



Pictured are just a few of the folks attending the PCCD annual meeting.



PCCD District Manager Kathie Rondeau assisted the Stafford and Barton County Conservation District Managers with Earth Balloon demonstration in the school in Stafford and Ellinwood. The Earth Balloon will be in Pawnee County again on March 11 of 2016.



Jed Fleske, PCCD, calls off door prize winners during the annual meeting.

PCCD participates yearly with the 4th grade Kids Ag Education Day. Here students are learning about erosion with the Streambank Trailer.



Participants at the Pawnee County Burn School learning the proper ways to plan, start and perform a successful controlled burn.

## Overview

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employees, and members of partner and affiliated organizations with information pertaining to best practices and district operations. It also provides important opportunities for attendees to network and form mutually beneficial connections.

Apart from the Board of Directors, the association has nine standing committees with specific areas of emphasis: (1) Conservation Education and Youth; (2) Wildlife, Recreation and Forestry; (3) Natural Resources; (4) Grasslands; (5) District Operations and Resolutions; (6) Endowment; (7) Finance and Development; (8) Urban and Rural Development; and (9) Stewardship. KACD's affiliated committees/organizations include Kansas Environment, the KACD Employees' Organization, and the KACD Auxiliary.

For more information, please visit [www.kacdnet.org](http://www.kacdnet.org) or contact KACD at (785) 832-9400.

### 4. Conservation Programs

There are a number of conservation programs that exist on the local, state, and federal levels that provide financial assistance and information to landowners and others regarding the wise use of Kansas natural resources. Following is a list of some of the most common state and federal programs administered at the district level. Some districts have local cost-share programs as well, but the local cost-share programs are typically modest and are sometimes used to supplement state cost-share.

#### STATE PROGRAMS

The Water Resources Cost-Share Program (WRCSP) provides financial assistance to landowners for the establish-

ment of conservation practices that reduce soil erosion, improve or protect water quality, and enhance water supplies. The conservation district in each county, managed by 525 locally elected supervisors, administers the program at the local level. The Division Of Conservation (DOC) develops regulations, policy, and procedures to guide program implementation. The DOC and conservation districts are assisted in implementation of the program by the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). All structures or practices cost-shared by the DOC through the WRCSP are required to be built to NRCS standards and specifications.

The Non-Point Source Pollution Control Program (NPSP-CP) is a voluntary program providing technical and financial assistance to implement non-point source pollution control measures for the protection and restoration of surface and ground water quality. Conservation districts receive funding from the DOC in the form of financial assistance provided to landowners on a cost-share basis to implement a locally developed Non-Point Source (NPS) Pollution Management Plan. Conservation districts in high workload Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) management units receive funding for technical assistance. The funds are used to hire soil conservation technicians, who provide technical assistance to landowners for the installation of best management practices that reduce soil erosion and improve water quality. Funding partners include the NRCS, Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism, and the Kansas Department of Health And Environment.

The Kansas Water Quality

Buffer Initiative, enacted by the 1998 Legislature by amending K.S.A. 2-1915, is an incentive program complementing the federal Conservation Reserve Program (CRP). State incentives supplement federal incentives to encourage the establishment of riparian forest buffers and vegetative filter strips. The DOC will enter into 10- to 15-year contracts, subject to annual appropriation, to compensate landowners for acres enrolled in the initiative. Supplemental payments offered under the initiative will match 30 to 50 percent of the federal payment, based on the type of vegetation planted. The initiative also provides property tax incentives for landowners statewide that enroll buffers adjacent to streams in the program. The state buffer eligible area now includes all high-priority TMDL (total maximum daily load) and federal drinking water reservoir watersheds in the state.

The Riparian and Wetland Protection Program (RWPP) was developed through the State Water Plan and authorized in 1989 by amending K.S.A. 2-1915. The goal of the RWPP is to protect, enhance, and restore riparian areas, wetlands, and associated habitats by providing technical, educational, and financial assistance to landowners and the public in general. The major objective of the program is to design and install projects that demonstrate the effectiveness of riparian and wetland protection in terms of stream functions, water quality and wildlife benefits, and to increase the knowledge and awareness of landowners and the general public on the value and benefits of these natural areas.

