



Official Newsletter of the Barber County Conservation District

E-WASTE COLLECTION DAY - JUNE 21, 2010

Information provided in part by Rice County Recycling & E-Waste

The Barber County E-Waste Committee under the direction of Sunflower RC&D will hold an E-Waste collection day on Monday, June 21 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the South Barber High School Parking Lot and from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. at the Medicine Lodge High School.

Why Should You Recycle E-Waste?

E-Waste is the most rapidly growing segment of the municipal solid waste stream.

E-Waste contains many valuable, recoverable materials such as aluminum, copper, gold, silver, plastics, and ferrous metals. In order to conserve natural resources and the energy needed to produce new electronic equipment from virgin resources, electronic equipment can be refurbished, reused, and recycled instead of being landfilled.

E-Waste also contains toxic and hazardous materials including mercury, lead, cadmium, beryllium, chromium, and chemical flame retardants, which have the potential to leach into our soil and water.

What Will Be Accepted?

AUDIO EQUIPMENT - stereo, radio, mp3, iPod, Zune, Walkman, Speakers

BATTERIES - ups, battery back-up, cell phone, ac adapters, ni-cad, lead acid

CAMERA - digital, film, video

COMPUTER - desktop, tower, small form factor

COPIER - commercial

CRT MONITOR - all sizes

ELECTRONIC MEDIA - hard drives, tape media, flash cards, sim cards, memory sticks

FAX MACHINE - multi-function machines, answering machine

GAMING SYSTEMS - playstation, gameboy, Nintendo

HARD DRIVES - loose

INK OR TONER CARTRIDGES - print cartridges, ink or toner

LAPTOP - standard, slim, toughbook

LCD - monitor, television

MEDIA PLAYER - cd, dvd, vcr, dvr, ipod

MEDICAL EQUIPMENT - non-biohazard

MISC. ACCESSORIES - keyboard, mouse, power strips, surge protectors, cables, head phones

NETWORKING EQUIPMENT - switches, routers, hubs

PLASMA TELEVISION

PRINTERS - small, medium, large and plotters

PROJECTORS

SECURITY & SURVEILLANCE EQUIPMENT

SERVER CABINETS - racks, telephone cabinets

SERVERS - mainframe, tower, rack mount, 1u-3u

STORAGE DEVICES - tape library, storage systems

TELEPHONE SYSTEMS - misc. telephone equipment

TELECOMMUNICATION EQUIPMENT

TONER CARTRIDGE

WIRELESS COMMUNICATION - pagers, blackberry, 2-way radio, cell phone, palm pilots

MICROWAVE OVENS

For more information or if you would like to volunteer at one of the sites, please contact Robin Eubank at the Barber County Extension Office at (620) 886-3971.

Get Paid To Make Your Grazing Land More Productive!

We all know that there are both federal and state programs out there that provide different forms of financial incentives to improve your land and perhaps even that there's one specifically for removing trees from your property, but what you may not know is that you can actually profit from this too. How great is that? You can increase your grazing acres, improve wildlife habitat, and increase ground water availability all while getting paid to do it through a brush management practice within the Federal WHIP/EQIP programs or through the state LIP program.

Wait a second...How does removing trees from my land improve the things you mentioned?

-Increased grazing acres...It's simple, removing trees from the landscape will allow that land to come back into grass for your cattle to graze, what's not to like about that? I've seen many acres of land with 50% or more canopy covered by cedars, meaning essentially half that acre cannot be grazed at the level it could be otherwise. On that piece of land it would take only 30 acres of cedar clearing to have an additional cow/calf pair on your land (at a 15acre/cow-calf stocking rate).

-Improved wildlife habitat...trees take away native grasses which are preferred habitat for upland bird brood rearing and nesting. Additionally, trees provide places for hawks to perch to hunt the grass around it, this further decreases upland bird chances for survival because their primary source of mortality is predation, not winter kill (by far).

-Increased ground water availability...did you know that an acre of cedar trees absorbs 55,000 gallons of water a year! We all know water is at a premium here in south central Kansas, making this fact all the more important.

OK, so I see why someone would want to enroll in the brush management practice, but can I really profit from it? Well, that's up to how you use the money the programs provide for it. The federal WHIP and EQIP brush management practices offer \$238/acre for heavy infestation and if you can do it for less than that, the rest is yours. Keep in mind you'll be gaining additional grazing acres and you can also pair this practice with prescribed burning and/or prescribed grazing incentive practices for additional assistance and to keep the trees from coming back after removal.

