

## DOUGLAS COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT

### 67 YEARS OF CONSERVATION

Conservation Districts were originated under the Franklin Roosevelt administration in the early 1930's during a time that poor soil conservation practices caused the Dust Bowl throughout the South-Central United States. The creation of Conservation Districts was a starting point in the effort to make sure that America would have healthy farmland in the future.

The Douglas County Conservation District was formed by farmers and landowners at referendum meetings held on August 17-20, 1945. Most farmers in Douglas County believed that a soil conservation district would be of great help in solving the serious soil erosion problems of the county. Two farmers Emil Heck of Lawrence and Wilson Counts of Baldwin, were appointed supervisors by the State Soil Conservation Committee.

**In 1946-** On January 4, 1946, Homer Gerstenberger of Eudora; George Butell of Baldwin and Leslie of Clinton were elected as supervisors.

On January 11, 1946 the Douglas County Conservation District requested technical assistance from the USDA Soil Conservation Service (SCS). M.H. Wertzberger was assigned as technician to the district. At the beginning of operations, a considerable list of applications were presented. Many needed immediate technical help to facilitate conservation farming. Terrace construction by farmers using their own plows and equipment was by far the most common method used. The rates charged by contractors were mostly by the hour, which varied from \$9.00 to \$16.00 an hour.

The need for better landuse was stressed by the district through its farmer-district plan and agreements. The planning for better landuse emphasized changing from soil depleting crops, so necessary during the war period, to one including legumes, grasses and close growing small grain crops.

How soil conservation practices prove and sell themselves is shown in the case of one cooperator who reluctantly agreed to try a few terraces. Now he has terraced almost his entire farm, amounting to over 85 acres.

One cooperator states, "I did not know how easy it was to build my own terraces with my own equipment until I tried it under the district's plan. Now, I can see my way clear to do all of my own terracing". Another cooperator remarked, "How clear the water is, flowing from a water course carrying surplus water from a field after it was terraced. It used to be muddy for a long time after each rain."

Thru the efforts of Hugh Hammond Bennet, a soil scientist from North Carolina, Congress founded the Soil Conservation Service in the U.S. Department of Agriculture

on April 27, 1935. In October 1994, SCS changed its' name to the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS).

With the assignment of an SCS employee to the district, a partnership of Douglas County landowners, Douglas County Conservation District and the Natural Resources Conservation Service was formed to address soil and water erosion problems in Douglas County. Each of these entities are separate and deal with specific aspects of conservation planning and education. This partnership has worked together for over 67 years.

**In 1947-** Landowners were confronted with an ever increasing demand for agricultural production. It is believed that the demand for such production is as great, or even greater, than during the war years. The District is somewhat better prepared to meet this demand because there has been 20 months of valuable District experience upon which future activities may be based. The farmer is somewhat better prepared to meet these increasing demands because there has been a slight improvement in the availability of farm machinery, and to some extent fertilizer and other supplies—conservation already applied on the land will help. There is also a much stronger appreciation of the need for an orderly procedure to the establishment of the soil conservation practices.

Most people in the District are conscious of the seriousness of the erosion problem and few will argue any longer concerning the need for soil conserving practices. Although the press has not gone out of its way to carry the soil conservation gospel to the people, it has given a reasonable clear picture of the District program and its needs.

The Soil Conservation Service assisted the District in technical planning and application of practices, and this assistance has been reasonably sufficient; but if the expected increased rate of establishing practices develops, more technical assistance will be needed.

Much of the construction work, such as building terraces is done by farmers themselves. Heavier work, such as pond building and diversion ditches is done by contractors. Usual rates are by the hour ranging from \$8 to \$12 per hour, depending on the size of the equipment. Contractors route themselves and usually follow the work as it is laid out by the District technicians. It is believed by many farmers that an improved crop rotation system, a part of every farm plan, has materially increased organic matter in nearly all types of soil. Some farmers feel strongly that added organic matter helped stave off ill effects of the late drought of 1947.

The effective educational and demonstrational work completed by the District, with the assistance of cooperative agencies, promises to give added momentum of the 1948 program. It is believed that even more soil conservation work can be established in 1948 than was accomplished in 1947.

**In 1948-** Major problems of the district during the past year were the establishment of good waterways for terrace outlets and the establishment of approved crop rotations which include a strong legume. In working out the outlet problem, the education program was directed fully upon this matter. The original approach to the problem which began with the first operation of the district, namely that outlets and waterways must first be established before terraces, was continually stressed by the planners.

Planning of farms has progressed rather rapidly in the district. There were over 415 completed farm conservation plans. Applications for installing practices were filed with the clerk of the local Production and Marketing Administration (PMA) office. Several cooperators built terraces with moldboard and disk plows.

Many devices in education were used, including winter meetings, movie picture shows, lectures, tours, field demonstrations, news stories, posters and window displays.

**In 1949-** The Soil Conservation Service contributed the major service on the job with the technical service in planning and layout work. The SCS furnished their own transportation, instruments, office space and work materials. The PMA contributed by supplying incentive payments and checking work and helping with layout work in rush periods. The Veterans Training Supervisors have contributed by helping in arrangements for and carrying out tours and demonstrations. It was especially beneficial to the district to have these veterans take part as they represent the younger farmers. Many of these boys are aggressive soil conservationists on their own farms.

An honest effort is being made by many to increase the humus content of their soils. Much lime has been used and there is definite increase in the use of phosphate with the reseeded of old pastures and seeding new pastures with legumes. You see very little burning of straw and corn stalks.

**In 1950-** The first of our ancestors settled in Douglas County about one hundred years ago. From slight to serious erosion has taken place on most of the land here during this century because of our abuse of that land. It was only about twenty years ago that one could see any evidence of farmers taking any steps that would definitely retard that erosion.

During 1950 there was a severe early winter, then a spring drought. The summer was very wet with close to 20 inches of rain in four months.

Records show the farmers of the county have accomplished great deal in soil conservation, but as one drives over the county one cannot help but notice that most of the fields are still being farmed north and south or east and west regardless of the slope of the land. The lack of good pastures is very noticeable.

**In 1951-** Progress was not made as expected because of excessive rain (on average is rained every third day). Some points in the county received more than 50 percent more rainfall than normal. Crops, homes, farm buildings, livestock and machinery lost in the flood was tremendous. Damage to fences and land also was high. Some valuable land was covered with as much as 6 feet of coarse sand. It is impossible to apply quick treatment to bring this land back into production. Where the sand deposit is shallow enough plowing is being done. To be effective equal amounts of good soil must be plowed up. Plows able to plow 3 to 6 feet deep are at work in the county. Other land was damaged by cutting, holes and debris.

There was less physical damage on the upland but because of excessive rain many fields were not planted or were abandoned after planting to weeds and annual grass. Yields of grain were lower than for many years. Good hay is scarce; it was difficult to get hay up without being wet.

All alfalfa in the valleys was lost and a large percent of alfalfa and other legumes on upland were lost because of excessive rain and standing water.

The perennial grasses fared much better. Brome grass on the Haskell Institute and Leslie Demeritt farms lived after being covered with flood water for five days. This is true of other brome grass stands on numerous farms in the Wakarusa and Kaw Valley. Kentucky 31 came out green on the John French Farm after being under water for five days.

The Soil Conservation Service supplied one work unit conservationist and two conservation aids- all full time men. The County Bankers made awards to five farmers who have completed farm plans.

The PMA is setting aside funds for practices and hoped to pay for all terraces, waterways, steep slopes seeded to perennial grasses and others.

**In 1952-** In the early history of our county too many farmers failed to realize, that in order to keep farm land producing, it needs to be nourished. After many years of taking off all it would produce and failing to put anything back in return, some of our fields have become so badly eroded that they no longer produce. Since the organization of soil conservation districts, many of these careless practices have been abandoned.

After realizing these serious mistakes, our farmers are now taking a marked interest in saving our top soil. Terraces, waterways, ponds and erosion dams have been built as well as legumes seeded.

The Soil Testing Laboratory set up by the Extension Service has proven valuable to the farmers. The year 1952 having been extremely dry from early spring throughout the remainder of the year, the need of farm ponds has been felt as never before. Stockwater is being hauled through all the winter months, which could have been avoided with the proper number of ponds. Many new ponds have been built in the county as well as old ones cleaned.

Much time and effort was spent in rehabilitating farm homes and farm lands which were damaged in the 1951 flood. Where valuable farm land was buried with sand, deep plowing was used, proving quite satisfactory. Some of the flooded land which was covered with a light deposit of silt produced a wonderful crop of corn this year.

**In 1953-** Soil conservation in our district is no longer in its infancy. After too many years of soil erosion farming, many of the farmers are beginning to realize that something must be done to save the topsoil. Many have built and seeded waterways, built terraces and ponds, seeded more land to grasses and practiced contour farming.

Douglas County has experienced one of the driest years in it's' history. As a result, more ponds have been built or rebuilt than in any previous year. Farmers have hauled water for stock from August 1 to January 1954.

Most scars left by the flood of 1951 have been erased. Practically all farm homes have been reconditioned and most farm land has been brought back into production. There are a few fields still covered by sand which need to be deep plowed.

The farmers of our county are becoming more conscious of the need for soil conservation. More are establishing waterways, more farms are being terraced and fields that as yet have not been terraced are being farmed on the contour.

We have come to the close of our sixth year and we can feel quite proud of our achievements. When we look over our farms which a number of years ago had several deep gullies and numerous smaller ditches, we now find nice seeded waterways and a number of terraces instead. The district has done a fine job for the farmer by helping him thru the aid of the technicians in laying out ponds, diversion ditches, etc. Much time is saved by the technicians securing that contractors to do the work, rather than have the farmer find a man to do the work.

**In 1954-** The driest period in history has been these past 3 years: 1952, 1953, 1954 and as a result more ponds have been built. Waterways have been shaped but good stands of grass have been hard to establish. Even with this handicap we have established a large number of waterways and terraces are being built into these waterways.

We have had a dry fall and the snow that fell in January was our first good snow this winter. This moisture has all gone in the ground with very little run off.

This dry summer, grasshoppers and army worms were hard on the local corn crop; many fields were disked or plowed under and never harvested in any way as there was nothing to be harvested. Many crop acres that were seeded to legumes (red and sweet clover, alfalfa) in 1953 were having a hard time in this dry summer of 1954. In several waterways that were planted to brome and alfalfa, several years ago, the brome seems to have been killed out and the alfalfa left. From these examples, pure brome would be better for waterways than a mixture in which alfalfa is too strong a competitor for the brome grass.

The press and radio have been very cooperative with the educational phase of our program.

The Soil Conservation Service supplied one work unit conservationist, one farm planner and one conservation aid. Also, additional technical assistance was given by a SCS soil scientist on soil mapping and irrigation problems. If weather and economic conditions had been more favorable the present personnel would not have been able to keep up with the demand. The County Agent and ASC Committee have been cooperative at all times.

The ASC gave much help to the district allotting funds in 1954 for terracing, waterway shaping and seeding, construction of ponds and diversions. The farmers of our county are becoming more conscious of the need for soil conservation. More are establishing waterways. More farms are being terraced and fields that, as yet, have not been terraced are being farmed on the contour.

Our educational program is improving as our county gets older. Through news stories, tours and the cooperation of radio stations KLWN and KFKU, we are reaching an ever-increasing number of people.

Conservation is not a new idea. Soil conservation started before the birth of Christ. We need to show our people that saving of our soil and building soil productivity is vital, and that, the Soil Conservation Districts are important in preserving our heritage. We should encourage community and group projects where perhaps several sections could be included in a single project.

This being the third dry year, when little topsoil washed away and construction work was rather difficult; we still built a large number of waterways and terraces. A few light rains this fall helped interest to pick up. We have come to the close of our seventh year and we feel proud of our achievements. The District has done a fine job for the farmer by helping through the aid of the technicians in laying out ponds, terraces, etc.

**In 1955-** The Douglas County Conservation District is now 10 years old. Progress in these years has not been as rapid as the supervisors of the district had hoped for. Yet with the leadership offered by the district each year more and more interest has been developed and progress in soil conservation has been steadily increasing. Practically everyone with interest in farms now realizes that soil conservation should be one. They know that the organized and systematic approach now used is beneficial to the land and is profitable in the long run to the farm operator and to the community.

Farm income is a big factor in getting conservation applied. Farm operators will tell you that farm income will not now afford to pay interest on investment, depreciation and operation and have anything like a decent income for the farm owner and operator. Farm people hesitate—and generally will not go into debt to build terraces, waterways or forsake a crop on a piece of ground to seed a soil building crop. If they see that it will give them feed or seed or a cash crop, they will plant a soil building crop. Increase in percentage of the cost by USDA through ASCS for 1956 should help considerably. The past 4 years have been dry—below normal rain fall has been the story in each of these years. This situation is anything but ideal for the establishing of new seedlings in waterways and pastures. Insects, particularly grasshoppers, have been numerous over the county. They too have thinned and killed stands of grass.

Despite these handicaps, the waterway shaping made good progress the past year and promises to continue as a major practice.

It is being demonstrated in several waterway outlets that seeding of native grass should be made in all waterways. Native grass has the ability to with stand the adverse weather and makes sod that will better stand the runoff of water.

Emil W. Heck was in Washington, DC before the Senate and House Committees testifying in behalf of Flood Control.

The number of applications for assistance was so numerous at times that it was extremely difficult to keep up with the planning and checking of practices.

The only source of income that the district has is from applications for membership in the district. Each new applicant pays \$3.00. The Chamber of Commerce has donated money each year to pay for lunch, refreshments and door prizes at the annual meeting. Contractors also have donated work to persons attending.

The Board of Supervisors does not plan to try any money raising activities or solicitation of funds. It has been discussed and decided that unless a project comes up that justifies the use of money, no new income is needed other than the application fee.

Provision needs to be made for a clerk, perhaps only part time, to answer telephone, prepare reports, etc. During good weather all of the SCS personnel are in the field—this leaves the office unoccupied, to take farmer requests. Preparing these reports, which is largely a matter of routine, takes up time that could be better used by the technicians in visiting farms.

**In 1956-** With the farmer receiving only slightly more than 80 percent of parity for his products, many have not found it advisable to spend necessary funds to develop some of the desirable soil conservation practices on their farms.

The dry weather has continued, making it hard to secure satisfactory stands of legumes and grasses in waterways, fields and renovated pastures. Areas are dry or at best producing little water. This has made it necessary for many farmers to haul stock water and water for family use.

Erosion has not been severe even on unprotected fields since runoff has been far below average because of low precipitation. With all the problems the farmer has had during this time, considerable progress has been made in our soil conservation programs.

We need a good pond program in which the farmer can afford to participate. It may be much cheaper to impound water in large reservoirs than in farm ponds, but water in farm ponds is worth much more to our economy than water in large reservoirs. Why should our government pay all costs including the cost of the land for large reservoirs and about 50 percent of farms including value of land? Since farm ponds in general seep, some 100,000 good farm ponds in Kansas would certainly tend to raise the water table in the ground in addition to all the other beneficial effects.

Much interest in the river bottoms is developing in regard to irrigation. This should be given aid and encouragement to help stabilize agricultural production in our county.

