District Award. This year's theme was "Sustainability for the Future with Innovative Conservation". It was at this event our very own Kent Bacon, long-time District Supervisor since 2003 received the very prestigious and honor of "Supervisor of the Year"! This was a well deserving and fitting award as he has been a supervisor for the CD for seventeen years and an advocate for keeping conservation on the ground throughout his life. He held the office of Treasurer on the board for most of those years overseeing monthly expenditures and deposits making sure everything balanced, plus keeping a close eye on the yearly budget. Some accomplishments during his tenure: started the Fourth Grade Conservation Tour, implemented the Twin Lakes WRAPS Project in 2003, assisted with the Twin Lakes Water Festival every year, began the Buffer program in 2003, implemented the NPS plan in 1994, judged the limerick contest every year having some State winners, and is still serving on the Neosho Regional

Advisory Committee. One of the most prestigious landmarks was in 2003 when the CD was the recipient of the Governor's Recognition of Water Quality Improvement Award that was presented at the KACD convention. Kent and his wife Rose own and manage the RK Cattle Company in the Four-Mile community. They have organized numerous tours of their farm, received the Grassland Award in 2000, and are in a documentary film at the Discovery Center in Manhattan depicting best management practices on their ranch. The Conservation Education & Youth Committee awarded Honorable Mention Certificates to four Morris County students at The 76th Annual KACD Virtual Convention. The 2020 State "Where Would We BEE Without Pollinators" Contest Winners included the following four entries submitted by the Morris County Conservation District: Posters: Honorable Mention Grades 2-3, Kasey Wilson; Honorable Mention Grades 4-6, Valeria Soria; Honorable Mention Grades 7-9, Arianna Tillery and Essays: Honorable Mention Grades 5-8, Finn Gant. The CD was of Tisha, Angela and Jim attended the virtual Governor's Conference November 9-10, 2020 for the Future of Water in Kansas.

This would have been the eleventh year that Morris County had an Envirothon team from White City and CGHS's eighth year to participate, however, the Regional contest scheduled for Camp White and the State of Kansas Envirothon scheduled at Camp Wood YMCA in Elmdale, Kansas were canceled due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Students though were encouraged to prepare for next year's competition to test their knowledge in six natural resource areas: soils and land use, aquatic ecology, forestry, wildlife, oral presentations, and a current environmental issue that changes each year. The current issue for the 2020 competition was "Water Resource Management: Local Control and Local Solutions".

The CD gave away; 50 Fragrant Sumac shrubs, 100 Choke Cherry, 200 Bare-Root Eastern Red cedar trees, 75 Golden Currant and 100 Bare-Root American Plum trees in recognition of Earth Day April 22nd. The trees were for wildlife habitat and windbreaks. The local Flint Hills Quail & Upland Wildlife Federation Chapter (FHQUWF) Banquet was scheduled for March was canceled due to the Covid-19 pandemic and as a result was unable to contribute to the purchase of the tree giveaways. FHQUWF did pay a portion of the repairs towards the NT-drill to keep it in good working order for local producers to use. The Kansas Range Youth Camp 2020 was scheduled for June 23-26 at Camp Mennoscah, Kingman County. Alex Timm and Mark Andres local high school students were sponsored by the CD up to \$250 respectively to attend, however, the camp was canceled due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

The annual stewardship program theme for 2021 is "Healthy Forests = Healthy Communities." The CD was unable to present to the Council Grove Elementary (CGES) or to the White City Elementary School (WCES) due to the Covid-19, therefore, the annual coloring, poster, limerick and essay contest was averted. Instead, the information from the National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) website will be shared with the schools via email to teachers in time for the 2021 Stewardship Week scheduled for April 25-May 2, 2021.

The CD has continued to maintain its own website which was launched in March of 2008. The District informs landowners of items coming up, programs that are available for cost-share, and promotes educational classes and camps funded by the CD through their website daily. Use of this site is available 24/7. If you haven't already surfed us on the net, here is our website address: www.morriscountyconservationdistrict.com. Facebook – <https://www.facebook.com/MorrisCountyConservationDistrict> was added seven years ago with the CD having its own page to keep everyone current with upcoming events and issues.

The CD did not receive any applications in 2019 to be awarded at the 2020 Annual

Meeting for the \$500 high school scholarship. This scholarship targeted for high school seniors pursuing a degree in natural resources. Normally, this scholarship would be presented to the award winner at the High School Awards Assembly in May. The hope is to receive applications for this scholarship for an award winner next year.

