



Conservation Conversation

Volume 21, Issue 4

December 2008

EQIP Cutoff Date - January 30, 2009

A signup cutoff date of January 30, 2009, for the Environmental Quality Incentives Programs (EQIP) has been announced by NRCS. Applications will be gathered for ranking at that point. Agricultural producers with cropland, rangeland, or forestland with any of the following resource concerns should apply at the NRCS office.

- Air Quality – Objectionable Odors
- Domestic Animals – Inadequate Stock Water
- Fish and Wildlife – Threatened and Endangered Species, Declining Species, and Species of Concern
- Plant Condition – Noxious or Invasive Plants; Productivity, Health, Vigor (Forestland, Rangeland, Pastureland, Hayland)
- Soil Condition – Organic Matter Depletion
- Soil Erosion – Streambank
- Water Quality – Excessive Nutrients/Organics in Ground and/or Surface Water; Excessive Suspended Sediment and Turbidity in Surface Water; Harmful Levels of Pesticides in Ground and/or Surface Water
- Water Quantity – Aquifer Overdraft; Inefficient Water Use on Irrigated Land; Inefficient Water Use on Non-irrigated Land; and Insufficient Flows in Water Courses

For more information or to apply, please contact NRCS at (620) 886-5311 ext. 3 or visit the service center located at 800 W. Third Ave., Medicine Lodge, KS.

Information Provided by NRCS

**Barber County
Conservation District
800 W Third Ave
Medicine Lodge, KS 67104
(620) 886-5311 ext. 3**

The
Barber County
Conservation
District and NRCS
would like to wish
everyone a
very
Merry Christmas
and a
Happy New Year!



Conservation District Staff:
Cheryl Davis
District Manager

Courtney Pilkington
District Clerk

NRCS Staff:
Jarred Kneisel
District Conservationist

*You Are Cordially Invited to the
59th Annual Meeting
of the
Barber County Conservation District,
Saturday, January 17, 2009, 6:30 pm,
at the Heritage Center, Medicine Lodge, KS.
Please RSVP by January 9, 2009
(620) 886-5311 ext. 3.*

Conservation During A Recession

by Jarred Kneisel, SDC

There is plenty of bad news in regards to the economy as of late. Everything seems to cost a little more, while at the same time the money we have seems to buy a little less. Unfortunately, the agricultural industry cannot sit back and wait for the economy to return to strength – the days ahead are filled with a nearly endless list of maintenance and improvement tasks. There are terraces that need to be built, waterways to be shaped, fence that needs to be built, trees to be clipped, and pipelines to trench. Each of these projects are a necessary part of being an agricultural producer, but in tight economic times, the expense of accomplishing each task is increasingly difficult.

However, there is opportunity for assistance to help offset these higher costs. With input from local work groups, conservation partners, and producers, the cost-share assistance associated with the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), and the Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP) have seen tremendous adjustments. As an example, the cost-share payment rate for clearing one acre at a high infestation level has jumped from \$91 in 2008, to \$236.25 for 2009 (over a 250% increase). Terraces have risen to \$1.05 per foot compared to last year's \$0.35 per foot (a 300% hike). The installation of a 2" pipeline paid \$0.76 per foot in 2008, and this year the same pipeline would receive \$1.35 per foot. These cost-share payment rates are a much more accurate reflection in what prices have been doing the last several years, and will hopefully enable you, as conservation-minded producers, to accomplish your conservation goals in the upcoming year(s).

One final change in the EQIP/WHIP programs I'd like to make you aware of is the addition of variable costs in newer contracts. This will allow for contracts that remain on schedule to use the current year's cost-share rate rather than being "locked-in" to the rate when the contract was signed. For example, a 2008 EQIP contract with a prescribed burn schedule in 2009 wouldn't receive the \$3.50 per acre that the contract was written with, but rather \$5.25 per acre that's allowed in 2009. The goal is to help get conservation practices on the ground while combating inflation factors that may limit producers. The following table is a price comparison for a few of the practices:

	2008	2009
Brush Mgmt (High Infestation)	\$ 91 per acre	\$ 236.35 per acre
Terraces	\$ 0.35 per foot	\$ 1.35 per foot
2" Pipeline	\$ 0.76 per foot	\$ 1.05 per foot

Please feel free to call or stop by the office to visit about any conservation work that you'd like to accomplish this next year. Remember, the sign-up period for the EQIP and WHIP programs will run until January 30th.

New Cost-Share Funds Received

The District has just received \$6,387 additional funding in the Non-Point Source Pollution Control Program (NPS), a cost-share program used primarily to assist in the repair of failed septic systems. The initial allocation is received July 1 each year: 100% of that allocation was disbursed by December 5 among eight applicants.

The Water Resources Cost-Share Program (WRCSP) also received \$8,268 additional funding. A newly added practice to this program is Water and Sediment Control Basin. Please contact the Conservation Office for information regarding these cost-share programs, available practices, and the application process.

Funding for Water Resources Cost-Share Program and/or Non-Point Source Pollution Control Program is provided by the State Conservation Commission from the Kansas Water Plan Fund.

WHIP Cutoff Date - January 30, 2009

NRCS announced January 30, 2009, as the cutoff date for producers to submit Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP) applications to be considered for Fiscal Year (FY) 2009 funding. The WHIP is a voluntary program through NRCS for producers who want to develop or improve wildlife habitat on private lands. The FY 2009 Kansas WHIP wildlife priorities are as follows:

- Threatened and endangered species and species in need of conservation
- Grassland Birds

Anyone interested in learning more about improving wildlife habitat and would like to submit an application for program assistance can do so at any time. To be considered for this round of funding, please contact the NRCS office at (620) 886-5311 ext. 3 as soon as possible.

Information Provided by NRCS

If You Have An NRCS Contract, Please Notify Us of Any of the Following Changes:

- **The Formation of A Trust, LLC, Corporation, etc.**
- **Banking Changes**
- **Changes In Ownership: Sale of Land, Death of Owner**

Failure To Notify Us Could Result in the Delay of Your Payment!

Poster Contest Winners

This year's poster contest was an exciting one! This year's theme of "Water Is Life" encouraged 201 hopeful kids to participate in this year's poster contest. The competition was fierce this year. All of the posters were excellent in content and quality, but we could only have one winner in each category to move on to state. And the winner's are.....

Kindergarten - 1st

1st Place - Adrienne Allison
2nd Place - Trevor Rooks
3rd Place - Gage Cantrell

2nd - 3rd

1st Place - Kolby Pavly
2nd Place - Riston Landwehr
3rd Place - Russell Abbot

4th - 6th

1st Place - Sierra Cargill
2nd Place - Alexandria Leis
3rd Place - Isabella Rutan

7th - 9th

1st Place - Breanna Lassiter
2nd Place - Ty Boor
3rd Place - Samantha Crowley

10th - 12th

1st Place - Megan Kuhn
2nd Place - Chelsea Hixson
3rd Place - Dillon Romine

Special Purpose

1st Place - William Hearld
2nd Place - Robert Keller
3rd Place - Jeramiah Whitaker

Join us at the Barber County Conservation District Annual meeting on January 17, 2009 to congratulate the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place winners at the county & state levels!!!!