If you have any interest in applying these practices to your land or any of the other conservation practices, please contact your local NRCS office or me directly.

Caleb Papenhausen,
Pheasants Forever Biologist
Barber County NRCS Office
cpapenhausen@pheasantsforever.org

NON-POINT SOURCE FUNDS AVAILABLE

THE PROPER FUNCTION OF A SEPTIC SYSTEM IS TO TREAT AND DISPERSE SEWAGE IN A SAFE, SANITARY MANNER. YOUR ONSITE WASTEWATER SYSTEM IS FAILING IF SEWAGE DRAINS ARE SLUGGISH, SEWAGE IS BACKING UP INTO THE HOME, YOU NOTICE A WET, SMELLY SPOT IN YOUR YARD, OR YOUR SEPTIC SYSTEM DISCHARGES AT THE SURFACE SUCH AS INTO A ROAD DITCH, DRAW, OR STREAM. IF ANY OF THESE OCCURRENCES ARE AN ISSUE WITH YOUR SEPTIC SYSTEM, REPAIR OF YOUR SYSTEM IS IMMINENT. COST-SHARE FUNDS TO ASSIST IN THE REPAIR OF SYSTEMS AT LEAST TEN YEARS OLD WILL BE AVAILABLE THROUGH KANSAS' NON-POINT SOURCE POLLUTION CONTROL PROGRAM (NPS) EFFECTIVE JULY 1.

TO APPLY FOR THESE FUNDS, AN ASSESSMENT MUST FIRST BE MADE BY THE COUNTY SANITARIAN TO DETERMINE SYSTEM FAILURE AND TO DESIGN THE NEW SYSTEM ACCORDING TO LOCAL SANITARY CODE. THE APPLICATION WILL BE SUBMITTED TO THE STATE CONSERVATION COMMISSION, AND UPON APPROVAL, THE SYSTEM CAN BE REPLACED WITH COST-SHARE FUNDS UP TO \$3500.

STOP BY THE CONSERVATION OFFICE FOR INFORMATION ON MORE ELIGIBLE PRACTICES THROUGH THE NPS PROGRAM.

New Employee - Caleb Papenhausen

A new employee has begun work at the NRCS office in Medicine Lodge. Caleb Papenhausen, Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist, is originally from Minneapolis, Minnesota, where he spent the first 23 years of his life. His time spent at the family lake homes in Northern Minnesota and Northwestern Wisconsin sparked his interest in natural resources and especially wildlife. Upon graduating high school he knew exactly what career path he wanted to take, and started by attending the University of Minnesota's college of Natural Resources, which has since become the college of Food, Agriculture, and Natural Resource Sciences, or CFANS for short. After four years of study he walked away with a Bachelor of Science in Wildlife Biology.

Shortly following graduation Caleb found work with the Minnesota Conservation Corps doing hands-on habitat restoration work on state, federal, and private lands alike. Before landing his current job with Pheasants Forever he also worked on research projects for the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources assessing the presence or absence of Chronic Wasting disease and with the Missouri Department of Conservation assessing how reptile and amphibian population changes are affected by forest harvest management practices.

Caleb is very excited about his new job and looks forward to meeting landowners in Barber County and the surrounding communities. If you have interest in any of the conservation programs within the Farm Bill or would just like some technical assistance installing your own wildlife habitat, please do not hesitate to contact him at caleb.papenhausen@ks.usda.gov, or by calling 620-886-5311, ext 3. Feel free to drop by and welcome Caleb to the area!

Come Join Us At The Fair!

Be sure to stop by the Conservation District's Booth at the Barber County Fair in Hardtner, Kansas, July 23-24.

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

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.



Applications Open For Private Landowner Program

State Wildlife Grant Private Land Program provides technical and financial assistance to enhance wildlife habitat on private land; deadline June 30

PRATT — The Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks (KDWP) has announced that applications for participation in the State Wildlife Grant (SWG) Private Land Program are now being accepted. SWG grants are funded in part by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of Interior (program CFDA # 15.634), and administered in Kansas by KDWP.

KDWP will distribute as much as \$400,000 of SWG funds and an additional \$200,000 in non-federal funds to private landowners statewide interested in implementing habitat projects. Those landowners receiving funding will be required to match a minimum of 25 percent of total project costs. This match can either be a cash contribution from a non-federal source or contributions of labor, materials, and equipment use. The first application deadline will be June 30, 2010; however, additional applications may be submitted after June 30 if funds remain available.

To be eligible, applications must specifically address the restoration/enhancement of grasslands through practices such as tree removal, perimeter fencing of expired or expiring CRP, other fencing for grazing management, prescribed burning, and other practices are also available.

