

# Douglas County Conservation District



Clean Water Healthy Lands  
Bright Future

## Events Calendar:

**August 5:** District Board meeting.

**August 21:** Kansas Farmers Union, Role of Mycorrhizal Fungi in Soil Health with Larry Simpson and a tour of The Land Institute with Wes Jackson.

**August 22:** Kansas Farmers Union, Cover Crop Bus Tour. Visit four farms with Dale Strickler of Star Seed, Salina to Osborne.

**August 25 & 26:** Kansas Farmers Union, Cover Crops and Soil Health. With Dr. Christine Jones, Amazing Carbon and Gabe Brown, Brown's Ranch Emporia, and the Gail Fuller Farm

**September 2:** District Board meeting.

**September 8:** Kansas Farmers Union, Livestock Water Development & Electric Fencing with Mark Green, Missouri NRCS Specialist, Salina

**September 21 & 22:** Kansas Farmers Union, Economics of the Livestock Industry with Bill Helming, and Jim Gerrish, Topeka.

**September 23:** Kansas Farmers Union, Getting Started in Grazing with Jim Gerrish, Salina.

**September 23-26:** Kansas Farmers Union, 3-Day Grazing School with Jim Gerrish, Courtland.

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Protecting Douglas County  
Natural Resources Since 1945

## ***Cost-Share funds are being allocated***

The District is ranking and preparing to offer producers contracts on cost share practices before the end of July.

Terraces, tile outlets, range plantings, solar pumps, wells, and more are all part of the mix this year.

But wait! The District may have additional money available to help with more practices. If you didn't get in under the deadline for the first round of sign-ups you are not too late.

For a full list of available practices, visit our website's "Program Overview" page at [www.douglasccd.com](http://www.douglasccd.com) or call us, 785-843-4260, ext. 1129, to discuss how we can help with your next conservation project!

## **Free Soil Test!**

Free soil tests are available to Douglas County residents at K-State Research & Extension located at 2110 Harper, Lawrence, KS. Stop by with 2 cups of soil in a zip lock bag and they will help you complete the paperwork! Funding provided by a grant from Douglas County Conservation District.

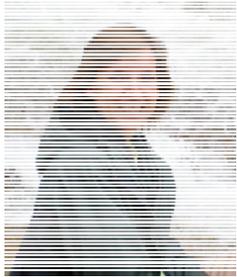
*Call the Extension office at 785.843.7058 for more information!*

*To provide leadership and assistance in promoting individual responsibility for the conservation of Douglas County natural resources.*

**Welcome Sue Ann Funk!**

The District is pleased to announce Sue Ann Funk has agreed to take over the District's Education Coordinator duties effective July 15<sup>th</sup>. Sue Ann replaces Jenica Nelson who left the District on June 2<sup>nd</sup> after accepting a position with the City of Lawrence's Recycling Department.

Sue Ann was born and raised in Junction City where her dad operated a mixed livestock/crop farm. Always interested in the outdoors and plants, she graduated from K-State with a degree in Horticulture. After finishing her Master of Science degree in Urban Horticulture from the University of Washington, Sue Ann and her husband Steve moved to Topeka. She widened her environmental focus by working as a naturalist at the W. Clement Stone Nature Center and at the Auburn Washburn, USD 437 Outdoor Education program.



Education is key for both adults and children when it comes to conserving our natural resources. Sue Ann is excited to work with the district to increase the educational opportunities for adults and children. Please feel free to contact Sue Ann with ideas of seminar topics, community events or other public outreach opportunities.

**Farewell from Jenica:**

My two years with the DCCD have been invaluable to me for professional and personal growth. I have met and worked with several colleagues, producers, and landowners in Douglas County and through the state of Kansas who are doing great work for the environment and conservation of natural resources. I look forward to seeing what top notch programs and events the DCCD continues to provide to the public.

All the best, Jenica Nelson

**A Bit Of Wheat History**

With wheat harvest wrapping up in Kansas, give some thought to how it began. The first wheat crop harvested in Kansas was grown in 1839 near today's Kansas City. The pioneers used varieties they had brought with them from their homes in the eastern U.S. or from Western Europe.

The variety that proved the most successful, however, was brought to Kansas by Mennonite settlers who arrived from the Ukraine in 1874. That variety, Turkey hard red winter wheat, was well-suited to the traditional production practices the settlers used and was hardy enough to survive on the arid High Plains when many other crops failed.



Today's Kansas farmers have a number of varieties that have been adapted to different regions of the state. "Turkey" is still cultivated in small areas of the state to preserve the variety and provide parent germplasm to wheat breeders across the country.

**Interested in Volunteering With Us?**

Visit the website link below to sign-up for volunteer opportunities with us. You will be able to check which types of volunteering options you are most interested in as well as your weekly availability.

As opportunities to volunteer arise, you will be contacted by email. We hope to work with you soon!

