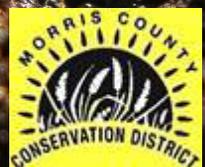


MORRIS COUNTY
CONSERVATION DISTRICT

82ND ANNUAL MEETING

SATURDAY, JANUARY 29, 2022



612 US-56 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
Logan Zimmerman (Supervisor)Alta Vista
Ernie Augustein (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)Wildsey
Jim Henry (Conservation Implementation Specialist | ACES)Council Grove
Angela Anderson (Twin Lakes WRAPS Contractor | KWO)Allen

NRCS PERSONNEL ASSISTING THE MORRIS COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Bruce WellsAssistant State Conservationist for Area 3 Field Operations
Matt PalmquistSupervisory District Conservationist
Alex MillerDistrict Conservationist
Carl JarboeSoil Conservation Technician

FSA PERSONNEL

Chris McAfeeCounty Executive Director
Carolyn AndresProgram Technician
Heidi LangeProgram Technician

EXTENSION PERSONNEL

Shannon SpencerFlint Hills District Extension Agent, Agriculture & Natural Resources
Aleece PriestOffice Professional
Shandi AndresFlint Hills Family & Consumer Sciences Agent

KANSAS DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE & PARKS

Brent KonenPublic Land Manager
Jeff RueDistrict Wildlife Biologist

KANSAS FOREST SERVICE

Howard FreerksenDistrict Forester
Jarran TindleWater Quality Forester
Shane NeelOutreach Coordinator

MORRIS COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Randy Barten, Morris CountySanitarian



PROGRAM

Registration.....Angela Anderson, Shannon Spencer, Kim Sanford

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

Invocation.....Reverend Brenda Davids
Council Grove, Dunlap & Wilsey United Methodist Church

Dinner.....Catered by Ricky’s Café of Hanover
Smothered Steak/Baked Ham/BBQ Beef Brisket/BBQ Meatballs

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

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



STUDENT CONSERVATION AWARDS

Introductions.....Tisha Conard Richardson

Posters Grades 2-3.....Logan Zimmerman

Posters Grades 4-6.....Logan Zimmerman

Essays Grades 5-8.....Ernie Augustein

Coloring Grade K.....Brian Burhoop

Coloring Grade 1.....Brian Burhoop

Kansas Range Youth Camp Announcement.....Alex Miller

STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP WINNER

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

Student Raffle Drawing



CONSERVATION AWARDS PROGRAM

Grassland Award Winner Video Interview.....Mindy Andres
Grassland Award Presentation.....Alex Miller and Richard Feyh
Sponsored by Feyh Farm Seed Company & Star Seed, Inc.

Rising Farmer/Rancher Award Winner Video Interview.....Mindy Andres
Rising Farmer/Rancher Award Presentation.....Jim Parker & Ernie Augustein
Sponsored by Farm Bureau

Kansas Banker Award Winner Video Interview.....Mindy Andres
Kansas Baker Award Presentation.....Dusty Manson and Jim Parker
Sponsored by Citizens State Bank & Trust Company, Council Grove – Key Banker



Election Report.....Tim Biehler–Chairman, Alex Miller & 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 81st ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES

JANUARY 30, 2021

The Morris County Conservation District (MOCOCD) held its 81st Annual Meeting on Tuesday, February 16, 2021 at The Rendezvous Building located in Council Grove, Kansas. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic the original date of Saturday, January 30, 2021 was canceled since gatherings over 10-20 were not allowed. Instead, the MOCOCD met with only the Board Members present to conduct business. The community was invited to participate by returning their ballot to elect two new supervisors and provide input or feedback to any board member by January 29, 2021. The community was also invited to stop by the USDA Service Center foyer to pick up the give-away items available. The give-away items included: the 81st Annual Meeting Booklet, pens, "Conservation Edition" newspapers, ballots, press-n-stick calendars, individual pollinator packets from Feyh Farm Seed Co, and a variety of selection from a bucket of goodies donated by Star Seed Co. Returned ballots was an adult entry to win the \$25.00 Amazon Gift Card. The same instructions were included in a mailer sent to over 500 addresses and published in the Council Grove Republican and the Prairie Post Newspapers as well as the MOCOCD Facebook and web-site pages.

Jimmy Parker, Chairman, welcomed the MOCOCD Board members and called the meeting to order at 11:51a.m. and proceeded with the business session. 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. Jimmy announced that the January 25, 2020 Annual Meeting minutes were printed in the 81st Annual Meeting booklet; and asked if there were any corrections or objections. Brian Burhoop, Treasurer, made a motion to accept the 2020 Annual Meeting Minutes as written and Chad Sanford, Vice Chairman, seconded the motion. The motion carried. Brian Burhoop announced that the 2020 Financial Report was printed in the 81st Annual Meeting booklet on pages 6-8 and asked if there were any comments. The balance on hand as of December 31, 2020 for the following accounts were \$18,707.94 in the Operations Fund, Savings Account - \$2,789.28, Petty Cash - \$43.47, Enterprise Fund - \$23,012.27 and the Twin Lakes WRAPS account was \$113,486.86. Brian Burhoop made the motion to approve the budget reports. Chad Sandford seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Brian Burhoop introduced the 2020 Annual Report and invited those present to read it at their leisure and asked if there were any questions or comments. The Annual Report was found on pages 15-20 of the 81st Annual Meeting Booklet. A thank you note, and 81st Annual Meeting Booklet was mailed to the Morris County Commissioners for their continued financial support of the Morris County Conservation District.

Jimmy Parker announced that the three-year term of long-time board members, Kent Bacon and Cynthia Engle, expired on January 30, 2021. He asked Tim Biehler, Chair of the Nominating Committee, to count the collected ballots that had been dropped off or mailed into the USDA Service Center in Council Grove, KS. There were no write-ins on the returned ballots which left the nominees of Peg Jenkins, Ernie (Herpich) Augustein, Logan Zimmerman and Chace Johnson as the candidates listed on the ballot. There was clarification made that an eligible voter must be over the age of 18 and a resident in Morris County; being a landowner in Morris County was not a qualifying factor. Tim Biehler asked Jim Henry,

Twin Lakes WRAPS and District Technician to assist as an official ballot counter.

Chad Sanford reported that after careful consideration it was his pleasure to announce Chancy Johnson as the winner of the Student Scholarship Award. She had a 4.0 GPA in tough classes, involved in a variety of school activities, an active 4-H member, supportive and glowing recommendation letters and plans to major in agriculture in college meeting all the requirements for the award. Jimmy Parker and Chad Sanford will present Chancy with the half of the \$500 check, her acrylic plaque and certificate at her high school awards ceremony in May 2021.

Tisha Conard Richardson, District Manager, reported that although, this year's local coloring, poster, limerick, and essay contest with the theme "Healthy Forests, Healthy Communities" was canceled due to the havoc Covid-19 played on the community; that the district did receive back the coloring pages, posters and essays that were submitted to the 2020 State "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 entries were from last year's local contest the MOCOCD sponsored and were winners that were sent on to the state contest. Contest winners included the following four entries: Posters: Grades 2-3, Kasey Wilson; Grades 4-6, Valeria Soria, Grades 7-9, Arianna Tillery and the Essays: Grades 5-8, Finn Gant. She mentioned that the MOCOCD Board was very proud of their students and grateful to the teachers and school administrators that help to promote learning of conservation in their classrooms. The students' entries were returned with their awarded certificates, medals, a copy of the "Conservation Edition," a pen, Feyh Farm Seed Co pollinator packet and a copy of the MOCOCD 81st Annual Meeting Booklet with a letter of congratulations. Students that did not receive an award from the state competition, did receive their entries back along with a thank you note and a Feyh Farm Seed Co pollinator packet.

