



Resources



Riley County Conservation District

Winter 2012 Newsletter

www.rileycountyks.gov/conservationdistrict

Volume 19, Issue 1

ANNUAL MEETING – February 2nd

The Riley County Conservation District's **63rd Annual Meeting** will be held on Thursday evening, **February 2nd, 2012 at Pottorf Hall** in CICO Park, near the intersection of Avery and Kimball Avenues in Manhattan, Kansas. **Supper will be served at 6:30 PM**, and will consist of a hearty buffet catered by Ricky's Café of Hanover, Kansas. **Bob Workman**, Director of the soon to open **Flint Hills Discovery Center** in Manhattan will be our special guest speaker.

We changed the program a bit this past year. We do not present awards for posters and other contests to school children and their families, and thus anticipate a smaller audience and shorter evening. A short **business meeting** will follow the meal and our guest speaker, and District Board Supervisors will present the 2011 annual report and treasurer's report. Two Board Supervisors will be elected to three year terms. The 2011 Soil & Water Conservation Award and Grassland Award will be presented to Riley County landowners, and we will draw for Door Prizes! **(If you'd like to donate a door prize, it would be very much appreciated!)**

In order to know how much food to prepare, **reservations are required**. To make your reservations, please phone (785) 537 8764 ext 1301, or send an email message to robert.lienemann@ks.nacdn.net, or return the form below to the Riley County Conservation District's office in Manhattan. Please contact Bob if you are able to contribute a door prize, and **please respond no later than January 27, 2012**.

_____ (clip here and return)



RESERVATION FORM

Please reserve _____ meal(s) for the 63rd Annual Meeting of the Riley County Conservation District to be held on February 2nd, 2012 at Pottorf Hall in CICO Park in Manhattan. The meal will be served at 6:30 PM.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

Return to:

**Riley County Conservation District, 3705 Miller Parkway - Suite A,
Manhattan, KS 66503**

**Thank you to Riley State Bank, UMB National Bank, Union State Bank,
Commerce Bank, Leonardville State Bank and Kansas State Bank
for contributing to our Annual Meeting and meal.**

Bob Workman, Speaker



Mr. Bob Workman is director of the **Flint Hills Discovery Center**, a 35,000 sq. ft. science and history learning center under construction in Manhattan. Before coming to Manhattan, Workman was the founding director of Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art in Bentonville, Arkansas - a 200,000 sq. ft. art museum project funded by the Walton Family Foundation.

Bob began his career at Wichita State University, where he earned a Bachelor's degree in Art History, and worked at the Ulrich Museum of Art. He and his wife Liz pursued graduate degrees at Boston University, where Bob earned a Master of Arts degree in Art History and a Certificate of Museum Studies. He has been a curator at the Museum of Art, Rhode Island School of Design; director of exhibitions at the American Federation of Arts in New York City, and Deputy Director of the Amon Carter Museum in Fort Worth, Texas.

Your Current Staff



NRCS and FSA employees in the Manhattan Service Center serve both Riley and Geary Counties. **Kevin Religa**, District Conservationist is your best contact for CSP, EQIP, WHIP, and other program questions.

Tom Roth is Soil Cons. and Nutrient Mgmt. Specialist for the region, and **Nick Strawn** is our Technician, providing design, staking and checkout for field work. **John Henry** works a ten

county area from this office and **Alex Miller** works four local counties, both as Range Mgmt. Specialists. **James Ungerer** works part time while attending K-State.

Bob Lienemann is a staff of one for the Riley County Conservation District. Bob is your best contact for state cost share funds, drill rental, grass seed, educational programs and the District's farm. We try to keep someone in the office, but occasionally we are all in the field. **If you have a specific need, it is best to call ahead** and be sure that we'll be here to help you - (785) 537 8764 ext 1301.



