



# Conservation Conversation

Official Newsletter of the Barber County Conservation District

Volume 35, Issue 1

## JUST A ONE-PAGE SURVEY

In cooperation with K-State Research and Extension—Barber County, the Conservation District is seeking participation from Barber County producers in gathering information on local agricultural leases. The data will be used to offer more accurate information to local producers on pasture rental rates, hunting leases, and other leases pertaining to cropland and rangeland. This information is currently available regionally but does not always accurately represent the local rates. A different survey will be released with each newsletter, so please take the opportunity to fill each of these out.

The first survey is “Wheat Pasture/Forage Crop Grazing Survey” on page two of this newsletter. You can drop off your completed survey at the extension or conservation office, or mail to:

K-State Research and Extension, Barber County  
118 E Washington Ave.  
Medicine Lodge, KS 67104

or

Barber County Conservation District  
800 W 3rd Ave  
Medicine Lodge, KS 67104

## LOCAL HIGH SCHOOL ARTIST WINS NATIONAL COMPETITION

Medicine Lodge High School art student, Addyson Bryan, was a participant in the annual conservation poster contest last fall which is sponsored by the Barber County Conservation District.

Addyson’s poster was judged at the county level where she placed first in her grade division, allowing her to compete at the state level where she again placed first. Next step—National competition at the National Association of Conservation Districts annual meeting in February.

Much to the delight of Addyson and her family, her art instructor Ms. Kay Stimatze, and the conservation district, she was awarded first place in the nation! Addyson can add cash prizes to her list of recognition as well!

Applying the theme “Healthy Forests-Healthy Communities” Addyson stated her inspiration for her poster, “It is half a dead forest with dark sad trees and ground, and the other half is a healthy, happy growing forest, rich and well taken care of soil, trees, and vegetation. The bottom half is both side’s roots reaching towards one another shaking hands.”

We are so proud of Addyson’s accomplishments and her understanding of conservation as evidenced in her awesome, three-time ,first place winning poster!



*MLHS freshman Addyson Bryan displays her local, state, and NATIONAL 1st PLACE Conservation poster that she created in her art class under the guidance of MLJSHS Art Instructor Ms. Kay Stimatze.*

*Photo courtesy of The Gyp Hill Premiere*

2022 K-State Research and Extension – Barber County

WHEAT PASTURE / FORAGE CROP GRAZING SURVEY

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

1. Wheat Pasture Rental Rate

What is the average rental rate paid for grazing wheat pasture?

Wheat: \$\_\_\_\_\_/acre or \$\_\_\_\_\_/head/day On Gain: \_\_\_\_\_\$/lb.

Typical stocking rate: \_\_\_\_\_ acres/animal for \_\_\_\_\_ days

2. On average, when do you graze wheat pasture?

Beginning Date \_\_\_\_\_ Ending Date \_\_\_\_\_

3. What type of cattle do you graze on crop residue or annual forages?

Cow/calf pairs: \_\_\_\_\_ Dry Cows: \_\_\_\_\_ Stocker/Feeder Cattle: \_\_\_\_\_ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

4. What is the stocking rate for the acres you own or lease?

Number of acres Per animal or cow-calf pair \_\_\_\_\_ Average weight of Animals \_\_\_\_\_

5. Desired Outcomes

What are the goals of this grazing system?

Maintain Body Condition \_\_\_\_\_ Improve Body Condition by how much? \_\_\_\_\_

What is the desired weight gain from this grazing system? \_\_\_\_\_

6. Cover Crops

Do you utilize Cover Crop cocktail mixes? \_\_\_\_\_

What cover crops or cocktail mixes did you graze in 2021? \_\_\_\_\_

What is the goal of the Cover Crop? i.e. dual purpose, soil health, etc... \_\_\_\_\_

Please describe any nutritional supplements you provide and how much you provide daily (Grass Hay, Sudan Hay, Range Cubes, Corn, Distillers, etc.) \_\_\_\_\_

7. Livestock Water Supply

How is water made available for livestock to drink?

Transported to Site \_\_\_\_\_ Well \_\_\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_

Who is responsible for maintaining the livestock water supply during the season?

Tenant \_\_\_\_\_ Landowner \_\_\_\_\_

8. Maintenance

Who furnishes the labor to maintain the fence? Tenant \_\_\_\_\_ Landowner \_\_\_\_\_

Who supplies the materials to maintain the fence? Tenant \_\_\_\_\_ Landowner \_\_\_\_\_

Who supplies salt/mineral? Tenant \_\_\_\_\_ Landowner \_\_\_\_\_

Who is responsible for cattle care/health? Tenant \_\_\_\_\_ Landowner \_\_\_\_\_

10. Physical Location of Cropland (HWY 281/160 as center point)

In which part of the county is the cropland located? NW \_\_\_\_\_ NE \_\_\_\_\_ SW \_\_\_\_\_ SE \_\_\_\_\_

11. General Comments about grazing forage crops or crop residue: \_\_\_\_\_

## State Cost Share Sign-Up

Applications are being accepted now through May 20 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.*

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## Spring Wildflower Tour

District staff is planning the 36th annual Spring Wildflower Tour to be held May 7, 2022. Registration begins at 8:00 AM at the Medicine Lodge High School cafeteria. A continental breakfast is served before boarding the buses for 2 wildflower identification stops. The event ends around 1:00 PM after enjoying a delicious barbecue lunch. If you've never been on our tour, are looking for a unique Mother's Day gift, or just missed us last year, call the conservation office to make your paid reservations by May 2. Cost of the tour is \$20, children 12 and under—\$10.



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## Range Youth Camp Scholarship



If you are interested in plants, livestock, or wildlife, you will want to attend an educational event like no other in Kansas!

The camp will be held June 14-17, 2022 at Camp Mennoscah near Murdock, KS on June 14th-17th.

Upcoming sophomore, junior and senior high school students are eligible to attend and learn range plant identification, plant growth, stocking rate determinations, livestock nutrition, rangeland wildlife management, and much more!

Special items include field trips, a steak dinner, and various activities such as swimming, canoeing, fishing, and hiking.

The Conservation District is offering a \$250 scholarship to attend Kansas Range Youth Camp so stop by for a camp registration form. Registration deadline is May 13th.

This great event is sponsored by the Kansas Section Society for Range Management.