Angela Anderson, Twin Lakes WRAPS contractor and Outreach & Education Lead/ Water Resource Planner for the Kansas Water Office, reported that it was the pleasure of the local Twin Lakes Stakeholder Leadership Team (SLT) who selected two award winners last year, but only one, Jeff Rue, Biologist with the Kansas Department of Wildlife Parks and Tourism, was recognized at the 2019 Annual Meeting, to award this year's recipient. The tie last year led to the award of this year's 2020 Twin Lakes WRAPS Water Quality Award Winner to be given to Earl Robinson. Angela Anderson mentioned that "the experiment Jeff Rue was focused on last year was the establishment of native buffers with incidental grazing occurrences that could potentially have an impact on establishment rules and guidelines of buffers as we currently know it was thanks to Earl Robinson who is the owner of that land where the experiment is taking place." [article by Anderson, Angela, pgs. 23-26, "Buffering for Conservation," 81st Annual Meeting Booklet.] Earl's contribution and willingness to try the experiment has the potential to have long-term positive effects on his land and "possibly change the Farm Service Agency's (FSA) Conservation Reserve Program rules regarding grazing and establishment periods if Jeff Rue's hypothesis proves true." [pg. 24.] She concluded by thanking the Board for their time and said that once the Covid-19 restrictions were lifted, Earl Robinson would be presented his acrylic water drop plaque, Twin Lakes WRAPS metal sign and certificate in person with pictures taken for future reference.

Once the official tally was completed, Tim Biehler, Chairman of the Nominating Committee gave the election report that Logan Zimmerman and Ernie Augustein were the newly elected Board Supervisors.

The adult prize drawing was held by Chad Sanford with the grand prize being a \$25 Amazon Gift Card sponsored by Star Seed Co. The ballot drawn from 90 plus potential ballots was a Morris County resident, Arden Oleen. The gift card, a Feyh Farm Seed Co pollinator packet, a pen and a copy of the 81st Annual Meeting Booklet were mailed to him with a thank you note for returning his ballot to elect two new MOCOCD board supervisors.

Jimmy Parker thanked everyone for their participation and asked if there was any further business, comments, or questions. A motion was made by Brian Burhoop to adjourn the meeting and seconded by Chad Sanford. The motion carried, and the meeting adjourned at 12:08 p.m.



FINANCIAL STATEMENTS



OPERATIONAL FUND

Balance Brought Forward January 1, 2021 **\$22,314.46**

RECEIPTS

County of Morris	\$27,000.00	
State of Kansas	<u>\$22,444.44</u>	
Total Receipts	\$49,444.44	\$71,758.89

EXPENDITURES

Accumulated Sick Leave	\$1,092.00	
Education	\$70.00	
Envirothon Expense (Virtual)	\$0.00	
Federal Withholdings	\$8,145.70	
Insurance - CNA Surety	\$669.38	
KACD 77th Annual Convention	\$0.00	
Kansas Withholdings	\$860.00	
KPERS	\$6,723.83	
Mileage Expense	\$1,879.86	
Office Supplies	\$60.00	
Professional Fees - Accounting Audit	\$240.00	
Salaries & Wages	\$34,842.49	
Supplemental Wage	\$2,410.00	
Travel Training	\$141.18	
Unemployment	\$43.77	
Workmen's Comp Ins.	<u>\$181.00</u>	
Total Expenses	\$57,359.21	

Balance on Hand December 31, 2021 **\$14,399.68**

SAVINGS ACCOUNT

Balances Brought Forward January 1, 2021 **\$2,789.28**

RECEIPTS

Interest Earned	<u>\$2.81</u>	
-----------------	---------------	--

Balance on Hand December 31, 2021 **\$2,792.09**

PETTY CASH

Balances Brought Forward January 1, 2021 **\$43.47**

RECEIPTS

Total Receipts	\$0.00	\$43.47
----------------	--------	----------------

EXPENDITURES

Total Expenses	\$0.00	
----------------	--------	--

Balance on Hand December 31, 2021 **\$43.47**

ENTERPRISE FUND

Balance Brought Forward January 1, 2021

\$14,522.09

RECEIPTS

Annual Meeting	\$1,601.00	
Cow Carpet	\$12,029.75	
Department of Conservation (Grant)	\$3,500.00	
Drill Rent	\$703.50	
Flags	\$26.00	
Grass Seed	\$5,180.52	
KACD Grant	\$196.01	
No-Till Drill Rent	\$3,910.05	
Reimbursed Expenses	\$182.59	
Postage Income	\$0.55	
Sales Tax Income	\$940.73	
Trees	\$500.00	
Wildlife Escape Ramps	<u>\$560.00</u>	
Total Receipts	\$29,330.70	\$43,852.79

EXPENDITURES

Advertising	\$211.16
Annual Meeting	\$1,702.27
Cow Carpet Expense	\$12,080.00
Donation Expense	\$28.73
Dues & Subscriptions	\$936.00
Education	\$319.98
Field Equipment - 2014 No-Till Drill	\$976.69
Flag Expense	\$200.53
Grass Seed	\$5,545.96
Liability Insurance	\$476.67
Licenses and Permits	\$30.00
No-Till Drill Lease Expenses	\$2,818.44
Office Supplies	\$195.25
Postage and Delivery	\$370.00
Fairground Rental	\$25.00
Repairs for Equipment	\$460.28
Sales Tax Adjustment (2020)	\$177.00
Shipping	\$2,202.39
New Supervisor Shirts	\$64.46
Supervisor's Meeting	\$1,469.48

Travel	\$34.44
Trees	\$550.00
Uncategorized Expenses	\$38.89
Website Hosting	\$200.00
Wildlife Escape Ramps	<u>\$268.80</u>
Total Expenses	\$31,382.42

Balance on Hand December 31, 2021

\$12,470.37



TWIN LAKES WRAPS FUND

Balance Brought Forward January 1, 2021

\$116,895.77

RECEIPTS

KDHE - 319 EPA Grant	\$0,000.00	
Twin Lakes WRAPS Grant	\$0,000.00	
Twin Lakes Water Festival	<u>\$1,800.00</u>	
Total Receipts	\$1,800.00	\$118,695.77

EXPENDITURES

Contractual Services

2017 BMP's	\$124.10
2019 BMP's	\$263.18
2020 BMP's	\$1,077.30

Coordination Fringe

Unemployment	\$5.63
Worker's Comp. Insurance	\$181.00
Commercial Auto Insurance	\$231.00

FTE

Payroll	\$10,704.10
Federal Withholdings	\$3,853.39
Kansas Withholdings	\$616.00

Other

Registration	\$15.00
--------------	---------

Supplies

Office Supplies	\$99.60
Postage & Delivery	\$125.00
Printing & Reproduction	\$55.00
SLT Meetings	\$308.03
Twin Lakes Water Festival	\$1,992.19

Travel Expense

Mileage	<u>\$627.85</u>
---------	-----------------

Total Expenses	\$20,153.37
----------------	-------------

Balance on Hand December 31, 2021

\$98,542.40



MORRIS COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT'S MEAL SPONSORS

Banks: \$125

- Citizens State Bank & Trust Company | Key Banker 2021
- Central National Bank
- Emprise Bank
- Farmers & Drovers Bank
- Farmer State Bank



