

CONSERVATION CONVERSATION

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE
BARBER COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT

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June 2008

New District Conservationist - Jarred Kneisel

After a year and a half, the Barber County NRCS office has a new District Conservationist, Jarred Kneisel. Jarred graduated from K-State in 2005 with a degree in Agriculture Technology Management. He and his wife, Jennifer have been married for 4 1/2 years and recently welcomed a son, Owen, into the family.

Born and raised in Hiawatha, KS, Jarred has worked in six different NRCS offices, most recently as a Soil Conservationist in Washington County and Reno County. Jarred's brother, Justin, also works for NRCS as the District Conservationist in Butler County and his grandfather, Paul Kleppe, worked as a Technician for Brown and Doniphan Counties and now works for the Conservation District's in those counties.

Jarred's appointment as District Conservationist in Barber County officially begins July 7, 2008. We look forward to working with him and welcoming him and his family to our community.

*THE CONSERVATION DISTRICT WOULD LIKE TO GIVE A SPECIAL THANKS TO
JAMIE JOHNSON AND ERIN BATMAN FOR THE TIME AND DEDICATION THEY
HAVE GIVEN BARBER COUNTY OVER THE LAST YEAR AND A HALF!*

*THANKS FOR ALL YOUR HARD WORK AND FOR MAKING SURE BARBER COUNTY
PRODUCERS' NEEDS WERE MET!*



Wildflower Tour

A glorious spring morning found 83 enthusiastic Wildflower Tour guests ready to take to the hills and prairies of Barber County on May 10. Recent spring rains nourished a bounty of wildflowers which were brought to life by experienced, knowledgeable tour guides.

This highly anticipated event is a great way to introduce folks to the wonder of wildflowers and share the beauty of our little corner of the world, Barber County.



Funds Available

On July 1 the Conservation District will receive \$15,605 to administer the Non-Point Source Pollution Control Program. This cost-share program targets practices for the protection or restoration of surface and groundwater quality which include plugging abandoned water wells and repairing/replacing failed septic systems. The program pays 70% of the county average cost up to \$500 per abandoned water well and 70% of the county average cost up to \$3500 per landowner for the repair of failed septic systems. In order to receive cost-share assistance, applications must be prioritized and approved prior to starting the project.

In addition to landowner cost-share funds, the NPSPCP will provide \$2341 to the conservation district for coordination, technical assistance and information and education activities. These funds are available for districts to implement the NPS program in their county. Information and Education activities are used by the district in the promotion of water quality improvement practices. These practices increase public knowledge and landowner participation in financial assistance programs offered by the conservation districts. Information and education (I&E) activities may include landowner or community workshops, newsletters, newspaper articles, fair booths, calendars, television and radio announcements, school presentations, and other activities developed and produced by the district staff. The primary focus of I&E activities is the promotion of water quality improvement practices to increase landowner participation in financial assistance programs offered by the conservation district.

FRIDAY, JUNE 20, 2008, IS THE CUTOFF DATE FOR THE FINAL FISCAL YEAR 2008 SIGNUP FOR ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY INCENTIVES PROGRAM (EQIP) INCLUDING GROUND AND SURFACE WATER CONVERSATION (GSWC) AND WILDLIFE HABITAT INCENTIVES PROGRAM (WHIP). PLEASE CONTACT THE NRCS OFFICE AT (620) 886-5311 EXT 3 FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO APPLY.

WHAT IS A VOLUNTEER

Article by: Loretta Cecil Area I, Volunteer Coordinator

The job of conserving natural resources is a huge job which cannot be done by one agency or by the government. The collective time and talents of private individuals and groups are also needed. The Earth Team Volunteer Program was established in 1981 to provide leadership in a partnership effort to help people conserve, maintain, and improve our natural resources and environment.

Volunteers are as varied as the jobs they perform. The program has thousands of individuals who are school age students, as well as retired senior citizens who bring their vast life experiences. The only age requirement for a volunteer is that they must be at least 14 years of age.

Jobs performed by volunteers are almost limitless and require every kind of talent. Some individuals may want to work in an office setting, while many others prefer to be outside in a field environment. It's important to remember that whatever your talent or interest, there is a place for you as a volunteer.

LISTED BELOW ARE VARIOUS JOBS THAT ARE BEING PERFORMED BY EARTH TEAM VOLUNTEERS:

Conservation education presentations:

- Outdoor classroom committees, soil judging contests and land judging
- School poster and essay contests
- Fair booths
- Conservation farm tours
- Farm Safety Day Camps include classes about ATV's, electrical and fire information, farm equipment safety and farm animal education

Tours and farm safety day camps are a perfect volunteering opportunity for farmers or ranchers to help educate school age children who have never experienced rural life

Jobs performed in an office setting:

- Receptionist and phone answering duties, when staff is absent
- Letter writing and processing
- Help prepare newsletters - write articles, take photos and the actual mailing jobs of folding, sorting and addressing
- Filing

Miscellaneous jobs:

- Vehicle maintenance
- Meetings – setting up and breaking down of chairs and tables
- Food preparation for tours or meetings
- Helping with Wildflower Tour

To be a conservation volunteer, contact your local Natural Resources Conservation Service office at (620) 886-5311.

