


conserving
natural resources
for our future

JEWELL COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

SUMMER 2010

"USDA is an equal opportunity employer and provider"

EARTH DAY TREE-PLANTING

The Jewell County Conservation District joined forces with Mankato NRCS District Conservationist, Michael Waite, Conservation Technician, Rick Gardner, Wildlife Biologist, Tyson Sierer, KDWP District Biologist, Aaron Deters, and the Rock Hills 5th Grade with Mrs. McMillan and six FFA students, to plant a windbreak consisting of cedar trees and shrubs.

The windbreak is at the farm of John and Linda Woerner. These windbreaks are replacing some that were destroyed with the Jewell Tornado in the spring of 2008.

The original date of the event was to be on Earth Day, April 22. Rain held up the activity and we finally were able to dig in on May 3, 2010 to plant over 300 bare root trees and shrubs.

Everyone brought a sack lunch and a snack was provided by the Woerners as the planting was completed.



FEDERAL AND STATE COST SHARE PROGRAMS

The (NRCS) Natural Resource Conservation Service and the County Conservation District Offices offer several voluntary programs which provide financial assistance and technical assistance. These programs are designed to help agricultural landowners or operators apply conservation practices to address the following resource concerns: Soil Erosion, Water Quality, Air Quality, Fish and Wildlife, Plant Condition for rangeland, pastureland, hayland and forestland, Soil Condition, Domestic Animals, and Water Quantity.

The 1996 Federal Farm Bill established the (EQIP) Environmental Quality Incentive Program and (WHIP) Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program. These programs replaced the ASCS-LTP Long Term Conservation Program and the Great Plains Conservation cost share program.

Since 1996, these programs have evolved to keep up with producer's needs and desires to address more resource concerns. The current federal programs administered by NRCS help pay a share of the producer's practice expense. The payment is based on a payment schedule that reflects the amount NRCS is willing to pay the producer to implement a practice. The payment does not indicate the full cost of implementing the practice. Installation costs of practices will need to be negotiated between the producer and contractor. The goal of these programs is to provide financial assistance toward the expense of construction and installation of conservation practices.

Federal Program applications may be submitted anytime, however, applications will be gathered for ranking at set cutoff dates during the year when funds become available. Eligible applications will be funded based on ranking and available funds.

For more information on the various federal programs available, check the Kansas NRCS Web Site: www.ks.nrcs.usda.gov/program/ or contact your local USDA Service Center, NRCS or Conservation District Office.

The (WRCS) Water Resource Cost Share Program, the Non-Point Source Pollution Control Program and the Riparian and Wetland Protection Program are volunteer cost share programs. These programs are administered through the Kansas State Conservation Commission. Funding is provided through the Kansas Water Plan. Kansas landowners can apply for these funds through the local Conservation District Office.

Each County Conservation District Office receives a limited, annual allocation of funds to be used for cost share assistance. A sign-up period is announced for the landowners to apply for financial assistance.

The cost share rates and ranking priorities are set by the Conservation District Board. Eligible applications are funded based on ranking and available funds.

Conservation practices that are funded with federal or state funds must be designed to meet NRCS State Field Office Technical Guide requirements. Construction must meet NRCS design specifications to receive payment. Practice construction that exceeds NRCS design will be at the producer's expense. It is recommended that landowners request construction and installation cost estimates after receiving the design documents for their planned practice.

For more information on the programs available through the Conservation District, check the SCC Web Site: www.scc.ks.gov/ and click on the Conservation District Directory for locating your local offices for more information.