Contractors: \$70

- Barber Construction, LLC
- Bettles Construction
- Easterberg Fencing
- Flint Hills Drilling
- Hallgren Real Estate & Auctions, LLC
- Herington Heating & Air Conditioning, Inc.
- Ronnie & Susan Carlson
- Sawyer Construction, LLC
- Stahl Land Care, LLC



Suppliers: \$80

- Agri Trails Coop
- Feyh Farm Seed Company
- KanEquip, Inc.
- Star Seed, Inc.
- Tri-County Telephone Association, Inc.
- US Fabrics



Supplier: \$25

- Sharp Bros Seed Co

MORRIS COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT BOARD
1940-2021



Logan Zimmerman, *Newly Elected Supervisor 2021*
Jimmy Parker, *Board Chairperson*
Kent Bacon, *Retiring Supervisor 2021*
Chad Sanford, *Vice-Chairperson*
Brian Burhoop, *Treasurer*
Ernie Augustein (Herpich), *Newly Elected Supervisor 2021*

(left to right)

**MORRIS COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT
USDA SERVICE CENTER STAFF**

Morris County Conservation District & Partners



TISHA CONARD RICHARDSON
District Manager



MATT PALMQUIST
NRCS Supervisory District Conservationist



ALEX MILLER
NRCS District Conservationist



CARL JARBOE
NRCS Soil Technician



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



JIM HENRY
*Conservation Implementation Specialist
(ACES)*

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



CAROLYN ANDRES
Program Technician

HEIDI LANGE
Program Technician

CHRIS MCAFEE
County Executive Director (CED)

(left to right)



ANGELA ANDERSON
*Former Twin Lakes WRAPS
Coordinator*

*now with Kansas Water Office (KWO)
as a Planning & Outreach Lead*



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

ANNUAL REPORT MORRIS COUNTY 2021

*Written by: Tisha Conard Richardson
Morris County Conservation District Manager*

The Morris County Conservation District held its 81st Annual Meeting on Tuesday, February 16, 2021, at The Rendezvous Building located at 623 W Main St. in Council Grove, Kansas. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic the original date of Saturday, January 30, 2021, was canceled since gatherings over 10-20 were not allowed. Instead, the Morris County Conservation District met with only the Board Members present to conduct business. The community was invited to participate by returning their ballot to elect two new supervisors and provide input or feedback to any board member by January 29, 2021. The community was also invited to stop by the USDA Service Center foyer to pick up the give-away items available. The give-away items included: the 81st Annual Meeting Booklet, pens, "Conservation Edition" newspapers, ballots, press-n-stick calendars, individual pollinator packets from Feyh Farm Seed Co, and a variety of selection from a bucket of goodies donated by Star Seed Co. Returned ballots was an adult entry to win the \$25.00 Amazon Gift Card. The same instructions were included in a mailer sent to over 500 addresses and published in the Council Grove Republican and the Prairie Post Newspapers as well as the Morris County Conservation District Facebook and web-site pages.

Jimmy Parker, Chairman, welcomed the Morris County Conservation District Board members and called the meeting to order at 11:51a.m. and proceeded with the business session. 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. Jimmy announced that the January 25, 2020, Annual Meeting minutes were printed in the 81st Annual Meeting booklet; and asked if there were any corrections or objections. Brian Burhoop, Treasurer, made a motion to accept the 2020 Annual Meeting Minutes as written and Chad Sanford, Vice Chairman, seconded the motion. The motion carried. Brian Burhoop announced that the 2020 Financial Report was printed in the 81st Annual Meeting booklet on pages 6-8 and asked if there were any comments. The balance on hand as of December 31, 2020, for the following accounts were \$18,707.94 in the Operations Fund, Savings Account - \$2,789.28, Petty Cash - \$43.47, Enterprise Fund - \$23,012.27 and the Twin Lakes WRAPS account was \$113,486.86. Brian Burhoop made the motion to approve the budget reports. Chad Sandford seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Brian Burhoop introduced the 2020 Annual Report and invited those present to read it at their leisure and asked if there were any questions or comments. The Annual Report was found on pages 15-20 of the 81st Annual Meeting Booklet. A thank you note, and 81st Annual Meeting Booklet was mailed to the Morris County Commissioners for their continued financial support of the Morris County Conservation District.

Jimmy Parker announced that the three-year term of long-time board members, Kent Bacon and Cynthia Engle, expired on January 30, 2021. He asked Tim Biehler, Chair of the Nominating Committee, to count the collected ballots that had been dropped off or mailed into the USDA Service Center in Council Grove, KS. There were no write-ins on the returned ballots which left the nominees of Peg Jenkins, Ernie (Herpich) Augustein, Logan Zimmerman and Chace Johnson as the candidates listed on the ballot. There was

clarification made that an eligible voter must be over the age of 18 and a resident in Morris County; being a landowner in Morris County was not a qualifying factor. Tim Biehler asked Jim Henry, Twin Lakes WRAPS & District Technician to assist as an official ballot counter.

Chad Sanford reported that after careful consideration it was his pleasure to announce Chancy Johnson as the winner of the Student Scholarship Award. She had a 4.0 GPA in tough classes, involved in a variety of school activities, an active 4-H member, supportive and glowing recommendation letters and plans to major in agriculture in college meeting all the requirements for the award. Chad Sanford presented Chancy with the half of the \$500 check, her acrylic plaque and certificate at her high school awards ceremony in May 2021.



Tisha Conard Richardson, District Manager, reported that although, 2020's local coloring, poster, limerick, and essay contest with the theme "Healthy Forests, Healthy Communities" was canceled due to the havoc Covid-19 played on the community; that the district did receive back the coloring pages, posters and essays that were submitted to the 2020 State "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 entries were from last year's local contest the Morris County Conservation District sponsored and were winners that were sent on to the state contest. Contest winners included the following four entries: Posters: Grades 2-3, Kasey Wilson; Grades 4-6, Valeria Soria, Grades 7-9, Arianna Tillery and the Essays: Grades 5-8, Finn Gant. She mentioned that the Morris County Conservation District Board was very proud of their students and grateful to the teachers and school administrators that help to promote learning of conservation in their classrooms. The students' entries were returned with their awarded certificates, medals, a copy of the "Conservation Edition," a pen, Feyh Farm Seed Co pollinator packet and a copy of the Morris County Conservation District 81st Annual Meeting Booklet with a letter of congratulations. Students that did not receive an award from the state competition, did receive their entries back along with a thank you note and a Feyh Farm Seed Co pollinator packet. Due to Covid-19, the CD was unable to present to the Council Grove Elementary (CGES) or to the White City Elementary School (WCES) in the fall of 2020 to issue awards; therefore, the annual coloring, poster, limerick, and essay contest was averted. The annual stewardship program theme for 2020 was "Healthy Forests |Healthy Communities." Instead, the information from the National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) website was shared with the schools via email to teachers in time for the Stewardship Week scheduled for April 25-May 2, 2021.