<http://www.douglasccd.com/volunteer.html>



## Kansas Department of Parks, Wildlife and Tourism

### *Summertime Shooting Practice for Kansas Hunters*

Shooting ranges: Kansas' diehard hunters never really rest. What's the fun in that? When it may be too soon to prep and pack for the next hunt, it's a perfect time to hone one's marksmanship. A couple of great shooting ranges:

The new shooting range at Hillsdale State Park –  
26719 Toe Road, Paola, KS 66071, Phone:  
913 594-1954



The Fancy Creek area at Tuttle Creek State Park.



Also see the Kansas State Parks' event calendar for other activity options. You can find it here: <http://ksoutdoors.com/State-Parks/Event-Calendar>

## United States Department of Agriculture Natural Resource Conservation Service

### *5 Questions Landowners Should Ask Their Farmers*

#1 – Do you build organic matter in the soil?

Organic matter may be the most important indicator of a farm's productivity.

#2 – Do you test the soil at least once every 4 years?

Maintaining fertility and pH levels are important to your farm's productivity. Regular soil testing can give an indication of trends in soil fertility, pH and organic matter levels in your fields.

#3 – Do you use no-till practices?

A field that has bare soil is subject to erosion and loss of organic matter. No-till farming utilizes crop residue to blanket the soil surface and protect it from the forces of intense rainfall and summer heat. This will conserve moisture and prevent loss of soil from wind and water erosion.

#4 – Do you use cover crops?

Cover crops provide a green protective blanket during the winter or fallow times. This habitat provides food and shelter for wildlife above ground and beneficial organism below.

#5 – What can we do together to improve soil health on my land?

Landowners and tenants should think long-term when considering soil health. There are no short term fixes, but over time with proper management practices soil health can be improved.

Need a Conservation Plan or interested in finding out how the District can help with your land or farming operation. Call 785-843-4260 extension 1129.

### Farm Service Agency

#### Ask FSA

Are you looking for answers to your FSA questions? Then ASK FSA at [askfsa.custhelp.com](http://askfsa.custhelp.com).

AskFSA is an online resource that helps you easily find information and answers to your FSA questions no matter where you are or what device you use. It is for ALL customers, including underserved farmers and ranchers who wish to be enrolled in FSA loans, farm, and conservation programs.

Through AskFSA you can:

- Access our knowledge base 24/7
- Receive answers to your questions faster
- Submit a question and receive a timely response from an FSA expert
- Get notifications when answers important to you and your farming operation are updated
- Customize your account settings and view responses at any time

#### Dates to Remember

- 07/01/2015 Registration Period for MPP-Dairy Coverage Year 2016 Begins
- 07/03/2015 FSA Offices Closed in Observance of Independence Day
- 07/15/2015 Final Acreage Reporting Deadline for Spring-seeded Crops
- 08/03/2015 Final Date for County Committee Nomination Forms to be returned to County Offices
- 09/01/2015 Application Closing Date for NAP Coverage on Small Grain Crops
- 09/30/2015 Registration Period for MPP-Dairy Coverage Year 2016 Ends

### Douglas County K-State Extension

#### Horticulture Events

- July 25 – K-State Research and Extension Horticulture Center Field Day – Olathe – [www.johnson.ksu.edu](http://www.johnson.ksu.edu)
- July 25 – Tomato Day – Wichita - 316-660-0138
- July 25 – Insect, Disease, and Weed Management [www.growinggrowers.org](http://www.growinggrowers.org)
- August 3– Introduction to Cut Flowers – [www.growinggrowers.org](http://www.growinggrowers.org)
- August 10 – Field Day/Horticulture Research Update – Olathe – [www.growinggrowers.org](http://www.growinggrowers.org)
- August 17 – Storage Crops – Baldwin City – [www.growinggrowers.org](http://www.growinggrowers.org)
- September 5 – Farm Business Management – KCMO – [www.growinggrowers.org](http://www.growinggrowers.org)

#### Agriculture Events

- Aug. 20-21 – Risk and Profit Conference [rvi@ksu.edu](mailto:rvi@ksu.edu)
- Sept 24 – Beef Stocker Field Day – Manhattan – 785-532-1504 or [www.KSUbeef.org](http://www.KSUbeef.org)
- Sept. 30 – Ag Lenders Conference – Manhattan – 785-532-1504 or [rvi@ksu.edu](mailto:rvi@ksu.edu)
- Oct. 9 – Animal Science and Industry Family and Friends Reunion Manhattan [www.asi.ksu.edu](http://www.asi.ksu.edu)
- Oct. 28-29 – Income Tax Institute – Wichita – 785-532-1504 or [rvi@ksu.edu](mailto:rvi@ksu.edu)

Douglas County Fair “One Great County, One Great Fair”  
July 24-August 2, 2015



Call (785) 841-6322, or check out the website: [dgcountyfair.com](http://dgcountyfair.com) for all of the details

**Lawrence**

Hours: Saturdays  
 April 11-Aug. 30: 7 am-11 am  
 Sept. 5-Nov. 21: 8am-12 pm  
 Location: 824 New Hampshire Street

