



# CONSERVATION CONVERSATION

Barber County Conservation District

Volume 22, Issue 4

December 2009

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

## John Farney Memorial Scholarship

The John Farney Memorial Scholarship is a \$1000 scholarship sponsored by the Barber County Conservation District. The scholarship is awarded annually to a student who is entering at least his/her second year of college. Applicants must be pursuing a college degree in a conservation-related field. The applicant must also be a resident of Barber County. The deadline for applications will be March 15, 2010. Applications are available at the conservation office, 800 W. 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue, Medicine Lodge, Kansas. You may also call (620) 886-5311 for more information.

### Conservation District Staff:

Cheryl Davis  
District Manager

Courtney Pilkington  
District Clerk

### NRCS Staff:

Jarrod Kniesz  
District Conservationist

Carl Jarboz  
Soil Conservation Technician

## Use CCRP to help make your farming operation more profitable and easier to plant and harvest.

CCRP, Continuous sign-up CRP (Conservation Reserve Program), is available in several different forms. Hard to farm corners would be a good spot for CP38 SAFE, while a bird buffer, CP33, might work well along hedge rows that sap the soil of moisture and competes for nutrients. These programs and more are available to help set aside acres that can be unprofitable and hard to farm. Planted to a mix of native grasses and forbs these areas provide soil holding roots as well as foliage and seeds for wildlife cover and food supply, all the while keeping your tractor away from ditches, rocky sites, stream banks and tree rows. These areas often do not raise a full crop but cost just as much to plant and harvest.

While a new general CRP sign-up has not been announced, Continuous CRP is available, as the name implies, on an on-going basis. Filter strips along creeks and streams, field borders or small bird-buffers along the edges of crop-fields, and windbreaks or shelterbelts are just a few of the common CCRP practices installed. These practices, as well as others available through CCRP, can be combined and tailored to best fit your farm and your goals. Maybe there are areas that are wet and you are only able to harvest a crop once every five years or so – enroll them for a farmable wetland and buffer. Or maybe more commonly, there's that odd-ball or crooked area of the field that is just too much of a hassle to get back to and plant, you might think about leaving those areas in native grass and receiving CCRP payments as well. Not only does this reduce your financial risk for that field (and maybe even increases the profits from that field), but also helps to protect against water and wind erosion, while at the same time providing some beneficial wildlife habitat.

Continuous CRP works in a similar manner as regular CRP. Participants receive a rental payment based upon what types of soils are present, cost-share is available on seeding or improving the grass stand, and a maintenance item (depending on what practice is chosen) must be implemented within the life of the contract. Contracts can range between 10 and 15 years (also depending on the practice).

These practices are also available to enroll portions of ending CRP contracts. One benefit of having expiring CRP is that enrolling into CCRP will be a very simple process, if you act quickly. If you were to enroll into CCRP within six months of the expiration of your general CRP contract, you will be accepted into the program noncompetitively as long as acres are still available within the state. This is a tremendous plus, and there may be essentially no interruption in payments on those acres. And, since your grass has already been well-established, you won't have to go through the planting of new grass like in other contracts. Before you break out an expired CRP field from fence row to fence row, consider these options. One of the CCRP programs may add to your operations profitability.

If you are interested, I would encourage you to stop by the USDA Service Center and either speak with someone from NRCS or FSA in order to see how you could maximize the benefits available through CCRP on your farm, and to do so in a timely manner so that once your general CRP contract goes off of the books, your Continuous CRP contract picks right up.

*You Are Cordially Invited  
to the  
60th Annual Meeting  
of the  
Barber County  
Conservation District,  
Saturday, January 16,  
2010, 6:30 pm,  
at the Kiowa Community  
Center, Kiowa, KS.  
Please RSVP by January  
8, 2010  
(620) 886-5311 ext. 3.*

With a tremendous amount of waste oil being created annually, the Sunflower RC&D Area, Inc. worked through KDHE and several regional partners to design and build a Waste Oil Collection Trailer that has been utilized for the past 10 years in the RC&D region. Collected oil is typically reused in locally owned waste oil heaters. Its use has kept oil out of the waste stream and kept heating fuel costs down for the recipients.