Angela Anderson, Twin Lakes WRAPS contractor and Outreach & Education Lead/Water Resource Planner for the Kansas Water Office, reported that it was the pleasure of the local Twin Lakes Stakeholder Leadership Team (SLT) who selected



two award winners last year, but only one, Jeff Rue, Biologist with the Kansas Department of Wildlife Parks and Tourism, was recognized at the 2019 Annual Meeting, to award this year's recipient. The tie last year led to the award of this year's 2020 Twin Lakes WRAPS Water Quality Award Winner to be given to Earl Robinson. Angela Anderson mentioned that "the experiment Jeff Rue was focused on last year was the establishment of native buffers with incidental grazing occurrences that could potentially have an impact on establishment rules and guidelines of buffers as we currently know it was thanks to Earl Robinson who is the owner of that land where the experiment is taking place." [article by Anderson, Angela, pg 23-26, "Buffering for Conservation," 81st Annual Meeting Booklet.] Earl's contribution and willingness to try the experiment has the potential to have long-term positive effects on his land and "possibly change the Farm Service Agency's (FSA) Conservation Reserve Program rules regarding grazing and establishment periods if Jeff Rue's hypothesis proves true." [pg 24.] She concluded by thanking the Board for their time and said that once the Covid-19 restrictions were lifted, Earl Robinson would be presented his acrylic water drop plaque, Twin Lakes WRAPS metal sign and certificate in person with pictures taken for future reference.

Once the official tally was completed, Tim Biehler, Chairman of the Nominating Committee gave the election report that Logan Zimmerman and Ernie Augustein were the newly elected Board Supervisors. The adult prize drawing was held by Chad Sanford with the grand prize being a \$25 Amazon Gift Card sponsored by Star Seed Co. The ballot drawn from 90 plus potential ballots was a Morris County resident, Arden Oleen. The gift card, a Feyh Farm Seed Co pollinator packet, a pen and a copy of the 81st Annual Meeting Booklet were mailed to him with a thank you note for returning his ballot to elect two new Morris County Conservation District board supervisors.

Jimmy Parker thanked everyone for their participation and asked if there was any further business, comments, or questions. A motion was made by Brian Burhoop to adjourn the meeting and seconded by Chad Sanford. The motion carried, and the meeting adjourned at 12:08 p.m.

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 or who are invited to 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 former Coordinator and ACES technician. 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 \$27,000.00 for the year FY2021. Our district is very fortunate to have county commissioners who believe in our grass roots efforts to reduce sediment and pollution in the county's water and improve the soil health for producers through the NPS & WR programs. The Morris County Commissioners contributed \$500

to Twin Lakes WRAPS. Additional income sources came from the State of Kansas for a total of \$22,444.84. The EPA through a 319 Grant contributes an additional \$15,000.00 for administrating the Twin Lakes WRAPS grant which was used to pay the WRAPS technician. The annual conservation contractors' steak appreciation dinner for the Management Unit area contractors was not able to be held last year due to Covid-19 restrictions. However, the Emporia Management Unit which includes Morris County, Lyon/Chase County and Osage County plan to host the event February 24, 2022, at 6pm at the Allen, Kansas school house. Tisha Conard Richardson (attended virtually), DM, and Angela Anderson (attended in-person), WRAPS Contractor, attended a couple of different conferences including the 77th Annual KACD Virtual Convention November 21-24, 2021. The CD was of Tisha, Angela attended the virtual Governor's Conference November 17-19, 2021, for the Future of Water in Kansas.

This would have been the twelfth year that Morris County had an Envirothon team from White City and CGHS's ninth year to participate, however, the Regional contest scheduled for in-person at Camp White and the State of Kansas Envirothon scheduled in-person at Camp Wood YMCA in Elmdale, Kansas were canceled due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Students, however, were encouraged to participate in the first ever Virtual Regional Envirothon competition on April 14, 2021, 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. It was well attended with 20 schools who participated. Manhattan High School took first place. Madison High School took second place and Mission Valley High School took third place. There was also a Virtual State Envirothon on April 28, 2021, where 12 schools participated. Manhattan High School took first place. Clay Center High School took second place and Mission Valley took third place. The consensus was that in-person was preferred, but the schools were glad to have the opportunity to participate since last year's was canceled all together. The current issue for the 2022 competition will be "Waste to Resources".

The Emporia Management Unit sponsored with the help of funding for a KACD grant a District Manager Educational Resource Day where presentations and demonstrations took place showing new and seasoned district managers how to present the Earth Balloon, Streambank Trailer, Soil Tunnel Trailer and the Enviroscape. These are tools the districts have available to them to teach school age students the benefits of conserving our natural resources like soil and water. It allows for a hands-on experience as the students can enter the inside of the Earth Balloon and look at the land to water ratio. The Soil Tunnel is an excellent visual of how plants and animals, including insects can either benefit or harm the soil health. Students are allowed inside the soil tunnel to witness the roots hanging down. We also had presentations from Kansas Corn

organization and Frontier Farm Credit on resources or grants that are available through their respective groups. The CD gave away; 50 Red Bud, 50 Fragrant Sumac shrubs, 50 Choke Cherry, 50 Shumard Oak, 50 Lilac, 50 Oriental Arborvitae, 50 Chinkapin Oak, and 50



American Plum trees in recognition of Earth Day April 22nd.

The trees were for wildlife habitat and windbreaks. The community benefited from the free trees and shrubs and the district already has a nice list of participants waiting for a call to pick up their Earth Day plants this year. The local Flint Hills Quail & Upland Wildlife Federation Chapter (FHQUWF) donated a contribution of \$500 to the purchase of the tree giveaways. The district was very grateful for their generous donation.

The DM and Angela Anderson, KWO Outreach Coordinator, were invited by Mindy Andres with Farm Bureau to participate in the Touch-A-Truck Event on June 19,

2021. This was a fun event as part of Washunga Days in Council Grove, KS as approximately 38 families and their children took part in the “Incredible Journey Game.” This game taught the journey of the water cycle with the roll of a specially made dice that had pictures representing different stages or forms of water such as a nutrient for plants (groundwater), drinking water for animals, ice in an iceberg, water traveling in a river or an ocean. Each station had a plastic container with its own-colored bead. The child completed the game once they built a bracelet with the various colored beads from each station. A fun time was had by all.



The Kansas Range Youth Camp was scheduled for June 2021 at Camp Mennoscah, Kingman County. the camp was canceled due to the Covid-19 pandemic. However, it is scheduled for this year June 14-17, 2022. Please contact your local CD if you have a junior or a senior high school student who would like to participate. The Morris County CD has available applications and scholarship money available to a qualified applicant.

The Emporia Management Unit consisting of Mallory Burton, Lyon/Chase County

DM, Lori Kuykendall, Osage County DM and Tisha Conard Richardson, Morris County DM also sponsored a “Brush Roundup” field day on September 17, 2021. This event was open to the public but was primarily geared towards local contractors and producers who had an interest in seeing different types of machinery used for brush control. A noxious weed specialist also gave a presentation along with the local District Conservationist, Alex Miller, who talked about the different programs available to producers through



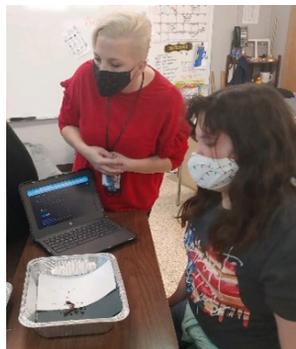
NRCS. Garan Belt, a Rangeland Management Specialist, in the Emporia Office spoke about the costs associated with woody encroachment and the benefits to a producers’ bottom line if that is kept at bay. It was held at the Leffler Farms in Americus, KS and lunch was provided through a partnership with a KACD grant and Frontier Farm Credit out of Emporia as well as Smithfield out of Junction City. The day was beautiful for the event which led to a great turnout.

