

April is State Cost Share Sign-Up

Applications are now being accepted and throughout the month of April for cost share assistance through the state's Water Resources Cost Share Program (WRCSP) and the Non-Point Source Pollution Control Program (NPS). A few of the practices which are available through these two programs are erosion control structures, pipe outlet terraces, construction of terraces and grassed waterways, range and pasture seeding, livestock water developments (to include tanks, wells, pumping systems, and pipelines), fencing, and dry hydrants for rural fire protection. Also included in the NPS program specifically are abandoned water well plugging and repair of failed septic systems.

All applications will be ranked according to a priority based ranking worksheet, and funded corresponding to their ranking until all funds are allocated. Projects cannot be started prior to contract approval by the state. To apply for these funds, call or stop by the conservation office and let us know about your project needs.

Funding provided by the Division of Conservation, Kansas Department of Agriculture through appropriation from the Kansas Water Plan Fund.

Spring Wildflower Tour Cancelled

Due to recent public health concerns, The BCCD Board of Supervisors has made the decision to cancel this year's Spring Wildflower Tour. The tour is scheduled for May 9 and things could be back to "normal" by then, but at this time the school buses and other venues will not be available. Although we regret that we will not be able to offer the tour this year, our first consideration is for the health and safety of our guests.

Hope to see you next year on May 8th!

Range Youth Camp Scholarship



Range Youth Camp is the most accepted and enduring activity of the Kansas Section of the Society for Range Management. The camp was first held in 1960 and is continuing to educate youth about the importance of Kansas rangelands to this day. The camp is designed to give students a basic understanding of the principles of rangeland ecology, including plant physiology, plant identification, ecological sites, range condition, and trend. Additional topics discussed at camp are animal behavior, animal nutrition, wildlife use of rangelands, and calculating stocking rates.

Upcoming High School Sophomore, Junior, and Senior students who have a serious interest in rangeland management, rangeland ecology, or grazing animals are eligible for a scholarship through the Barber County Conservation District to attend the camp June 23-26, 2020 at Camp Mennoscah in Murdock, KS. Registration deadline is May 15. Contact us at 620-886-5311 for information.

"Movin' On"

Maybe you've heard the rumors, maybe not—but, sadly for us, they are true. Wyatt has taken a position with NRCS in Huntsville Alabama; his last day in the Medicine Lodge field office is April 3.

Although we had planned to invite our producers for a farewell event, due to the precautionary measures being considered in regard to the Coronavirus COVID-19, we are cancelling those plans. However, we welcome you to stop by or call and wish Wyatt well as he makes this move.

We have enjoyed Wyatt as a co-worker and appreciated his diligent administrative efforts here in Barber County. He will be greatly missed, but we wish him the best as he moves forward with his career.

Good Luck Wyatt!

Personal Experience: Youth Range Camp by Lady Black – Kansas NRCS Area 2 Rangeland Management Specialist

During the summer between my junior and senior years of high school, I was given the opportunity to attend the youth range camp at Camp Mennoscah. Through the scholarships from my local extension office and conservation district I was able to attend completely free of charge! It is one of the top memories from my high school career and believe me when I say that's a lot as I was involved in extracurricular activities as one could be.

The thing that stuck with me the most was all the friends and connections I made. I still talk to the majority of the kids I attended the camp with from all over the state of Kansas. We have all taken separate paths in life but some have helped me in my career along with me helping them some in their careers. The connections I made with the camp counselors and presenters were great as well! Most of the presenters I currently work with and have reconnected with have helped me along the way with my career.

The knowledge I gained from these presenters was amazing. They all were so knowledgeable and put things into a perspective that was easy to understand. They covered a wide variety of topics that were easy to relate to and use in real life. With the amount and fullness of the material, I could have gone another year or two just to retain all the great information that was taught.

A couple highlights outside of learning would have to be the evenings and the steak supper we had on the final night. In the evenings we were given the opportunity to fish, swim, hike or just hang out! We fished and caught a few catfish and then swam in the river and in the swimming pool, which was a great time to relax and really get to know each other.

I have been through this as a student and I have been given the opportunity to be a camp counselor this year! With that being said, I look forward to seeing Barber County have a good solid representation with a couple of youth that are interested in learning more about rangeland.

Feel free to contact me for any more information on my experience at the camp!

BULLETIN: USDA Service Centers Encourage Visitors to Make Appointments in Advance Due to Recent Public Health Concerns

As issued by USDA FSA 3/18/2020

US Department of Agriculture service centers are encouraging visitors to take proactive protective measures to help prevent the spread of new coronavirus. All service center visitors wishing to conduct business with the Farms Service Agency, Natural Resources Conservation Service or any other service center agency (i.e. Conservation District) should call service centers and make appointments before visiting.

Please ask yourself these three questions before visiting a service center:

- Have you, someone living in your household, someone you have been in close or frequent contact with, or someone you are caring for been diagnosed with COVID-19 (new Coronavirus) or had any contact with a confirmed case of COVID-19?
- In the last 14 days, have you or someone living in your household, or someone you have been in close or frequent contact with, or someone you are caring for returned from, or made a travel connection through a CDC Level 3 or Level 2 country or State Department Level 3 or Level 4 country?
- Do you currently have, or have you had within the last 24 hours, any cold or flu symptoms with a fever greater than 100.4 or acute respiratory distress (e.g. shortness of breath and coughing).

If you answered "yes" to any of these questions, you must contact your local service center to make an appointment by phone. If you answer "no" to all of the above questions, you may visit the service center as normal. Please call before visiting to ensure your office is open and make an appointment. You will be asked these screening questions upon your arrival at the office.

If preferred, customers may contact their local service center to make arrangements to complete necessary paperwork by alternative means, such as over the phone, electronically, or by mail. Find your service center's phone number at farmers.gov/service-center-locator.

Additional online services are available to customers with an eAuth account, which provides access to the farmers.gov portal including viewing USDA program applications and payments. Customers who do not already have an eAuth account can enroll at farmers.gov/sign-in.

Rest assured we're committed to continuing to provide the best service we can, and this includes keeping our customers and employees healthy. Updates on service center operational status can be found at farmers.gov/coronavirus.

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer and lender. To file a complaint of discrimination, write: USDA, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Ave., SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (866) 632-9992 (Toll-free Customer Service), (800) 877-8339 (Local or Federal relay), (866)377-8642 (Relay voice users).

AND BY THE WAY...

- The Conservation District carries a large inventory of high density polyethylene (HDPE) corrugated pipe and components for all your drainage needs. Let us be your one-stop shop for your next project; tile outlets, culverts, ponds.
- We also carry a 19-strand lite cable, SunGuard fiberglass posts, metal clips, and lots of other components for cross fencing. Producers love the lite cable for its' "no-slinky" characteristics.
- If you are installing a livestock tank through cost-share, chances are you will be required to install a "bat-ramp" or wildlife escape ramp - we have'em!
- As a registered seed dealer, the Conservation District would appreciate the opportunity to fill your orders for native grass seed, cover crop mixes, cool season grasses and much more.