**Helping People Help the Land
An Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer**

Pheasant Forever Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist
Tyson Seirer



Tyson recently moved to North Central Kansas and is living outside Glen Elder, KS near Lake Waconda. Tyson is helping bring the Pheasants Forever Farm Bill Biologist program to new territory in Kansas. He has previous work experience with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service at Quivira NWR and Flint Hills NWR in Kansas as well as with the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks. He grew up in Wakefield, KS on the shores of Milford Lake where he spent his childhood hunting, fishing, and trapping. His BS degree is from Emporia State University where the focus of his studies was in Environmental Biology and Geographic Information Systems. He conducted research on White-tailed deer density and demographic composition on public and private lands in Kansas. Tyson is certified as a Wildland Firefighter and is a Kansas hunter education instructor. Tyson enjoys spending time at his family's cabin in Estes Park Colorado, fly fishing, whitewater rafting, kayaking, riding horses, outdoor photography, shooting sports, competitive archery, and hunting with friends and family.

Contact Tyson at 785-738-5172, ext 111
tseirer@pheasantsforever.org

Water Quality Association Website

If you think there may be something wrong with your water but you don't know what may be causing the problem, the Water Quality Association has a nice website to help you diagnose drinking water quality issues, reference drinking water standards and research contaminants.

Go to: <http://www.wqa.org/> click on "consumer resources", then click on "diagnose your water". Your email address, will be requested, but you don't need it; choose country, enter zip code and SUBMIT.

This website will help you narrow down the possible culprits by choosing from some common Symptoms and their Characteristics. Once narrowed down, or if you know what Contaminants are in your water, you can research potential treatments and solutions.

Jewell County Conservation District

has **EQUIPMENT AVAILABLE** for Jewell County residents and landowners.

WYLIE SKID SPRAYER
\$25.00 per day.

ROOT PLOW
Refundable deposit of \$50.00.

TREE PLANTER AND TRAILER
Deposit of \$50.00 with a \$25.00 refund.

WEEDBARRIER MACHINE
Deposit of \$50.00 with a \$25.00 refund.

Refunds will be issued when equipment is returned on time, clean and undamaged.

ALSO AVAILABLE...

- Purchase **Marking Flags**
- Purchase **Cable** (19 strand-twisted cable, 2-mile rolls) **Fencing & Fiberglass Posts**
- Order **Weed barrier Fabric**
- Order **Native Grass and Forbs Seed**

Contact Jan Boyles, 785-378-3961 to place orders.
jan.boyles@ks.nacdnet.net

- **6 foot Grass Drill** for native grass and forbs seed only. Purchased by "Pheasants Forever". Call Aaron Deters at "Wildlife and Parks" to schedule use. 785-545-3345

A portion of the funding for this newsletter has been provided by the State Conservation Commission through appropriation from the Kansas Water Plan Fund. "We would like to thank the Commission and the advertisers for making this newsletter possible."

The Jewell County Conservation District provides programs and service to anyone regardless of race, sex, color, national origin, ancestry, religion, age, physical or mental handicap.
USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer."

Life Spans of Conservation Practices:

Cost-shared practices shall be maintained for the life of the practice.
The life of the practice may vary from one program to another.

All **State** Water and Soil Conservation cost-share that require maintenance are to be maintained for ten (10) years, with the exception on Contour Buffer Strips, Filter Strips and Field Borders that are ten (10) years with some stipulations attached. Only one practice differs from the 10 years and that is Well Decommissioning: this practice is permanent and a landowner agreement must be signed by the well owner.

USDA-NRCS have a wide variety of conservation practice life spans. Here is a list of the most common practices in Jewell County.

- | | |
|---|----------|
| • (314) Brush Management | 10 years |
| • (332) Contour Buffer Strips | 10 years |
| • (338) Prescribed Burning | 5 years |
| • (342) Critical Area Planting | 10 years |
| • (359) Waste Treatment Lagoon | 25 years |
| • (362) Diversion | 10 years |
| • (378) Pond | 25 years |
| • (380) Windbreak/Shelterbelt Establishment | 15 years |
| • (382) Fence | 20 years |
| • (412) Grassed Waterway | 10 years |
| • (466) Land Smoothing | 10 years |
| • (512) Pasture and hay Planting | 10 years |
| • (516) Pipeline | 20 years |
| • (550) Range Planting | 10 years |
| • (645) Upland Wildlife Habitat Management | 1 year |
| • (650) Windbreak/Shelterbelt Renovation | 15 years |

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