The portable trailer includes: a modified 20 ft. flat bed trailer; 500 gallon storage tank; Transfer pump with filter system; 25 ft. flexible hose and tube for servicing 55 gal. drums; oil filter press; and an air compressor (everything is pneumatic).

The goal of this program/project is to keep used oil out of the landfills, off the ground and reduce the amount being temporarily stored in the environment. Several city, county and private facilities have installed waste oil heaters as alternative heat sources. Our program has been working to help supply those facilities in the areas where waste oil is collected.

If you have used oil to dispose of and think you would be interested in the collection program, contact your local Conservation District Office or the Sunflower RC&D Area, Inc. at 620-896-7378.

The District allocated \$15,605 to Barber County landowners through the Kansas Non-Point Source Pollution Control Program (NPS), and \$26,408 through the Water Resources Cost-Share Program (WRCSP) from July 1 – December 1, 2009. These programs are voluntary cost-share programs which provide financial assistance to eligible landowners for conservation practices that reduce soil erosion, improve water quality, and/or conserve water. Funds are provided through the Kansas Water Plan. Contact the conservation office for a list of available practices.

## Poster Contest Winners

*This year's poster contest was an exciting one! This year's theme of "Dig It" the Secret of Soil encouraged 209 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 - Sterling Rector

2nd Place - Karissa Thayer

3rd Place - Dane Coggins

### 2nd - 3rd

1st Place - Cody Jahay

2nd Place - Brandon Tillotson

3rd Place - Gage Cantrell

### 4th - 6th

1st Place - Sierra Cargill

2nd Place - Kendra England

3rd Place - Lori Gilley

### 7th - 9th

1st Place - Cassidy Stimpert

2nd Place - Addie Roe

3rd Place - Kimberly Angell

### 10th - 12th

1st Place - Rylan Davis

2nd Place - Kaly Fitzgerald

3rd Place - Sam Elliott

### Special Purpose

1st Place - Kaitlynn Stuber

2nd Place - Travis Mitchell

3rd Place - Logan Dorsey

*Sierra Cargill and Rylan Davis both placed first in their divisions at the state level and their posters will be headed to the national competition.*

*Cassidy Stimpert also placed at the state level receiving honorable mention in her division for her poster. Join us at the Barber County Conservation District Annual meeting on January 16, 2010 to congratulate the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place winners at the county & state levels!!!!*

# **EQIP/WHIP SIGN-UP**

An application evaluation cutoff date of **January 15, 2010**, for the **Environmental Quality Incentives Programs (EQIP)** and **Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP)** under the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (2008 Farm Bill) has been announced by Eric B. Banks, state conservationist for the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). Applications may be submitted anytime; however, applications will be gathered for ranking at that point.

## **Kansas EQIP eligible priority natural resource concerns are as follows:**

- 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, Hay Land)
- 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

## **Kansas WHIP wildlife priorities are as follows:**

- Threatened and Endangered Species and Species in Need of Conservation
- Grassland Birds
- Natural Communities

## **Socially Disadvantaged, Limited Resource, and Beginning Farmers and Ranchers**

"EQIP/WHIP are available to help address the unique circumstances and concerns of socially disadvantaged, limited resource, and beginning farmers and ranchers, who have natural resource concerns that need to be addressed on their land," said Banks.

"In Kansas socially disadvantaged, limited resource, and beginning farmers and ranchers will receive a higher payment rate through EQIP and WHIP for structural and vegetative practices."

### **Organic**

EQIP is available for treating natural resource concerns on organic systems. Organic producers, or those transitioning to organic, may apply for EQIP to address their natural resource concerns during this period.

**For more information, please contact the NRCS office at 800 W. Third Ave. in Medicine Lodge, or call the office at (620) 886-5311 ext. 3.**