#### FEDERAL PROGRAMS

The Conservation Techni-

cal Assistance (CTA) Program provides technical assistance supported by science-based technology and tools to help people conserve, maintain, and improve their natural resources. The CTA Program provides the technical capability, including direct conservation planning, design, and implementation assistance, that helps people plan and apply conservation on the land. This assistance is provided to individuals, groups, and communities who make natural resource management decisions on private, tribal, and other non-federal lands. NRCS, through the CTA Program, provides conservation technical assistance that addresses natural resource conservation issues at the local level that are of state and national concern.

The Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) is a voluntary conservation program from the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). The program promotes agricultural production and environmental quality as compatible goals. EQIP offers financial and technical assistance to assist eligible participants install or implement structural, vegetative, and management conservation practices on eligible agricultural land. EQIP offers contracts with a minimum term that ends one year after the implementation of the last scheduled practice and a maximum term of ten years. EQIP activities are carried out according to a conservation plan of operations developed with the program participant(s). Conservation practices are subject to Kansas NRCS electronic Field Office Technical Guide (eFOTG) standards and specifications. Farmers and ranchers may elect to use a certified technical service provider for technical

assistance, if available.

The Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) provides technical and financial assistance to eligible farmers and ranchers to address soil, water, and related natural resource concerns on their lands in an environmentally beneficial and cost-effective manner. The program provides assistance to farmers and ranchers in complying with federal, state, and tribal environmental laws and encourages environmental enhancement.

The Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP) provides financial incentives to develop habitat for fish and wildlife on private lands. Participants agree to implement a wildlife habitat development plan and USDA agrees to provide financial assistance for the implementation of wildlife habitat development practices.

The Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP) is a voluntary program to restore wetlands. Participating landowners can establish conservation easements of either permanent or 30-year duration, or can enter into restoration cost-share agreements where no easement is involved. In exchange for establishing a permanent easement, the landowner receives payment up to the agricultural value of the land and 100 percent of the restoration costs for restoring the wetlands.

The Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) is offered in all 50 states and the Pacific and Caribbean areas through continuous sign-ups. The program provides many conservation benefits including improvement of water and soil quality, wildlife habitat enhancements, and adoption of conservation activities that address the effects of climate change. Eligible lands include cropland, pastureland,

rangeland, nonindustrial private forest land, and agricultural land under the jurisdiction of an Indian tribe.

### 5. The Economics of Conservation

For every dollar a county appropriates for its conservation district, the typical fiscal return on investment is anywhere from one hundred to several hundred percent. In a recent year in one Kansas county, for example, the amount budgeted for the conservation district was \$27,300, which generated federal and state cost-share dollars that equaled a 177-percent return on that investment. There are a number of variables that determine a county's return on investment, but counties generally see a positive return on the dollars they invest.

For more than seventy years, Kansas conservation districts and producers have been working with each other and with our partners, the Division of Conservation (formerly SCC) and the Natural Resources Conservation Service, to better utilize and preserve the land. As programs have been added and technology has become more sophisticated, Kansas counties have received millions of dollars through cost-share initiatives on the local, state, and federal levels. The result has been that producers have experienced better yields, and the cost savings to the state's roads, bridges, rivers and streams have been significant. Wildlife habitats, too, are better preserved.

In short, both the agricultural community and society as a whole benefit from investments in conservation. Clean water and productive soils are basic to our quality of life now and in the future.

**Heartland  
Irrigation  
Sub Surface  
Drip  
Irrigation**

1795 Arapaho Dr.,  
Moundridge, KS 67107

**620-345-6373**

**WE SALUTE  
YOU!**

Through Your Efforts  
We All Benefit.  
**All of Us at Dillons  
Thank All of You.**

We Know Agriculture is Our Bread  
and Butter. We Value Your Hard Work  
and Accomplishments.



423 Main

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**Congratulations**

2015 Conservation Winners



\*Cattle Handling  
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\*Custom Built Steel Building

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1409 280th Ave., Rozel

Fax: 527-4542

620-527-4318