This year there were sixty-five on our Minister's Tour and interest was high. Many of the Ministers devoted time in sermons on Sunday to conservation.

These contacts tend to strengthen our soil district with other segments of our society.

**In 1957-** After several years of less than normal rainfall, the rainfall was normal in Douglas County. Most farmers has difficulty in harvesting, or were delayed with the small grain and hay during the summer and in the fall the harvest of corn and grain sorghums was slowed because of wet ground and poor drying conditions.

Yields of hay and grain were good but the prices received by farmers were about 80 percent of parity. Conservation work fell off somewhat from a year earlier. ACP funds were not used to the extent of the previous year and were more than could be used. Also the payment by the AC was less for some practices particularly waterways. This reduction was due, most part, in the way the yardage was figured.

The highlight of the district educational activities of the year was a tour and program for school teachers of the county. The County Superintendent of Schools made it part of the teachers fall institute. A farm was selected that has a complete soil conservation plan in operation and with a large variety of soil conservation practices and a good livestock program. The group of about one hundred was taken to various parts of the farm on flat bed wagons drawn by tractors. At the completion of the tour Jim Leathers of the KMBC Service Farm spoke to the group.

Our Board members are active in service clubs and other organizations and have ample opportunity to present farmers view points and give programs pertaining to agriculture and thus influence public opinion favorable to the farm. The press is always willing to print news items and releases as offered to them.

The working relations between the several agricultural agencies is very good. The SCS and ACA work closely together in selecting the practices used in the county and cooperate closely in their various fields of activity. The district has had the services of 3 people furnished by SCA. Frequently this number is not sufficient to handle the work load. The County Commissioners have been advised of our situation and were asked to provide pay or furnish a clerk in the district. Through an oversight they failed to include this item in the budget. We are making an attempt to have them provide a clerk for the coming year.

**In 1958-** The year just ended has been another great year for Douglas County. I should say, unusual year, in that it brought us more than the average amount of rainfall, which in turn brought more of our farmers to the realization of the need of Soil Conservation as well as watershed development.

On some of the flat fields wheat suffered because of an overabundance of moisture while on the other hand corn did exceptionally well because of receiving the proper amount of moisture at the critical period in the summer. As a result many farmers reported the best corn yield in a number of years.

During the past year we again experienced a damaging flood in the Wakarusa Watershed, which has created a renewed interest in flood control which also involves soil conservation practices on the land. Our Soil District Supervisors are rendering every aid possible to the Wakarusa Watershed through our district organization and the help of other farmers in the watershed.

Soil erosion too, is a big problem in a year with plenty of rain. Many of our farms not under soil conservation suffer greatly from runoff erosion, while fields that were terraced and farmed on the contour suffered very little from erosion.

Again, the board is very grateful for the help through the entire, which comes from our Work Unit Conservationist and his two able assistants. The Lawrence Chamber of Commerce who cooperate so graciously each year; especially for again helping at our 1958 Annual Meeting by furnishing refreshments and door prizes. Our very able and experienced Extension Agent cooperated in all our activities. The daily and weekly newspapers of the county have aided us through news releases and especially through acts of businessmen of our towns who stress soil conservation through their advertisements. To the County Engineer and Commissioners for their help on drop structures at the county bridges.

During the year our Board of Supervisors became quite enthused over essay and poster contests, but upon contacting both rural and city schools, we learned that the city schools especially, frowned upon contests, so the matter was discarded for the present.

We are happy to have received word from our Board of County Commissioners that they would agree to provide funds to pay for a part time secretary for the office. So we have that welcome assistance to look forward to for the year 1959.

Our district was organized in 1945. Started its operation early in 1946. Two members of the Board of Supervisors were elected by the State Committee, the other three elected by the farmers of Douglas County. These five men have served continuously throughout these years under the guidance of the same Work Unit Conservationist, Melvon Wertzberger and the same Extension Agent, Mr Deal Six.

Our conservationist and some of the Supervisors attended at least four Boy Scout meetings where they gave talks on soil conservation and showed conservation pictures. We had a display at the Boy Scout National Encampment at the KU Campus. About 2500 Boy Scouts attended this meeting. Many favorable comments were received.

We helped with watershed plans and petitions and attended at least twelve watershed educational meetings.

**In 1959-** Soil Conservation Districts are often spoken as “The Grass Roots”, but so far they have failed to feed these roots with proper vitamins, which in this case is money.

In order to carry on- in part, the way the Soil Conservation District Directors think it necessary to carry on the work, we mailed out a letter to each of the applicants asking each to contribute five dollars- more or less. A small part of the members cooperated which brought in \$617.00, for which are very grateful. It wouldn't be wise to try to raise money in this manner again; therefore some way will have to be inaugurated to properly finance the Soil Conservation District.

One of the problems at hand is to see that the Wakarusa Watershed Program comes to a successful conclusion. If we can get adequate moneys (without which we cannot serve the district well) to properly finance our Soil Conservation Program, the cooperation of these two programs can be of great benefit.

Another problem is our farm economy outlook, which is now at a low ebb. From the reports of Agricultural Economists and others, we judge that it “will look like a weeping willow” in the future. The question is: “How can this farmer apply soil conservation as he would like to?” Too many farmers are feeling it necessary to work off the farm, to the neglect of their farm land.

During the year 1959, the Douglas County Agricultural Program (ACP) contributed greatly to the application of conservation practices to the farm lands of the district. The County ACP Committee transferred \$3500.00 (5% money) to the Soil Conservation Service for use in supplying technical assistance.

The County ACP Committee and our Board of Supervisors together with the County Agricultural Extension Agent worked together as a county Agricultural Development group in formulating the ACP docket for the district. This joint program designed by this group outlined procedure for providing technical assistance for applying conservation programs, conservation education and other soil and water conservation activities in the district.

During 1959 about \$70,000 of ACP cost sharing assistance was provided for farms to establish soil and water conservation practices. The County ACP Committee has cooperated with our board in a fine manner. These excellent working relations have and will continue to contribute to the acceleration of the districts work plan in the future.

Each year the Boy Scouts are given, in their training program, actual experience in the construction work of some conservation practice.

The Wakarusa Watershed has completed the solicitation of signers with over 75% of the acreage signed for as “in favor’ by the owners. The SCD had fully cooperated and

assisted with this part of the program. Further progress now awaits the State's provision of a work plan.

An additional watershed planning team will take about \$90,000 a year. We cannot expect to accomplish watershed projects without sufficient planning parties to help keep in stride with the progress of the people in the watershed.

Newspapers and radio have shown conservation of our soil and water resources. interest by actively requesting information about and publicizing all activities. A special Conservation Edition was published on February 10<sup>th</sup>, 1959. Many pictures have been in the paper- occasionally, a full one page.

Conservation announcements, talks and reports were given time on the local radio, frequently.

Excellent sermons on Conservation have been given by local ministers.

**In 1960-** Soil Conservation Districts, the “Grass Roots” of the country, again feel the lack of “vitamins” for their growth: financial support. It is our hope that the state or the county will come in with some financial assistance to us in the conservation of our soil and water resources. The Wakarusa Watershed is one of our major problems, to which we are giving our aid for its successful conclusion. If we can get necessary assistance for our own conservation work, we can cooperate more fully in the work of the watershed program.

We feel that we need more speed on the Wakarusa Watershed than we seem to be getting. It appears that the Engineers may install the Clinton Dam some years hence. If this is done we should have conservation on our cropland so as to protect our soil and prevent silting of any mechanical structures.

If the Wakarusa Watershed and the Clinton Dam are both to go, they should be coordinated. This would give better promotion to the watershed. These two could be promoted to be a show place in the United States- showing a proper way to install conservation of soil and water resources.

During the year, the Douglas County Agricultural Program (ACP) has helped in the application of conservation practices to district farmlands. The transferal of money in the amount of \$5000.00 to our service made possible much more technical assistance.

An Agricultural Development Group comprised of the County ACP Committee our Board of Supervisors and the County Extension Agent worked together to:

- Formulate the ACP docket for the district.
- Plan procedure for providing technical assistance for conservation programs.
- Plan for conservation education.
- Plan other activities for conservation of soil and water.

The fine cooperation of the ACP Committee with our board has, and will continue in the acceleration of conservation work in this district.

Agriculture classes in High School have had talks and films from the Soil Conservation Service here on conservation topics.

The SCD has continued assistance to the Wakarusa Watershed wherever and whenever possible. Application to the Water Resource Board was made on April 1 and the inspection by the Board on September 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>. Now it is waiting for a work plan.

Newspaper and radio have shown interest by actively requesting information about and in publicizing all activities. Regular time, weekly on the radio and a weekly column in the paper have been dedicated to Soil Conservation and related topics.

A special news edition on February 1, 1960 was issued on Conservation. Pictures in the paper- occasionally a full page one and cartoons in connection with weekly articles, have helped to spread interest and cooperation in conservation.

**In 1961-** The local Soil Conservation District, the basis of all soil and water conservation, is still in a financial cramp. We have no way of obtaining money so that we can meet our expenses. We are supposed to pay dues to state and the national organization. We are supposed to attend the district, state and national meetings at our own expense. This has a tendency to reduce attendance as not all supervisors can afford to attend. It is our hope that the state or county will furnish some financial assistance for us in the conservation of our natural resources. To date, sixty or seventy have furnished the only available funds and the others have ridden along. And the fellow who has given his time without recompense has had to pay his own expenses, also.

The Wakarusa Watershed is one of our major problems to which we are giving aid for its successful conclusion. We intend to cooperate as fully as possible with our available resources. We are happy to hear the announcement of the Watershed Board saying that they intend to cooperate with all agencies of the government that will assist the watershed in furthering their progress with their program.

The new Baldwin Lake, under the supervision of the State Forestry, Fish and Game Commission is to be started in the Spring of 1962. They have purchased the land and have the money for construction. The contract has been let but is not yet announced.

The farm economy outlook remains the same, at present and there is no indication of improvement in the near future. The lack of finances with the accompanying need to work off the farm for additional income is one major factor in deterring soil and water conservation on the land. There is a crying need for conservation practices. The farmer as a rule realizes this but he is financially unable to do anything about it.

We need to get more conservation on the land in 1962. This will be promoted by publicity media- the radio station KLWN- with timely talks on conservation each week. Weekly articles in the newspapers explaining how to get assistance in conservation from the County Agent, the ASCS and the SCS offices.

The water-fowl refuge is to be developed in the Lower Wakarusa Watershed on land formerly a part of Haskell Institute- Section 18 Township 13 Range 20. Responsibility for this development has been accepted by the State Forestry, Fish and Game Commission. It will be managed by the State Biological Survey which is directed by Dr. Raymond C Hall at Kansas University.

The Boy Scouts, in their training program were again given actual experience in the construction of an agricultural conservation practice. The estate of the late A.H. Bromelsick was left to the Youth of Douglas County. A portion was used to purchase a farm which will be put under soil conservation practices by the Boy Scouts of Lawrence, Kansas. The grass will be grazed; wildlife areas will be developed and fenced.

Conservation films have been furnished to groups: FFA, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, 4H Clubs, etc. These films were shown to promote conservation among the Youth.

The Watershed Board is now waiting on the P.I. report of the watershed made by governmental agencies. When this report is completed the Board will have to make decisions as to how they intend to handle the water control and to what degree of control they intend to put into effect. They must consider also, water storage needed in the sub-watersheds for rural water supplies.

A meeting of the Supervisors with Senator Don Hults and Representatives Odd Williams and George Peppercorn was held to discuss the proposed state law enabling county commissioners to levy taxes to provide \$3,000 a year for clerical and other help to the district. It is a matter to be decided in the legislature.

We had a good year on conservation practices- meeting our goals on the planning of farms, farm plan revisions and the major portion of our application of practice goals. This was a very wet year and a good one for crop production. A lot of fall crops are still not harvested and may not be until spring. This causes a lot of crop loss and financial problems to the farmer as he was depending on this money for taxes and expenses during the winter.

We have one radio broadcast each week on conservation practices. We also have a story on conservation each week in the Journal World and the Baldwin Ledger. Then once a year we have a special edition on conservation to be used in conjunction with our Annual Meeting of the Soil Conservation District.

**In 1962-** The outstanding problem of the Douglas County Soil Conservation District is the need for more conservation of soil and water and the education of those who till the soil as to the ways of conserving and the benefits there from. The radio and the press are utilized for this educational purpose, many talks are given, also demonstrations of actual practices. Stewardship of the soil has been emphasized, since it is a special need where so many residents on the land must work off the farm as well as on it in order to meet the needs of the present farm economy. The many non-farm residents need to be kept informed of the conservation needs and of the benefits that come to them and to the farmer from a good conservation program.

The Wakarusa watershed remains a problem to which we intend to continue giving our aid as fully as possible. The planning money has been approved and work should progress this year and if all goes well, advanced a long way toward its completion. The Soil Conservation Board feels that the protection of North Lawrence from flooding is an important part of the over-all program. The Corps of Army Engineers is in the process of working on a system of levies for the protection of North Lawrence. With a good levy system around the Kaw River land, it should improve conditions for the improvement of this area, for protection for irrigation, industry, etc.

At the Bromelsick Farm, a part of the estate of the late A.H. Bromelsick that was left to the Youth of Douglas County, the Boy Scouts are being given actual practice on Conservation on their Conservation Field Day. They are making application for a pond and are planning to develop wildlife areas. Conservation education is promoted by films furnished to FFA, Boy Scouts, girl Scouts and the 4-H Clubs.

Due to the favorable weather this fall, the major portion of our crops was harvested in season. The year has been good in conservation. Practice goals have been met in the major portion of our practices and in planning of farms and plan revisions.

A radio broadcast was scheduled each week for a talk on conservation practices and related topics. A story was sent each week to the Journal World and also to the Baldwin Ledger. At the time of the Annual Meeting of the Soil Conservation District, occurring in February, a special edition of the Journal World and of the Lawrence Outlook was issued and used in conjunction with the program of the day.

**In 1963-** The Douglas County Soil Conservation District Program was revised in May. This program sets forth factual information about the district with its problems and possible solutions and objectives to be accomplished. This program was approved and adopted at the regular board meeting April 2, 1963. At that time we signed a new and revised Basic Memorandum of Understanding with the Secretary of Agriculture in Washington DC on June 11, 1963. Mr Heck was in Washington at that time testifying and meeting with members of Congress regarding flood control and other agricultural problems.

The Soil Conservation Service made available five full time technicians and two part time technicians to assist farmers in developing and applying conservation plans, developing standard soil surveys and providing technical assistance for the application of soil and water conservation practices. Two of the technicians were soil scientists who spent full time on the standard soil survey now underway in the District.

We are all very much interested in the Wakarusa Watershed Project. Three members of the Board of Supervisors: Demeritt, Gertenberger and Counts live and have property in the Wakarusa Watershed. Mr. Counts is a member of the Wakarusa Watershed Governing body. The Watershed Work Plan development has moved forward rapidly.

The County Commissioners and County Engineer have cooperated with the District by installing bridge drop-structures on road improving projects where practical and feasible. These installations have aided farmers in stabilizing drainage ways and grassed waterways. The County Commissioners made \$1000.00 available to the District to employ a part-time clerk during 1963. This assistance has enabled the Soil Conservation Service technicians to spend more time in the field assisting farmers. We appreciate the interest shown and assistance provided by both the County Commissioners and the County Engineer and look forward to it being continued.

