

## Conservation Conversation

Volume 37, Issue 1

December 2024

### Conservation District Annual Meeting

The 74th Annual Meeting of the Barber County Conservation District is scheduled for January 25, 2025 at the Community Building in Kiowa, KS.

According to Conservation District Law, each conservation district is required to have an annual meeting to provide full disclosure of district activities/accomplishments and financial affairs, as well as hold an election of supervisors whose terms have expired.

The term of John Cook is expiring this year; John has agreed to run for re-election to another three year term. Voting is conducted by secret ballot of the qualified electors (U.S. citizen and 18 years of age or older) of the district present at the annual meeting.

Awards to winners of the annual poster contest will be presented, as well as Bankers Conservation Awards and Grasslands Awards.

Yur Place will begin serving a delicious catered meal at 6:00 PM, provided by the banks of Barber County: The Peoples Bank, Citizens Bank of Kansas (Medicine Lodge), and Alva State Bank & Trust Company (Kiowa).

*Contact the Conservation Office by January 20, 2025 to make your reservations!*

---

### Communicating Effectively About Woody Plant Encroachment

Barber County Conservation District was one of six counties across Kansas and Oklahoma to participate with Playa Lakes Joint Ventura (PLJV) on a project funded by a USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Conservation Innovation Grant. The goal of the project was to develop an effective outreach model to drive earlier and more effective invasive woody plant removal practices. As part of the project, focus groups and interviews were held with ranchers and landowners within those six counties to understand producers' motivations and barriers around woody plant removal and various management practices. The social science results then informed the development of communication strategies and messages which were then tested and validated by ranchers and landowners within the project area and among a larger population of agricultural producers in Kansas and Oklahoma. The PLJV social scientists recently released a guide resulting from information they gathered from producers during those meetings. Copies of the guide **Communicating Effectively About Woody Plant Encroachment** are available at the conservation office.

Additionally, the release of the "Tomorrow's Grassland" website is scheduled for early January. It will encompass additional resources based on producer guidance and offer landowners and producers assistance and information needed to remove woody encroachment. This is another resource created through this Conservation Innovation Grant project.

We wish to thank those producers and landowners who participated in the focus groups and helped facilitate the development of the guide. Your participation is an integral part in the on-going effort to reclaim Kansas native grasslands through the control and elimination of woody plant encroachment.

# Farmer to Farmer Workshop




**Monday, March 24th at the  
Wilmore Community Building**  
**Lunch Begins at 12:00 p.m. Speakers on at 1:00 p.m.**









Join us for the Gyp Hills Great Plains Grasslands Initiative workshop!  
John Weir, Eva Yearout, and Dusty Tacha will be there to talk and work  
with you so that you can begin recovering and maintaining your grazing  
lands at its most productive levels. Topics to be discussed will be key steps in  
the planning process, management scenarios, and options that can be used  
to reduce grassland risk and vulnerability to woody encroachment.  
Help us to defend and grow your core grasslands!

**Please RSVP for lunch with Nathan Tavaglione at  
(620) 352-1597 or [ntavaglione@pheasantsforever.org](mailto:ntavaglione@pheasantsforever.org)  
[www.kansaspfqf.org](http://www.kansaspfqf.org)**





## BARBER COUNTY ART STUDENTS HONORED AT STATE COMPETITION

As first place winners at the local level, Cade Parker and Kassidy Gee competed with students in their respective grade divisions across the state. Cade placed first in state. His entry has been sent to compete at the national level: results of that competition are unknown at this time. Kassidy received Honorable Mention in her grade division. Both posters were highlighted at the KACD Convention in Wichita. *Great job kids!*



Cade Parker 10-12 Grade



Kassidy Gee 7-9 Grade



## State Cost Share Programs For FY 2024

July 1, 2024 marked the beginning of the State of Kansas' fiscal year 2025. At that time the District received funds for the administration of two State Cost Share Programs. Following are the practices and allocations for each program:

### WATER RESOURCES COST-SHARE PROGRAM (WRCSP)

Initial Allocation \$46,063.79

Additional Funds Allocation \$14,590.05

- 8—livestock water developments to include solar pumping plant, livestock water tanks, livestock water wells: \$60,653.84.

### NON-POINT SOURCE POLLUTION CONTROL PROGRAM (NPS)

Initial Allocation \$8,152.28

Additional Funds Allocation \$11,521.64

- 8—livestock water developments to include solar pumping plant, livestock water tanks, livestock water wells: \$19,673.92.

Applications for these programs are taken throughout the year with an application deadline of April 30. At that time, applications are ranked according to natural resource priorities as set by the District Board. Funding is available July 1 each year. Early application enables NRCS to plan properly and to schedule technical assistance for field visits.

: *"Funding provided by the Division of Conservation, Kansas Department of Agriculture through appropriation from the Kansas Water Plan Fund."*



We are happy to welcome three new faces to our conservation team!

You can find DD Moss in the office most days as the Natural Resource Specialist. She looks forward to establishing roots here in south-central Kansas.

Nathan Tavaglione will be working the area as the Conservation Delivery Specialist—Red Hills. He looks forward to restoring native grasslands and reducing woody encroachment.



Aaron Vollmer (tall one on the left) is working for NRCS as the Rangeland Management Specialist.

