

SUMMER

Volume 30, Issue 2

Inside This Issue:

Page 2: KGLC Range School

Page 2: Range School Scholarship

Page 3: Cost Share Programs

Page 4: Check Your Waterways This Summer

Page 5: Check Your Waterways This Summer continued

Board of Supervisors

Georgi Dawson—Chairman

Calvin Boyd—Vice Chairman

Matt Cantrell—Treasurer

John Cook—Member

Ted Alexander—Member

Dates to Remember:

July 4 Independence Day (Office Closed)

July 27-30 Barber County Fair

August 23 USD 254 School Starts

August 24 USD 255 School Starts

September 4 Labor Day (Office Closed)

Conservation Office Staff

Wyatt Sperry—Supervisory District Conservationist

Carl Jarboe—Soil Conservation Technician

Kelsey Welter—Range Mgt. Specialist

Cheryl Davis—District Mgr.

Brean Moody—District Clerk



2017 Spring Wildflower Tour

A more perfect weather day could not have been ordered for the 32nd annual Spring Wildflower Tour on May 13 as tour goers discovered the beauty of wildflowers native to Barber County.

There’s just no way to kick off the tour if Carla Kessler doesn’t show up at 5:00 A.M. to start those mouthwatering cinnamon rolls. Just as dependable are the volunteers who sit at the registration table, serve breakfast and clean up afterwards. Thanks again, Mariann Jarboe and Micha Kessler! And we’re not even going to get out of the parking lot without the cooperation of USD 254 for the coordination of their buses and drivers.

Veteran tour guides, Harold Kline and Carl Jarboe, were joined this year by Harper County Conservation District Manager, Teresa Mandevill, and NRCS Range Management Specialist, Kelsey Welter. Guests are always appreciative of the personalized plant descriptions and characteristics each guide brings to his or her group. We can never thank these guides enough for the time they volunteer to this event.

Working with Andrea Fisher and the Gyp Hills Guest Ranch

(www.gyphillsguestranch.com) has been such a great opportunity to share the uniqueness of Barber County. Their accommodating style for use of the Event Center is very much appreciated as guests have a chance to relax while enjoying a delicious barbeque lunch prepared by Alpha Iota Sorority.

We offer a heartfelt “Thank You” to all who had a part in making the 2017 tour another successful event, and look forward to next year’s tour as plans are already underway.





2017 Kansas Range Schools Announced

The 2017 KS Range School is 6 weeks away!

It is time to start thinking about attending this year and then register to attend. Learn more about rangeland management in a friendly setting with other ranchers, land managers, range management students and natural resource professionals. You can register at KGLC.org for the schools which cost \$350 per student which covers room, board and tuition for the 2 ½ day schools. Scholarships of \$175 are available for most ranchers and eligible college students while scholarships of \$125 are available for most natural resource agency personnel.

The West or Mid & Short Grass School is scheduled for August 8-10 at Camp Lakeside at Scott County State Lake and at The Nature Conservancy's Smoky Valley Ranch. The East or Tallgrass School is scheduled for August 22-24 at Camp Wood YMCA near Elmdale, KS.

The theme for both schools this year is ***"Building Community Resilience and Strength for Successful Ranching"***. There will be rancher and expert panels that will talk about how to build the communities you depend on to be a successful rancher, including the community of vegetation found on your grasslands, the community of neighbors and friends that help with operations and ideas as well as specialized communities such as Prescribed Burn Associations or No Till groups that help you manage your resources both economically and ecologically.

Besides learning plant identification, how to figure stocking rates, how to monitor vegetation response and the rest of basics needed to manage your rangeland, there will be ranchers and natural resource professionals talking with you about how to plan ahead for whatever nature or market forces bring to your ranching enterprise and how to respond to keep your rangeland health high and your livestock productive.

Learn more at our website, KGLC.org or email barth.crouch@gmail.com or call 785-452-0780 **but please register before July 21st.**

Do make this the year you attend the Kansas Range School near you! And bring your neighbor along!