Rainfall for the year 1963 was about 23 inches- about 10 inches below normal. Despite the shortage of rainfall, crops were generally good- while not up to normal.

Livestock water has been a problem in many areas. The requests from farmers for technical assistance for pond construction have been greater than usual. It has been a good year to get work done because the ground was dry much of the time. Because of the larger number of requests the SCS technicians were unable to satisfy all requests as well as desired. By carefully budgeting their time and careful planning, we consider that they have done a very good job. Farmers and contractors are high in their praise of the men who are providing the plans, layouts, etc.

Near the end of the year death came suddenly and unexpectedly to Melvon H Wertzberger, our work unit leader. The Board of Supervisors was grieved and feels that we have lost not only a very valuable coworker, but a kind and true friend.

He was ever ready to meet and consult with not only the supervisors but any farmer or person in need. His judgement was excellent and practical- not only in agricultural activities but in other civic and county problems.

Mr Wertzberber came into the county as a representative of SCS, first in the early 40's to help with planning ACP programs and later, when the district was organized, he became the first Work Unit Conservationist and held that position until his death December 26<sup>th</sup>, 1963.

**In 1964-** This was a big year for the Wakarusa Watershed. The Wakarusa Watershed Board assisted by the Soil Conservation Service made tentative selection of sites for thirty floodwater retarding structures in the upper and lower Wakarusa watersheds. Van Doren-Hazard-Stalling-Schnacke was given the go-ahead on surveying for these structures. They have progressed rapidly on this survey and should finish it this spring. Two drainage districts are included in the Wakarusa watershed plan.

Chester F Paxon assumed his duties as work unit conservationist here on March 15. He came here from the Wyandotte County Soil Conservation Service.

Our new office is in the Malls Shopping Center at 711 West 23<sup>rd</sup> Street. The seven staff members find the surroundings more pleasant and more conducive to efficiency. The farmers appreciate the convenient and ample parking.

One big change that took place this past year is that the district receives tax money from both the county and the state. This money is limited but it can be used for the clerk's salary, office expenses and traveling expenses for the supervisors to and from state and area meetings.

Here as in many counties, the city is sprawling out into the rural area, but this does not lessen the need for conservation.

The need for education the farmer to the value of conservation has not minimized but all the people in the nation need to be reached. Urban people in the nation need to be reached. Urban people now make up more than 90% of the population. Their understanding and support of the program is essential. Apparently they do not read farm papers or listen to farm talks on the radio so new means of communication that will reach them must be found. A new approach must be used. Rather than emphasizing production, they are more likely to be interested in water supply, flood prevention, outdoor recreation and beautifying the community.

**In 1965-** At the Annual Meeting Roy Lawson was elected to replace Supervisor George Butell who declined the office. Don Palmateer was appointed to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Emil W Heck. This was the first change of supervisors since the beginning of the District.

**In 1966-** Our Twentieth Annual District Meeting was held February 1, 1966.

Emil Heck and George Butell, former board members and Wilson Counts, Homer Gerstenberger and Leslie Demeritt were honored for their faithful service to the District for 20 years of service.

In March three advisors, Herschell Hemphill, Orville Pohl and Homer Altenbernd were added to the Soil Conservation District Board to assist in carrying out the District's Program.

We had a bus tour for the Ministers of Churches who belong to Ministerial Alliance in Lawrence on April 13. This was in preparation for Soil Stewardship Week. A Dairy Parlor, projects completed at the Conservation Field Day and a farm with complete Conservation were viewed during the Tour.

Roy Lawson, Glenn Kalb and the Soil Conservation Service personnel assisted in the Tornado Clean-up in Topeka rural area.

The Upper and Lower Wakarusa Watershed- Plan was signed by the Douglas County Soil Conservation District Board.

Robert E McIntyre Farm Planner from Effingham joined the Soil Conservation Service Staff on August 27<sup>th</sup>.

70 Education Soil Conservation packets and rules for the Poster and essay Contests were given out to all Elementary Schools in Douglas County which included Lawrence, Eudora, Baldwin Consolidated District and Lecompton Schools by the SCS Board and District Clerk in September.

Land Treatment Needs for structures in the Lower Wakarusa Watershed were compiled by the Soil Conservation Service Staff and presented to the directors of the Wakarusa Watershed at their fall meeting.

On October 18, 1966 authorization in the whole was obtained on the Upper and assistance as outlined for it is now available. The upper is comprised of 234,944 acres of the total 334,620 acres. The remaining 94,977 acres make up the lower part.

**In 1967-** Our 21<sup>st</sup> Annual District Meeting was held January 30, 1967.

Orvil Pohl was elected to the Board of Supervisors to replace Leslie Demeritt who retired from the Board after 21 years of service.

Franklin County District Board visited our April Meeting for the purpose of interest gaining interest with the Douglas County SCD Board in organizing Taury Creek Watershed.

Lawrence, Eudora and Baldwin papers were informed and KLWN and WIBW read spot announcements. A steering committee was selected at this meeting with 65 in attendance.

In April, a contract was signed with an engineering firm for the first phase for the Wakarusa Watershed. In February funds for the Lower Wakarusa was approved by a House Subcommittee.

Fifty Educational Soil Conservation packets were distributed to the schools of Lawrence, Eudora, Baldwin Consolidated District and Lecompton School for the placement in school libraries and use in the Poster Essay Contest. Three schools have entered in this contest. They will be judged and results announced at the annual meeting.

On December 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>, Mr & Mrs Homer Gerstenberger, Mr & Mrs Wilson Counts, Mr Chester Paxon, Work Unit Conservationist and Arlinda Cummings, District Clerk attended the Annual Meeting of the Kansas Association of Conservation Districts held at the Broadview Hotel in Wichita. At this meeting it was announced that the First Place winner of the Douglas County Poster Contest had won 3<sup>rd</sup> place in the State's Poster Contest. The poster was by Lee Waltman, daughter of Mr and Mrs Samuel Waltman of Rural Route 1.

The Douglas County SCS was a member of the Kansas Association of Conservation Districts and the National Association of Conservation Districts in 1967.

**In 1968-** Our 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual District Meeting was held January 29, 1968.

A special Conservation Edition was published by the Journal World on January 25<sup>th</sup>. KLWN made spot announcements through the year on meetings and tour.

A grassland and terrace tour was held in September with Chamber of Commerce members and Farmers. Two stops were made on native grass pastures and one stop on terrace construction.

Easements have been secured on Dam #31 in the Lower Wakarusa Watershed. Some easements have been secured on Dam #24.

Yankee Tank just west of Lawrence; floodway #1 along the west side of Haskell Wetlands; and floodway #2 located on Carl Spray Farm.

Tauy Creek and West Tauy Creek are being organized into the Tauy Creek Watershed. Eight Mile Creek and Appanoose Creek are being organized in Centropolis Watershed.

The Soil Conservation Service in cooperation with the Conservation Needs Committee consisting of Farmer's Home Administration, the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service and the Extension Service completed the Conservation Needs Inventory for Douglas County.

**In 1969-** On January 27<sup>th</sup> the 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Meeting of the District was held at the Kansas University Student Union. Harold Ensley, KCMO radio and TV Station was the featured speaker.

Conservation Banker's Awards were presented to five families for their conservation achievements. These families were Mr & Mrs Raymond Ice and son, Richard of Lawrence; Mr & Mrs Homer Schoepflin, Baldwin; Mr & Mrs Rex Gilliland, Overbrook; Mr & Mrs Elmer Trowbridge, Lecompton; and Mr & Mrs Charles Townsend, Baldwin. These awards were presented by the County Key Banker, Donald Nutt of Baldwin.

Carl Spray was elected to a 3 year term as supervisor to replace Homer Gerstenberger who retired after 23 years of service. Herschell Hemphill was appointed to replace Wilson Counts, who also retired after 23 years of service.

The District, in cooperation with the Drafting Department of Haskell Institute, obtained the aid of 10 students to use for design and layout. This gave the students practical experience.

The Board approved the application for a Working Agreement for group enterprise for the Kaw-Kaw Drainage group.

The Soil Conservation District Law was amended by the 1969 legislature so county commissioners may now furnish up to \$4,000.00 annually to districts. Limitations on State Matching Funds remain at the \$3,000.00 level. This year the Douglas County Commissioners budgeted \$3,000.00 for the District.

**In 1970-** This is the Silver Anniversary of the Douglas County Soil Conservation District. The 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the District was held on January 24, 1970 at the Kansas University Student Union. Joe Adelman was the featured speaker.

The Board met on April 10<sup>th</sup> with the Executive Board of the Ministerial Alliance. The Board voted to allot up to \$25 to be spent for Soil Stewardship material which was later ordered and handed out. As a result of this meeting there were six slide shows shown with approximately 200 people attending and 4 movies shown.

The Board appointed an advisory group asked that they attend at least every 4<sup>th</sup> meeting. Those appointed were Charles Fawl and Raymond Nichols.

**In 1971-** A special conservation edition was published by the Lawrence Journal- World on January 22. Radio Station KLWN made spot announcements throughout the year on meetings and tours. Radio talks on KLWN are made every Monday also a discussion group was held on Farm-City Week in November. A total of 59 news articles were published by the Journal-World throughout the year.

Soil Stewardship material was ordered and handed out. Bob McIntyre, District Conservationist met with the Ministerial Alliance Board April 14.

Conservation slide sets were shown in schools in Lawrence with attendance of 233 for 13 showings. In Baldwin with attendance of 184 with 2 showings; and Lecompton with 1 showing with 30. Conservation tours were held in the Baldwin School system, Vinland school and Marion Springs school participating and an environmental class in the High School.

The District sponsored two youths to the Youth Ecology Camp at the Rock Springs Ranch in July.

About \$39,000 of REAP cost-sharing funds were used to solve conservation problems on 92 farms in Douglas County. More than half of these cost-share funds were used for farm ponds. Approximately 12 % was used for terraces and diversions; about 8% was used for waterways; and about 7% was used for erosion control dams.

**In 1972-** The District awarded a plaque to Glenn Rockers as Outstanding Contractor of the Year. OI (Lud) Heine was presented a plaque as the second place winner. The rules and guidelines were set up by the contractors at a meeting with the District Supervisors.

An election of officers was held in February with the following results: Herschell Hempill, Chairman; Roy Lawson, Vice-Chair; Don Plamateer, Secretary; Carl Spray, Treasurer; and Orvil Pohl, member.

The Douglas County Soil Conservation District was host of the Area IV Fall meeting. Dr Ross McKinney, Kansas University was the luncheon speaker.

A fair booth was sponsored by the Douglas County Conservation District. A conservation exhibit showing before-and-after application of conservation practices was loaned to us from the International Harvester Company. This was a lighted exhibit and created a lot of interest in all age groups.

Conservation slides were shown in six schools in Lawrence.

The Taury Creek Watershed Board Directors toured completed structures in the Lower Wakarusa Watershed in May. Construction in the Wakarusa Watershed has been in the upper part this year. However bids were opened the middle of December for Construction Site #28.

Groundbreaking for Clinton Reservoir was held in September.

A tri-county meeting between Shawnee, Jefferson and Douglas County was held in November to discuss mutual problems.

**In 1973-** The Board met with the Taury Creek Watershed Board to discuss and possibly find some answers for that watershed project. A tour was held in the watershed area to show land treatment practices and possible sites for watershed structures.

After several meetings with Shawnee and Jefferson County Board members, the Kaw Valley Association of Conservation Districts was organized. This included the Douglas, Shawnee and Jefferson County Conservation Districts.

The Board met with the contractors of the county to explain how the operations of the District would be affected by the absence of REAP Program and also SCS personnel ceiling.

Due to the lack of the REAP Program during the year because of the impoundment of funds, there has been less application of conservation practices.

**In 1974-** On April 18, Orvil Pohl, Carl Spray, Raymond Nichols, Bob McIntyre and Linda Anderson met with three representatives of the Ministerial Alliance for a breakfast to promote more interest in the observance of Soil Stewardship Week.

Earl VanMeter, County Extension Director met with the Supervisors to discuss the education program for the sediment and erosion control.

The Board met with 21 elementary grade teachers of the city and county school systems on September 18. The purpose was to acquaint teachers with the district-sponsored conservation poster, essay and limerick contest. Packets of materials to be used for subject matter were also given to the teachers.

In October and November, the District in cooperation with the Soil Conservation Service sponsored conservation tours for the city and county schools. There were a total of 16 hours with 740 children participating. Conservation slide sets from the Soil Conservation Service were also shown for a total of 20 showings with 1,116 children attending. These tours showed conservation projects, watershed dams and land use changes.

Tauy Creek Watershed is active. They are working on their General Plan at the present time.

For the 1074 RECP a total of \$11,886.19 cost-sharing money was spent. This breaks down as follows: 67 percent on farm ponds, 27 percent on terraces and diversions, 4 percent on waterways and 2 percent on pasture seeding. These conservation practices were applied on 116 farms in Douglas County.

A special conservation edition was published by the Lawrence Journal-World on January 23, 1975. Radio station KLWN made spot and public service announcements throughout the year on meetings and tours. Radio talks on KLWN are made every Tuesday. A total of 37 news articles were published by the Journal-World throughout the year.

A series of panel discussions over the county on the proposed sediment and erosion control law (Senate Bill-12) was held February 24<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>.

The quarterly meetings of the Kaw Valley Association of Conservation Districts were attended by representatives of the District Board. The association is comprised of Douglas, Shawnee and Jefferson County Conservation District Supervisors.

The Douglas County Land Use Policy Statement was adopted and formally presented to the County Commission. The Board of Supervisors strongly felt that they had to be on official standing on the misuse of agricultural lands. They have adopted a land use policy which they feel is necessary to allow logical development of Douglas County and protect the environment.

In June, the board sent nine telegrams to the state and national senators and representatives, Corps of Engineers and the EPA. The Board strongly protested the extended powers of the EPA and the Corps. These extended powers were evident by the implementation of Section 404 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act Amendments of 1972. The section pertains to the mandatory dredge and fill permits to be administered by the Army Corps of Engineers.

A total share of \$42,223 was spent on ACP cost-sharing for conservation practices in the county this year. These conservation practices were applied on 135 farms in Douglas County.

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A series of panel discussions over the county were held on the proposed sediment and erosion control law.

Pasture seeding, timber stand improvement, ponds, terraces, diversions, erosion control dams and waterways were the conservation practices applied on 135 farms this year in our county.

**In 1976-** A meeting with seven contractors, SCS and ASCS personnel was held to further encourage a good working relationship and promote contractor check-out of conservation practices.

A supplemental Memorandum of Understanding with the County Commissioners and the USDA Soil Conservation Service was adopted.

A special meeting was held with the ASCS County Committee to review and make changes in the floor plan for the proposed Agricultural Service Center for Douglas County.

The Douglas County Conservation District co-sponsors three organized watersheds—Upper Wakarusa, Lower Wakarusa and Tauy Creek. These organized watersheds cover a total of 193,957 acres in Douglas County. This breaks down as follows: Upper Wakarusa-66,280, Lower Wakarusa-94,927 acres, and Tauy Creek- 32,600 acres. Approximately 65% of the county is in organized watersheds.