The CD partners with the (KDWPT) District Wildlife Biologist, Jeff Rue, works together with FSA and NRCS and through their funding sources he was able to add \$16,216.52 to the area since 2017. NRCS was able to help producers in 2019 with their various programs in Morris County in the amount of \$323,758. FSA is a tremendous help to producers through their programs that totaled around \$5,275,984.56 for 2019-2020. This number does not include the amount for the CFAP2 program that helped 475 producers. That number was unavailable at the time of this report.

The CD is pleased to be a part of the protection of cropland and grasslands by using the WRCSP, funded through the KDA-DOC. The District has a 70% cost-share. The KDA-DOC approved targeting State cost-share funds in both Water Resource (WR) and Nonpoint Source (NPS) programs in Kansas for FY 2020 that began July 1, 2019. The CD received funding this year with an allocation of \$14,497 from the State for Nonpoint Source (NPS) projects and \$20,923 for Water Resource (WR) projects; plus, an additional \$13,028.74 for the Clarks Creek high-priority watershed and \$40,000 for the Twin Lakes TMDL high-priority watershed for streambank stabilization projects. These funds are used to help landowners build terraces, waterways, diversions, and to do range seedings and spring developments. Other practices implemented are abandoned water wells, livestock waste system projects and alternative watering systems to entice livestock away from streams, etc.

Eligible practices to reduce siltation, phosphorus and nutrients were funded for projects in the Clarks Creek WRAPS initiative TMDL high-priority watershed for cover crops, critical area planting, pasture and rangeland management, riparian area protection and wetland enhancement and restoration. This watershed was targeted due to the cooperation between KDHE, KACD and CDs as KDHE filters its WRAPS Project Coordinator initiatives to Conservation District Managers for a fraction of the cost because the EPA 319 Grants will not be renewed. This risks WRAPS initiatives not being integrated due to the lack of funding to CDs from KDHE and KACD per their agreement. Many producers in the WRAPS watersheds will go without assistance as a result.

Questions or concerns can be directed as published in the Kansas Grain Sorghum Producers Association Facebook page on January 9, 2021 at 11:09am, <https://www.cjonline.com>, "The Kansas State House of Representatives new Committee on Water for the 2021 legislative session. This committee is charged with finding solutions on the state's water issues, with particular focus on ag and rural economies. It replaces the Rural Revitalization Committee, a body created last term to provide a crucial roadmap for the House on vital rural issues. The Chair of this committee is Ron Highland, Wamego and the Vice Chair is Boyd Orr, Fowler." Ron Highland's contact information can be found at: http://www.kslegislature.org/li_2018/b2017_18/members/rep_highland_ron_1/. Please let him know concerns with lack of funding for watersheds as this will ultimately affect the community where you live. Those dollars helped to keep conservation on the ground through producers and contractors which then stimulates your local economy through businesses and provides jobs and income. Help us conserve our valuable soil and water resources to make Morris County a better place to live!

The Twin Lakes WRAPS Project is currently in its nineteenth year of implementation, and Angela Anderson served as the Coordinator until July of 2020. This project, funded through KDHE and EPA 319 funds, focuses on the protection and restoration of the

watershed that drains into Council Grove's Twin Lakes and Neosho area. The Twin Lakes WRAPS is a locally driven project with a project management team made up of local individuals and watershed stakeholders. The Twin Lakes WRAPS Stakeholder's Leadership Team (SLT) usually holds quarterly meetings, however, due to Covid-19, only two meetings were held on April 30 and July 28th. The SLT voted to make the CD their new sponsoring organization July 1, 2013. This WRAPS Project has a major goal of educating and informing the public about water quality issues in the watershed and is working towards accomplishing this goal through cost-share funds, landowner technical assistance, various meetings, field days, speaking engagements, and school presentations.

