

SUMMER

Volume 38, Issue 1

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## COMMITTEE SEEKING BANKERS CONSERVATION AWARD NOMINATIONS

It is a pleasure to join with the Kansas Bankers Association and Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks to continue to promote the recognition of farmers, ranchers, and landowners who have completed projects designed to improve environmental quality or conserve natural resources. We welcome your nomination(s) of landowners who have made efforts in the following categories:

- **Energy Conservation:** The purpose of the Energy Conservation Award is to stimulate greater interest in the conservation of energy and to recognizes farmers and ranchers who have taken measures to reduce fossil-fuel use on their farms and ranches.
- **Soil Conservation:** The Soil Conservation Award seeks to promote the conservation of natural resources in Kansas. This award recognizes farmers and ranchers who have developed and implemented complete soil conservation plans according to the capability of the land.
- **Water Conservation:** The Water Conservation Award seeks to promote the conservation of water resources in Kansas. This award recognizes farmers and ranchers who have taken measures to improve the beneficial use of an existing water supply and/or to reduce the water consumption on their farms and ranches.
- **Water Quality:** The Water Quality Recognition Program seeks to encourage the protection of the natural water resources in Kansas. This award recognizes farmers and ranchers who have taken measures to improve and protect water quality on their land.
- **Wildlife:** The Wildlife Award seeks to promote the interest in fish and wildlife habitat in Kansas and to recognizes farmers and ranchers who have made progress in the development and stewardship of fish and wildlife resources.
- **Windbreaks:** The Soil Conservation Award seeks to promote the development of windbreaks in Kansas and recognize farmers and ranchers who have established and managed windbreaks on their land.

As designated Chairperson of the committee to select persons to receive the awards, please send your nomination to Justin Goodno, Extension Agent for Agriculture and Natural Resources in Barber County by October 1, 2026.

Barber County Extension Office  
118 E Washington  
Medicine Lodge, KS 67104  
620-886-3971

The conservation office maintains a large inventory of HDPE pipe and components for all your drainage needs. We also stock New Zealand 19-strand woven cable, fiberglass posts, and more if you're looking to do some cross-fencing in your pastures.

We would appreciate the opportunity to get a quote for you on your warm or cool season grasses, native grass mixes, or cover crop mixes.

Our 15' Great Plains no-till drill is serviced and ready to get in the field for your fall planting.

## **A CHANGE IN LEADERSHIP AT BCCD**

After serving 33.5 years as supervisor for the Barber County Conservation District, Ted Alexander has resigned his position. During his time on the board, he has served as Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Treasurer, and Member. Ted's contributions to the board are immeasurable when we think of the time he has given, the knowledge he has shared, and the many innovative ideas he has brought to fruition on behalf of the conservation district. Our heartfelt 'Thank You' seems inadequate to express our deep appreciation, but I know Ted will accept that and be proud knowing his years on the board have been fruitful. Thank You, Ted!

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## **WELCOMING A NEW MEMBER TO THE TEAM**

Barber County Conservation District is proud to welcome our newest board supervisor, Courtney Pilkington.

Courtney was born and raised in Barber County and has been involved in farming her entire life. Her deep roots in agriculture have given her a strong appreciation for the land, the farming community, and the importance of responsible stewardship of natural resources.

As a Crop Claims Specialist with RCIS, Courtney works closely with agricultural producers, helping them navigate the crop insurance claims process with professionalism and care. Her lifelong connection to farming allows her to understand the unique challenges faced by those who make their living from the land.

Outside of her career, Courtney enjoys reading and traveling. She is also the proud mother of a daughter, Madison, who lives in Wisconsin. Courtney is excited to contribute her experience and passion for agriculture to help further conservation efforts in Barber County and support initiatives that will benefit future generations.

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## **MEET OUR DISTRICT MANAGER**

Brittany Moss is honored to serve as the Conservation District Manager for the Barber County Conservation District. While her professional background is not in conservation, she has always been passionate about serving others, building relationships, and making a positive impact in her community.