**In 1977-** The long awaited Soil Survey Report was received in August. This is an excellent report of the soils and their uses for Douglas County. Two meetings were held to publicize the report and give instructions on its use.

For the fair booth, we used the modular exhibit put together by the Missouri State Soil Conservation Service at Columbia, Missouri. This exhibit created a lot of comments. We, through the cooperation of the Kansas State SCS Office, obtained the same exhibit for display at the State KACD Convention in Wichita on November 29-31.

Board members and wives attending the KACD Convention in Wichita were Mr & Mrs Don Palmateer, Mr & Mrs Orvil Pohl, Mr & Mrs Raymond Nichols, Vernis Flottman, District Secretary and Bob McIntyre, District Conservationist. A number of conservation issues and problems were discussed.

**In 1978-** The Lawrence Journal-World and radio station KLWN continued to provide an outlet for news articles and programs on conservation. The Journal-World published a special conservation edition on January 27, 1978 and provided space on the farm page each week for a news article. KLWN provided time for a 15 minute radio program each Tuesday morning.

A joint meeting August 16<sup>th</sup> of the district board and the Lawrence/Douglas County Planning Commission was held to discuss the draft copy of the County Land Use Policy. The Board members also discussed the District's Land Use Policy and Statement and prime agricultural land with the Planning Commission. The Planning Commission held a public hearing on the draft of the Douglas County Guide Plan. Board members attended the meetings in their individual area.

On August 29<sup>th</sup> the Board sponsored a tour and cookout for the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade teachers of Douglas County. Each teacher received a packet with the rules for the poster, essay and limerick contest plus brochures and pamphlets of the resource material. As a result of this tour and cookout, conservation slides were shown in nine schools with 361 students attending and six conservation tours with 242 students attending. We received 12 essays, 55 limericks and 179 posters from seven schools.

The Watershed Program is an important part of the local conservation program. During periods of high rainfall, the dams have demonstrated their usefulness. Also during periods of drought there is benefit to landowners below because of availability of water.

Norbert Grosdidier was elected to replace Raymond Nichols.

**In 1979-** Soil Stewardship bulletins were distributed among several churches in Douglas County. March 1, the District's first newsletter was published. Every three months the newsletter is sent to cooperators and other interested persons.

The District continues to work with the Lawrence/Douglas County Planning Commission in an effort to bring about better land use of agricultural land as well as industrial and urban areas and retaining prime agricultural land for agricultural uses.

As a member of the Kaw Valley Association of Conservation Districts, the Douglas County Conservation District co-sponsored a land Use Symposium in Lawrence on March 15.

The soil survey report is still a high demand item. It has many uses, some of which are: cropland selection by the capability classification system, Class I and II land use by the Lawrence/Douglas County Planning Commission, farm planning and is still used by instructors and students of Kansas University. This is an excellent publication.

**In 1980-** As a member of the Kaw Valley Association of Conservation Districts, the Douglas County Conservation District co-sponsored a tile-outlet terrace tour in November. The District also attended quarterly meetings held with the other two member counties, Jefferson and Shawnee.

Cost sharing money available for conservation practices were in two funds. This year for the first time, state funds for cost-sharing were appropriated by the legislature. These funds were handled through the District and amounted to \$9,500.00 available. The funds that were spent on terraces.

**In 1981-** Twenty five persons attended a meeting to discuss the practice of minimum tillage systems.

The Board has accepted the responsibility to inform and discuss issues concerning conservation with our area legislative members. County commissioners were encouraged to promote either by revision or amendment a bill specifically to include a conservation district representative as a legal member of the county planning commissions. Legislators, County Commissioners and Planning Commissioners attended a meeting where they received information concerning the retention of prime farm land.

The Board had a representative at the Range Youth Camp at Rock Springs in July. The District sponsored two teachers to a workshop where they are serving on an ad hoc environmental education committee to develop a state environmental education plan. The District also sponsored a representative to the Kansas Advisory Council for the Environmental Education Workshop held in November at Rock Springs Ranch.

The Douglas County Conservation District hosted the KACG Area IV meeting in Lawrence in October. One hundred twenty persons attended the meeting.

The District Board is working with the Douglas County Department of Public Works on the Lone Star Lake Project. This is part of the Clean Lakes Program.

Again this year, funds to assist with the construction of conservation practices were from two funds, national (ACP) and state. The state funds are appropriated by the State legislature and became available July 1. The ACP funds are federal and become available October 1.

Approximately sixty-five percent of Douglas County is in an organized watershed.

**In 1982-** The Douglas County Conservation District is dedicated to the sound development and use of soil, water and related sources in the county. High priority items include conservation planning and application, conservation education, the promotion of good working relations with sister agencies and lobbying for appropriate conservation legislation.

A major objective is to promote the most cost-effective conservation practices, such as terraces and grassed waterways, to reduce soil erosion.

The Board administered \$10,131.28 in the State Water Resources Cost-Share Program. The program is designed to complement the Agricultural Conservation Program.

Conservation district staff assisted SCS with a Natural Resource Inventory of the county.

The District realizes that young people are the true beneficiaries of sound land use. With this idea in mind, the beneficiaries of sound land use. With this idea in mind, the educational efforts have been increased each year.

During the Douglas County Free Fair, the District Board members, SCS personnel and ACS manned a booth. A model farm featuring conservation practices was on display for view by the 40,000 persons attending the fair. The model has proven to be an excellent education tool.

A video presentation and the conservation model were used to demonstrate to Kansas University students enrolled in Environmental Education to generate an awareness of the conservation education programs available.

The Soil Conservation Service personnel discussed careers in conservation with several students from Lawrence High School during the Career Fair, October 12.

In September, the Board sponsored a dinner meeting for third, fourth, fifth and sixth grade teachers of Douglas County. The teachers received packets containing brochures and pamphlets on resource material and rules for the poster, essay and limerick contest for their students. From the interest generated by the meeting, conservation slides and the conservation model were shown in five schools with 450 students attending.

Conservation tours were conducted for 200 elementary students from St. John's, Grant, Deerfield and New York School.

After serving the Soil Conservation Service for 33 years and the Lawrence Field Office since 1984, Bob McIntyre, District Conservationist retired in February. Mike Watkins reported the first of May to serve as the new District Conservationist.

The Conservation District actively promotes the wise use of all natural resources in Douglas County. Consistent with the philosophy, they support the concept of the Land Evaluation and Site Assessment System and are currently working with local agencies to develop the system in Douglas County.

The District participated in the Comprehensive Employment and Training Program administered by the State of Kansas. Under the CETA Program the Conservation District was able to receive two part-time employees, one for field work and the other for clerical assistance. The SCS also provided WAE hours for a part-time conservation aid. These hours were used for field work.

The District Secretary, Vernis Flottman, attended a state employee's organization seminar in Great bend in May. Mrs Flottman is now serving as the President of the KACD-EO.

The Board is working with the county engineer's on the Rural Clean Lakes Project at Lone Star Lake. The District reviews all applications for sediment and promotes the use of best management practices in the Lone Star Lake drainage area.

**In 1983-** The annual work plan was developed and adopted. The Long Range plan was reviewed and adopted. Both plans are discussed and appraised regularly during the year. The Memorandums of Understanding between the district and the Soil Conservation Service and the Kansas Fish and Game Commission were reviewed.

The District compiled a handbook of county natural resource data. The book is used along with county base data to make important resource management and program decisions.

A 210 acre comprehensive wildlife plan was developed for the City of Lawrence Parks and Recreation Commission. The plan will be used to convert an abandoned sanitary landfill into a non-game wildlife recreation area. The City has received \$4,500 from the Kansas Non-game Check-Off Committee to begin implementation of the plan. The sanitary landfill is in the Northeast Kansas Targeted Area.

The District is working with Baker University to reestablish native wetland prairie on some previously farmed areas of Baker Wetlands.

SCS conservation volunteer wrote a rough draft of a comic book with cartoon character, "Sammy Soil Particle", to compliment the Districts conservation model.

The District Board sponsored a conservation tour for the County Commissioners. Mechanical and management conservation practices were viewed and discussed.

The District co-sponsored a Natural Resource and Sedimentation Workshop, a No-Till Planter Field Demonstration and a No-Till Cultivator Field day. We also assisted with Extension's Fall Crops Tour and Walnut Management Workshop.

The District participated in the Community Work Experience Program and was able to receive two part-time employees.

**In 1984-** The District continued to update and extend its handbook of county natural resource data. The book is used along with county base data to make important resource management and program designs.

Fourteen Northeast Kansas Counties have been identified as having severe soil erosion problems. Northeast Douglas County has 66,740 acres in the targeted area. The Board developed and implemented a detailed plan of action for controlling soil erosion in the area.

A 210 acre comprehensive wildlife plan was developed for the City of Lawrence Parks and Recreation Department. The plan is being used to convert an abandoned sanitary landfill into a non-game wildlife and recreation area. Sixty-eight acres of native grass and 4,100 trees and shrubs were planted last spring. The city received \$4,500 from the Kansas Non-game Check-Off Committee to carry out the plan.

The District reviewed and evaluated nineteen site plans and plats for the Lawrence/Douglas County Planning Commission. Soil characteristics and building site limitations were provided.

The Board fulfilled its responsibilities under the Rural Clean lakes Project at Lone Star Lake. They completed a comprehensive report on landuse, conservation treatment and sedimentation of the drainage area and evaluated proposed sites for the placement of reclaimed sediment.

As a result of the District's efforts, it was named winner of the 1983 conservation education contest sponsored by the Kansas Association of Conservation Districts and the Allis-Chalmers Company of the State of Kansas. In addition the National Association of Conservation Districts named the District Northern Plains Regional winner in the national contest.

To celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the soil and water conservation movement, the District sponsored a Run for Conservation. Over 120 individuals participated in the race. Specially designed t-shirts were given to each participant and commemorative medals were awarded. A telegram from President Ronald Reagan and a phone call from the Secretary of Agriculture John Block, congratulated the District on the unique event.

We cooperated with the Army Corps of Engineers and the Kansas Fish and Game Commission to present Water Awareness Day at Clinton Lake. A presentation was given on conservation progress in Douglas County and its effects on reducing sedimentation in Clinton Lake.

The District Board sponsored a conservation division in the Douglas County Science Fair.

The District sponsored a drip irrigation booth at the Lawrence Flower, Garden and Energy Show.

The District co-sponsored a No-till/Minimum-till Field Day.

The District worked with the cooperating agencies to co-sponsor a public meeting on the Kansas Water Plan.

**In 1985-** The Board assisted the Soil Conservation Service with making arrangements for installing an experimental conservation practice in Douglas County. A cooperative effort between a landowner, American Excelsior Company and SCS engineers resulted in the installation of an erosion control structure lined with Enkamat. It is the first time Enkamat has been used in conjunction with a SCS approved conservation practice in Kansas. The structure will be monitored and may someday be approved for use statewide.

Emphasis was placed on establishing urban soil and water conservation practices. The first two water and sediment control basins were constructed within the city limits of Lawrence.

As a result of the District's efforts, it was named State Winner of the 1984 conservation education contest sponsored by the Kansas Association of Conservation Districts and the Deutz-Allis Company. The district also placed first in the six state Northern plains Region and second place nationally. It is the first time Kansas has had a conservation district win the national award.

The Board recently published a cartoon booklet. "Sammy Soil Particle". The booklet is designed to educate elementary school students on the basic principles of soil and water conservation.

Three five-minute radio tapes were produced for KFEQ, St Joseph; WIBW, Topeka and KZOC, Osage City radio stations. Topics included conservation education, complete resource management systems and conservation construction.

Six soil conservation public service announcements were aired by TV 30. Announcements by Loretta Lynn, Cale Yarborough and David Copperfield were played approximately fifty times.

The Conservation District co-sponsored a multi county minimum tillage seminar.

A fishpond management workshop was held at Wendell Pohl's Farm.

Douglas County was host for a forestry training workshop for SCS employees.

Presentations were given to 190 people in four different public service organizations.

A conservation tour was conducted for county commissioners.

An open house was held to celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Soil Conservation Service. A special photo display of the conservation history of Douglas County was developed. An original board member who was the first district cooperator was present.

The District received the Goodyear Conservation Award for Eastern Kansas. The award is presented to the district with the most comprehensive and productive program. In addition, the Board received a special Soil Conservation Service 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary award. The award was for sponsoring the "Run for Conservation" in September of 1984. The event took over eight months to plan and involved over fifty volunteers.

**In 1986-** The Lone Star Lake Watershed in Southwest Douglas County has been designated as a high priority agricultural nonpoint source water quality management area by the Environmental Protection Agency. Tons of sediment was removed from the lake recently in order to restore it.

To protect the considerable investment involving the restoration project, a Clean Lakes Fund Grant was made to the district. These funds will be used to provide financial assistance to private landowners in the drainage area for the installation of agricultural nonpoint pollution control measures.

Utilizing \$123,000 along with \$60,000 allocated by the County Commissioners, the district has developed an 80 percent cost-share program to encourage the installation of fifteen enduring water pollution control measures. The district hopes to stimulate a minimum of 60 percent participation within the drainage area.

Douglas County, being chosen as the pilot county, developed an extensive management plan which will be used as a model for other districts when the program is deemed a success. An aggressive information program has been implemented within the drainage area which includes news articles, newsletters, radio spots, group meetings and individual letters and contacts.

Twenty-one farmers signed up 758 acres in the Conservation Reserve Program this year. Two hundred ninety-nine acres will be seeded to brome and 459 acres will be seeded back to native grasses. The district developed a tri-fold information pamphlet titled, Planting Native Grasses in Douglas County. The hand-out included seeding specifications and the management techniques involved in establishing native grass stands.

In response to the 1985 Farm Bill, the District conducted three group meetings to educate the public. One hundred people attended the meetings.

Future generations are the beneficiaries of sound landuse and conservation. The District continued its conservation education program which is designed to effectively communicate the conservation ethic.

In September, the Board sponsored a dinner meeting for fourth, fifth and sixth grade teachers in the county.

From the interest generated by the meeting, soil and water conservation programs were presented to 600 students and teachers at nine schools.

Conservation tours were developed for fourth, fifth and sixth graders. The tours included stops at several farms to supply hands on experience of conservation practices in the field. Schools participating in the educational programs included Baldwin, Eudora,

Marion Springs, Vinland, Centennial, Schwegler, Sunset Hill, Woodlawn and Kaw Valley.

The District's quarterly newsletter continues to be an informative publication for the cooperators and other special interest groups. We assist the Journal World with a special conservation section each January. In addition, articles were submitted by the District, Soil Conservation service and cooperating agencies for publication throughout the year.

The Douglas County Youth Conservation Board secured 47 Mallard Ducks and 40 Canada Geese to place at the wildlife area of the converted Lawrence sanitary landfill.

The youth board had previously constructed and installed four Canada Geese nesting islands at the landfill. They are in the process of constructing several Wood Duck boxes.

A conservation tour was conducted for county commissioners.

