



Conservation Conversation

Official Newsletter of the Barber County Conservation District

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Drought Resiliency Initiative Funding Available

Drought Resiliency Initiative (DRI) is a new ACT-NOW funding program the USDA-NRCS is implementing in 2023 through the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA).

DRI will fund prescribed grazing for 3-5 years and will allow up to 2 years of consecutive deferment, if needed. NRCS range specialists will meet with you to go over grazing objectives and goals, and will provide a grazing plan that will need to be followed for the duration of the contract.

If you are interested in DRI please contact your local USDA -NRCS office. Application cut off is May 5th.

State Cost Share Sign-Up

Applications are being accepted now through May 15 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.

Barber County Surveys

Over the past year the conservation office has been circulating surveys developed by the Barber County Extension office. The fourth survey is a two page survey enclosed in this newsletter.

At a recent meeting, Barber County Extension Agent, Justin Goodno, referred to data he has compiled as a result of the first three surveys: Wheat Pasture/Forage Crop Grazing, Recreational Leasing Arrangement, and Pasture Leasing Arrangement. The results of the surveys reflect *real* data that is specific to Barber County, and helpful to landowners who are looking to lease some of their acres or are involved in lease agreements.

We hope you will take a few minutes to complete the enclosed survey and return to the Extension or Conservation office. Your completed survey will be viewed with total anonymity.

With the dry weather continuing and ponds getting low, many landowners have been busy making repairs to their pond dams. The Conservation office maintains an inventory of dual wall high density poly pipe, elbows, antiseep collars, trash guards and rodent guards—pretty much whatever you need to make those repairs.

We also have a large inventory of the 19-strand cable for electric fencing, fiberglass posts, metal clips and other fencing components, *AND* we are a Kansas Registered Seed Dealer ready to take your order for native grass mixes, cover crop mixes, and more.