The Twin Lakes Water Festival normally held was canceled due to the Covid-19 pandemic. The water festival is usually held at Canning Creek Cove at Council Grove Lake for fourth grade students. The CD and Twin Lakes WRAPS work closely together with high-priority landowners to get Best Management Practices (BMP's) on the ground complimenting each other's cost-share programs for Morris County. Practices targeted to implement were portable watering facilities, well plugging, grass planting, waterways, terraces & riparian tree planting. KDHE will not be renewing the Twin Lakes WRAPS EPA 319 Grant after FY 2022. Rather in 2020 the original grant of \$450,000 was amended to the award of \$226,851. The Twin Lakes WRAPS Coordinator, Angela Anderson, took a job at the Kansas Water Office as a Water Resource Planner and after discussions with KDHE, transitioned the position from a full-time coordinator to a two-day a week technician only. Instead of hiring another WRAPS Coordinator to fill the position for the Twin Lakes WRAPS Watershed, KDHE renewed the agreement with the CD's part-time soil technician as their part-time WRAPS technician. For more information about WRAPS, visit www.kswraps.org or call 620-767-5111 ext. 108 for Jim Henry.

The District and the local FHQUWF purchased a new 2014 Great Plains No-Till drill from KanEquip in Herington in April of 2014 to lease out to Morris County producers. Approximately 950 acres were no-till with this drill in 2020, 2,656 acres in 2019, 815 in 2018, 736 in 2017, 609 acres in 2016, 583 acres in 2015, 687 acres were no-tilled in 2014, 1,225 acres in 2013, 2,800 in 2012, 600 acres in 2011, 1,115 acres in 2010, 660 acres in 2009, 1,250 in 2008, 1,902 in 2007, 2,186 in 2006, 2,340 in 2005, 1,457 in 2004, 1,343 acres in 2003, 1,487 acres in 2002, 1,460 in 2001, 1,160 in 2000, 1,200 acres in 1999, and 1,800 in 1998. The CD also has two grass drills for rent and there was a total of approximately 345 acres planted in 2020. The CD also sells Heavy Use Cow Carpet geotextile matting, grass seed, marking flags, trees and wildlife escape ramps. The CD has a Soil Probe and a measuring wheel that can be used by anyone at no charge.

The CD works with the Clarks Creek, Rock Creek and Diamond Creek Watersheds. In addition, the CD also supports NACD, KACD, State Association of Kansas Watersheds, Morris County's 4- H Foundation, KFAC, KACEE, Kansas Land Improvement Contractors Association, and the FHQUWF. The District works closely with the Extension Service, KFS, Morris County Commissioners, City of Council Grove, NRCS, FSA, the RLRLEPP, KAWS, KDHE, Morris County Health Department, Morris County Farm Bureau Association, KDWPT, USD 417, and USD 481. The CD looks forward to contributing its time and talent in 2021 to help plan and administer conservation activities in Morris County through voluntary action and cooperation of local landowners and agencies to promote the Conservation Effort of our natural resources.



MORRIS COUNTY NRCS PROGRAMS

The total amount in 2019 was \$323,758.

Having the Conservation District active has helped leverage payments for 56 participants. Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) - 37 participants have received \$203,790 to install and carry out conservation practices.

- Many of these practices have helped keep sediment from leaving the fields and plugging ditches and water courses.
- Range Management practices have helped restore the land base that is important to the Morris County economy.

Regional Conservation Partnership Program-EQIP (RCPP-EQIP) - 6 participants received \$23,372 to restore riparian areas that restore the integrity of Morris County streams.

Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) - 4 Participants received a total of \$89,488 as part of a long-term whole farm conservation system.

CSP-Grassland Conservation Initiative - 9 Participants received a total of \$7,108. This program is for participants who no longer have direct payments on cropland planted back to grass.

The total amount in 2020 was \$838,181.91.

- 31 contracts
- \$731,041.34 | Obligated
- \$107,140.57 | Payments
- 7,264 Acres of new contract acres

2019-2020 MORRIS COUNTY FSA PROGRAMS

WHIP + Drought Loss <i>(Currently enrolling, no end date yet)</i>	\$2,004,294.00
Annual ARC Program	\$126,121.00
Annual PLC Program	\$701,393.00
Livestock Indemnity Payments | Loss in the Cold	\$129,720.00
CARES ACT <i>(Ongoing COVID-19 Relief-End Date August 2020)</i>	\$1,555,830.56

MORRIS COUNTY FSA & NRCS OFFICE SHARED PROGRAMS

CRP General Contracts | 84 Contracts | 3,120.03 Acres	\$162,884
CRP Continuous Contracts | 90 Contracts | 709.25 Acres	\$212,640
Grasslands | 2 Contracts | 199.42 Acres	\$3,789
TOTALS: 176 Contracts | 4,028.70 Acres	\$379,313

THE CONSERVATION EDUCATION & YOUTH COMMITTEE
AWARDED THE 2020 STATE WINNERS IN THE

“Where Would We BEE Without Pollinators” Contest



The Conservation Education & Youth Committee awarded Honorable Mention Certificates to four Morris County students at The 76th Annual KACD Virtual Convention. The 2020 State "Where Would We BEE Without Pollinators" Contest Winners included the following four entries submitted by the Morris County Conservation District: Posters: Honorable Mention Grades 2-3, Kasey Wilson; Honorable Mention Grades 4-6, Valeria Soria; Honorable Mention Grades 7-9, Arianna Tillery and Essays: Honorable Mention Grades 5-8, Finn Gant.