Nine Chilean farmer/businessmen and their wives toured several farms in Douglas County in the fall. No-till, sprinkler irrigation and Kansas cropping systems were presented along with modern livestock management techniques. The District sponsored the tour and furnished each participant with a souvenir packet of Kansas agriculture. The packet included a small shock of wheat, a bag of seed corn and a Douglas County soil and water conservation medal. The Board also provided a summary of the tour which was translated into Spanish.

Teachers from 24 countries visited the Norbert Grosdidier Farm. The District provided each participant with soil and water conservation education materials. The District Model Conservation Farm was used to demonstrate good resource management.

Three Board members, SCS personnel and a landowner represented Douglas County at a Plant Materials Tour in Manhattan. The group viewed experimental grasses, tree plantings, the use of herbicides and wildlife plots.

Education material for Soil Stewardship Week was distributed to several churches in the county by the Board members. One hundred wildlife packets promoting National Wildlife Week were distributed to twenty-two schools in the county.

The District supplied information on an individual basis to 435 students from Baker University, Kansas University and Haskell Indian Junior College for a variety of subjects including environmental studies, geography, biology, architectural engineering and botany.

**In 1987-** The District along with SCS held a tour for the Douglas County's Bankers and Realtors to explain and show these agricultural influencers terraces, waterways, tile outlet terraces and diversions. These are structural practices that will be a major part of the conservation compliance provision of the 1985 Food Security Act.

One hundred farmers signed up 4,701 acres in the Conservation Reserve Program this year. The District also purchased native grass seed for any farmer who requested it. By purchasing seed in this way the district was able to obtain a volume discount. These savings were then passed on to the farmer.

In response to the conservation provisions of the 1985 Food Security Act, the District conducted four town meetings. These meetings specifically addressed the 1985 Food Security Act and how it will affect the Douglas County farmers.

The Soil Conservation Service has several new employees in Douglas County. Alan Gentry replaced Robert Allen as the Conservation Technician. Marsha Pohl and Darlene Cole have been hired as part-time Conservation Aides.

The demand for the Soil Survey report remains high. Its many uses are valuable to an extensive number of people including farmers, ranchers, engineers, building contractors and university professors and students.

The District has been invited to join the Mid-America Association of Conservation Districts (MAACD). Bob Brejcha and John Young attended the March meeting to further discuss and encouraged the District to join. The District approved joining MAACD.

The District will use Sharp Bros. Seed Co. to order grass seed for landowners in the CRP Program. 100 percent payment will be required before seed is ordered.

The District purchased a laser (LB-2) level from J&G Laser of Olathe. The laser will be used for terrace and waterway stakeout.

The local chapter of Quail Unlimited has offered the district \$4,000 to purchase a grass drill. The QU Kansas City Chapter donated \$2,000 for a drill. The Douglas County Commissioners approved an allocation to the conservation district of \$5,000 to purchase a grass drill. The Board purchased a Great Plains grass drill.

The County Commissioners approved a budget of \$57,500 for 1988.

The Field Office has been mailing Food Security Act letters to landowners and operators to inform them what the Act means to them, what fields are affected and the procedure to develop a conservation compliance plan.

**In 1988-** A budget was adopted to effectively manage the funds \$37,500 from Douglas County and \$7,500 from the State of Kansas. Dues were paid to the Kansas Association of Conservation Districts.

The Conservation District Board administered \$13,312 through the State Water Resources Cost-Share Program. The program assists landowners with the installation of sound conservation practices to improve water quality.

One hundred fifty wildlife packets promoting National Wildlife Week were distributed to twenty-two schools in the county.

One hundred-twenty farmers have signed up 5,554 acres in the Conservation Reserve Program.

The district has also been an active member of the Mid America Association of Conservation Districts. The MAACD is an organization of ten counties in the Kansas City area that coordinates a program for better resource management and conservation education in particular, urban issues.

A tour for financial institutions, loan agencies and realtors was completed in December. A bus took participants to the Lone Star Lake drainage area. SCS personnel explained and discussed the Food Security Act, Conservation Compliance and how landowners are affected by the rules.

The District set policy for approved costshare contracts. After a landowner receives approval to construct a practice, the producer will have 120 days to complete construction. The Board will send a letter after 100 days as a reminder. If the practice has not been completed in the time frame, the Board will determine if an extension should be given or the approval should be cancelled.

The District made a request to County Commissioners to proclaim the second week of February as Conservation Awareness week.

National Wildlife Federation Packets- Approximately 300 packets were distributed to the schools in Douglas County.

The District adopted a point system to determine high priority applicants will be used. Landowners will complete a priority information form which includes the practice they are applying for, crop rotation, their farming operation and tillage operation. Points have been given to each section of the evaluation worksheet. The landowner receiving the most points will be the first applicant approved for cost-share.

**In 1989-** The Douglas County District was represented at the Area IV State Conservation Commission Spring Workshop and KACD Meeting. Don Palmateer; Mr & Mrs Charles Fawl; District Conservationist Nancy Scott; District Manager Vernis Flottman; and District Secretary Darlene Cole represented Douglas County at the KACD Convention in Wichita.

The District's Newsletter continues to be an informative publication for cooperators and other interested groups. We assist the Journal World with a special conservation section each January.

The District presented an erosion control demonstration to twenty-three elementary school classes in 1989. The District followed this with conservation field trips to seven schools.

KDHE and the State Conservation Commission sponsored a water quality meeting at Lawrence Memorial Hospital in December. Those agencies presented and explained the format required for the Clinton Lake drainage area.

Wetland appeals at the local level have been successfully completed. Most of the appeals ended up in favor of the farmers. To-date only one appeal went on to the area level for consideration.

ASCS has indicated that if a producer says he is following his Conservation Compliance Plan and is caught not following the plan, a fine of \$10,000 can be assessed.

The District sponsored a County Commissioners tour. The March 28 tour was conducted primarily in the Lone Star Lake drainage area to show the commissioners some of the benefits of the funds the county, the Kansas Department of Health & Environment and EPA had allocated toward cost-sharing with the landowners in the drainage area.

The District will cooperate with the Osage County Conservation District to place highway signs at the county line for entering/leaving the respective conservation district.

Board members conducted a planning session on July 20<sup>th</sup> with a representative from the City of Lawrence and hydrologists from the US Geological Survey to discuss the options available to the Board if they develop a project to address water quality in the county. Charles Perry from the USGS wrote a generic proposal that the Board will tailor to the needs of Douglas County.

The Board will send certified letters to landowners with highly erodible land that have not responded to the district for a conservation compliance plan.

**In 1990-** The Douglas County Conservation District hosted the Area IV State Conservation Commission Spring Workshop.

A major objective is to promote the most cost effective conservation practices to reduce soil erosion, such as terraces, grassed waterways, contour farming and residue management.

The Conservation District Board administered \$31,809 through the State Water Resources Cost-Share Program and \$9,276 in the High Priority Program. The programs assist landowners with the installation of sound conservation practices to improve water quality both in the regular cost share program and the High Priority Kansas Lower Republican and Marais DesCygnes River Basins.

The District Board met with the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service and other supporting agencies to develop an Agricultural Conservation Program (ACP) for 1990. The program was highly successful and a total of \$25,740 was spent on establishing conservation practices in the county. In addition \$12,925 was spent through long term agreements.

An in-service training workshop for teachers and principals of Douglas County was held at the Nobert Grosdidier Dairy Farm in September. The participants toured the dairy and conservation practices such as terraces and waterways. Wildlife habitat areas were also included on the tour. Packets of samples of available resource materials were distributed to those attending.

Marsha Pohl presented two sessions to 5 year old students during the summer at Mary's Lake. The Board also participated in the Earth Day Workshop for students in kindergarten through fifth grade at Lecompton.

The District Board and the Soil Conservation Service conducted a field day to show residue levels after planting; a demonstration of the root plow; a discussion of burning procedures of native grass and the native grass drill use. Implement dealers brought several pieces of equipment to use for the different demonstrations. Five chemical dealers sponsored the meal and the Jayhawk Chapter of Quail Unlimited sponsored the mailing to promote the field day.

Six people have joined the Earth Team Volunteers Program. They are involved in conservation at the action level – volunteering many hours in the office on the computer, filing and mailing. They also provided their expertise toward the educational program in the school.

New SCS personnel since August are Douglas Gahn as the District Conservationist and Coleen Davison as the Soil Conservationist.

The Mid-America Association of Conservation Districts hosted a National Urban Conservation Symposium for the National Association of Conservation Districts. Representatives from Douglas County and the District worked the registration desk and assisted as room monitors.

**In 1991-** The Douglas County Conservation District hosted the Mid America Association of Conservation Districts Annual Meeting.

The Board worked with the Soil Conservation Service to keep soil conservation contractors informed of all new standards and specifications by sponsoring a contractors meeting.

Representatives from the counties located in the Wakarusa Watershed drainage area have met with other interested agencies and organizations to develop a non-point source pollution project management plan. The Plan addresses the importance of protecting and maintaining the water quality of the watershed.

A Riparian and Wetland Protection Plan has been developed and the Board has become a moving force in the Neighbor-to Neighbor Program.

The Board assisted the Soil Conservation Service in hosting a SCS Area I Information Expo in Lawrence and five farm/ag compliance meetings to help farmers stay in compliance.

The Board, SCS, ASCS and FMHA worked together on a countywide information committee designed to help landowners in the county understand the teamwork effort of each of the above agencies. The committee distributed a newsletter to landowners in the county.

The VIP Tour was held to show the urban and county policy makers the importance of protecting our soil.

The Board also assisted in the Earth Awareness Expo in Kansas City, Missouri and the Kansas Association of Conservation Districts (KACD) booth at the State Fair in Hutchinson.

The Board provided two scholarships to attend an Agriculture In The Classroom Workshop in Kansas City and one scholarship to attend a Kansas Advisory Council on Environmental Education (KACEE) workshop in Manhattan.

Three volunteers continued as Earth Team Volunteers. They are involved in conservation at the action level – volunteering many hours in the office on the computer, filing and mailing. Several other people in the community also volunteered their time and services to the office.

The Douglas County Conservation District is dedicated to the sound development and use of soil, water and related resources in the county. High priority items include conservation planning and application, conservation education, the promotion of good

working relations with sister agencies and lobbying for appropriate conservation legislation at the local, state and national level.

**In 1992-** the Board was represented at the fall Kansas Association of Conservation District meeting. Don Palmateer; Charles Fawl; District Conservationist Doug Gahn; District Manager Vernis Flottman and District Secretary Darlene Cole attended the KACD Convention in Wichita.

The Conservation District Board administered \$34,906 through the State Water Resources Cost-Share Program and \$54,348 in the High Priority Program. These programs assist landowners with the installation of sound conservation practices to improve water quality both in the regular cost share program and the High Priority Kansas Lower Republican and Marais DesCygnes River Basins.

The District Board utilized all of the \$123,000 (fifty percent federal cost-share dollars) and \$60,000 (thirty percent county cost-share dollars) by developing long term contracts with landowners in the Lone Star Lake Watershed. These contracts must be implemented by December 31, 1994.

To protect the considerable investment involved in removing sediment from the lake, the funds are used to provide financial assistance in the nine square mile drainage area for the installation of agricultural nonpoint pollution control measures.

A Riparian and Wetland Protection Plan has been developed and the Board has become a moving force in the Neighbor-to-Neighbor Program.

An urban and rural tour was held to show the urban and county policymakers the importance of protecting our natural resources. A stop to Mary's lake demonstrated how protecting the water quality of our rivers and lakes used for drinking water, recreation and wildlife is a benefit to everyone.

In April, the Conservation District sponsored a Neighbor-to-Neighbor tour. The NTN program is a self-guided tour where conservation practices can be discussed and viewed with a participating farmer. The kickoff tour visited several participating farms to view various types of conservation practices used in Douglas County.

The Douglas County Board organized a water quality task force of concerned landowners/citizens in the Tauy Creek Watershed. The task force has contacted conservation professionals to speak at meetings to help educate the Tauy Creek Watershed landowner on how to implement the most effective practices to protect and improve water quality.

**In 1993-** Of the farms in Douglas County with highly erodible cropland, eighty-three percent of the landowners signed 1985 Food Security Act Compliance Plans. Of those plans, eighty-two percent have completed the implementation phase.

The Board worked with the Soil Conservation Service to sponsor a multi-county contractors meeting inviting contractors from Douglas, Franklin, Johnson and Leavenworth counties. The objective was to keep soil conservation contractors informed of all new standards and specifications. Representatives from Mid-America Pipeline Company and AT&T presented short programs on safety around their utilities to the contractors. Businesses dealing with conservation products were also invited. This allowed contractors to hear about and view new products and technologies.

A non-point source pollution project management plan will be completed for Douglas County in 1994. The Plan addresses the importance of protecting and maintaining the water quality of the county.

The Conservation District still sponsors the Neighbor-to Neighbor (NTN) program, a self-guided tour where conservation practices can be discussed and viewed with a participating farmer. The NTN tour book can guide individuals to participating farms where various types of practices are used in Douglas County.

The Tauy Creek Water Quality Project meeting was held in March at Baldwin High School for concerned landowners/citizens in the Tauy Creek Watershed. The following water quality topics were addressed: household hazardous wastes, animal waste systems, wetland values, pesticides and nutrients and urban sediment control. A questionnaire was distributed to the participants for their feedback.

**In 1994-** The Conservation District Board administered \$68,973 through the State Water Resources Cost-Share Program. The program assists landowners with installation of sound conservation practices to improve water quality.

Landowners received \$25,213 from a cost-share program of federal dollars and administered by the Consolidated Farm Service Agency (CFSA) (formerly the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service). In addition, \$3,276 was spent through long term agreements.

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) (formerly the Soil Conservation Service) provides Farm Service Agency and the Conservation District with technical assistance to the landowners in all cost-share programs.

The Board worked with the Natural resources Conservation Service to sponsor a multi-county contractors meeting inviting contractors from Anderson, Douglas and Franklin counties. The objective was to keep soil conservation contractors informed of all new standards and specifications. AT&T and Kansas Dig Safe presented programs on the importance of safety around their utilities. Businesses dealing with conservation products were also invited to set up booths to demonstrate new equipment and technologies.

Two hundred twenty-five wildlife packets promoting National Wildlife Week were distributed to twenty-two schools in the county.

Adopt A Classroom/Adopt a Farm Family Program is in its third year and growing. This year we have seven classrooms teamed up with seven farm families learning more about agriculture and conservation.

“Sammy” Soil Particle booklet, the model farm and a slide presentation were among the resources presented to 270 students from five elementary schools. After the classroom presentations these students were then taken on field trips to view additional basic principles of soil and water conservation.

Instructors for the field trips included a wildlife biologist from Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks, an NRCS area soil scientist, the NRCS conservation technician and a conservation district technician. The classroom presentations and the field trips show students how soil and water conservation ties into other aspects of life.

Additional educational programs the District sponsored or helped sponsor:

- Two county teachers participated in the Ag In the Classroom training course.
- A high school student attended Range Youth Camp at Rock Springs Ranch. The students learn range management techniques and how to identify plants.

- Sponsored two 4-H members to attend Discovery Days at KSU. They attended classes on soil and water conservation.
- The conservation division in the Douglas County Science Fair. Awards were given in several grade levels.
- The Conservation District sponsored a Neighbor-To-Neighbor (NTN) tour in July attended by 55 producers.