Comedy Corner

Iowa 3-Kick Rule

A big-city California lawyer went duck hunting in rural Iowa. He shot and dropped a bird, but it fell into a farmer's field on the other side of a fence. As the lawyer climbed over the fence, an elderly farmer drove up on his tractor and asked him what he was doing.

The attorney responded, "I shot a duck and it fell in this field, and now I'm going in to retrieve it."

The old farmer replied, "This is my property, and you are not coming over here."

The indignant lawyer said, "I am one of the best trial attorneys in the U. S. ; and, if you don't let me get that duck, I'll sue you and take everything you own."

The old farmer smiled and said, "Apparently, you don't know how we do things in Iowa. We settle small disagreements like this with the Iowa Three-Kick Rule."

The lawyer asked, "What is this three-kick Rule? "

The farmer replied, "Well, first I kick you three times and then you kick me three times, and so on, back and forth, until someone gives up. "

The attorney quickly thought about the proposed contest and decided that he could easily take the old codger. He agreed to abide by the local custom.

The old farmer slowly climbed down from the tractor and walked up to the city feller. His first kick planted the toe of his heavy work boot into the lawyer's groin and dropped him to his knees. His second kick nearly wiped the man's



Come Join Us At The Fair!

Be sure to stop by the Conservation Booth at the Barber County Fair in Hardtner, Kansas, August 1-3.

Displays, conservation programs information, give-aways, and door prize drawings for kids and adults.

EVENT BINS

THE CONSERVATION DISTRICT WILL BE PLACING EVENT RECYCLING BINS AROUND THE FAIR GROUNDS AGAIN THIS YEAR. PLEASE HELP US BY PLACING YOUR RECYCLABLE BOTTLES AND CANS IN THE BINS.

Scholarship Recipient

Congratulations to Cole Erb , son of Steve Erb and Deb Erb, as the recipient of the John Farney Memorial Scholarship for the 2008-2009 school year. Cole is pursuing a degree in Agri-Business. His school activities include livestock judging, Block and Bridle, and the student scholarship committee. Cole also enjoys being an active member of the community. He has participated in 4-H for 12 years and held numerous leadership positions, has been an active member of Jr. Leaders, and was an Assistant Baseball Coach for Little League.

We wish you the best of luck in obtaining your degree, Cole!

IMPORTANT - IF YOU ARE WANTING TO HAVE TERRACES STAKED, PLEASE DO NOT WORK THE LAND! IT IS MUCH EASIER TO STAKE TERRACES WHEN THE LAND IS NOT WORKED!



CONGRATULATIONS!!!

To NRCS Technician, Robert Hill and his wife, Natalie, on the birth of their new baby boy!

TYLER DEAN HILL

APRIL 28, 2008

Barber County
Conservation District
800 W. Third Ave.
Medicine Lodge, KS 67104

PRSRT STD
U.S. Postage Paid
USDA Service Center
Permit No. 1
Medicine Lodge, KS 67104

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

**TO LEARN MORE ABOUT CONSERVATION PRACTICES AND
AGRTO LEARN MORE ABOUT CONSERVATION PRACTICES AND
AGRICULTURAL PROGRAMS, VISIT THESE WEB SITES:**

WWW.ACCESSKANSAS.ORG/KSCC

WWW.SWCS.ORG

WWW.UNL.EDU/NAC

WWW.NASCANET.ORG

WWW.NRCS.USDA.GOV

WWW.RCDNET.ORG

WWW.NACDNET.ORG

WWW.COCORAHS.ORG

WWW.FSA.USDA.GOV

WWW.CTIC.PURDUE.EDU/CTIC/CTIC.HTML

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**Barber County Conservation District
Board of Supervisors**

Chairman Georgi Dawson
Vice Chairman..... Calvin Boyd
Treasurer Matt Cantrell
Member Ted Alexander
Member Sam Baier

The Board meets on the first Tuesday of each month at the Barber County USDA Service Center. If you have any questions or comments for the Board of Supervisors, or suggestions for this newsletter, please call (620) 886-5311.

**Notice: When you call the Barber County
USDA Service Center at (620) 886-5311 an
auto attendant will answer the phone. You
may enter any of the following numbers dur-
ing the message:**

2 - Farm Service Agency

3 - NRCS and Conservation District

**If you have a rotary phone, please stay on the
line and a person will assist you.**