Buffering for Conservation

*Twin Lakes WRAPS
2020 Water Quality
Award Winner*

Lately, the world has found itself surrounded by extraordinary people doing what comes naturally to them for the sake of doing what is right. The Twin Lakes Watershed has numerous individuals that fit that description and this year's Twin Lakes WRAPS Water Quality Award winner is one.

Though the Morris County Conservation District Annual Meeting will have a very different feel to it this year, the Twin Lakes Stakeholder Leadership Team felt that outstanding conservation partners are still doing great work for our water and should be recognized.

If you will think back to last year's Twin Lakes WRAPS Water Quality award winner, Jeff Rue with Kansas Department of Wildlife Parks & Tourism, was in the middle of an experiment focused on the establishment of native buffers with incidental grazing occurrences. The experiment could potentially have an impact on establishment rules and guidelines of buffers as we currently know it. This year's award winner is the owner of that land: Earl Robinson.



Farming and conservation definitely comes naturally to Earl Robinson. Earl has been farming since he could run a tractor, even though that meant standing full weight on the clutch. Earl remembers first running the family combine, with no power steering, when he was in first grade. His father, Paul Robinson, started dairy farming in 1952 with two-quarter tracts and renting a half section of land. They planted a little over 100 acres of milo and about 50 acres of alfalfa, which was just enough to feed the dairy cows for a year. At one point in the family's history, they were farming over 1,000 acres and were even the recipient of the 1988 Banker Award!

In 1973, Earl started farming on his own and has since seen about 60 harvests. In 1976, he started farming soybeans in addition to the milo, wheat, and alfalfa he grew. Currently, Earl farms about 500 acres and still has a few dairy and stocker cattle.



**CONSERVATION
BANKER AWARD WIN-
NER**

Mr. and Mrs. Paul Robinson reside on a farm north of Wilsey. They farm in association with son Earl and his family. Paul Robinson first began using conservation practices in 1938. He has completed work on 640 acres that includes 20,800 linear feet of terraces and 4.5 acres of grassed waterways.

When asked about the buffer project, Earl states, "It's still there! In the winter of 2017-2018, the buffers were planted. The hope for the research project is for there to be no difference in the productivity of the buffer after incidental grazing during the establishment and dormancy period for the grass & forbs. If Jeff's hypothesis proves true, then the ultimate step would be getting a change of Farm Service Agency's Conservation Reserve Program rules regarding grazing and establishment period. A change could ultimately result in increased participation. Buffers are important in the landscape as they are often in marginally productive areas of fields. They trap sediment and nutrients as water comes off those fields before entering the rivers & streams.

The research project is currently in year four of five. A lot has already tested this project. The buffers have been through drought, escaped neighbor's fire, had some planned incidental grazing plus some extra grazing due to escaped cattle. There was also above normal precipitation, to the point that some of the buffers were three to five feet under water. In regards to the unplanned, extra cattle grazing, Earl says that even though the grass was grazed down to the ground pretty hard, the native grass quickly re-established with very few weeds; one can hardly see the difference.





Earl and Jeff Rue checking out the buffer test plot enclosures.

Over the years, Earl has implemented several conservation practices. Just recently, he partnered with the Morris County Conservation District and Twin Lakes WRAPS, with technical assistance from the Natural Resources Conservation Service, to build five waterways and some terraces. He is also currently working with those three groups and the Kansas Forest Service in hopes of saving his land from streambank issues. In addition to all of that, Earl is working through the Kansas Dept. Wildlife Parks & Tourism’s Habitat First Program to remove trees from his pastures to improve the rangeland and habitat for wildlife.

After farming for as many years as he has, Earl’s farming lessons come down to two in particular:

1. Try to keep everything, like soil, in place and “hang onto every drop of water you can because this is Kansas!”;
2. Look at the neighbors. If they are doing something that looks good—try it! It’s always best to start small and try something for at least a couple of years before implementing it on everything.





