

Conservation Conversation



EQIP CONTRACT PLANNING UNDERWAY

The Natural Resource Conservation Service has concluded its Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) application period for FY 2023. For Barber County, there has been a total of 16 applications ranging from engineering projects such as terraces, grassed waterways, and livestock water developments, as well as range management projects that include prescribed grazing, range planting, and brush management. These applications are now in the conservation planning process where NRCS staff will meet with producers to begin discussions on their plans to meet their current and future objectives.

The NRCS is still currently taking Great Plains Grassland Initiative (GPGI) applications. The GPGI provides technical and financial resources to eligible ranchers in specific geographic rangelands to address woody plant encroachment.

Contact the NRCS at the USDA Service Center with any questions regarding future EQIP or GPGI applications.

Conservation District Plans Annual Meeting

The annual meeting of the Barber County Conservation District is planned for January 28, 2023 at the Hardtner Community Center. Conservation District law requires each conservation district to hold an annual meeting to provide full disclosure of district activities/accomplishments and financial affairs, as well as hold an election of supervisors whose terms are expiring.

A catered meal provided by the banks in Barber County, will begin at 6:00 PM followed by a short business meeting. Kansas Bankers Conservation Awards will be presented, and winners of the conservation poster contest will be recognized.

Please plan to join us for this event by calling in your reservation to the conservation office:

(620) 886-5311, ext. 3.

CABLE FOR FENCING IS BACK IN STOCK!

Our 19-strand cable for cross fencing has finally arrived. Producers who are using the cable find it to be durable, easy to handle, and economical, so stop by and shop our inventory of fencing supplies.

Don't forget to check out our large inventory of high density polyethylene pipe (HDPE) and single wall pipe in sizes 4" - 48" diameter for your drainage needs.

As a Kansas registered seed dealer, we would appreciate the opportunity to work up a pricing quote for your native seed mixes, cool season seeding, and cover crops.

Board of Supervisors

Ann Cargill.....Chairman
Calvin Boyd.....Vice Chairman
Matt Cantrell.....Treasurer
John Cook.....Member
Ted Alexander.....Member

The Barber County Conservation District regular board meetings are held the first Tuesday of each month.

Holidays

December 25: Christmas Day
January 1: New Year's Day

THE IMPORTANCE OF WATER SAMPLING

By Justin Goodno, Extension Agent—Barber County
K-State Research and Extension

We would encourage you as cattle producers to monitor your water sources through sampling. This is a simple process and by sampling, you can ensure that your cattle are consuming water from a wholesome and safe source.

Water is by far the most vital nutrient to all living things, including cattle. It accounts for about 60 percent of body composition and an even higher percentage in younger animals. Water supports nearly every bodily function. Water consumption for beef cattle ranges from approximately 10 gallons for feeder calves up to 30 gallons for mature, lactating cows.

Water directly impacts cattle health and performance. Adequate intake is paramount for cattle health. Water consumption can be hindered when cattle consume water with high levels of contaminants. This decline in water consumption reduces feed intake and overall performance. Protecting and managing the water source is critical for maintaining the overall health of cattle.

Cattle producers should monitor water for contaminants. Some water sources may need to be sampled yearly. Sampling also may be indicated for wells that are shallow, or at risk from contaminated runoff, in times of drought, or when a problem (algae bloom) is suspected. We can help identify a laboratory for you to submit a water sample for analysis. If contaminants are found, a proper management plan can be implemented to correct the issue and decrease the risk to livestock.

Congratulations to two Medicine Lodge High School art students who placed at the State level in the Kansas Association of Conservation Districts' Conservation Poster Contest.

Elizabeth Sorrel received Honorable Mention in the 7th—9th Grade Division, and Avalon Theis placed 2nd in the 10th-12th age group. Great job girls, and thanks to Ms. Kay Stimatze, art teacher at MLHS.



Elizabeth Sorrel 7-9 Grade

2022 Conservation
Poster Contest Theme



Avalon Theis 10-12 Grade

Survey Questions Designed To Assist Barber County Producers

Throughout the year, the conservation office has been including a survey in their quarterly newsletters with the intention of gathering information which we hope will be beneficial to Barber County producers.

The Spring newsletter survey was on Wheat Pasture/Forage Crop Grazing, while the Summer issue dealt with Pasture Leasing Arrangements. The following page of the Fall newsletter addresses Recreational Leasing. The information on each completed survey is provided to offer more locally accurate information when questions about these topics are asked of the local extension office.

Justin Goodno, Extension Agent—Barber County, has reported some good responses to the surveys. As a reminder, the answers provided on the surveys are confidential and are only used to assist producers in their planning decisions as they think about leasing arrangements in Barber County.

We hope you'll take a few minutes to complete the one-page survey and return it to the conservation office or the extension office.



**2022 RECREATIONAL LEASING ARRANGEMENT SURVEY
HUNTING OR FISHING**
K-State Research and Extension and Soil Conservation District
Barber County

Information from this survey will be used for general education. Survey responses are kept strictly confidential.

1. Is this lease written or oral? (Circle one)

Written

Oral

2. How many years has this tract been leased by the same tenant? _____years

3. Do you participate in "walk-in" hunting? (Circle one)

Yes

No

4. What specific uses does this lease cover and what lease arrangements exist for each use?

	Acres Leased	Number of People covered by lease	Rental period (day/week/month/season)	Total Rent (\$)
A. Hunting deer	_____	_____	_____	_____
B. Hunting turkey	_____	_____	_____	_____
C. Hunting upland game bird	_____	_____	_____	_____
D. Hunting waterfowl	_____	_____	_____	_____
E. Fishing	_____	_____	_____	_____
F. Other (specify)_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

5. How would you rate the quality of this tract for hunting or fishing as rented above? (Circle one)

Superior

Excellent

Very Good

Good

Fair

6. Is the property specifically managed to improve the wildlife or fish habitat? (Circle one)

Yes

No

7. Who maintains the land?

Tenant _____

Landowner _____

8. Are users (hunters or fishermen) required to sign a waiver of liability and/or carry liability insurance? (Circle one)

Yes

No