The district in cooperation with MAACD helped to sponsor an Urban Sediment Control Workshop and Field Day held on October 5 and 6, 1994. One hundred fifty participants attended the two day program. Fifteen exhibitors displayed their products and services.

**In 1995-** A budget was adopted to effectively manage the \$50,500 from Douglas County and \$10,000 from the State of Kansas.

A major objective of the District Board is to promote the most cost effective conservation practices to reduce soil erosion, such as terraces, grassed waterways, contour farming and residue management.

The Conservation District Board administered \$54,871 through the State Water Resources Cost-Share Program. The program assists landowners with installation of sound conservation practices to improve water quality.

Landowners received \$13,946 from a cost-share program of federal dollars and administered by the Consolidated Farm Service Agency (formerly the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service). In addition \$4,609 was spent through long term agreements.

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (formerly Soil Conservation Service) provides Farm Service Agency and the Conservation District with technical assistance to the landowners in all cost-share programs.

The District received the Kansas Association of Conservation Districts/ and Zeneca District of the Year Award at the state level. At the regional level, the District was presented the Northern Plains Conservation District of the Year. The Northern Plains region encompasses Wyoming, North and South Dakota, Nebraska, Montana and Kansas.

The District Board utilized all of the \$123,000, fifty percent federal cost-share dollars and \$60,000, thirty percent county cost-share dollars by developing long term contracts with landowners in the Lone Star Lake Watershed. These contracts must be implemented by December 31, 1996.

The District assisted the Jayhawk Chapter of Quail Unlimited in a seed planting program. QU provided cost share dollars to landowners to plant over 300 acres of native grass.

The District co-sponsored a Crop Residue Meeting with NRCS and Extension. Forty-four farmers attended and several discussed conservation tillage and crop residue use.

**In 1996-** A 10'X10' space was reserved for a booth at the Lawrence Garden & Home Show held each year at the fairgrounds.

The Jayhawk Chapter of QU will again sponsor a cost share program to seed native grass plantings, grassed waterways and grass strips. QU will cost share 80% up to 20 acres for each person.

New District Conservationist Clyde Mermis from the Oberlin FO will report to the Lawrence FO on February 5<sup>th</sup>. He replaces Doug Gahn who accepted another NRCS position.

Lee Whaley was elected as a District Board Supervisor to replace Norbert Grosdidier. Keith Knabe was re-elected as a District Supervisor.

The Board approved \$250 for the Ag In the Classroom Program. The Board approved purchase of the Enviroscape for information and education programs.

A regional residue conference called Ag-Vision 200+ will be sponsored by the Conservation District in Lawrence in 1997.

A KACD Endowment print was purchased to present to Worden United Methodist Church in memory of past Board member Orvil Pohl.

The Board approved the cost to build a Rainfall Simulator that would be used for information and education programs promoting crop residue management.

Board members selected plugging abandoned water wells and illegal dump sites as two categories to develop project work plans.

The NRCS and District Staff toured the new Eagle Bend Golf Course with the golf course developer and Lawrence Parks & Recreation Director Fred DeVictor.

**In 1997-** A 10' x12' storage building was approved and will be placed on the back parking lot. District supplies and equipment will be stored in the building.

The State Administrative Committee (SAC) has approved NRCS, FSA, Rural Development and the Conservation District has been approved for new office space for the Lawrence Field Office. The process to find a location and draw up the floor plans will start in the near future. The Conservation District has requested a private office for the District Manager.

A meeting is scheduled for January 17 with the District, the City of Lawrence Department of Utilities, KDHE representatives and Rural Water District staff to determine steps needed to complete the approved grant request from the City of Lawrence to evaluate the water supply in Clinton Lake.

Price quotes have been received from two dealers to purchase a new no-till native grass drill.

The Ag-Vision 2000+ Crop Residue Mgt Conference was held in January at the Holiday Inn Convention Center in Lawrence with over 400 ag-producers in attendance.

CRP Sign-up #15 ended March 28 with the Lawrence FO receiving over 90 applications for over 3,500 acres in Douglas County.

The Hillsdale Water Quality Project was approved as a high priority area with the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP). A small portion of southeast Douglas County is covered by the Hillsdale watershed.

A Rural Home Fair was held August 25 and a field demonstration day September 13. The meeting was organized to bring an awareness to the citizens of Douglas County on the various programs, ordinances, techniques and schedules a landowner or operator must follow or is suggested to follow when considering any of the following: on-site waste systems, well plugging, new well construction, lawn management, wildlife management, livestock waste systems, wetland and riparian areas and pond management and construction.

After a heavy rainstorm above Yankee Tank Dam, water ran across Clinton Parkway. This has placed the dam into a high hazard classification which will require the dam to meet a higher standard for water storage. Three options are being considered: 1) drain the lake, 2) use dirt to make the dam higher, 3) construct a cement wall 1.1 foot high on top of the dam. NRCS will meet with the Watershed Board to present the options with the costs involved.

**In 1998-** All contracts have been completed with the Lone Star Lake Program, remaining funds have been transferred to the Enterprise Fund.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Ag-Vision 200+Crop Residue Management Conference was held in February at the Lawrence Holiday Convention Center with over 400 people in attendance. Producers could choose from 20 different topics for the breakout sessions. A very successful conference.

A framed certificate was presented at the District Annual Meeting to conservation contractor, Lud Heine for 50 years of work in the county.

The Conservation District participated in a booth at the KACD Legislative Fair at the Topeka Capital Rotunda, February 19.

NRCS and the Conservation District assisted the City of Lawrence on a 156 acre project located below Clinton Lake Dam. The Corps of Engineers had leased this area for many years to the City of Lawrence who in-turn leased it to a local farmer for cropland agricultural purposes. The Corps says this area can no longer be cropped and needs to be seeded to permanent vegetation. The District was the lead sponsor for the project. A plan to seed the area to native grass/forbs and develop wetlands was proposed and approved by the City of Lawrence.

Eight Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP) contracts have been approved for a total of \$70,205.00 in Douglas County. Eleven Hillsdale Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) contracts were approved for a total of \$71,177.00.

The District sponsored three teachers from Douglas County to participate in a Ag In the Classroom Workshop for \$200 each for a total of \$600.

Ninety-eight people attended the Rural Home Fair at the fairgrounds. The Journal World gave the event wonderful publicity. The fair was designed to help people with all the considerations and issues they will have, if they are thinking about moving from the city to the country.

A Bankers tour was held November 12 to select the 1998 awardees. Board members had nominated several Douglas County farmers.

The Board approved setting up a booth at the January 23, Eagles Day at the Lawrence River front Mall.

**In 1999-** An organizational meeting was for a potential Wakarusa Watershed EQIP application was held in January. The watershed is located in Douglas, Osage, Shawnee and Wabaunsee counties. Over 100,000 people depend on Clinton Lake for their source of drinking water. The Hillsdale EQIP Project is the #1 Priority Area in Kansas for FY1999. A small portion of southeast Douglas County is located in this watershed.

Roger Boyd with the Baker Wetlands is interested in an application for the Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP).

The Lawrence FO has had the LAN/Wan system installed. A team from AT&T completely rewired the building for all agencies. New telephones and computers have been installed with this system. Each workstation will now have Internet access.

A budget of \$67,000 for the year 2000 was approved by the county commissioners and the District Board.

Lawrence stormwater manager, Chad Voight was very glad to hear the Board was purchasing Stormdrain magnetic markers. The City had purchased a 100 and an Eagle Scout group will install 60 of those. Chad will give the staff a map showing where stormdrains are located in Lawrence. The staff will contact some homeowner's organizations to discuss if there is an interest in receiving the stormdrain markers. The markers say: No Dumping- Drains to the River.

Jonathon Cook is working in the office this summer. He is a 14 year old student at Southwest Junior High. Thru the Summer Youth Program with the local Job Service Office, each student can work 240 hours. Each summer for the past several years, the Lawrence Field Office has had student workers in the office. These students are enrolled in the NRCS Earth Team Volunteer Program. The hours worked by the students are reported in the Earth team Program. A wide variety of activities keep the students busy in the office.

Farmers Coop of St Marys has the low bid for a new native grass drill for \$16,750 with trade of the old drill. Board approved the purchase.

A Rural Home Fair was held September 20 starting at 6:30 pm with 18 booths set up in the south side of Building 21 at the fairgrounds. The 18 booths sponsors represent service organizations and agencies. None of the booths represented any commercial business. Two topics were presented during each of the three breakout sessions. Publicity for the meeting included a flyer in the Lawrence Journal world newspaper. Other publicity came from several radio public service announcements and posters and brochures. 96 people attended the home fair.

A Wetlands Alliance meeting was held in Lawrence on November 4<sup>th</sup> with 50 people in attendance. Several speakers presented information in the morning session and then the group went on a tour of several Douglas County wetland projects. Stops were made at FMC Corporation, the City of Lawrence wetlands below Clinton Dam, and Steve Kelly's wetland. This workshop had an urban emphasis rather than the more traditional rural wetlands.

**In 2000-** The District approved the purchase of six grass burning swatter flappers and two backpack sprayers for loaning out to producers completing Prescribed Burning practices on native grass. The Board requested a signed statement from landowners using the equipment that the District is not liable and that equipment will be brought back in the same condition that it went out in.

Clyde Mermis, District Conservationist used the Douglas County Conservation District Rainfall Simulator for several presentations at the No-till On the Plains Conference in Salina on January 24 & 25. Over 1,200 producers were in attendance.

The Board approved policy that requires that a Grazing Management Plan will be required on: fencing, ponds and pond restoration, pumping plant for water supply, spring developments, tank and troughs that are cost-shared through the SWRCS Program. A minimum of 30 acres of grass and perimeter fence is also required before cost-share assistance will be given.

The Board approved a motion to conduct an urban workshop for city and county policymakers, planners and administrators. The workshop will be designed to provide information on the importance of preventing erosion and ways to control sediment. The Urban Conservation Policy Handbook and the Urban Practices Handbook will be among the resource material used at the workshop.

The Conservation District has developed a brochure and printed 1,000 copies that describe the purpose and programs of the District.

Paula Jahnke, Field Coordinator for the River Friendly Farm Program, brought a farmer to the May 3 Board meeting to discuss how to promote the program in Douglas County. She also brought a visitor from Russia to the meeting.

KACD will be asking for the 2001 Legislature to authorize and place before the voters of Kansas at the next general election the question of a ¼ cent sales tax increase for resource conservation and recreation. The state sales tax would be directed toward improving the state's water, soil, animal and plant resources. With the sales tax funding, conservation districts partnering with the other state agencies and organizations could provide the technical and financial resources to implement conservation programs to assure that quality resources will be available to future generations. Conservation Districts were urged to get organized and contact and encourage producers and legislatures for support of the proposal.

The Board requested the office staff to develop a bookmark to promote the purpose and activities of the conservation district.

Board members reviewed a draft page of the newsletter for July showing the new name. The newsletter is now titled "Douglas County Soil & Water News".

Thirty-eight people attended the June 13 Urban Workshop. Speakers talked on why Lawrence has urban control ordinances and how they enforce them, the uses of the policy and practices handbooks, stormwater management and floodplain management. The Kansas Biological Survey, MAACD, DCCD and the Kansas Department of Health and Environment set up displays. Survey results have been very positive and all would like more information and field days showcasing the practices and products toward protecting the land during construction.

The Conservation District has been asked by the Douglas County Public Works Office to assist with the dredging of Lone Star Lake. The upper southwest arm of the lake is to have a 5 acres area dredged with the removal of 3 feet or more of silt. The sludge will be pumped to a cropland field located about a ¼ mile west of the lake. The sludge will be spread over approximately 8-10 acres. The cropland field will have a 3-4 foot berm built around the bottom of the field to hold the pumped sludge. The sludge will consist of a mixture of about 30 percent solids and 70 percent liquid. The liquid will be allowed to run back to the lake but the solids will remain on the field. The cropland currently has tile outlet terraces on it. We expect the sludge to require a 2-3 year dryout period. After the silt has dried the terraces will be rebuilt and the area to be farmed. The District and NRCS will provide technical assistance and contact information for producers in the area.

**In 2001-** NRCS & Conservation District Staff recently received training on a new computer program for writing conservation plans and contracts. The Customer Service Toolkit will replace the FOCS Computer Program. The new program appears to be an easy way to write conservation plans.

Over 800 fourth grade students of Douglas County attended the Slice of Ag Workshop January 29 & 30 at the Fairgrounds Arena. Students were given information at eight different stations on what agricultural products are needed to make a pizza and how agriculture relates to people living in town. The two day workshops are held each year, usually in Jan-Feb with many Lawrence, Baldwin and Eudora grade schools participating.

The Upper Wakarusa Watershed has been approved as a High Priority area in Kansas for the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP). For 2001, the four counties involved will receive \$150,000. After the office receives an application, the office will set up an appointment to meet with the landowner and present options for the program. Costshare for the structural practices can be up to 75% and incentive payments can be made for several types of management practices. The applications are ranked and the applications that offer the most environmental benefits for the least dollars will receive funding. Producers do not get paid for conservation practices he is already but must incorporate something new into his operation for improving water quality benefits into Clinton Lake. The Upper Wakarusa EQIP Priority Proposal must be submitted each year for approval and funding.

The Board and Staff will make an hour presentation to the county commissioners at the courthouse at 8:00AM on Monday, April 23. The Board will showcase the conservation programs, information and education programs the district is involved with for both rural and urban citizens.

With the many changes in the county, the Board and Staff will take the next several months to develop a five or ten year plan to address the direction the District needs to go. The changes in the county include: population increases in the rural areas, farm income, farm programs, more urban requests for technical and financial assistance and additional conservation programs to administer.

The State Administrative Committee (SAC) has given permission to issue a Solicitation For offers to potential new office lessors. Potential lessors will have until May 18, 2001 to submit bids for a new USDA Service center in Lawrence. The winning bid will be notified within thirty days after May 18. Construction of the building is to be completed by Dec 1, 2001.

Kansas Extension Forestry and US Fish & Wildlife Service has requested the Lawrence Field office to participate in a Woodland Direct Seeding Project. Bruce Johanning and

Jarod Faust have agreed to participate with test plots on their land. Both these individuals have Continuous CRP Buffer Contracts. NRCS specs call for 2,000 tree nuts per acres with a tree nut seeding. The State of Iowa has been very successful with their tree nut-seeding program and they recommend upwards of 6,000 nuts per acre. We have contracted with a consultant from Iowa to direct our test plots. Iowa also recommends using several different chemicals for weed control. The Douglas County test plots will be planted Nov-Dec. A Field Day or two will be scheduled down the road in order to watch the progress of the test plots the next several years.

**In 2002-** The surrounding 5 counties of Douglas which include: Osage, Franklin, Johnson and Miami are trying to start a no-till alliance/club. Several alliances currently exist thru out all parts of Kansas. An organizational meeting was held December 13 in Ottawa. Another informational meeting is planned for Wednesday, January 16 in Ottawa. Three area no-tillers will present short programs of their farming operations. An alliance would be producer driven with NRCS providing support services. One board of director representative from each of the five counties will decide what projects and activities the alliance will undertake. Mark Wulfschlegel will be the Douglas County representative for the alliance Board of Director. The annual No-Till On the Plains Conference is scheduled for January 21-22 in Salina.