Earl's agreeable nature to participate in conservation practices, especially the buffer experiment does not go unnoticed. "Earl is gracious to allow us to conduct research on his property. He is taking certain areas out of production WITHOUT financial incentive or rent payment to do something that could potentially help the quality of water in the Council Grove Reservoir", exclaims Jeff Rue. "He is great to work with and is flexible." Earl knows there are times when the cows have to come off the field to allow Jeff to get necessary research measurements and he is quick & willing to cooperate.

Earl is no stranger to the concept of working for the betterment of others.

Earl's wife of 48 years, Helen, is a "retired" special education teacher. She has degrees from Emporia State University and Kansas State University and has taken classes from Pittsburg State University, Wichita State University and Illinois College. The two have three children, Gwen, Terri, and Michael, and three grandchildren.

Earl is also a Navy Veteran having spent time in the Philippines, Vietnam, Greenland, Iceland, Japan, Guam, and Hawaii. To that point, the Twin Lakes WRAPS not only thanks him for all he has done to help improve water quality in the watershed, but also what he has done for our country and our freedom!

Thank you, Earl!



TWIN LAKES WRAPS 2020 ANNUAL REPORT

Adaptability.

That is the word to sufficiently sum up 2020 for Twin Lakes WRAPS.

Even though a lot happened in the world during 2020, a lot was at a standstill for Twin Lakes WRAPS. The main items of note for the program was the transition of its coordinator, Angela Anderson, to going to a contract position as she accepted a position as Water Resource Planner for the Kansas Water Office. She truly enjoyed her time as the WRAPS Coordinator, meeting residents, providing education programs, and working with individuals for the health of the water going into the Council Grove Reservoir. Now, she greatly looks forward to any reason to visit the watershed to talk with those she got to know during her nine years. Jim Henry, as WRAPS technician, has taken a larger role in keeping the WRAPS program going for the area. Other than adapting to those changes, Tisha covered the other big event in the Morris Conservation District Annual report – the Hagie-Montag Interseeder came to the area!



We are extremely excited by this technology as a way to plant cover crops. The success that was seen only strengthens our enthusiasm for this additional tool in making sure there is always a living root growing and protecting our precious resource – soil!



SURVEY/NOMINATION FOR OUTSTANDING MORRIS COUNTY PRODUCERS

Do you know of someone that you would like to see recognized for their outstanding efforts to conserve our natural resources in Morris County? Please look over the following categories and submit this nomination for the 2021 Nominating Committee to look for outstanding producers to recognize in Morris County at 2022 Morris County Conservation District's 82nd Annual Meeting!

Banker Award Nomination _____

The purpose of this award is to stimulate a greater interest in the conservation of the Kansas natural resources by giving recognition to those farmers and ranchers who have made outstanding progress in the development of a complete soil conservation plan and implementation of that plan on their farms in accordance with the capability of the land.

Rising Farmer/Rancher Award Nomination _____

The purpose of this award is to stimulate a greater interest by younger farmers and ranchers (under the age of 35) in the conservation of the Kansas natural resources by giving recognition to those who have made outstanding progress in the development of a complete soil conservation plan and implementation of that plan on their farms in accordance with the capability of the land.

Windbreak Award Nomination _____

The purpose of this program is to stimulate a greater interest in windbreaks in Kansas by giving recognition to landowners who have made outstanding progress in the establishment and management of windbreaks.

Wildlife Award Nomination _____

The purpose of this program is to stimulate a greater interest in fish and wildlife habitat management in Kansas by giving recognition to landowners who have made outstanding progress in the development and stewardship of fish and wildlife resources.

Pollinator Award Nomination _____

The purpose of this program is to stimulate a greater interest in pollinator habitat management in Kansas by giving recognition to landowners who have made outstanding progress in the development and stewardship of pollinator resources.

Water Quality Award Nomination _____

The purpose of this program is to stimulate a greater interest in the protection of the water resources of Kansas by giving recognition to those farmers and ranchers who have taken measures to improve and protect water quality on their farms and ranches.

Buffer Award Nomination _____

The purpose of this program is to stimulate a greater interest in filter and buffer strips in Kansas by giving recognition to landowners who have planted and maintained outstanding progress in the establishment and management of filter and buffer strips.