The district manager, Tisha Conard Richardson, and the Twin Lakes WRAPS

contractor, Angela Anderson did get to enjoy being back into the classroom at the end of 2021 right before the Thanksgiving holiday. We were invited into several classroom at Council Grove Elementary School where Angela Anderson did a phenomenal job teaching the different age groups about “Healthy Soil | Healthy Life” using live worms as a discussion point in the positive effects, they have on soil health. Tisha Conard Richardson shared the rules for each age groups’ contest and encouraged the students to do their best work so they could be eligible to receive an award. There were lively and good discussions in all the classrooms. The different age groups determined the lessons. The kindergarten classes and the second-grade classes got to compare live worms to gummy worms and listen to a story about “Sammy Soil”. Some students as you can imagine were more open to the idea of participating hands-on vs others who had not ever experienced the world of live worms. It was very entertaining to listen to the reactions. The older classes like the fifth and sixth graders conducted three different experiments to determine if their hypothesis were proven to be true or false. For instance, one experiment was to observe the live worm’s behavior to determine if it would move towards light vs dark, real vs fake food and a moist vs a dry environment. There was a timekeeper selected to time how long it would take each live worm to make its choice. There was a notetaker who was responsible for recording their findings. The coloring, poster, limerick, and essay contests were back for Morris County Conservation District. We were super excited to receive all the entries. The due date was Friday, December 17, 2021, when the district manager made the rounds and stopped by the schools to pick up their entries!! Homeschoolers were welcome to participate as well.

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 state 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 and 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 partners with the (KDWP) District Wildlife Biologist, Jeff Rue, works together with FSA and NRCS and through their funding sources he was able to add \$18,905.52 to the area since 2017 with a total of 20 contracts. NRCS was able to help producers in 2021 with their various programs in Morris County in the amount of \$212,228 with a total of 13 contracts and 12,579.2 acres. FSA is a tremendous help to producers through eight of their programs (Farm Stored Commodity Loans, \$373,850; Livestock Indemnity Program \$2,118; General CRP - 78 Contracts \$145,573 – 2,756.93 acres; Continuous CRP 88 Contracts \$48,601 – 525.58 acres;



Grasslands CRP - 2 Contracts \$3,789 for 199.42 acres; CFAP 2 - \$20,201,819.28; Top Up payments in 2021 from CFAP 2 for \$9,518,406.10 and ARC/PLC approximately \$200,000 in (2019) that totaled around \$30,494,156.38 for 2020-2021. These numbers for CRP will change as FSA reported finding a lot of noxious weed issues in CRP which caused producers to be let out of the program.

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 2021 that began July 1, 2020. The CD received funding this year with an allocation of \$10,825 from the State for Nonpoint Source (NPS) projects and \$19,214 for Water Resource (WR) projects; plus, an addition or approximately \$16,028.26 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 waterways, diversions, and to do range seedings and spring developments. Other practices implemented are 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. This is still true as the Twin Lakes WRAPS EPA 319 Grant will conclude in 2022 and will also be transitioned as what is being called a “partnership” initiative as is the Clarks Creek WRAP which is fancy terminology for the District Managers will take on the workload with no compensation to their district other than \$150.00 per completed contract.

As indicated in last year’s annual meeting booklet, 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 2022 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. Or share your concerns or celebrations with your District Manager, Tisha Conard Richardson, at 620-767-5111 ext. 101 as she was elected to the Neosho RAC as a new member beginning in 2022. She too can communicate feedback through the Neosho RAC concerning budget allocations to your county. 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 twentieth 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. 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 in-person was held for the first time virtually and was very successful. 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 who then transitioned to an ACE employee and works for NRCS. For more information about WRAPS, visit www.kswraps.org or call P: (785) 296-0864 C: 620-481-9547 and ask for Angela Anderson.

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 400 acres were no-till with this drill in 2021, 950 acres in 2020, 2,656 acres in 2019, 815 acres in 2018, 736 acres in 2017, 609 acres in 2016, 583 acres in 2015, 687 acres were no-tilled in 2014, 1,225 acres in 2013, 2,800 acres in 2012, 600 acres in 2011, 1,115 acres in 2010, 660 acres in 2009, 1,250 acres in 2008, 1,902 acres in 2007, 2,186 acres in 2006, 2,340 acres in 2005, 1,457 acres in 2004, 1,343 acres in 2003, 1,487 acres in 2002, 1,460 acres in 2001, 1,160 acres in 2000, 1,200 acres in 1999, and 1,800 acres 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 Twin Lakes, 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 2022 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 2021 was \$302,911.

Having the Conservation District active has helped leverage payments for 43 participants. Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) - 37 participants have received \$169,744 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) - 9 participants received \$43,477 to restore riparian areas that restore the integrity of Morris County streams.

Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) - 3 Participants received a total of \$57,432 as part of a long-term whole farm conservation system.

CSP-Grassland Conservation Initiative - 21 Participants received a total of \$32,257. This program is for participants who no longer have direct payments on cropland planted back to grass.

New Contract Obligations Include:

- 24 contracts
- \$1,042,395 | Obligated
- 26,048 | Acres of new contract acres

2020-2021 MORRIS COUNTY FSA PROGRAMS

Annual ARC Program	\$0.00
Annual PLC Program	\$538,880.00
Livestock Indemnity Payments <i>Loss in the Cold/Heat</i>	\$22,745.00

MORRIS COUNTY FSA & NRCS OFFICE SHARED PROGRAMS

CRP General Contracts 65 Contracts 2,217.93 Acres	\$123,610.00
CRP Continuous Contracts 85 Contracts 511.78 Acres	\$47,717.00
Grasslands 2 Contracts 199.42 Acres	\$3,789
TOTALS: 152 Contracts 2,929.13 Acres	\$379,313

Note: The numbers have decreased from last year due to finding A LOT of noxious weed issues in CRP which is causing them to get released from the program.



STUDENT AWARD WINNERS 2020 - 2021



POSTERS - Grades 2-3

Kaylee Rodriguez	First Place	CGES	Grade 2 - Richardson
Victoria Elstun	Second Place	CGES	Grade 2 - Richardson
Paxton Buchman	Honorable Mention	CGES	Grade 2 - Richardson

POSTERS - Grades 4-6

Faith Campbell	First Place	CGES	Grade 6 - Winegar
Kasey Wilson	Second Place	CGES	Grade 5 - Sheets
Alyson Michael	Honorable Mention	CGES	Grade 6 - Winegar
Quinley Sowers	Honorable Mention	CGES	Grade 5 - Sheets
Lyla Ann Barrett	Honorable Mention	CGES	Grade 5 - Sheets
Anna Bachura	Honorable Mention	CGES	Grade 6 - Winegar
Rachel Small	Honorable Mention	CGES	Grade 6 - Winegar

ESSAYS - Grades 5-8

Jackson Stecher	First Place	CGES	Grade 5 - Sheets
Betsy Doornbos	Second Place	CGES	Grade 5 - Sheets
Grace Tyner	Honorable Mention	CGES	Grade 5 - Sheets

COLORING - Grade K

Quinn Hemmy	First Place	CGES	Grade K - Blythe
Scarlett Stecher	Second Place	CGES	Grade K - Blythe
Liberty Diekmann	Honorable Mention	WCES	Grade K - Peterson

COLORING - Grade 1

Kreyton Anderson	First Place	WCES	Grade 1 - Laudemann
Rowdy Fiest	Second Place	WCES	Grade 1 - Laudemann
Izzy Clift	Honorable Mention	CGES	Grade 1 - May
Lexi Dirks	Honorable Mention	CGES	Grade 1 - May

Thirteeneth Annual Conservation District Educational Scholarship | Mark Andres - Senior

KANSAS RANGE YOUTH CAMP

June 14-17, 2022



Sponsored by:



If YOU are interested in plants, livestock, or wildlife, attend an educational event like no other in Kansas!