Flint Hills PF & QF

Flint Hills Pheasants & Quail Forever will hold their **Annual Banquet on Friday, February 10, 2012** at the Purple Wave Banquet Hall, 823 Levee Drive in Manhattan, Kansas. They have planned some amazing raffles for 19 fine firearms and other items, and the proceeds support habitat work in Riley, Geary, Pottawatomie, Washington, Clay and Marshall Counties. **For information about the banquet, contact Josh Vogt** at (608) 225 2309 or at bccmanhattan@cox.net.

EQIP / WHIP / CSP Signups

Producers with cropland, rangeland, or forestland with any concerns should visit their local NRCS office and work with the staff to **develop a conservation plan**. Financial assistance for certain improvements may be available, and applications for these programs can be submitted at any time. As future signup deadlines are announced, the **applications on hand will be ranked and considered for funding**.

A new program within EQIP this year provides funding for **windbreak renovation, tree plantings along streambanks and woodland management**. A Kansas Forest Service specialist will visit your property and recommend improvements.

For information about EQIP, WHIP and CSP – call Kevin Religa at (785) 776 7582 ext 1303 - or visit the KS NRCS Web site at www.ks.nrcs.usda.gov/programs. NRCS is an equal opportunity provider and employer.



Burn Permits



Prescribed burning is required on many local CSP, CRP, WHIP and EQIP contracts. Landowners are reminded that **a burn permit is required in Riley County**. Please be safe and follow all county burning guidelines. For information or to obtain a permit, contact Riley County Emergency Management at (785) 537 6333, or you can apply online at www.rileycountyks.gov.

District's Website Has Moved

www.rileycountyks.gov/conservationdistrict is the new link to our website, hosted by Riley County government.



Our current and recent newsletters are available there in full color in early January and early June - plus other timely information. Check us out! And let us know if you'd prefer to view the newsletters on the website vs. receiving a paper copy in the mail. **That conserves paper and postage.**



Range and Wildflower Tours

Alex Miller - NRCS and Carol Blocksome - KSU led a tour at the District's farm north of Manhattan this past June, to learn the wildflowers of Riley County, and to view first hand native grass recovery after cutting dense cedars and locusts. The evening was cut short by a hailstorm! **Another tour is tentatively planned for this spring** – possibly in June – a more relaxed walk with time for questions. Watch for an announcement.

Conservation District Sales

The District offers items for sale or rent from time to time, with the **proceeds going toward** Annual Meeting costs, awards to school children for poster and essay contests, conservation awards to landowners, participation in the Envirothon and other **programs that educate and promote the wise use of our county's natural resources.**



Native Grass Seed – our standard mix includes Big Bluestem, Little Bluestem, Indiangrass, Switchgrass and Sideoats Grama. **Special seed mixes can be prepared for your site, and we rent grassland drills.** Please call Bob at (785) 537 8764 ext 1301 for availability.



ENVIROTHON

This year's **Area Envirothon** competitions will be held at **Council Grove Reservoir on April 11th**, and at **Centralia Lake near Seneca on April 18th, 2012**. The statewide Envirothon competition will then be held at a camp near **Salina on May 9th**.

The **Envirothon program** is for students in grades 9 - 12, who conduct fieldwork, and then compete in the five subject areas of Wildlife, Forestry, Soils, Aquatics, and the Current Environmental Issue.

Riley County Conservation District
3705 Miller Parkway – Suite A
Manhattan, KS 66503
785 537 8764 ext 1301

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Conservation Newsletter

**Riley County Conservation District
Board of Supervisors:**

Nathan Larson, Chair
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Steve Hargrave, Member
Steve Strauss, Member

Conservation District Staff:

Bob Lienemann, District Manager



**Natural Resources Conservation Service
Staff:**

Kevin C. Religa,
District Conservationist
Tom Roth,
Soil Conservationist
Nick Strawn,
Soil Conservation Technician
John Henry and Alex Miller,
Range Management Specialists
James Ungerer, KSU Graduate Student

Riley County Conservation District Board meetings are generally held the second Thursday of each month -
(May-October at 7:30 PM, and November-April at 6:30 PM). The public is welcome to attend – please call to verify time of meeting.