Grassland Award Nomination _____

The purpose of this program is to stimulate a greater interest in grassland improvement in Kansas by giving recognition to landowners who have made outstanding progress in the management and good stocking rates of grasslands.

This nomination can be anonymous! Please just give a name and small reason why you believe he/she is worthy of the nomination. You can mail it in with no return address to 116 Fox Street - Council Grove, KS 66846, email to tisha.richardson@ks.nacdn.net, submitted on our website www.morriscountyconservationdistrict.com or Facebook www.facebook.com/MorrisCountyConservationDistrict.

EXAMPLES OF PRACTICES IN MORRIS COUNTY

HAIGE MONTAG INTERSEEDER



- Planted a variety of cover crops into standing corn as a part of a pilot initiative by KDHE in partnership with the KWO and Morris County Conservation District.
- This initiative allowed producers to pick their choice of cover crops ranging from: radishes, turnips, cereal rye, oats, legumes and grasses (or all of the above) with the goal of soil health, water retention and less or no erosion.

HAIGE PLANTED COVER CROP



This is a picture of the cover crop that is growing in the standing corn ready to protect the ground once the corn is harvested. This initiative was to encourage producers to see the positive results and benefits of soil health in the making.

CAFO PROJECT

- Cattle Area Feeding Operation
- This was a huge livestock waste management project was in partnership with KDHE, Twin Lakes WRAPS and the Morris County Conservation District.
- The goal was to move a producer's cattle away from the area that took the water supply from there to the Council Grove Reservoir which created a huge amount of waste and pollutants to be dumped into the drinking water supply.



ADDITIONAL EXAMPLES OF PRACTICES IN MORRIS COUNTY

CAFO PROJECT

- This is an example of a tire tank that was used for this project so the cattle would have access to a fresh, clean water supply for drinking.
- Several were installed on this site.



SOLAR WELL & TANK



Our solar wells and tanks installed as a result of the drought years have been a huge success for producers whose ponds went dry or their windmills quit working. We installed around 63 over the past two years to help our producers' livestock.

This conservation practice encourages cattle to drink away from a stream bank or water source that merges into a public water supply.

MORRIS COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT STATE COST ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE

The Morris County Conservation District will be accepting applications for State Cost Share Assistance for 2021-2022. Funds will not be available until July 1, 2021. If you have questions or concerns or wish to apply for cost share programs contact us by phone at: 620-767-5111 Ext 101 or via email at tisha.richardson@ks.nacdnet.net.

Applications receiving approval from MOCD and the Division of Conservation (DOC) may start implementation after July 1, 2020. Cost share assistance is not available on any project(s) completed to prior to DOC approval. Practice must comply with USDA, NRCS Field Office Technical Guide Standards and Specifications or other specifications approved by the DOC. Application approval will be subject to a ranking process using specific criteria established by the Conservation Districts, NRCS, and the DOC.

Potential Practices may include:

- Waterways
- Terraces
- Heavy Use Area Protection
- Livestock Watering Systems
 - Critical Area Seeding
 - Grass Seeding
 - Livestock Ponds
- Cross & Pond Fencing
 - Solar Wells
- Livestock Waste Systems
- Windbreak Establishment
 - Well Plugging
 - Soil Testing
- Erosion Control Structures

Contact us for all your seed needs and drill rentals!

*Funding provided by the Division of Conservation (DOC), Kansas Department of Agriculture through appropriation from the Kansas Water Plan Fund.

MORRIS COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT SUPPLIES

*No-Till Drill and Grass Drill Rentals, Seed Sales,
Geotextile Carpet and Wildlife Escape Ramps*

NRCS STANDARD GEOTEXTILE FABRIC

\$904.18/Roll or \$2.75/LF



The Morris County Conservation District sells NRCS Standard Spec Geotextile Fabric or as we know it, Cow-Carpet, to producers for the Heavy Use Areas by the roll or by the linear foot.

It works great around tire tanks or feed bunks after placed about 4-6 inches underground with about 4-6 inches of gravel on top.

This keeps the livestock from sinking into the mud or waste as they are feeding or drinking and keeps them much healthier.

GALVANIZED WILDLIFE ESCAPE RAMPS FOR \$70



This ladder sits on the edge of your tank to allow birds and other wildlife an easy exit. It causes minimal interference with livestock, is easily installed and fits all tanks.

