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Range Planting Time Is Here!!!!

It is time to start thinking about planting native grasses. You can ask yourself this question: Do I have an area that the crops are just not being productive? Some pieces of land just should have never been taken out of native range.

This is the time to start thinking about planting areas of your property back into native range. A native range consists of a wide variety of species. Warm season grasses such as Indiangrass, big and little bluestem, switchgrass, and sideoats grama. There can also be cool-season grasses, legumes, and various wildflowers should be considered. Native range is quite diverse and can actually have as many as 500 species of plants. We cannot recreate a native rangeland but can restore many of the native plants.

The time for planting is coming up. If you want to plant native grasses you can start planting them December 1 and finish up May 15. The optimum time to plant native grasses is March 15 to May 15. You might ask yourself, "Why plant native grass?" Well, there are more reasons than just for grazing. Grasses themselves are great for conservation practices, but they can do even more than that. Consider what a native grass planting can create for you:

- First, you will be restoring the native plant community. It will be low maintenance once the native range has been established. Warm-season grasses are adapted to this area and require only good management to persist. No fertilizer inputs are needed.
- Native range plantings provide quality forages for livestock during warm summer months. We can also adjust the native planting to meet your intended use. Many people believe tame pasture such as brome, fescue, and bermudagrass are more productive due to higher potential stocking rate. That might be true, but you must con-

sider the fertilizer inputs needed on tame pasture.

- These native grass areas are also beneficial to the local wildlife. Along with the grasses, you could put in some specific forbs that would enhance the wildlife even more. These areas would then provide food as well as cover for the wildlife. Before we even start planting, you can decide on what type of wildlife you really would like to see. Then you can plant to promote for the wildlife you wish to support and/or see.
- Native grasses will also reduce erosion by water and wind and improve soil quality. You will not need to pay for those repairs on any of your waterways or terraces if you have native grasses planted in those unproductive croplands.
- Native grasses also improve water quality and quantity. For example, if you are farming right up to a creek, and you plant grass adjacent to this creek to act as a buffer, then the grass will help reduce pollutants that enter the creek from your fields.

So, you see there are some good reasons for you to plant native grass this next growing season for any type of operation.

If you have any questions about native grasses, please contact your local Natural Resources Conservation Service office or conservation district office located at your local county U.S. Department of Agriculture Service Center Service Center (listed in the telephone book under United States Government or on the internet at office.usda.gov). More information is also available on the Kansas Web site at www.ks.nrcs.usda.gov. Follow us on Twitter @NRCS_Kansas. USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

....Tim Miller, Rangeland Management Specialist



Plan to attend this free conference:
 ☐ farmers and ranchers ☐ absentee landowners ☐ woman or minority farmers ☐
 new or beginning farmers ☐ small or specialty crop farmers
 ● land management agents ● bankers.

Friday, February 15, 2013

9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Grace Community Church

310 East 8th Street (Highway 56) Overbrook, Kansas

Welcome & Opening Comments

Kelly Lenz, Agriculture Director
 WIBW AM 580 Radio

Marketing in Uncertain Times

Dan O'Brien, Northwest Area Agriculture Economist

Challenges of Drought

Doug Shoup, Southeast Area Agronomist,
 K-State Research & Extension

Ag Policy, 2012 Farm Bill

Troy Dumler, Southwest Area Agriculture Economist
 K-State Research & Extension

Ag Law: Leasing, Fencing, Eminent Domain

Mike Irvin, Director

Kansas Farm Bureau, Legal Foundation

Estate and Tax Planning for Farm Families

Shon Robben, Attorney, Arthur-Green Law Firm

Space Limited -Lunch Provided

Pre-registration is required to arrange for meal and facility space, please contact the Conservation District in Lyndon at (785) 828-3458 by February 8.



Tune into WIBW AM 580 Radio for inclement weather instructions for conference. We are equal opportunity providers and employers. Persons with disabilities who require accommodation to attend or participate in this meeting should contact Lori at (785) 828-3458 by February 8.