The opportunity to join the Conservation District appealed to Brittany because it combines community service with the chance to learn about and support the stewardship of our natural resources. She enjoys working with landowners, producers, partner agencies, and the Board of Supervisors to help connect people with the educational, technical, and financial resources available through the district. She believes that conservation is built on collaboration and that every effort, big or small, contributes to a healthier future for generations to come.

When she's not at work, Brittany enjoys spending time with her four beloved fur babies, who always keep life entertaining. She values time with family and friends and appreciates the simple joys of everyday life. Brittany is excited to continue learning, growing in her role, and serving the people of Barber County with enthusiasm and dedication.

Brittany looks forward to building lasting relationships throughout the community and supporting the district's mission of helping

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## **SUMMER INTERNSHIP AT BCCD**

During the summer of 2026 Barber County Conservation District had the pleasure of hosting Trilbey Dorsey as a summer intern and job shadow the USDA-NRCS.

Trilbey is a 2026 graduate of South Barber High School. She possesses a strong work ethic and is not a girl to sit idly by. She owns and operates her own snow cone business (YETI ICE), is employed part-time as a server for the Plum Thicket Inn, and is a dog-sitter. She enjoys fishing, hiking, and hanging out with friends.

During her time with NRCS employees Trilbey completed multiple brush management checkouts, attended prescribed burns, and helped in brush monitoring checkouts for the Great Plains Grassland Initiative. Trilbey assisted in the annual safety inspection reports for the Coldwater dam as well as the Macadoo watershed Dam. Trilbey attended multiple planning days with local producers for General EQIP and GPGI programs, as well as a planning day using a large drone to identify old world bluestem in our native pastures. Her last full work day will be attending a day with NRCS area staff to complete a wetland determination.

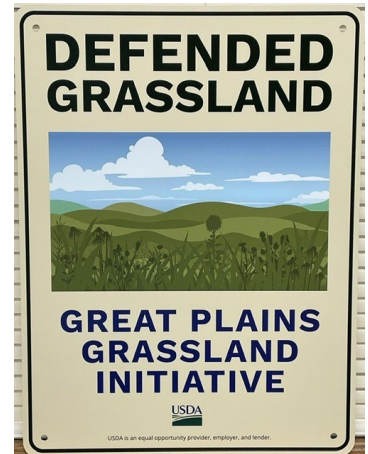
We've certainly enjoyed working with Trilbey and wish her the best of luck this fall as she will be attending Pratt Community College focusing on wildlife operations and outfitting.

*Be on the look-out for these signs in Barber County in the near future.*

In an effort to recognize some of the landowners in Barber County who have participated in the Great Plains Grassland Initiative (GPGI), NRCS will be presenting these signs to bring attention to the program as well as the landowners.

These landowners have not only completed the work on their land as required through the program, but have adopted the mind set of maintaining the improvements to their grasslands as they are seeing first hand the grazing land health and grass production benefits.

The landscape in Barber County has certainly changed on these landowners' grasslands thanks to their committed efforts—and they are well pleased with the results!



## **GREAT PLAINS GRASSLAND INITIATIVE**

Transitioning from productive grassland to woody plant dominance is the greatest threat facing grasslands in Kansas. Ranchers now have the tools, science, and a funding opportunity to help address woody plant encroachment on targeted rangelands through the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS).

Woody plant encroachment puts pressure on working rangelands by decreasing livestock production and increasing wildfire risk as well as harming grassland biodiversity and increasing threats to animal species living in this biome.

The development of scientific tools provides unprecedented opportunities to track woody encroachment and develop strategic approaches to combat it. When combined with landowner expertise, Kansas ranchers and NRCS can defend intact grasslands, reduce vulnerability to future encroachment, and cut long-term maintenance costs. USDA NRCS has adopted an approach to addressing this widespread threat through the Kansas Great Plains Grassland Initiative (GPGI).

GPGI provides technical and financial resources to eligible ranchers to address woody plant encroachment. This initiative provides an opportunity for producers to reduce the vulnerability of Kansas core grasslands from woody encroachment.

Treatment strategies will rely on an integrated pest management conservation system plan to manage woody species encroachment on identified planned land units (PLUs) within the core grassland areas.

Please contact the USDA/NRCS office in Medicine Lodge, 620-886-5311, for more information.