2014 GREAT PLAINS 15' NO-TILL DRILL



\$10/acres up to 100 acres
\$8.00/acres 101 or more acres

ADDITIONAL MORRIS COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT SUPPLIES

TWO HORIZON GRASS DRILLS



20 Hole | 14 Hole |
\$7.00/acres

RECENTLY REFURBISHED ROOT PLOW



\$100/Refundable Deposit

GRASS SEED



Brome, Fescue, Native Mix
to name a few.

Ask for the Price.

MORRIS COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT
SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

Name of Applicant: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Daytime Phone: _____

E-Mail Address: _____

Grade Point Average: _____

High School: _____

College or University to Attend: _____

College Major: _____

\$500.00 Scholarship (\$250.00 per Semester)

**Copy of Grades with a Minimum of 2.0 GPA Required for 2nd Payment!*

ITEMS REQUIRED WITH APPLICATION (*Applicant must be pursuing a degree in a natural resource field.*) Examples: Range Management, Plant Sciences, Agronomy, Agriculture Technology Management, Animal Science, Ag Education, Feed Science, and any other "natural resource" field.

1. Copy of School Transcript
2. Two Letters of Recommendation (not relatives)

Signature of Applicant _____ Date _____

On a separate piece of paper, please type a 500 word essay explaining why conservation and water quality are important to you, and tell how this scholarship will benefit you personally and/or professionally. **Deadline for applications and all requested materials will be December 20, 2021.** Scholarship will be presented at the Morris County Conservation District's Annual Meeting scheduled for January 29, 2022.

Submit application to:
Morris County Conservation District 116 Fox Street
Council Grove, KS 66846-1219

For more information or if you have any questions, please contact us at:
620-767-5111 Ext. 101 or contact tisha.richardson@ks.nacdnet.net or visit
<http://www.morriscountyconservationdistrict.com/>

CONSERVATION DISTRICTS: WHY AND HOW

Flashback to the Dirty Thirties, the time period of severe drought, devastating economic loss, a time of extreme hardship and profound suffering. However, out of this hardship came birth. Birth of the conservation effort. An effort that began in February 1937 by President Franklin D. Roosevelt urging governors of every state to develop Conservation Districts to work with the Soil Conservation Service, now known as the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). Out of this encouragement, came the birth of Conservation Districts. In Kansas, 80 Conservation Districts were formed between June 22, 1937 and March 22, 1954, with the other 15 counties following shortly thereafter. Eventually, all 105 counties housed a Conservation District. Each conservation board consists of 5 supervisors who volunteer their time to the conservation effort. These five local producers are responsible for the Conservation District and ensuring that it be locally led. Most Conservation Districts have one employee, while some have two. The employees are paid individuals and are responsible for the day-to-day activities of the district (i.e. processing cost-share, education programs, attending meetings/trainings and keeping the board well informed of activities).

Conservation education for people of ALL ages is a key element of Conservation Districts, to the success of the Kansas Water Plan and now the Governor's Water Vision. Conservation Districts currently provide information and education on stewardship of natural resources necessary for the success of the Vision through school field days, cover crop field days, no-till field days, newsletters, Women in Ag meetings, poster/essay/limerick/photography contests, Envirothon, 4-H Discovery Camp, Kansas Range Youth camp, outdoor classrooms, teacher workshops, scholarships and much, much more. In addition, educational activities have been developed and are always changing to fit the needs of the teachers and students to ensure the topics taught meet curriculum objectives and goals.

Conservation Districts are in every county across the great state of Kansas. Conservation Districts strive for the same goal, conservation of our natural resources. However, just as they are the same, they are different. Some Conservation Districts have equipment (drills, scrapers, crimpers, weed barrier fabric machines, tree planter machines, etc.) available for a minimal fee to producers in the county, as a service to the producers. Some districts also sell grass seed, drip irrigation, trees, weed barrier fabric, cover crop seed, marking flags, high tensile fencing supplies, etc. again, as a service to the producers in the area. Others, do not. This is a local decision made by the 5 supervisors elected to ensure the district remains locally-led.

Conservation districts provide some technical assistance, but if assistance cannot be provided, producers are referred to one of our invaluable key partner agencies, such as NRCS, K-State Extension, Local Environmental Protection Agency, Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism, and others to provide the technical assistance needed, at no cost to the producer. Conservation Districts also work closely with the watershed districts.