The Jayhawk Chapter of Quail Unlimited (QU) has given the District \$2,000 to costshare with the landowners in the county when planting native grass.

Over 40-50 people attended the public hearing on the Marais des Cygnes Basin on March 18 in Ottawa. The hearing was intended to gather public opinion, concerns and data on water quality and future needs of the Marais des Cygnes. This information will be used to apply for funding. The southern one-third portion of Douglas County is in the Marais des Cygnes watershed.

The County Commissioners approved the conservation district budget appropriation for 2003 for \$67,000.

The Board agreed to the proposal presented on the set up of the 4<sup>th</sup> grade school program at the Mike Flory Farm south of Lawrence the first week of October. The students will spend twenty minutes at each of the nine stations. The Board also agreed to feed the students either pizza or box lunches. Over 400 students are expected to attend.

Don Palmateer received the KACD District Supervisor of the Year Award at the KACD Annual meeting in Wichita.

Proper soil testing will be the conservation district theme for the February 22-24 show at the fairgrounds.

Several people from the Lawrence Chamber Agribusiness group have offered to serve on a committee to develop an Action Plan to have Douglas County be declared a sericea lespedeza disaster county in Kansas.

One of President Bush's initiatives is to downsize government. Currently NRCS Soil Scientists and Soil Conservation Technician positions are being evaluated and will be offered to private vendors to bid on providing these services to the government. Should private vendors underbid what it is costing government for these services, the soil

scientists and technicians would be out of jobs. Eventually all NRCS positions will be evaluated and offered to private industry to bid on.

The district grass driller, Bob Lynch seeded approximately 200 acres of native grass and wildflower seed during the spring seeding season.

All five Douglas County Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP) applications have been approved and funded for a total of \$22,621.00.

**In 2003-** The District will participate in the annual Lawn and Garden Show scheduled for February 21-23, 2003 at the Fairgrounds Building 21. A district booth will feature the importance of a soil test and how to take a test.

The District's Rainfall Simulator was demonstrated at the annual No-Till On the Plains Conference in Salina, KS. The Simulator has been a favorite attraction to the over 1,200 participants that come to the conference each year in January. The Rainfall Simulator demonstrates the effects of a heavy rainstorm on unprotected cropland or building sites. Five trays, filled with soil and various levels of groundcover, are placed below the rainfall simulator. Empty containers are then placed below the trays, to catch the rain runoff. The amount of sediment and water in the containers, after the rain, is in direct proportion to the levels of groundcover.

Several workshops providing information on the new Farm Bill are scheduled for early January. The workshops will be January 13 & 17 from 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM at Building 2 at the fairgrounds. On January 15 the workshop will be at the Stull United Methodist Church also from 10:00 to noon. The same information will be presented at each place.

A mail-out promoting the CRP Buffer Strip Program was completed. Landowners were contacted and provided with I-tech map of their property with cropland areas next to streams highlighted. These areas are possibly eligible for the CRP Buffer Strip Program.

Board members met with the County Commissioners to discuss the district budget. The commissioners will be reducing the district budget by 5 percent for 2003 may recommend eliminating the district from their budget in 2004. Sometime during the next two months, the board will put together additional facts and figures to give to the commissioners.

Construction on the new USDA Service Center is expected to start in August with a projected move-in date of February 2004. New office furniture will be purchased to replace the 1940's models currently used. The NRCS computer specialist will install wiring for the computer systems while the building is under construction.

All Kansas Field offices received Global Positioning System (GPS) Units and Digital Cameras. The GPS units will be used for measuring field boundaries for the various programs and many other applications. The digital cameras are of high quality and will be used to document field conditions and be used for information programs.

The Fall School Program was held October 2 at the Mike Flory Farm. The 270 students from Baldwin, Vinland, Eudora, Quail Run and Deerfield attended. Students visited nine different stations that explained the importance of soil and water in our very day lives. One county commissioner and the county administrator paid a visit to the field day.

Channel 6 TV taped some of the field day. The Board requested the 2004 school field day be video-taped and also would like to see more hands-on activities.

Douglas County did very well with the recent CRP #26 Sign-up. This was general sign-up and Douglas County had 19 applications approved for a total of 850 acres.

**In 2004-** Over 800 fourth grade students from Douglas County Schools attended the Slice of Ag Education Program on January 29 and 30<sup>th</sup>. Each of the eight stations provides information and activities that show what part they play in agriculture to make a piece of pizza.

The Lawn and Garden Show District Booth provided information on “How to take a Soil Test” and give out wildflower seed packets.

The new USDA Service Center Office Building at 1217 Biltmore Drive, Suite 100 has been completed and the move to this building was completed the week of April 5<sup>th</sup> thru 9<sup>th</sup>. All new office furniture was installed. Ten workstations and one private office for District and NRCS employees are included in the new building. An open house was held May 26, from 1:00 to 4:00 PM.

Douglas County had three WHIP Contracts approved for a total of \$10,894.00.

The County Commissioners approved a budget for 2005 for \$65,560.

2004 Tillage Report was completed this spring in Douglas County. The driving transect was completed by criss-crossing the county and stopping every ½ mile and recording existing ground cover percent on cropland sites. Over 500 cropland sites were looked-at. More no-till systems and higher residue levels were recorded in 2004 than in 2002 when the tillage survey was last conducted.

The KACD Area IV Fall Workshop was hosted by the Douglas County Conservation District at Building 21 in Lawrence on August 18. Over 60 people attended the workshop.

The District participated in the Water Festival on April 21 in South Park. Hands on activities included: The Incredible Journey, Water Olympics, Watershed Address Map, Stormwater Obstacle Course, Rainfall Simulator and the Stream Model Trailer. A parade was held in downtown Lawrence from 11:00 AM to noon followed by the festival from noon to 4:00 PM. Approximately 250 people attended the festival.

The District Staff and a Board Member from Shawnee, Wabaunsee, Osage and Douglas County met February 12 to brainstorm ideas on addressing conservation in the Upper Wakarusa Watershed. Watershed Specialist, Will Boyer lead the group in the discussion.

Rick Porter, RC&D Coordinator from the Lake Region RC&D came to the March Board meeting and spoke to the District about forming a RC&D for Johnson, Leavenworth, Shawnee and Wyandotte counties. The RC&D would be in addition to the MAACD affiliation the counties currently have.

**In 2005-** The District Board approved purchase of a Dell 4100 projector. The staff will be able to use this equipment for power point presentations at the annual meeting as well as other information programs.

USDA has announced the watersheds that will receive funding for 2005 with the Conservation Security Program (CSP). The plan is for all US watersheds to get CSP funding one time in an eight year cycle. This is the second year for CSP funding. The CSP Program is subject to congressional funding each year. Producers in selected watershed complete self-assessments of their farming operation to identify at what level of three possible tiers they are currently at. Douglas County producers will have a shot at the program sometime in the next six years.

Since NRCS now has total responsibility for the EQIP Program, the District will provide clerical help to NRCS to assist with the program administration in the Lawrence Field office. Approximately 300 hours of District help will be provided to NRCS.

The 9<sup>th</sup> annual No-Till On the Plains Conference (NTOP) at Salina was once again a big success. The Douglas County Conservation District's Rainfall Simulator was very well attended with over 150 people at each session. Positive comments are always received after each Rainfall Simulator demonstration.

Douglas County will receive a total of \$57,458.00 for Grazing Lands, Soil Quality and Water Quality categories with the EQIP Program in Fiscal Year 2005.

Long-time District Manager Vernis Flottman retired on March 4. Hannah Boyd was promoted to replace Vernis.

The District approved the purchase of the 2005 QuickBooks Pro program and training.

Three NRCS Student Trainees from Haskell University have worked at the Lawrence Field Office this past year.

Douglas County Commissioners approved and signed the District's 2006 budget for the requested \$73,200.

USDA released information that farmers and ranchers can re-enroll or extend their CRP contracts expiring in 2007 through 2010. FSA will use the Environmental Benefits Index (EBI) score that was given to contracts when they were first written. The EBI is a measuring system that assigns point scores to the contracts and then nationally ranks all CRP land enrollment offers. Points were given for improving wildlife habitat, water quality, air quality and reducing soil erosion. The EBI scores will be used to place expiring into one of five tiers. Depending upon which tier a contract falls into will determine whether a CRP contact can be extended for a 2 year to a 15 year contract. In

the spring 2006, FSA will notify producers with expiring contracts if they are eligible for re-enrollment. NRCS will probably develop the new CRP Contracts.

NRCS has an Earth Team Volunteer Program to recognize people for hours volunteered to conserve America's most precious resources- soil and water. District Board Supervisors time for other than board meeting and actual time at annual meetings can be counted as Earth Team volunteer hours. Time preparing for meetings, setting up the room, conducting tours and education programs are more examples of volunteer time for district supervisors. Douglas County Supervisors donate many hours each year and these hours are reported in the Kansas NRCS Earth Team Program.

**In 2006-** The Kansas Watershed Restoration and protection Strategy (WRAPS) Work Group conducted a statewide inventory of non-point source treatment needs for watershed planning, protection and budgeting purposes. The local Douglas County Work Group, represented by the Conservation District, NRCS, FSA and K-State Extension met in January to complete the Douglas County Inventory. The District Board reviewed the information. The District will receive an incentive payment of \$500 for completing the inventory.

For the past 50 years, soil surveys have been available to anyone who requested one. The paper-copy surveys have become outdated and obsolete. The District now refers everyone to the new soil survey website located at the following address- <http://websoilsurvey.nrcs.usda.gov/app/>. The District has handout information on how to use the website.

The District participated in the Slice of Ag field trip held February 20 at the fairgrounds. Forty 4<sup>th</sup> grade classes and over 856 students, along with teachers and parents attended the information program.

Douglas County had 44 Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) applications approved and funded. Approximately \$110,000 was obligated with the 41 water quality, 1 grassland and 2 ag-waste EQIP applications.

Douglas County had 7 Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP) applications approved and funded. Approximately \$24,000 was obligated with the WHIP Program.

Several District Board members met with the County Administrator on the budget hearing for 2007. A booklet prepared by the District was given to the County Administrator. The booklet contained information about the Conservation District, programs offered and how the District partners with other agencies. The booklets will be given to the County Commissioners.

NRCS and the Conservation District completed a joint Business Plan to guide field office operations for the year. Included in the business plan are action items, responsible individuals and completion dates.

County commissioners approved \$79,500 for the annual budget for the conservation district in 2007.

All Conservation District employees and partnership employees that have computers connected to the USDA network are required to have background investigations completed by September 15, 2006. This action is required by the Department due to increased security concerns.

The Conservation District, NRCS and Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) are in a cooperative partnership in the development of Rapid Watershed Assessments (RWA) for five priority watersheds. The purpose of RWA's is to generate initial estimates of where conservation investments would best address the concerns of landowners, conservation districts and other community organizations and stakeholders. A wide variety of watershed data is needed from the selected watersheds. In Douglas County, 8-digit hydrologic code 10270102 was selected for data collection. This watershed is in the very northwest corner of the county (west of Lecompton). The Douglas County Work Group met July 20, 2006 and completed the various requested assessments.

The District will sponsor a Grassland Field Day Thursday, October 19 from 1:00 to 5:00PM on the John Bradley Ranch.

New developments have been announced in the carbon credit market in Kansas. The Iowa Farm Bureau and the National Farmers Union are accepting contracts for the carbon credit pilot program. In the eastern half of Kansas, the acreage eligible for this program includes no-till, strip-till, ridge-till and new grass plantings made on or after Jan. 1, 1999. Current market prices are about \$3.80-4.00 per ton of CO<sub>2</sub>. This means a cropland payment could be around \$1.90-2.00 per ton.

NRCS is waiting for FSA to announce the eleven offices slated for closure in 2007. FSA is expected to make the office closure announcement the first part of December. Conservation Districts in those counties will then need to decide if they will combine district offices or maintain a stand-alone conservation district office.

Five computers and 3 printers were recently donated to a local Lawrence grade school. The equipment was NRCS stuff that was outdated and not being used anymore. The school was registered on the "Computers for Learning" program in Kansas which allows excess government equipment to be donated to them. NRCS is trying to reduce the number of computers in the field offices. Each computer costs approximately \$6,500 annually for website licenses and upkeep.

**In 2007-** A meeting to keep producers informed of their responsibilities to maintain CRP contract compliance was held February 22 at the Fairgrounds. All aspects of CRP maintenance were covered.

Twenty EQIP and two WHIP applications were approved for funding in FY 2007. The total amount of funding for these contracts was \$65,870.

The Kansas Walnut Council hosted a field day on Friday, June 8<sup>th</sup> at the Richard Rodewald Farm. Fifty-two people attended the workshop.

The District Board was informed of that House Bill 2048 raises the limit of authorized state assistance to conservation districts from \$10,000 per district to a maximum of \$25,000 per district beginning in FY2008.

FSA has indicated they will be the only agency to maintain a CRP Contract Folder. In past years, FSA and NRCS have each maintained separate folders for the CRP Program. FSA will pull needed information from NRCS folders to update some their folders. This project was completed by the October 1, 2007 deadline.

The District approved the purchase of a Kawasaki ATV 4-wheeler to be used by NRCS and District employees. NRCS has purchased ratchet straps and stretch cords to secure the ATV in gov't trucks. NRCS also purchased a tri-fold aluminum ramp for loading the ATV in gov't trucks. ATV safety training will be provided to all NRCS and District employees who will be using the ATV.

MAACD hosted a sediment and erosion control workshop at the Douglas County Fairgrounds on November 8, 2007.

The State Conservation Commission (SCC) is encouraging all Conservation District to be involved in their local WRAPS. Under the new state funding interpretation, Wraps is no longer grant-based. They are governance structures for orchestrating water quality protection and improvement at the watershed level. In order to obtain funding from the state it was necessary to formalize the Wakarusa WRAPS leadership structure.

The proposed Kansas FSA and NRCS office merger proposal has been approved by Washington DC. Johnson County will go to Paola and Leavenworth will go to Oskaloosa. Letters were sent out to notify producers that if they want to take farm records to a particular county they have the opportunity to make that choice within 60 days.

York Bayer, a crop consultant from Berlin, Germany requested a Rainfall Simulator be built like the one the District had built and has used for several years. York wanted the Rainfall Simulator for the Agritechnica 2007 Conference that will be held in Hanover, Germany in November 2007. Over 200,000 people were expected to attend this

conference and York expected the simulator to be one of the main attractions at the conference. Chubby's machine shop at Vinland built the frame out of aluminum and is a very good unit. The unit was UPS'd to Germany in time for the conference.

Over 90 information letters were sent to producers promoting the Continuous CRP Practices. Hopefully the letters will generate interest in the program and lead to some CRP Contracts.

The District Board, District Staff and District Conservationist toured Douglas County and looked at various applied conservation practices on December 5, 2007. The purpose of and specific details for each type of practice was explained to tour participants.

Larry Landis was hired as the District Driller for planting native grass with the district owned drill.