**Lawrence-Indoors!**

Hours: Thursdays, 4 pm-6 pm  
 Market Season: Nov. 6-April 30  
 Location: Cottin's Hardware  
 1832 Massachusetts Street

**Baldwin City**

Hours: Saturdays, 8 am-12 pm  
 Market Season: May –Sept.  
 Location: 7th & High

**Eudora**

Hours: Fridays, 5 pm-7 pm  
 Market Season: Year round  
 Location: 1428 Elm St., parking lot  
 of old Nottingham Elementary

**Lecompton**

Hours: Fridays 4 pm-6:30 pm  
 Market Season: May– Oct.  
 Location: 24 Hwy & Ferguson Rd at  
 Fast Trax Parking Lot

## Conservation in the Schools

Schools across Douglas County will begin gearing up for the new school year. The Douglas County Conservation District has many educational programs that can teach about conservation of soil and water, including "All the Water in the World", and "Edible Aquifer". Please call or e-mail the office for information on educational activities, lessons, and programs that are available: 785-843-4260, ext. 1128 or douglasccd1@gmail.com. We are here to assist educators in any way possible: this includes classroom presentations, mini festivals and providing education kits to use in the classroom.

## Speech and Poster Contest

The Kansas Association of Conservation Districts sponsors several annual contests including poster, essay, limerick and speech. The 2015 theme for the poster, essay, and limerick contest is: *"Local Heroes, Your Hardworking Pollinators"*. The 2015 Topic for the Speech contest is *"Dig Deeper, Mysteries in the Soil"*.

The entries are due in the Douglas County Conservation District office on Sept. 15, 2015, and will be judged by our Conservation District Board. Awards will be given to the first, second, third and honorable mention places. Awardees will receive notification of their placing. The first place entry will then be forwarded to the state-level contest.

For full contest rules, visit the KACD website at <http://www.kacdnet.org/conservationcommittee.html>

## Your Ad Here!

The Douglas County Conservation District produces a quarterly newsletter and we want to include your business information.

Call Randy at 785-843-4260, ext. 3, to get more information on rates and other details.



***Did you know the Conservation District has equipment to loan free of charge?***

***Including:***



***Soil Compaction Meter, Soil Probe, Prescribed Burn Equipment***

***Call or stop by our office today to reserve!***



### Looking for a Contractor?

We just updated our Contractor and Vendor list for 2015. Visit our resources pages to view the brochure that includes earthwork, burn assistance, brush clearing, well drilling, tree/shrub planting, and much more!

<http://www.douglasccd.com/resources.html>

### Website Resources Page

Were you unable to attend one of our recent programs or workshops? Visit the link below to view program presentations from 2013-present.

Click on the files you would like to view or download.

<http://www.douglasccd.com/presentations.html>

*The Douglas County Conservation District Board of Supervisors meets the first Wednesday of each month at the USDA Service Center. If you have any questions or comments for the Board, or suggestions for this newsletter, please call 785.843.4260.*

### • E-Newsletter •

Due to increasing budget constraints as well as conservation of natural resources, the District is moving towards using the electronic version of our newsletter. We will continue to send paper but encourage those that can to sign up for the electronic version.

Please send an email to Randy Winchester at [randy.winchester@ks.nacdnet.net](mailto:randy.winchester@ks.nacdnet.net) providing your contact information and email address or sign-up on our website at [www.douglasccd.com](http://www.douglasccd.com). Thank you for supporting our conservation efforts!

Find Us Online:

Website: [www.douglasccd.com](http://www.douglasccd.com)

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/douglasccd](http://www.facebook.com/douglasccd)

Twitter: [@douglasccd1](https://twitter.com/douglasccd1)

*Follow us for quick up to date information!*

## Douglas County Conservation District

Located in the USDA Service Center:

4920 Bob Billings Pkwy, Suite A

Lawrence, KS 66049

**Phone:** 785.843.4260, ext. 3

District Manager: [randy.winchester@ks.nacdnet.net](mailto:randy.winchester@ks.nacdnet.net)

Education & Outreach: Sue Ann Funk

Conservation Technician: [matt.schwabauer@ks.usda.gov](mailto:matt.schwabauer@ks.usda.gov)

Douglas County Conservation District  
4920 Bob Billings Parkway, Suite A  
Lawrence, KS 66049

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Shipping Address

## DOUGLAS COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT

*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.*

### Board of Supervisors:

Luke Ulrich, Chair  
Mike Flory, Vice Chair  
Karen Willey, Treasurer  
David Brown, Member  
Jordan Olsen, Member

### District Personnel:

Randy Winchester, District Manager  
Sue Ann Funk, Education & Outreach  
Matt Schwabauer, Conservation Tech

### Douglas County Conservation District

785.843.4260 ext. 3  
Office Hours: 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.  
Monday – Friday

### Natural Resources Conservation Service:

Tim Miller, Supervisory DC  
Coleen Davison, Soil Conservationist

### Farm Service Agency: 785.843.4260 ext. 2

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