Not only do Conservation Districts deliver educational activities and technical assistance, they also provide cost-share assistance to producers through different programs. Programs such as the Water Resources Cost-share Program, Non-point Source Pollution Program, and Riparian Area Protection Program are provided through Division of Conservation (DOC) and State Conservation Commission (SCC), who monitors the development, establishes guidelines and rules with input from local Conservation Districts. DOC approves payments, which are made through SMART with the State of Kansas, to ensure payments are valid. Conservation Districts also provide information and assistance to producers on other cost-share programs available through partner agencies such as NRCS, Farm Service Agency (FSA), Watershed Restoration and Protection Program (WRAPS), Kansas Alliance for

Wetlands and Streams (KAWS), and many others. No producer is forced into entering a cost-share contract, as implementation of conservation practices is 100 percent voluntary. Cost-share applications can be taken year round. Unfortunately, more applications are received than can be funded, due to the limited amount of cost-share dollars available.

The State of Kansas is in economic turmoil and taxpayers' dollars are very limited. Conservation Districts are asked to "do more with less" every year and have met the task. Conservation Districts are assiduous, relentless and determined to maintain a high standard, provide sound conservation information, and make every penny count...just like President Roosevelt, when he encouraged EVERY state in the United States of America to develop and support Conservation Districts and conservation efforts.



THANK YOU FOR THE GIVE-A-WAYS

Morris County Conservation District

Fehy Farm Seed

Star Seed, Inc.

Kansas Foundation for Agriculture
in the Classroom

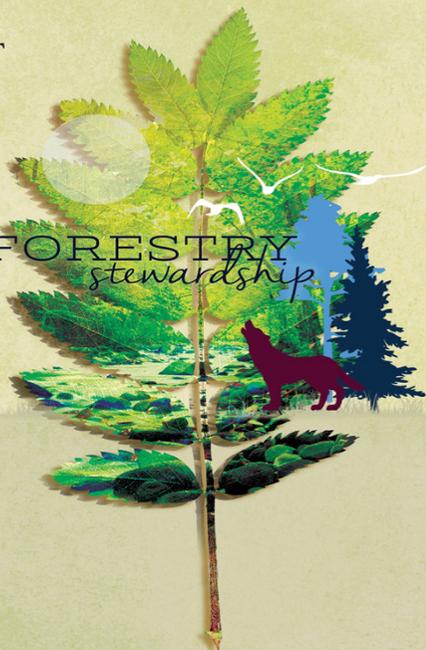


THE MORRIS COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT

will be hosting a stop-n-go Annual Meeting due to the COVID-19 pandemic. You are invited to stop by and pick up an Annual Meeting booklet and drop off your ballot to elect two supervisors in the foyer at the USDA Service Center between January 25-29, 2021.

Please voice any concerns, questions or praises regarding the 2019 Annual Meeting minutes or the 2020 Financial Report to Tisha Conard Richardson, District Manager or to any board member prior to their approval at noon on January 29, 2021.

FORESTRY stewardship



2021

Holidays & Observances

January

Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

February

Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
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7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
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28						

March

Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
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21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

- Jan 01 New Year's Day
- Jan 18 Martin Luther King Day
- Feb 12 Chinese New Year
- Feb 12 Lincoln's Birthday
- Feb 14 Valentine's Day
- Feb 15 President's Day
- Feb 17 Ash Wednesday
- Mar 14 Daylight Saving (begin)
- Mar 17 St. Patrick's Day
- Mar 20 Vernal equinox (GMT)
- Mar 28 Passover
- Apr 01 April Fool's Day
- Apr 04 Easter
- Apr 13 Ramadan begins
- Apr 21 Admin Assistants Day
- May 09 Mother's Day
- May 23 Pentecost
- May 31 Memorial Day
- Jun 14 Flag Day
- Jun 20 Father's Day
- Jun 21 June Solstice (GMT)
- Jul 04 Independence Day
- Sep 06 Labor Day
- Sep 07 Rosh Hashanah
- Sep 22 Autumnal equinox (GMT)
- Oct 11 Columbus Day
- Oct 31 Halloween
- Nov 07 Daylight Saving (end)
- Nov 11 Veterans Day
- Nov 25 Thanksgiving
- Nov 28 Hanukkah begins
- Dec 21 December Solstice (GMT)
- Dec 25 Christmas Day
- Dec 26 Kwanzaa begins
- Dec 31 New Year's Eve

April

Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
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May

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23	24	25	26	27	28	29
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June

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July

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24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

August

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28	29	30	31			

September

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October

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24	25	26	27	28	29	30
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November

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14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

December

Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
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