



Resources



Riley County Conservation District

Winter 2014 Newsletter

www.rileycountyks.gov/conservationdistrict

Volume 21, Issue 1

ANNUAL MEETING – February 6th

The Riley County Conservation District's **65th Annual Meeting** will be held on Thursday evening, **February 6th, 2014 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. Jim Hoy of Emporia State University will entertain us after dinner.

A short **business meeting** will follow, and District Board Supervisors will present the 2013 annual report and treasurer's report. Two Board Supervisors will be elected to a three year term. The 2013 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 aubrey.evans@ks.nacdnet.net, or return the form below to the Riley County Conservation District's office in Manhattan. Please contact Aubrey if you are able to contribute a door prize, and **please respond no later than January 30th, 2014**.

_____ (clip here and return)



RESERVATION FORM

Please reserve _____ meal(s) for the 65th Annual Meeting of the Riley County Conservation District to be held on February 6th, 2014 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 66503-7604**

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

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 and Andrew Klein** are Technicians, providing design, staking and checkout for field work. **Myra Richardson** works four local counties as Range Conservationist.

Aubrey Evans 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.

Riparian Landowner Survey

What do you think about trees along streams next to crop fields?

This question is the focus of a joint research project between Kansas State University and the University of Missouri. Often, trees are promoted for planting along streams because of their environmental benefits, yet there are numerous factors that landowners must consider before adopting this practice. "We encourage the location of wooded buffers along creeks and rivers," said Thad Rhodes, District Forester with the Kansas Forest Service, "however, each property is unique and landowners have various opinions about what is desirable. In an effort to better perform our job, we need to know what people want."

To help gather this information, questionnaires will be sent to rural landowners with property located in, or near, the Tuttle Creek Reservoir drainage area early in January. "This is an opportunity for landowners' voices to be heard," said Rhodes, "whether they are in favor of or opposed to having trees in these locations, we would like to hear about it."

Responses to the survey will be kept completely confidential, as this project is an opportunity for rural landowners to provide input without concern for being told how to manage their property. Rhodes expressed, "We are really looking for honest responses; if there is something that is especially desirable or undesirable

about trees in these areas, we would like to know. Only by receiving this type of information can we begin to tailor our efforts towards helping achieve your objectives."

Questions regarding this project can be directed to Thad Rhodes, Kansas Forest Service at 785-776-7582, ext. 1517.

Supervisor Wins Award

Nathan Larson, Supervisor for the Riley County Conservation District for 23 years, has won the Don Rezac Memorial Award at the Kansas Association of Conservation Districts Annual Convention in Wichita. This prestigious award is given to those supervisors who have been on the board for at least 20 years and who exhibit exemplary leadership for both their Conservation District and their county.

We are honored and lucky to have such a person on our Board and in our community. Congratulations Nathan!

District's Website

www.rileycountyks.gov/conservationdistrict will take you to our website. Current and recent newsletters are available there in full color in January and June - plus other timely information. Check us out!



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.



ENVIROTHON



This year's **Area Envirothon** competitions will be held at **Centralia Lake near Seneca** and at **Council Grove Reservoir on April 16th, 2014**. The statewide Envirothon competition will then be held at a camp near **Salina on April 30th**.

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.

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**. 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.

Soil Health Meeting

A soil health meeting will be held on March 6th from 9 to 2:30 at Pottorf Hall in Manhattan. The Meeting will be hosted by area Conservation Districts and WRAPS. Some of the speakers and topics will include:

- Dale Strickler, Star Seed- cover crops and grazing
- Keith Berns, Green Cover Seed- functions of cover crops
- Kris Ethridge, NRCS- Aggregate stability, infiltration

DeAnn Presley, KSU- Cover crop research

The keynote speaker will be Dr. Rick Haney, ARS. Dr. Haney has developed a soil health test.

A free lunch will be provided by Clay Center Locker. Questions should be directed to RCCD.

Conservation District News

We may have **limited cost share funds available for work in the Wildcat Creek watershed**. Give us a call at **785 537-8764 ext 1301** if you have a project in this area.



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 us at (785) 537 8764 ext 1301 for availability.

Riley County Conservation District
3705 Miller Parkway – Suite A
Manhattan, KS 66503-7604
785 537 8764 ext 1301

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Happy New Year 2014!

Conservation Newsletter

Riley County Conservation District
Board of Supervisors:

Steve Hargrave, Chair
Stanley Johnson, Vice Chair
David Cederberg, Treasurer
Steve Strauss, Member
Nathan Larson, Member

Conservation District Staff:

Aubrey Evans, District Manager



Natural Resources Conservation Service
Staff:

Kevin C. Religa,
District Conservationist
Tom Roth,
Soil Conservationist
Nick Strawn and Andrew Klein,
Soil Conservation Technicians
Myra Richardson,
Range Conservationist

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 6:00 PM). The public is welcome to attend – please call to verify time of meeting.