*“ Conservation is a
 state of harmony
 between men and
 land.”
 -Aldo Leopold*

Annual Meeting Invitation

Please attend our Douglas County Conservation District Annual Meeting , on Monday, February 11, 2013.

The 6:30 pm dinner meeting will be held at the 4-H Fairgrounds, in Building 21, located at 2110 Harper, Lawrence.

The business meeting will follow the meal, the District Board Supervisors will present the 2012 annual report and treasurer's report. One Board Supervisor will be elected to a three year term. Winners of the Poster contests will be announced.

Another highlight of the evening will be the presentation of Water Quality, Energy, Grassland and Buffer awards.

L & M catering will be serving the meal at 6:30 p.m. In order to know how much food to prepare, **reservations are required.** To make your reservations, please contact the conservation district at 785-843-4260 ext. 3 or email sande.fishburn@ks.nacdnet.net by Feb. 4, 2013. Two free meals per household.



Order Your Grass Seed Now!!!

Although it may seem that it is rather early, the Natural Resource Conservation Service recommends seeding dates for brome and fescue start December 1st and runs until April 15th. The Native Grass and all CRP mixes are recommended to be seeded December 1st thru May 15th with March 15th to May 15th being the ideal time. There are always the weather conditions to consider, but if conditions

allow, now is not too early to start getting ready to seed.

The Conservation District is taking orders for native grass seed, wildflower seed, and grass drilling through **February 22, 2013.**

Please stop by our office or call (785-843-4260 ext. 3) to discuss your individual native grass spring planting needs.

To most Kansans, fresh, clean water "goes with the territory." They turn on the tap and there it is, good water. We assume water for drinking, cooking, personal hygiene, lawns, gardens, livestock, industry, etc. will last forever. Not true. Good, clean water is fast becoming a scarce commodity.

Scholarships Announcement

We are pleased to announce that Douglas County Conservation District will be offering two scholarships this year. Both scholarship amounts are a one-time amount of \$1000 for high school senior entering college in September of 2013.

The scholarships are given to students majoring in, or

intending to major in, an agricultural or natural resources based curriculum.

Scholarship guidelines and application are available at the district office at 1217 Biltmore Dr., Suite 100 or can be mailed upon request. Applications are due **January 18, 2013.**

We're Still in School

Each year the Douglas County Conservation District offers conservation education programs to schools in our county. The programs stress the importance of agriculture, soil and water conservation. The students learn that no matter where you live, in the city or in the country, everyone is responsible for conservation of our natural resources.

These programs are:

- Free
- Support Curriculum
- Provide Interactive learning experience
- Hands-on
- Adapt program to subject matter



Douglas County Conservation District
1217 Biltmore Drive, Suite 100
Lawrence, KS 66049-1996

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Soil & Water News

Calendar of Event

January:

1— New Year's Day (observed), Office Closed

2—District Board Meeting

21—Martin Luther King Birthday, Office Closed

24,25—Slice of Ag

29,30—No-till Conference, Salina

February:

6—District Board Meeting

11—Annual Meeting

15-Ag Stewardship, Overbrook

18—George Washington Birthday, Office Closed

28- Burn Workshop, Stull United Methodist Church



Funding provided by the State Conservation Commission through appropriation from the Kansas Water Plan Fund.

All programs and services of the Conservation District are available to anyone without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, or handicap.

Douglas County Conservation District
785.843.4260 ext. 3

Board of Supervisors:

Mike Flory, Chairman
Roger Kitsmiller, Vice-Chair
Ron Reed, Treasurer
Lee Whaley, Secretary
Steve Wilson, Member

District Personnel:

SanDe Fishburn, District Manager
Jim Weaver, Program Coordinator

Natural Resources Conservation Service:

Coleen Davison, Soil Conservationist
Tim Miller, Resource Conservationist

Farm Service Agency: 785.843.4260 ext. 2

Johnathon Alley, County Executive Director
Debbie Chappelle, Program Technician
Jody Hickert, Program Technician
Cindy Westervelt, Program Technician

Office Hours: 8:00 to 4:30 pm, Monday-Friday