SCHOLARSHIP OFFERED TO ATTEND KANSAS RANGE SCHOOL

Barber County Conservation District is offering a scholarship for a Barber County rancher, land manager, or range management student to attend the 2017 West or Mid & Short Grass School, August 8—10 at Camp Lakeside at Scott County State Lake and at The Nature Conservancy's Smoky Valley Ranch. Please contact the Conservation Office at 620-886-5311 for more information. Registration to attend must be made before July 21.

Cost Share Programs

By: Wyatt Sperry

Over the course of the year, there are many options available for help with the installation of conservation practices. These can range from the conservation district's state cost share programs to the NRCS's General EQIP.

With each of the available programs, producers are eligible to receive financial and technical assistance to implement structural and management conservation practices that optimize environmental benefits on working agricultural land. Applications are accepted year round, but do have cutoff deadlines to be considered for a particular year's funding.

After the wildfire that went through part of the county in March of 2016, the conservation district and NRCS worked closely in forming a program called the Anderson Creek Wildfire Initiative, with various practices, that targeted those affected by the fire to help clear out the many cedar trees that were burnt. NRCS committed two million dollars over four years to help address those resource concerns. We just completed our first year, and had many people sign up. If your farm went through the fire and you have burnt trees that you would like to see about removing, there are three more years of funding that we will take applications and work with you in putting something together that works for everyone.

New this year was a Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) between NRCS and The Nature Conservancy. This program promotes coordination between NRCS and its partners to deliver conservation assistance to producers and landowners, with the installation and maintenance of conservation practices in selected project areas. The program this year has a project area that includes some of the most intact grazing lands remaining in Kansas and Oklahoma, that provides a critical habitat for a number of rare and sensitive species. The project aims to help improve wildlife habitat and reduce the spread of invasive species.

Also available is the Conservation Stewardship Program. This program will help with the implementation of conservation activities that will help your entire operation. Most people are already implementing conservation practices, and this program will help with enhancements for those practices. You are required to maintain the stewardship level of the resource concerns you are already meeting, plus meet or exceed at least one additional resource concern in each land use by the end of the contract.

These are just a few of the programs available to producers and landowners. If you would like to find out more information, or would like to find out if there is a program that would work for you, please call or stop in the office.

Following are cost-share funding dollars that have been allocated in Barber County this fiscal year.

<u>Anderson Creek Wildfire Initiative (ACWI)</u>	
8 contracts obligated	\$318,878
6 contracts being reviewed	\$236,681
Total contracts funded first year	\$555,559
6 applications deferred to next year	
Some applications have not been returned to conservation office	
\$2 million available over 4 years	
<u>Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) with The Nature Conservancy (TNC)</u>	
3 applications received, all approved	\$134,754
\$1.4 million for Kansas	
Funding leftover for future sign-up	

<u>General Environmental Quality Incentive Program – EQIP</u>	
23 applications received – funding available for:	
3 grazing lands (one of those a beginning farmer)	\$358,000
2 soil health (crop)	\$20,000
<u>State Cost Share Programs</u>	
Water Resources Cost Share Program (WRCSP)	\$15,066
Non-Point Source Pollution Control Program (NPS)	\$9,690

CHECK YOUR WATERWAYS THIS SUMMER

By: Carl Jarboe, NRCS Soil Conservation Technician

Take time to check your waterways this summer. Drive your truck or 4-wheeler down the waterway and see what shape it is in. If you can't drive it, walk it. Take a map with you so you can note any issues or problems you may find. If you can't drive your waterway due to erosion problems, you may need a field visit from our office to assist you in determining what to do next.

Do you know what type of waterway you have? Trapezoidal or flat bottom waterways work when the water can spread out and not concentrate. The design width is dependent on how much water will be flowing during a storm. Anytime you have water concentrating in one area erosion is likely to start, even when you have a stand of grass. A parabolic waterway design has a floor that is flat for only a small area and then slopes up evenly on both sides to allow for more capacity. The type you have is often decided by the soil type in the area the waterway is built.

Do you have good cover? Does the grass stand cover the entire waterway or do you have weedy and thin areas? What is the cause of such areas? Maybe overspray from roundup has killed some areas out, or have salts come into the waterway affecting the soil to the point the grass no longer performs well.