PARTICIPANTS: Upcoming High School Sophomores, Juniors, & Seniors

LOCATION: Camp Mennoscah, Murdock, KS (in Kingman County)

LEARNING: Range Plant Identification, Plant Growth, Stocking Rate Determinations, Livestock Nutrition, Rangeland Wildlife Management, and much more!

SPECIAL ITEMS: Field Trips, Steak Dinner

ACTIVITIES: Swimming, Canoeing, Fishing, & Hiking

TUITION: \$250 per participant*

*Interested students should contact their local Conservation District, Extension Office, Farm Bureau office, livestock association, and/or other local business for possible financial assistance.



*Educating Kansas youth
for over 50 years!*



Contact: Garan Belt, Kansas Range Youth Camp Chairman
3020 West 18th Avenue Emporia, KS 66801 | 620-360-0077 | garan.belt@usda.gov

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 19, 2022.*** Scholarship will be presented at the Morris County Conservation District’s Annual Meeting scheduled for January 28, 2023.

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/>

2021 MORRIS COUNTY GRASSLAND AWARD WINNERS



Bill and Gina Davis

By: Alex D. Miller

NRCS District Conservationist

Sponsored by Feyh Farm Seed Company of Alma and Star Seed, Inc.

Everyone has a story of a fixer-upper project that they have embarked on in the past. Almost always, the project is more involved than what we anticipate in the beginning. For Bill and Gina Davis, they knew it was going to be one of those projects. They had just purchased a half-section of grass west of White City in 2015 and it was going to need some work. The grass was in lower vigor, the gates were left open, there was one reliable water source, and trees were invading the grassland. The majority of the property was former cropland or brome grass that was allowed to 'go-back' to nature. Due to the previous management, the grass composition had degraded to low producing or undesirable forage. The stocking rate had diminished, and many neighbors wondered why they had purchased the property.

For Bill and Gina of Salina, KS, this was a good challenge. Bill works as a housing contractor and he is accustomed to fixing up old properties. Gina is a third-generation rancher who is familiar with the hard work associated with land management. What started out as a hobby raising 8 cows has now turned into a commercial herd of 120 cow/calf pairs. Buying this property worked into their plans to expand their operation.

Starting off, they knew that they would need to lower the stocking rate to allow the grass to express itself. In 2016, they consulted with the Morris County Conservation District and the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) to create a conservation plan for

the property. The benchmark inventory showed that grazing distribution was an issue. In many areas the grass was in poor condition and comprised of undesirable species.

With the help of financial assistance from the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) a plan was set forth to tear out old fences that were in the way and to cross fence the pasture into seven grazing paddocks. A solar watering system was designed, and three watering facilities were installed to provide water to the new grazing paddocks.

Two of the paddocks were in such poor condition that they had to be reseeded. The existing cover was sprayed, planted to a cover crop, and then reseeded in 2017 to native grass. This took a lot of patience for Bill and Gina, but by 2020 they could start to see an improvement in the grass stand.

Once prescribed fire was introduced back onto the landscape, the grass really started to respond in kind. Invasive trees were removed, and the pasture took on a new look. To those driving by, you could see that it was not the same pasture.

Bill says that the key to fixing their pastures is to “get on it and to stay on it”. Maintaining the grass is a yearly task that takes commitment. Bill continues to clear trees in the wintertime and Gina commits up to 5 days a week during the summer spraying season to address new tree sprouts.

Adopting a rotational grazing system has been their greatest tool. They are now able to graze at higher stocking rates while providing rest during the growing season for the grass. The cattle now graze in larger groups which are easier to monitor. It also allows them to incorporate and convert smaller hay meadows into grazing paddocks that would be impractical to graze in a conventional season-long grazing system.

Bill and Gina’s future conservation goals are to maintain the progress they have made without going backwards. They have built improvements with an eye for longevity. On the poorer soils they are building up organic matter by winter feeding animals on these areas.

In 2012, the Davis’s embarked on another enterprise. They invested in the ownership of bucking bulls for the Professional Bull Riders tour. Several of these bulls have participated in the in Las Vegas World finals. They enjoy the excitement of watching the bulls improve and perform at rodeos across the country.

The Davis ranch operation is a family affair. Starting out in the ranching business would not have been possible without the support from Gina’s parents Craig and Cindy Worrell. Craig has contributed to their operation by helping with chores, cattle handling, and by providing occasional advice on livestock and land management. Their son Luke and his wife Allie reside in Kansas City and they enjoy coming out to the ranch in their free time.

We want to thank Feyh Farm Seed Company of Alma, KS and Star Seed, Inc. for their sponsorship in support of the award winners.

Please join the Morris County Conservation District as we show our appreciation for Bill and Gina’s accomplishment in Grassland Management.



AMANDA ANDERSON

Recipient of the Rising Farmer/Rancher Award of Morris County



Amanda Anderson

*Written by: Mindy Andres
Sponsored by Farm Bureau*

Amanda Anderson, is the second daughter of Dennis and Kathy Anderson. At 25 years old, she's now the fifth generation on one family farm and sixth on another. Growing up, farming hasn't always been something she was interested in pursuing as a career. However, she grew up with a family and life which has given her the love she now has for their land and animals.

Amanda works right along her father, Dennis to run the operation. Dennis & Kathy Anderson won the Morris County Bankers Award in 2017. Below is a segment of his story from Lori Bammerlin's article.

“Dennis & Kathy will be the second generation in succession to be honored as recipients of the Banker Award. In 1992, Dennis’ parents Kenneth and Colleen Anderson, along with his brother Brian, were recognized for their contributions to conservation. Their family has a history of being innovative.”

“Dennis started being involved in agriculture early on. In 5th grade he helped with harvest by running a combine solo and over the past 15 years, he has been in the process of taking over the family farm. At one point, Dennis was able to travel across Kansas with a harvest crew and learn from other practices across the state.”

“Conservation is a family tradition for the Andersons. Over 20 years ago Dennis’s

father started experimenting with no-till practices and after Dennis took on some of his grandfather's land in Geary County they learned that no-till had some great benefits. By using no-till they were able to take rough ground and turn it around to be a fertile field. Other benefits that Anderson has seen with this practice, is the ability to harvest shortly after a rain. 'It might not be how much it rains, but how much rain your soil can handle' said Dennis. He has worked with Alex Miller at the NRCS office to learn more about this concept in addition to other innovative programs. Dennis has implemented several practices thru the Conservation Stewardship Plan (CStP) and the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP). Because of these conservation programs, he has planted cover crops, rotated mineral locations, does grass monitoring, sent in plant tissue tests, switched to low-drift nozzles, and is actively monitoring his soil health using the Haney test."

"We are trying to make the best use out of it while also making the soil healthier for years to come," said Amanda. "For example cover crops, no till, section grazing, crop rotation, GPS to cut down on over application, and soon I will be doing nutrient management all to help better the soil. These are all new practices to me, as is farming and ranching, but I enjoy learning something new every day and having the feeling of leaving something better off than I found it."