Applications will be scored based on established ranking criteria; however, additional ranking points will be given to areas within established Focus Areas (western Barber, southern Kiowa, and all of Comanche Counties) that contribute to the development or maintenance of large grassland blocks capable of supporting area-sensitive wildlife species.

Interested landowner should contact KDWP private lands biologist Chris Berens at 620-672-0771 for application materials or to schedule a consultation concerning a proposed project.

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Applications Accepted for Walk-In Hunting Access Program

PRATT — Landowners interested in the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks (KDWP) Walk-In Hunting Access Program (WIHA) – which pays landowners to allow public hunting access on their land are reminded that the deadline for enrollment is July 15, 2010.

Almost anyone who owns, leases, or manages at least 80 contiguous acres of land with suitable wildlife habitat can qualify. Much of the land enrolled in WIHA consist of Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) grass, but other lands including native rangeland, milo stubble, riparian, ponds for dove hunting, and wetland areas are also considered.

Upon request KDWP biologist evaluate the wildlife habitat on applicants' land. Payment rates are based on the size and location of tracts as well as the number of months the land is open to hunting. A 50-percent additional incentive payment is being offered for WIHA enrolled in Barber County. Enrollment options include open periods running Sept.1-Jan.31 and Nov. 1-Jan 31. KDWP also provides an option for spring turkey hunting WIHA April 1-May31.

Interested landowner should contact KDWP private lands biologist Chris Berens at 620-672-0771 for program information or pick up a brochure at the Barber County Conservation District office.

Applications Will Be Accepted Through June 11, 2010

Article Provided by Kansas NRCS

Salina, KS--May 12, 2010 – Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack announced May 10, that producers nationwide are invited to apply for the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP). Authorized in the 2008 Farm Bill, the CSP offers payments to producers who maintain a high level of conservation on their land and who agree to adopt higher levels of stewardship. Eligible lands include cropland, pastureland, rangeland and non-industrial forestland. The deadline to be considered for the next ranking and funding period is June 11, 2010.

"Voluntary conservation practices by producers are an essential part of our effort to improve soil and water quality," said Vilsack. "Broad and diverse participation in the CSP program will provide producers with many benefits such as enhancing wildlife habitat and helping to mitigate the impact of climate change."

"I encourage producers who are interested in the CSP to take the opportunity to sign an application at their local Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) office by the deadline June 11, 2010," said Eric B. Banks, State Conservationist for NRCS in Kansas. "Then they will be ready when the final rule is issued."

Congress limited enrollment for the CSP nationally at 12.7 million acres per year. Applicants will compete within state-identified ranking pools. The CSP is offered in all 50 states, District of Columbia, and the Pacific and Caribbean areas through continuous sign-ups with announced cut-off application dates for ranking periods.

Under the interim final rule published July 29, 2009, eligible producers may submit an application to enroll eligible land in the CSP on a continuous basis. Producers are encouraged to apply for the CSP now to ensure their applications will be considered during the next funding and ranking period. However, they can make their final decision to participate in the program once the CSP final rule is issued. The final rule will establish the policies and procedures for the program.

Potential applicants are encouraged to use the CSP self-screening checklist to determine if the new program is suitable for their operation. The checklist highlights basic information about the CSP eligibility requirements, contract obligations and potential payments. It is available from local NRCS offices or on the NRCS Web site at http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/new_csp/csp.html.

The CSP offers payments for adding conservation practices and maintaining and managing existing conservation practices.

For more information about the CSP, please visit http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/new_csp/csp.html.

The NRCS is celebrating 75 years helping people help the land in 2010. Since 1935 the NRCS conservation delivery system has advanced a unique partnership with state and local governments and producers delivering conservation based on specific, local conservation needs, while accommodating state and national interests. President Franklin Roosevelt created the Soil Conservation Service, now known as the NRCS, in 1935 to help farmers and ranchers overcome the devastating effects of drought, especially in the Midwest and Northern Plains regions.

WILDFLOWER TOUR



THE WEATHER WAS PERFECT ON MAY 8TH AS WE WELCOMED 100 ENTHUSIASTIC WILDFLOWER TOUR GUESTS READY TO EXPERIENCE THE SPLENDOR BARBER COUNTY HAS TO OFFER. A BEAUTIFUL MORNING AND TWO SCENIC SITES GAVE OUR WILDFLOWER ENTHUSIASTS SOMETHING TRULY SPECTACULAR TO BEHOLD. EXPERIENCED, KNOWLEDGEABLE TOUR GUIDES SHARED THEIR KNOWLEDGE OF THE FLOWERS, INCLUDING SOME LITTLE-KNOWN USES FOR MANY OF THE PLANTS.



