

Conservation Compliance Still an Important Issue

Alan R. Boerger, Resource Conservationist
Manhattan, Kansas

Calendar year 2015 marked the 30th anniversary of the Food Security Act of 1985 (also known as the 1985 U.S. Farm Bill) being signed into law. Since 1985, millions of acres of agricultural lands have had conservation plans developed on them with assistance from the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). Furthermore, millions of tons of soil have been saved due to the planning efforts made by NRCS and the produc-

ers who implemented the practices outlined in those conservation plans. Even though conservation compliance is not foremost in everyone's mind in recent years, the regulations of the Food Security Act are still something producers must adhere to if they wish to continue to be eligible for U. S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) programs and benefits. A few of the USDA benefits and programs that can be affected due to non-compliance issues include:

- Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)

eligibility

- Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) eligibility
- Conservation Stewardship Program (CStP) eligibility
- Agriculture Easement Conservation Program (ACEP) eligibility
- Other Farm Service Agency (FSA) benefits
- Federal Crop Insurance benefits

Each year, NRCS field staff is provided a list of

randomly selected tracts of land to review to ensure producers are implementing or using conservation systems that meet conservation compliance criteria. During the review process, the current conservation system is evaluated in the field to ensure the system being implemented is properly maintaining or reducing the tolerable soil loss limits for the highly erodible field. **see COMPLIANCE page 3**

Activities of the District

Memberships

The Pawnee county conservation District is a member of the Kansas Association of Conservation Districts (KACD), KACD EO (Employees Org) and the KACD Auxiliary and WOTF Women on the Farm

2015 in Review

- PCCD Board of Supervisor Meetings-Monthly
 - Newsletters- January, April, July, October
 - FSA County Committee Reports
 - Annual Meeting-January
 - Conservation Edition-February
 - Severe Weather Awareness Week-attended advanced spotter training
 - National Ag Week-March
 - Annual Financial Audit AUP -March
 - DOC Spring Meeting
 - NRCS Management Unit Meetings; Monthly
 - Great Bend Farm & Ranch Show-April
 - Earth Day-April
 - 4th Grade Ag Tour-April
 - State Cost-Share Sign-up-May
 - State Cost-Share Ranking-June
 - State Cost-Share Contracts went out-July
 - CKLEPG OSW Septic Inspection for Cost-Share
 - Pawnee County Fair-July
 - DOC Fall Meeting-August
 - Toolkit, DMS, ProTract & Contracting Training
 - Budget Hearing-August
 - Earth Balloon assisted Barton County and Stafford County
 - Bankers Conservation Tour-October
 - KACD Annual Convention- Kathie Rondeau- November
- THIS IS A BRIEF SUMMARY OF DISTRICT ACTIVITIES*

-2015 Overview-

Kathie Rondeau - Conservation District Manager
PAWNEE COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT
ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2015
(January 1, 2015-December 31, 2015)

INITIATIVE I: Maintain District management of operations.

The Board has continued improving the management of the District with further education for Board members and staff. This has been accomplished with use of training modules and various seminars and training sessions.

The District Manager reports monthly to the Board, the Pawnee County Commissioners, the State Conservation Commission and the NRCS area office, either in person or with the Board Minutes & Treasurer Reports. In addition to overseeing the State Cost Share Programs, the District Manager also prepares and sends out a quarterly Newsletter, and is involved in outreach and education, and working with the NRCS staff at least 50% of the time as a agency partner

INITIATIVE 2: Provide the public with information and education relating to what the purpose of the district is and how we can assist them through our practices

Several education and information programs have been held over the past year in an effort to meet this objective. The Pawnee County Conservation District's Annual meeting was in January 2015. The Conservation Edition was published in the Tiller & Toiler. A 4th grade Ag day was held to educate children on various conservation practices. Several seminars were presented jointly with the NRCS and FSA, and with Pawnee County Extension.

INITIATIVE 3: Address the current and immediate conservation needs of producers.

District is a local outlet for native grasses, and introduced grasses and forbs, at an affordable price. This results in readily available, specially mixed, and reasonably priced seed, which arrives within a few days for our producers to use on CCRP, various inter-seeding, waterways, erosion susceptible lands and wildlife habitats. The District works in partnership with NRCS to help service the Technical conservation needs of the Producers of the District.

INITIATIVE 4: Prepare Producers for future conservation efforts.

Through NRCS Conservation Plans, and meetings with producer's, Pawnee County producer's are planning future conservation practices, and taking advantage of available programs.

INITIATIVE 5: Build up the district's educational programs.

Through cooperation with all the various partners of the District, the District keeps the producers aware of educational programs taking place in the immediate and surrounding areas, through the newsletter and articles in the county newspaper, Email and by phone.

2015 SCS Program Accomplishments

Water Resources 2015 (2016) State Cost-Share Program

- 1 Waterway-critical seeding area 4.3 acres
- 1 Waterway-shaping 3.1 acre
- 1 CREP-well decommissioning
- 2 livestock wells-312 ft
- 1 Solar Pumping Plants
- 2 Livestock Watering Facilities-2168 gallons
- 5 Drip Irrigation systems-13,920 ft
- 4 Fabric Weed Barrier- 9,420 ft. +(4500 CRP not SCS)
- 4 windbreak/shelterbelt-373 trees + (612 CRP not SCS)

Non-Point Source Pollution Control 2014 State

Cost-Share Program

- 5 On Site Wastewater Systems Installed
- 450 infiltration chambers
- 5 tanks-6500 gallons
- Laterals-1800 ft
- 1 well decommissioning CREP
- 1 Solar Pumping Plant
- 1 Livestock Watering Facility-1600 gallons

TOTAL 2015 (2016) State Cost-Share Funds

Pawnee County

Water Resource	\$19,867.30
NPS	18,685.00
Total funds	\$38,552.30

Total Conservation Funds coming into Pawnee County

- SCS through Pawnee County Conservation District \$38,552.30
 - FSA-CRP Conservation Reserve Program \$939,473.00
 - NRCS-CSP Conservation Stewardship Program 2008 Farm Bill \$990,379.25
 - NRCS-CSP Conservation Stewardship Program 2014 Farm Bill \$1,037,043.00
 - NRCS-EQIP Environmental Quality Incentive Program 2008 Farm Bill \$150,300.43
 - NRCS-EQIP Environmental Incentive Program 2014 Farm Bill \$913,098.13
- TOTAL \$4,068,846.11 on the ground in Pawnee County!

CRP Acres	24,519.04
2008 CSP Acres	98,715.2
2014 CSP Acres	80,621.7
2008 EQIP Acres	1,782.6
2014 EQIP Acres	2,637.9
TOTAL ACRES	208,276.44



BANK OF THE WEST
BNP PARIBAS GROUP

Ben Ramsey, Branch Manager, Vice President

324 W 14th Street
Larned, KS 67550
Office 620-285-2163

Benjamin.Ramsey@BankoftheWest.com

Congratulations . . .

2015 Pawnee County Conservation District Winners

Farmer Owned to Serve the Farmers' Needs

- Grain •Feed •Seed •Tires •Oil •Fuel
 - Fertilizer •Ag Chemicals •Farm Supplies
- ## Stop By Any of Our Locations Today



Rozel



Sanford



Burdett

Rozel
Main Office 527-4216 Service Station 527-4250
1-866-527-4216

Burdett
Office 525-6226
1-866-330-6226

Sanford

Sanford 527-4306 Garfield 569-2250
Larned 285-2333

GOLDEN VALLEY INC.

CALL 527-4250



FLATOUT
ON FARM TIRE SERVICE