Amanda only started working on the farm with her dad a few years ago. "I just decided to try something new and it stuck," Amanda said. "My current roles on the farm are a farmhand for my dad and also a new upcoming farmer/ rancher of my own." One of her favorite things is the freedom and independence while working on the farm. "Every year, you get a chance to change things, try something new, or stick with your old ways but YOU get to choose the best way to raise your crop and livestock," Amanda said. "Sometimes that doesn't always go as planned but it's a chance to learn and grow. But when things do go right and it's a good year that feeling of accomplishment in your job well done is better than any 8-5 job I've had."

The job doesn't come without its struggles. "Currently the biggest problem I'm facing is finding more land so I am able to grow my own operation," Amanda said. "I would like to get to the point of my animals harvesting more crop than the combine does. Having a wide variety of animals that graze the fields and give it different nutrients while also significantly decreasing feed cost is what my future plans consist of. I've got a lot of work and research to do beforehand but I'm excited for what my future holds."

The future is bright for Amanda as she gains knowledge and experience for the job she's come to love. "I loved being raised on a farm and learning what hard work actually meant." Amanda said. "I'm excited to raise my daughter the same way!"



BANKER AWARD

Written by: Shannon Spencer

Sponsored by Citizens State Bank & Trust

This years Banker Award has been awarded to Mark Knopp from Chapman, Kansas. Mark is married to DeAnn and the couple is blessed with two children, Derek and Megan as well as a foster son. Mark grew up on a farm in Dickinson county and has been an avid farmer since 1979. Along with the farm, he served as a full-time electrician in Herington for 35 years until he stepped away from the position three years ago to take on the life of a full-time farmer. Growing up, Mark's parents were very involved in the conservation efforts. Even though he was not born yet, he remembers his parents taking part in a field day in the mid-50's where it was demonstrated how to build terraces and water ways as well as a field day where it was shown how to pour concrete slabs and stand up bunker silos. Mark's parents were honored to serve as stewards of the land and made it a point to share this honor with their children and made sure they knew how important it was to care for the land and its surroundings.



The Knopp family farms ground that they both own and rent in Dickinson, Geary, and Morris counties. Mark's operation consists of planting and harvesting wheat, milo, corn, soybeans, alfalfa and brome hay. After the summer wheat harvest, Knopp planted 50 pounds of pumpkin seeds in one of his cover crop fields in Morris county. His reasoning behind the crop choice was that so his in-laws could enjoy the picking process as well as learning that the other neighbors enjoyed stopping and picking pumpkins as well as just seeing what was being able to grow out in the field.

Throughout the years, the Knopp family has always practiced conservation efforts. Build terraces when needed is important to Mark as well as caring for those terraces and making sure that we are leaving the land better than when we found it. While serving on the Co-Op board at Pearl in Chapman in the 90's, Knopp was able to help them purchase a no-till drill. During this time, no-till was new and the board was able to rent out the drill to farmers with Knopp being first on a list of farmers able to utilize this drill and no-till into a field of soybean stubble and was able to become almost full no-till by 2004-2005 as he was able to see the benefits of how it helped with the conservation efforts as well as how it was building back the soil. In 2013, Knopp began his work with cover crops.

After seeing a neighbor experimenting with cover crops, Mark wondered why they would want to try it in the first place. Even though he had doubts, Knopp decided to give cover crops a try and first planted some oats and radishes in the Fall which winter killed. Then, that next spring when it was time to plant soybeans and decide which field would be the driest to start, the cover crop field resulted in being the last field planted due to the

moisture in the ground. This is when Knopp realized just how important cover crops are and what it would bring benefit wise to his operation. Today, Knopp is utilizing cover crops to conserve the nutrients as well as reclaim them along with increasing soil moisture retention to help benefit his overall yields.

When he meets someone, who has never done or heard of cover cropping, Knopp relates to stories of his past. In 2018,

the weather was so dry and Mark and his family had no choice but to chop half of their corn acre for silage. Due to this situation, Knopp decided to cover every acre with cover crops except for two of fields. The following spring, those two fields were washed by the tracks created by sprayers throughout the year which created an eyeopener for Mark. This is the story he likes to share with producers interested in trying cover crops along with inviting them to walk his cover crop fields with him so that they can see for themselves what is growing and see the amazement on their face when they see what can actually be grown and what each different type of plant can do based on soil structure and the microbes in the soil.

While working with the conservation office, Knopp has worked alongside Alex Miller in determining what cover crop mixes would work best for different situations such as weed suppression, insect suppression, or compaction issues. Miller asked what Mark's goals are for the cover crops and from the beginning Miller has been instrumental in designing the mixes that will work for Mark's goals. Along with Miller, Knopp has worked with Carl Jarboe determining dirt conservation for his operation. With the help from the conservation office, his brother and wife, and his local agronomist Steve Charles, Mark has been able to achieve goals he has set for himself and continues to set goals relating to the planting of cover crops. Please help congratulate Mark Knopp, our 2021 recipient of the Morris County Bankers Award!



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 2022 Nominating Committee to look for outstanding producers to recognize in Morris County at 2023 Morris County Conservation District's 83rd 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.

TWIN LAKES WRAPS

2021 Annual Report

Written by Angela Anderson

Last year's word to summarize 2020 was 'adaptability'. The year 2021 can be summed up as 'slow, safe and steady wins the race'. As Twin Lakes WRAPS went through changes with staffing, with the ever-changing COVID guidelines and environment, Twin Lakes WRAPS wrapped up another year of enjoying working in the watershed.

As last year we saw Coordinator Angela Anderson shift to a Contract Coordinator while joining the Kansas Water Office and Jim Henry being added as a Contract Coordinator as well, this year we saw Jim shift his role. Jim Henry took another role as a contract worker, thus leaving the Twin Lakes WRAPS role. He is still based out of the Council Grove office, so his knowledge and expertise are still available to the area! Jim spent much of the year talking with producers and getting Twin Lakes WRAPS projects started. We look forward to the completion of many of those projects this upcoming year.



Twin Lakes WRAPS was beyond excited to have hosted the Twin Lakes Water Festival once again this year!! Though the Festival had to be moved to a virtual format, the presenters and classes were wonderfully flexible in adapting to the new look. The Twin Lakes WRAPS would like to thank the K-State and Research Extension offices from Council Grove and Emporia, Morris, Lyon, and Geary County Conservation Districts, Council Grove NRCS office, Every Green Team, Kansas Department of Health & Environment, and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for their wonderful hands-on presentations through the computer screen. The presenters worked hard to make their presentation interactive and hands-on, guiding students through activities they were doing in their classroom. Fourth graders from Chase County, Waverly, Emporia, and Council Grove elementary schools made the day enjoyable! A very special 'thank you' goes to the wonderful sponsors of the 2021 Water Festival! Without them, the participants would not have had all of the aspects that make the Water Festival what it is.



Thank you to: Morris County Conservation District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Kansas Department of Health & Environment, Kansas Water Office, Morris County Commission, Lyon County Conservation District, TCT Broadband, Erichsen Agri-Motive,

Flint Hills Rural Electric Cooperative, KansasLand Bank, Farmers & Drivers Bank, Bluestem Farm & Ranch Supply, Gerald Schumann Electric, Morris County Hospital, Adams Lumber & Homestore, Guion's Showcase, Council Grove Community Thrift Store, and Chase County Conservation District. We hope you join us in expressing appreciation for their generous support.

We look forward to 2022 being back at the Council Grove Reservoir!

Angela Anderson greatly enjoyed assisting Tisha Richardson, Morris County District Manager, in providing soil and worm lessons to numerous Council Grove elementary students. To be back in the classrooms in person talking about our wonderful environment was a joy beyond belief!