FOLLOWING A DELICIOUS LUNCH AT EAGLE PARK, WE HEADED OFF TO THE AFTERNOON SITE WITH A DRIVE THROUGH THE GYP HILLS. WITH 53 SPECIES AT THE MORNING SITES, AND 31 AT THE AFTERNOON SITE, THERE WAS PLENTY FOR EVERYONE TO SEE.



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.



5th Grade Conservation Field Day

On April 21, 2010, the conservation district held a Conservation Field Day for the 5th Graders of Barber County. The day started with 35 students from both North Barber and South Barber watching as Supervisory District Conservationist Jarred Kneisel and Soil Conservation Technician Carl Jarboe demonstrated the effects of a rainfall simulator.

After dividing the students into three groups, we were ready for some small group rotations. One rotation was Jerry McNamar demonstrating a groundwater flow model. Jerry showed the students the effects of ground spills and how they can end up in your drinking water. Harold Kline demonstrated a stream flow trailer at a second rotation. Harold demonstrated before a rapt audience how changing a stream bank and adding things like logs to the river can change its course and cause destruction down river. The kids liked getting their hands in the "sand" and seeing what their ideas did to the stream. The third rotation was Sunflower RC&D coordinator Roger Masenthin and his recycling display. Roger's presentation on recycling included music and a game that kept the kids on their toes.

After a delicious sloppy joe lunch, sponsored in part by White's Foodliner, everyone gathered in one group again for the afternoon. Charlie Swank with Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks (KDWP) started the afternoon out by bringing out snakes for the kids to see and feel. They even got to see one snake snack on a mouse. Chris Berens with KDWP followed with furs for the kids to identify and feel. The day concluded with Edible Soil as the final rotation. The kids all enjoyed their soil layers (Oreo's and pudding) before loading up and going back to the school.



The day was a great success and we are already looking forward to next year's field day!

Comanche County Conservation District Hosts 2010 South Central Kansas Residue Alliance Chapter “Spring Workshop”

Submitted by Terry D. Hodgson

The South Central Kansas Residue Alliance Chapter which serves Barber, Comanche, Cowley, Harper, Kiowa, Kingman, Pratt, Reno, Sedgwick and Sumner counties held their 2010 Spring Workshop/Field Day in Protection, KS on March 18th at Don's Place with 32 participants in attendance.

The Residue Alliance is a grassroots organization with a Mission Statement of “To Build Soil Health & Improve Quality of Life, Now and Forever”. With about 120 members on the books this group looks to provide assistance in the improvement of our Natural Resources (soil, water, air, plant and animal) by finding new ways of applying sound principles that have been proven to reduce loss and degradation to those resources. An example of one of those principles is the use of no-till farming to improve soil tilth, water infiltration, water holding capacity, organic matter levels, microorganism activity, wind and water erosion and soil compaction to name a few.

The spring workshop participants were presented with a soil quality demonstration using a test kit that is available through your local NRCS office. This kit tests for many of the soil properties listed above. Also on the agenda were two distinguished scientists, one an Extension Engineer from the University of Nebraska and the other the President and owner of the Ward Laboratories Inc. from Kearney, Nebraska. Paul Jasa presented lots of great information on no-till residue and equipment management and Dr. Ray Ward, a soil scientist, presented information on soil properties and soils fertility along with some information on glyphosate carry over.

A great lunch was served by Don's Place and a lot of great door prizes were given away.



*Paul Jasa, University of Nebraska, Extension Engineer,
Lincoln, NE*

Barber County will be hosting the Residue Alliance Chapter “2010 Summer Farm Tour”

Submitted by Terry D. Hodgson

Sometime in August, yet to be established, the Barber County Conservation District will host a farm tour highlighting individual efforts being made in the area of best management practices related to soil health and conservation of our Natural Resources. Keep a watch out for the scheduling of this event and if possible please plan to attend. More information will be forthcoming about how you can get signed up for this tour. We will be looking at and talking with producers about their successes and failures when it comes to transitioning into a no-till or a conservation tillage system knowing that crop rotations, equipment modifications, herbicide application, pest management and nutrient management along with precision ag technology are all issues that must be considered. We will rap up the afternoon tour with a meal and a short discussion of what was gained from the time spent together looking around Barber County.

If you have any question about the South Central Kansas Residue Alliance Chapter please contact your local NRCS or Conservation District office.