**In 2008-** The District purchased a digital camera for information and education programs.

Friend(s) of Conservation Award- Feyh Seed Company will sponsor a new award to recognize individuals or businesses in Douglas County who have assisted the Conservation District in promoting conservation in the county.

In an effort to identify the Douglas County structural practice workload, all expected jobs are being entered on an Excel spreadsheet as received in the office. Since only one NRCS Technician is available, for the three county management unit, efficient time management must be a high priority activity in order to get the work completed. The spreadsheet will track the various stages of the structural practice from start to finish.

A new Continuous CRP practice is available for Douglas County. CP38E SAFE Habitat for Upland Game Birds is targeted to help Bobwhite Quail and any upland game bird. Maximum acreage enrollment is 5 acres for fields less than 25 acres in size, or 20% of a field for fields 25 acres or greater, with a maximum acreage of 80 acres per field. Fields less than 5 acres may be enrolled in their entirety.

The District completed two Long Range Planning meetings in March-April, 2008. The purpose of the meetings was to review current activities, brainstorm for new activities and set goals and objectives for the Conservation District to be more effective in future years. A wide range of issues and topics were discussed at the meetings.

Each year NRCS and the District do a mail-out to all minorities in Douglas County. The letter informs all minority producers and landowners of services provided by NRCS and the District. The mail-out is usually completed in January.

As part of a cooperative project between K-State Extension, FSA, NRCS and the Conservation District, livestock exclusion cages were placed at selected grassland sites in Douglas County. Livestock exclusion cages can be a useful tool to let livestock producer's measure how many pounds of vegetation were produced during the growing season. The cages can simply be cattle panels set in a square or triangular pattern that keep livestock from grazing a small area, typically 4-8 square feet. At the end of a growing season, a small measured area is clipped off and dried. The vegetation is then weighed and calculated to determine how many pounds of vegetation were produced per acre. A clipping is also taken outside the cages and measured as well. The cages let producers determine how much vegetation was produced versus how much they harvested thru the livestock.

A new conservation practice was added to the State Water Resources (SWR) costshare program for Douglas County in FY2009. The Stream Crossing practice is for allowing livestock to get to areas of pasture that are not currently accessible. Typically for a stream crossing- a geotextile fabric is first laid down, with rocks laid on top of the fabric and then smaller crushed rock laid on the surface. Douglas County should have lots of sites the stream crossing practice could be very beneficial and practical to improve livestock grazing. Each site would need to be evaluated to determine if a stream crossing is practical and if it will work.

The District Budget was reduced to \$85,000 from the County Commissioners for 2009, this an \$11,305 decrease from last year.

No-Till On the Plains Winter Conference- In an effort to keep Douglas County producers informed of the latest crop production techniques, the Douglas County Conservation District is awarding scholarships for local producers to attend the No-Till On the Plains Conference scheduled for January 27 & 28, 2009 in Salina, Kansas. The conference is the largest and oldest conference of its type in North America. Since 1997, over 1,000 producers from the Midwest U.S. have attended this conference each year. A wide variety of topics are covered at the conferences, from producers just thinking about trying no-till to experienced no-till producers. Top farmers from several states and foreign countries share what they are doing on their farms to improve soil quality and increase crop production. Approximately twenty producers are expected to receive scholarships from Douglas County. The scholarships will include registration and the Tuesday evening meal.

**In 2009-** The District sponsored a No-Till For Novice meeting on March 5 at the Stull Church. Several speakers provided thru the No-Till On the Plains organization spoke on the value and benefits of starting a no-till system on farms in Douglas County. Approximately 60 producers were in attendance.

A special meeting was held on February 25, 2009 to review the 5 year long-range draft plan. Scott Carlson, SCC Assistant Director facilitated the meeting. All District Supervisors were in attendance. It was decided the Board would allow 30 minutes at monthly board meetings to continue to work on the plan.

Monday, April 20 was the 6<sup>th</sup> grade E.A.R.T.H. field day at the Douglas County Fairgrounds Community Building. One hundred eighty-two students attended. They visited nine stations for a variety of demonstrations and environmental information.

The Wakarusa Watershed District hosted an informational meeting on March 25 at the district office in Overbrook. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the possibilities of rehabilitation of Yankee Tank Watershed Lake. Currently the lake does not meet design criteria, since it is now classified as a high hazard watershed lake. The District has made application to NRCS for a study to determine what is needed to bring the lake up to required specifications. The Yankee Tank request is currently number 2 on the priority list with Kansas NRCS for a complete planning study. After the planning study is completed then the District could apply for federal funding to do the construction for the rehabilitation. The costs would be split 65% federal funding and 35% state, local, private funding. About 30 people were in attendance at the meeting.

The FY2009 Kansas EQIP general allocation is \$17.5 million, Douglas County will receive \$44,273. In FY2008, Douglas County received \$90,783 for EQIP. Of the FY2009 total for Douglas County, \$6,230 is to be used for Grazing Lands Health, \$3,669 is for Cropland Health and \$12,238 is for water Quality. The remaining \$22,137 (50% of the total) can be used for whatever the Local Work Group (LWG) chooses. The LWG will meet in the near future to make that decision.

Douglas County has had 15 EQIP and 4 WHIP applications approved for funding this year.

The District purchased a Truax Seed Slinger and Laser Range Finder. The District will be reimbursed by a Clean Water No-Till Grant for the equipment.

NRCS has awarded the Watershed Rehabilitation study for Yankee Tank to the engineering firm of Kirkham Michael located in Ellsworth, KS. A public hearing will be held in the next thirty days and the study completed within one year. The Wakarusa

Watershed District Board will decide what option to do from the study completed. If the District Board chooses to rehab the lake to meet high hazard standards, federal funds are available with a 65/35 costshare split, with the federal side picking up the larger share.

A continuous sign-up for the new Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) was announced and will run until a September 30 cutoff date. CSP is a voluntary program that encourages agricultural and forestry producers to maintain existing conservation activities and adopt additional ones on their operations. An informational meeting was held September 10 at the Douglas County Fairgrounds.

The Douglas County Commissioners approved the District's 2009 budget for \$84,150.

The Board approved adding Tire Tank Component to the State Water Resources and Non-Point Source Costshare Program under the Watering Facility Practice. The county average cost to be \$2.00 per gallon and to provide 70% costshare on the practice.

**In 2010-** Kansas is a pilot project for “High Tunnels” with the EQIP Program. Certified organic producers or those that plan to become certified can make application to receive costshare to construct hoop houses (plastic greenhouse) on their operations to help extend the growing season. The District feels Douglas County may have local producers who would like to participate in this program. Eight EQIP Organic applications were received in 2010 and all eight were funded.

Due to budget issues, the State Conservation Commission has notified Conservation Districts potential state aid cuts are anticipated to be \$1,500 per District.

The District will no longer receive funding for the Buffer and NPS Coordinator Position from the State Conservation Commission (SCC); this is a \$15,000 reduction in state aid from SCC.

USDA has announced a General CRP Signup starting August 2nd and run thru August 27<sup>th</sup>. Approximately 4 million acres nationwide are expected to be enrolled with this signup. Contracts will start Oct 1, 2010 so the Conservation District could expect a few more acres than normal for the 2011 grass seeding period.

The Douglas County Commissioners approved the Districts 2010 budget for \$84,150.

On Monday, September 20, Congressman Jerry Moran stopped at the John Bradley Farm in Douglas County to start his annual Kansas Conservation Tour. Moran has hosted the tour for the past ten years in Kansas. The NRCS Chief Dave White also participated in the tour.

The District approved purchase of a portable public address system and easel.

The watershed project with Yankee Tank is moving forward. A company from Colorado will do the final design. The main item is that the top of dam will need to be raised approximately 7 feet. The Wakarusa Watershed District is requesting the Douglas County Conservation District Board sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to be a local sponsor of the project. The DCCD Board approved this request.

NRCS wants to expand the membership of the Local Work Group (LWG) to include agricultural producers, representatives of local agricultural and environmental groups in each county. In the past, the LWG was limited to government representatives such as the Conservation District. LWG's can provide recommendations on: local and state resource concerns, application and funding criteria, eligible conservation practices, payment percentage rates, program policy based on resource concerns. The Conservation District is responsible to assemble the LWG, set agenda, conduct the LWG meeting, transmit request to the District Conservationist. The LWG should meet at least once each year, conducted as a Public Meeting, must place notice in local

newspaper at least 14 days prior to the meeting. The meeting could be after a District Board meeting or hold a special meeting for it.

A Public Hearing was held December 13 at 7:00PM at the Courthouse to review and receive comment on the Plan/EA for the Yankee Tank Watershed rehab project.

The Board approved a donation of \$250 to the Miami County Conservation District for the Soil Tunnel Trailer that is available for information and education projects in Douglas County.

The Board approved a request to provide cash awards for the local speech contest offered to local high schools students each year. The awards are: 1<sup>st</sup> Place \$100; 2<sup>nd</sup> Place \$50; 3<sup>rd</sup> thru 10<sup>th</sup> Place will receive \$20 for participating.

An article in the District Newsletter offered local landowners the opportunity to attend the No-Till On the Plains Winter Conference at Salina in January. Their registration fees to the conference will be reimbursed through a State Conservation Commission Grant.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Water Festival was held at Clinton Park on September 13. Over 900 area 4<sup>th</sup> graders attended. The Conservation District presented information at one of several stops offered to students attending the festival.

A Brush Management Field Day was held August 26 at Stull, Kansas on the John Hasse Farm. The event had nine speakers present information on the best management practices for range management. In addition to the speakers, a wide variety of equipment provided demonstrations for brush removal. Over 180 producers attended the workshop.

**In 2011-** In an effort to get local contractors updated on NRCS Standards and Specs for structural practices, the Lyndon Mgt Unit hosted a Contractor Meeting for all local contractors on February 8<sup>th</sup> at the Topeka Field Office.

The District Board approved the purchase of a new Great Plains No-Till Drill for primarily seeding native grass/forbs in Douglas County.

USDA announced another General Sign-up for the CRP Program. The sign-up started March 14<sup>th</sup> and ended April 15<sup>th</sup>, 2011. Douglas County had approximately 40 CRP Contracts that expired this year. General Sign-ups allow expiring CRP Contracts to re-enroll or new land can be enrolled. One change with the new general sign-up will allow whole fields to be planted to the Pollinator Habitat (wildflowers) rather than just a portion of the field as with the previous general sign-up.

FSA has announced the first Biomass Crop Assistance Program (BCAP) Project area. BCAP Project Areas provide financial incentives to interested landowners for the voluntary establishment and production of biomass crops for conversion to heat, power, bio-based products and advanced biofuels. Twenty-eight counties in Missouri and eight counties in Kansas are eligible for the program. BCAP works much the same as the CRP Program for establishing native grass and providing rental payments for the 5 year program. The bio-mass facility in Centerville, MO produces pellets from native grass/forbs. These pellets can be used for wood stoves or used by big electric power plants to produce electricity.

John Alley, FSA-CED called for a County Emergency Group meeting to discuss crop and hay losses this year due to the excessive hot, dry conditions. Bill Wood, Extension Agent; Jim Weaver, Conservation District and Clyde Mermis, District Conservationist met to determine estimated losses for Douglas County. If the losses are great enough, FSA will offer some financial assistance programs to producers.

The District sponsored a Bobwhite Quail Habitat Mgt Workshop on October 11, 2011 at the fairgrounds. The workshop was co-sponsored with the Kansas Department of Wildlife & Parks.

The annual National Resources Inventory (NRI) 2009-2010 requires the collection of data which cannot be remotely sensed. Examples of this kind of data would be cropping history, supporting data used to calculate soil loss and conservation program participation information. NRI has identified sites (segments) for many years and periodically these sites are inventoried to see if anything (land-use, cropping, program participation) has changed from the last time reviewed. Typically each county has 15-40 segments that are inventoried. Valuable information is gathered from the NRI Inventory and it has influenced the legislation for many USDA Farm Bills.

The District Board voted to disband from the MAACD Organization.

Douglas County received \$44,626 for the FY2011 EQIP Program. Of this amount \$11,633 is targeted for Grazing Lands Health and \$32,993 is targeted for Water Quality/Cropland Health. Douglas County EQIP funding needs requested by producers is expected to exceed \$100,000. A ranking process determines who receives funding.

The annual Bankers Tour was completed July 26, 2013. A representative from NRCS, FSA, K-State Extension, Kansas Bankers Assn., Kansas Dept. of Wildlife & Parks and the Conservation District participate in the tour to view farms and then select individuals who have made significant conservation efforts on their farms. Several different categories of conservation activities are recognized with the program. Awards are presented to the winners at the Annual Meeting of the Douglas County Conservation District held in Jan/Feb each year.

**In 2012-** NRCS supplied a new color copier for the Field Office.

Approximately 900 acres were seeded the Spring of 2012. Many of these acres involved the conversion of cool season grasses to native grass/forbs by using a herbicide.

All current contract holders with EQIP or WHIP contracts who have practices scheduled for 2012 received reminder letters in January that lists the practices they are scheduled to apply during the year.

The District approved funding to continue the soil testing program through the local cost share program. Four hundred soil tests will be provided at \$8.00 per test for the basic P, K and pH test. The soil samples are taken to the K-State Extension Office at the Fairgrounds and then sent to the K-State lab at Manhattan.

A series of meetings and open forums have been held around the state with NRCS, conservation district employees, representatives from the Kansas Division of Conservation and the Kansas Association of Conservation Districts. A survey was sent to all CD boards, CD employees and NRCS employees to gather input for each of the challenges set forth in the national memo regarding Field Office of the Future (FOF) plans. The group reviewed the survey results to identify those items that were identified as the highest priority by the survey respondents so as to develop a plan that addresses those priorities. Based on the FOF memo, it was decided by the group to develop a document with the following outline: What has been accomplished to date to become more efficient; What is the current status of the field office structure; Identify types and levels of services provided; Look at opportunities for increased efficiencies; Determine how to better use technology; Improve labor coordination, communication and division; Explore cost-saving opportunities; Take a look at locations of service centers. The group went one step further to develop plans that would enable NRCS to continue to provide consistent service to our customers and partners with graduated 10 percent and 20 percent budget cuts.

The District co-sponsored a Farm and Ranch Field Day on October 11th at the Bo Killough Farm located south of Lawrence. Topics included: NRCS- Farm Conservation Plans; KRC- River Friendly Farm Assessment; FSA- CRP & BCAP and other FSA Programs; K-State- No-till & Cover Crops; CD- Construction & Maintenance of Structural Practises; KDWP- Quail Habitat on your Farm; Other topics- Cattle Product Handling, Fencing Options/Grazing Systems, Watering Systems, Rotational Grazing Beef Cattle. Approximately 150 people were in attendance.

The District sponsored a Prescribed Burn Workshop at the Stull Church on Feb 28<sup>th</sup>, 2013.

The District sponsored an educational booth at the Douglas County Fair with a special Farmers Market evening event.

The KACD and SCC has developed 16 training modules that can be used to teach supervisors and staff the basic operations of conservation districts. The intent of these modules is to have educational materials readily available to conduct “in-house” training in district offices. These modules are especially useful when new supervisors are elected or new staff members are hired.