

MORRIS COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT ANNOUNCES COST-SHARE SIGN-UP

Landowners with natural resource or non-point source pollution concerns on their property are encouraged to visit the Morris County Conservation District to discuss solutions and possible State financial assistance. The Morris County Conservation District is conducting a Sign-Up May 2 through May 31, 2016 to accept requests for State Cost-Share assistance. The Kansas Department of Agriculture's Division of Conservation (DOC) administers State cost-share programs through the Conservation District, which provides landowners financial assistance to implement approved conservation practices. Part of that evaluation process will usually include an on-site visit. Appropriations for DOC cost-share programs are from the State Water Plan Fund.

Following the sign-up deadline, the Conservation District will be developing the county program based on conservation needs being assessed, in part, by the project proposals. Projects will be approved by the Conservation District on a priority basis. The sign-up does not guarantee approval or cost-share assistance. Application approval will be subject to a ranking process using specific criteria established by the Morris County Conservation District, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), and DOC.

Applications receiving approval from the Morris County Conservation District and DOC may start implementation after July 1, 2016. Landowners are asked to carefully plan for the construction of structural practices so that the funding does not get lost due to time constraints. Cost-share assistance is **NOT** available for projects started or completed **PRIOR** to DOC approval. Furthermore, practices must comply with NRCS Field Office Technical Guide Standards and Specifications, or other standards and specifications approved by the DOC.

Anyone interested in receiving cost-share assistance from either the WRCSP or the NPS Program must sign up between May 2 and May 31, 2016. The District also takes continuous applications throughout the year, so you need to check to make sure you already have an application submitted to the Conservation District office at 116 Fox Street, Council Grove, KS 66846-1219. Practices approved for the WRCSP are: diversions, terraces, waterways, range planting, spring developments, dry hydrants, or ponds. Practices approved for NPS are: plugging water wells, confined animal feeding operations, heavy use areas, and onsite wastewater sewer systems. Please visit our website at www.morriscountyconservationdistrict.com to see all practices that can be cost-shared on, and to learn more about what they entail. If you have any questions or concerns about these programs, please call Jo Bea Titus - Hutchinson, District Manager, at the Morris County Conservation District at 620-767-5111 - Ext. 101.

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