Does your waterway lack in capacity? Is it filling up with sediment to the point that water is forced over the berms along its sides?

Do you have eroded areas and ditches in your waterway? Again I will ask, what do you believe is the cause? Sometimes it's a thin area that over time allows for a loss of topsoil that can be the beginning point of erosion. I've seen waterways that have sediment build up to the point the water runs in one area creating erosion. Erosion can be caused by driving in the waterway, creating ruts in wet periods or just killing the grass from vehicle traffic. Cattle trailing is another common reason we see erosion starting.

Take a look at the area just outside the waterway as well. Is it eroded? Are the terraces cut into the waterway? Many times I will see a waterway that was built and protected by keeping the terraces out while the grass cover is getting established. Time goes on and the grass gets established but the terraces are never cut in. Then big ditches show up because of the concentrated water running down the outside of the berms.

Do you see any trees or other woody plants starting to grow in the waterway? It's important to keep all woody plants out. Trees growing in the waterway divert water. They can create a spot of shade that livestock will utilize if you graze the area. They will beat the cover down to where it may start eroding. Trees are so easy to remove and kill with an herbicide when they are small. Once they are big they are hard to remove, compete with the grass for moisture and can have shallow roots that can lead to erosion. Shallow roots can act as small diversions creating erosion issues. Shrubs cause problems as well. They can collect debris that comes down the waterway then the debris catches silt creating issues.

Now you have a map with notes identifying your waterways issues or concerns. What do you do next?

The very first thing to do is get a copy of the original design. It will tell you or a contractor what the floor of the waterway should look like.

Continued on Page 5

Do:

- Fix any areas of erosion as they show up and re-seed if necessary.
- Fertilize tame grasses to promote a healthy stand.
- Mowing or haying the waterway yearly can really help improve the grass and reduce weed competition.
- Control spray booms to prevent over spray into waterway which can kill out grasses.
- Control noxious weeds as they appear.

Don't:

- Cross the waterway or use it to turn equipment especially if it's wet. Damage can occur during tillage operations so use as a road; tracks can funnel water causing a cut.
- Allow cattle to start trailing in the waterway. One winter of cattle use while grazing wheat or stocks can start a domino effect. Poor stand and weeds can lead to erosion issues.

Take a little time to check your waterways this summer and see how they are doing. Are they functioning as designed? Note any deficiencies and put together a game plan to make the necessary fixes.

If you would like some assistance, call the conservation office and we'll schedule a field visit to help you develop a plan of action to address any negative issues so your waterway will function as designed and last many more years.



Erosion in waterway.



Left side of waterway is high due to sedimentation. Cuts to the right are a result of water needing a place to go.

Be sure to come out to the Barber County Fair and support those hard working 4-H kids!

Hardtner, KS July 27-30

BARBER COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT
800 W THIRD AVE
MEDICINE LODGE, KS 67104

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

THIS SPACE IS AVAILABLE FOR ADVERTISING

RANCHLAND
Development, Inc.

- Cedar Tree Clearing
- Land and Pasture Clearing
- Farm and Ranch Excavation
- Prescribed Burning
- Spraying
- Fencing

Roland Spencer
Owner

(785) 483-0329 Cel | PO Box 613 Winfield, Ks. 67156 | (580) 328-5411 Taloga, OK. (620) 221-2200 Winfield, KS.

www.ranchlanddevelopment.com | stewards@ranchlanddevelopment.com



RANCHLAND 
Development, Inc.

(800) 324-0042
www.ranchlanddevelopment.com

DOZERS • SCRAPERS • EXCAVATORS • LOADERS

Simpson Dirt Construction

Roger L. Simpson
Medicine Lodge, KS
620-886-0300

M. Bryan Simpson
Pratt, KS
620-672-1633

BITTER CREEK RANGE MANAGEMENT

- Cedar Tree Removal
- Control Burn Fire Guards



OWNER – Robert Larson
(620) 886-9822
cell: (620) 886-0776

Stump Spray Equipped - Controlled Burn Fire Guard
Prep work - All Types of Skid Steer Work Available