Other than adapting to those changes, the Twin Lakes WRAPS Stakeholder Leadership Team met two times the past year. Their meeting at the end of the year resulted in the decision as to not award a Water Quality award winner this year. Many potential producers were mentioned for projects they have underway. We know that next year, the decision will be a tough one with many of our wonderful landowners doing amazing things for the benefit of our water supply and soil! Next year's theme just may be 'What to do in 2022?'; but we are excited to work towards finding out the answer! Stay safe, stay in touch, and enjoy the upcoming year!



Council Grove Elementary School 4th Grade Class

CAROLYN ANDRES RETIRES AFTER 21 YEARS WITH FSA

Written by: Mindy Andres



After 21 years of service, Carolyn Andres has retired from the Morris County Farm Service Agency.

Carolyn began her career with FSA in 1998 as a temp hire when the office was located on Hockaday Street, working with Martha Ann Mark, Diane Mann and Chris McAfee as County Executive Director. She worked on and off as a temp until 2006. As Martha Ann retired, Carolyn was hired as a full time employee. She often says she was “fortunate and blessed” to be given the chance to fill the full time position.

Carolyn has always loved providing government resources to producers of Morris County because she is one herself. She is a native to Morris County, daughter of Leroy & Vera Younggen. She and her husband, David, operate a commercial cow/calf operation northeast of Council Grove. Their family farmstead was originally purchased in 1947 by Carolyn’s folks. Both being from farming backgrounds, David and Carolyn, carried on the farming tradition within their lives purchasing the Younggren farmstead in 1990. All while raising their

three children; Heidi, Stuart & Mindy.

Carolyn has seen lots of changes through the years on the farm and in the office. She’s worked through six presidents and four farm bills; all adding up to new software, services and procedures. She’s worked with 750+ farms in the county helping navigate them to success on their operations. “I always tell the producers they don’t need to see these [subsidies] as ‘handouts’” Carolyn said. “Our producers need to participate in these [programs and services] because if they don’t, someone else will.” She sees them as a “safety net” for ag operators and they shouldn’t be ashamed to utilize them.

For example, 2007 was one of the hardest years she has witnessed due to a late wheat freeze. “I saw one of the most optimistic farmers feeling down. What was going to be bumper crop was all of a sudden gone,” Carolyn said. “Without the help of the FSA, it would have been detrimental.”

With the evolution of the system, FSA has not only helped row crop farmers, it now helps many different operators. In 2018, the office was able to help many cattle ranchers use the proper resources for loss of cattle due to weather disasters.

Carolyn wanted to give a special thanks to the Morris County Committee. “Our office couldn’t operate without our county committee,” Andres said. “We need to appreciate their time spent working while serving.” The county committee helps make determinations on programs such as disaster assistance, hiring decisions and assist with outreach.

To say Carolyn was passionate about her role with the producers of Morris County is an understatement. Her work was very important to her saying, “it’s like taking care of family. You become invested. When they hurt, you hurt.” The amount of care and

compassion she had in her job was undeniable.

It's safe to say just because she's "retired" doesn't mean she forgets about her producers. Still able to rattle off farm numbers and farm locations, she still feels "fortunate and blessed" to have worked with the farmers and ranchers of Morris County.

Both she and David are now retired and hoping to enjoy the perks of retirement. They plan to stay busy with their cattle herds, putting up hay in the summer and time spent with kids and grandkids. Proud stewards of the land, they will enjoy time spent working to leave the land better than they found it for generations to come.



MORRIS COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT STATE COST-SHARE ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE

The Morris County Conservation District will be accepting applications for State Cost Share Assistance for 2022-2023. Funds will not be available until July 1, 2022. 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, 2022. 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 provided by the Division of Conservation (DOC), Kansas Department of Agriculture through appropriation from the Kansas Water Plan Fund.



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.



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 SUPPLIES

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



NRCS STANDARD GEOTEXTILE FABRIC

\$1,994.89/Roll or \$5.75/LF (price is influenced by manufacturer's inability to purchase raw materials due to the Covid-19 pandemic, hence increasing the price)

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

\$10.00/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.

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, but 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 costshare 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

Star Seed, Inc.

Feyh Farm Seed Company

Kansas Foundation for Agriculture in the Classroom





WHAT IS ENVIROTHON?

Envirothon is an outdoor, natural resource education program for high school students that is organized and coordinated by Conservation Districts. The Kansas Envirothon Committee, a part of the 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.

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. Districts are also encouraged to help with the teams' expenses, which includes registration fees for the Regional, Kansas Envirothon and International events.

2021 COMPETITION

The 2021 Kansas Envirothon was held virtually. A Regional Competition had been held leading up to the State Competition on April 28th.

The 13-team field, was bested by the group from Manhattan High School.

The Current Issue for this year's competition was "Water Resource Management: Local Control and Local Solutions" and each subject area included information on their particular challenges in that topic.

The team from Manhattan then went on to participate in the National Conservation Foundation's International Envirothon, which was also held virtually and hosted by the Nebraska Association of Resources Districts.

Check out our Website!

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

The Kansas Envirothon website is primary tool for public outreach as well as a source of information for competing teams. Links are provided to the International Envirothon website and to educational material in the various resource areas of the competition. Team photos from the most recent contest are posted along with winners from the past twenty plus years, and much more. Thanks to KACD for providing this important service.

Contact your local Conservation District to find out how you can assist in this premier program.

KANSAS ENVIROTHON COMMITTEE CONTACT INFORMATION

Dana Schmelzle, Chairperson
Nemaha County
Conservation District

dana.schmelzle@ks.nacdnet.net
785-336-2186

Chalee Braun, Vice-Chair
Shawnee County
Conservation District

chalee.braun@ks.nacdnet.net
785-338-9946

Pamela Hays, Treasurer
Ellsworth County
Conservation District

pamela.hays@ks.nacdnet.net
785-472-3161

2022 ENVIROTHON EVENTS

APRIL 6 - Regional Event held near Council Grove at the White Memorial Camp

APRIL 6 - Regional Event held in SE Kansas TBD

APRIL 13 - Regional Event held at Wilson Lake in Russell/Lincoln Counties

APRIL 13 - Regional Event held at the Red Rock Guest Ranch in Jackson County

APRIL 27 - Kansas Envirothon held at Camp Wood near Elmdale, Kansas

JULY 24-30 - National Conservation Foundation's International Envirothon
Miami University, Oxford, Ohio

Current Issue: "Waste to Resources"

THE MORRIS COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT'S 82nd ANNUAL MEETING

An election of one supervisor will take place along with a program announcing this year's Conservation Award Winners and various K-8 Grade Award Winners. A raffle will also take place with giveaways and \$25 Visa Card as the main prize.

Dinner will be catered by Ricky's Café. Reservations can be purchased in advance for \$3.00 at the USDA Service Center (116 Fox Street, Council Grove, KS) or \$5.00 at the door.

We look forward to seeing you there!

Saturday, January 29, 2022

Dinner | 6:30pm Meeting | 7:30pm

*Morris County 4-H Community Building
612 US-56 Council Grove, KS*

2022

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
		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					

March						
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		

April						
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

May						
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		

June						
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

July						
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						

August						
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		

September						
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

October						
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					

November						
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			

December						
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						

2022 Calendar with Holidays by Vertex42.com <https://www.vertex42.com/calendars/2022.html> © 2016 Vertex42 LLC. Free to Print