



Resources



Riley County Conservation District

Winter 2015 Newsletter

www.rileycountyks.gov/conservationdistrict

Volume 22, Issue 1

ANNUAL MEETING – February 5th

The Riley County Conservation District's **66th Annual Meeting** will be held on Thursday evening, **February 5th, 2015 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. MJ Morgan of Kansas State University will entertain us after dinner.

A short **business meeting** will follow, and District Board Supervisors will present the 2014 annual report and treasurer's report. Two Board Supervisors will be elected to a three year term. The 2014 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, 2015**.

_____ (clip here and return)



RESERVATION FORM

Please reserve _____ meal(s) for the 66th Annual Meeting of the Riley County Conservation District to be held on February 5th, 2015 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, **Myra Richardson** works four local counties as Soil Conservationist, and **Lisa Wainwright** is our new Technician, providing design, staking and checkout for field work.

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.

Soil Health Workshop

The Riley County Conservation District and NRCS put together a two-part soil health workshop this past year.

Part one was in March, and focused on presenters covering topics such as soil health testing, cover crops, and minimum tillage. There were experts from within the agency as well as academia and a panel of local producers. Coupled with a free whole hog meal provided by Clay Center Locker, this event was well-attended and successful.

Part two was held in early October. District and NRCS personnel were able to drill 31 test cover crop plots on Alembic Rd. south of Leonardville. The workshop was held at Nelson's Landing in the morning with more presenters, and then the group went to the field to observe the cover crop test plots. There was a question and answer session, and the field day was over by noon.

Testing on the plots has continued since our October field day, and will continue on into the spring until planting. Anyone interested in the results from those tests can call Tom Roth at (785) 537-8764 x 1305.

Thanks to the Division of Conservation for the grant money, and to all the area Conservation Districts and others that donated money. A pat on the back goes to all those who made the test plots happen: Kevin Religa, NRCS, Myra Richardson, NRCS, Lisa Wainwright, RCCD/NRCS, Aubrey Evans, RCCD, Cathryn Davis, graduate student at KSU and Chelsie Keating, Animal

Science student and KSU volleyball player. A special thanks to Tom Roth, NRCS, for masterminding the whole event from start to finish, and a Very Special thanks to Roger Heikes, the landowner of our test plots, and to Gary and Mark Sylvester, the operators, who also took time out of their busy schedules to operate our drill with their own tractor and time and lent us their expertise through the process.

Watch for another event of this type in the coming year!

NOTICE

“In accordance with the 2014 Farm Bill, USDA departments, including NRCS (and by extension, RCCD), are required to provide a receipt for service to any current or prospective producer or landowner requesting a USDA benefit or service.”

What this means to you: If you come into our office and ask for a service, you will receive a receipt for that service unless you turn down the receipt. This will not apply to phone calls, or appointments in which you receive paperwork, as that will suffice as your receipt.

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 **Soldier, KS on April 15th, 2015** and at **Council Grove Reservoir on April 8th, 2015**. The statewide Envirothon competition will then be held near **Emporia on April 30th**.

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

The Riley County Conservation District also participated in this year's big event, the Kansas Heartland Envirothon. Every year, winners from the State contests get to attend the North American contest, held in a different state or province every year. Last year was set to be in Georgia, but due to funding, was cancelled at the last minute. The Kansas Envirothon Committee stepped up and pledged to put on a smaller event with just two months' lead time! We had participants from Texas, Tennessee, Kansas, North Dakota, South Dakota, Arkansas, and Florida. The Texas team took first, with Florida in second and Tennessee third. The kids and their advisors alike also took educational trips around the area and got to learn a little about Kansas/Kansans. The feedback was all good, and we got to show some folks a side of Kansas and the Flint Hills they had never seen! Next year the North American is back on, and is being held in Springfield, MO.

Any questions about Envirothon can be taken by Aubrey Evans at (785) 537-8764 x1301 or aubrey.evans@ks.nacdnet.net

EQIP / 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.

Ownership and Name Changes on Conservation Contracts

Please notify NRCS if you sell land that is under an EQIP, GRP, CSP, or WHIP contract, **or if the land has been transferred to a trust, LLC, or partnership**. As a contract holder you are required to notify NRCS within 60 days of any changes. Many landowners are changing ownership designation by creating trusts. Contract transfer paperwork needs to be completed for any of these changes to avoid contract violations and payment delays. Direct deposit banking information also needs to be updated. **Even if you notify FSA, you also need to notify NRCS separately** of any changes. Thank you.

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**. **NEW THIS YEAR: The District has purchased a brand-new Great Plains no-till drill!** Please call us at (785) 537 8764 ext 1301 for availability.

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

PRSR STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
MANHATTAN, KS
PERMIT NO. 79

Happy New Year 2015!

Conservation Newsletter

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

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

Conservation District Staff:

Aubrey Evans, District Manager



**Natural Resources Conservation Service
Staff:**

Kevin C. Religa,
District Conservationist
Tom Roth,
Soil Conservationist, CNMP Specialist
Myra Richardson,
Soil Conservationist

Lisa Wainwright,
Soil Conservation Technician
NRCS and RCCD

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.