

Douglas County Conservation District



Healthy Soil • Clean Water
Bright Future

If you have an event or webinar that you would like included in our newsletter please email the information to: douglasccd1@gmail.com.

Jan 21st– [Jayhawk Audubon Field trip](#)-Lake Perry 8:00am
Contact Roger Boyd at rboymbird69@gmail.com or 785-424-0595 for more information.

Jan 23– [Jayhawk Audubon Education](#)-Native Plants in the City by Katie Kingery-Page– 7pm Contact Roger Boyd at rboymbird69@gmail.com or 785-424-0595 for more information.

Feb 1– [K-State Garden Hour Webinar](#)– Presentations are recorded and available online– registration required. 12-1:00pm

Feb 1 – [Jayhawk Audubon Field trip](#)-Baker Wetlands– East Gate 8:30am Contact Roger Boyd at rboymbird69@gmail.com or 785-424-0595 for more information.

Feb 3– [K-State Extension First Friday e-call](#)– Loan and Equity 9:30-10:30

Feb 9– [Douglas County Conservation District](#) Board Meeting– TBA– 785-843-4260

Feb 11th – [Jayhawk Audubon Field trip](#)-Kansas River– Bismark Lake & Midland Gull Fields Contact Roger Boyd at rboymbird69@gmail.com or 785-424-0595 for more information.

Feb 16- [Douglas County Conservation District](#) Annual Meeting- Douglas County Fairgrounds Bldg. 21- 6:00pm- RSVP 785-843-4260

March 1 – [K-State Garden Hour Webinar](#)– Presentations are recorded and available online– registration required. 12-1:00pm

March 3 – [K-State Extension First Friday e-call](#)– Kansas Tourism– Do for your towns economic development– 9:30-10:30am

March 25th – [Jayhawk Audubon Field trip](#)-Loess Bluffs National Wildlife Refuge 8:00am Contact Roger Boyd at rboymbird69@gmail.com or 785-424-0595 for more information.

March 29th – [Jayhawk Audubon Field trip](#)-Clinton Lake Dam and Model Airplane field 8:00am Contact Roger Boyd at rboymbird69@gmail.com or 785-424-0595 for more information.

Newsletter Quarter 1
VOL. 36 ISSUE 1

Protecting the Natural Resources of Douglas County Since 1945

Our Mission: To provide leadership and assistance in promoting individual responsibility for the conservation of Douglas County natural resources



Douglas County Conservation District Annual Meeting February 16th 6:00pm

To RSVP: Call our office at 785-843-4260 ext. 3 or e-mail douglasccd1@gmail.com to make your reservation **by February 13th**.

Please watch our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/douglasccd/> for updates.



Please Join Us

Douglas County Conservation District

77th Annual Meeting

Thursday, February 16th, 2023, 6:00 p.m.
www.douglasccd.com

Please join us for our 77th Annual Meeting. The District will make a full report of our activities and financial affairs. Voting for two Board Supervisor positions will take place at the meeting. If you have any questions please contact the District office via phone:785-843-4260 or email at douglasccd1@gmail.com.

AGENDA

Report of district activities and financial affairs for the prior year.
Election of Board Supervisor to serve for a term of three years.
Awards, Dinner, and Door Prizes.

To RSVP: Call our office at 785-843-4260 ext. 3 or e-mail douglasccd1@gmail.com to make your reservation by February 13th. To register on our website please visit <http://www.douglasccd.com/> or scan the QR code.



Seating is limited and registration prior to the meeting is required for in person attendance.
The meeting will also be streamed live on Facebook.

Contact our office at 785-843-4260 ext. 3
or e-mail douglasccd1@gmail.com should you have any questions.

Look forward to seeing you there.

WHAT TO SEE in Douglas County

January - March

THINGS TO LOOK FOR IN LATE WINTER

January

The short, cold days of January are perfectly timed for a reset for the coming year. It's a month of preparation, providing us with time to plan.

Some things to look for outside this month include fluffy seed heads from last year's plants and bald eagles atop transmission poles. Common Milkweed, *Asclepias syriaca*, is especially noticeable on roadsides throughout the great plains! Bald eagles have made an incredible comeback in the previous decades and can now be seen around bodies of water all over NE Kansas. Can you spot any while driving or exploring?

February

In Northeast Kansas, there are a handful of invasive plants that have been brought here and allowed to invade our natural areas. Bush honeysuckle is one invader we can work towards eliminating in the dead of winter.

Some things to look for outside this month include days getting longer, the winter solstice on Dec 21, 2022 was the shortest day of the year and every day gets a little more sunlight than the day before! Watch for waterfowl beginning their northward migration towards the end of this month into March.

March

All throughout the plant dormant season, people are practicing land stewardship by conducting prescribed fires. March is the last month in our county that dormant season burns are done. Once plants begin to green up this month and the next, we have entered the growing season for fire.

Some things to look for outside include our native perennial plants waking up and the songs of frogs to return to the vernal pools. This month, spring blooming native plants such as yarrow and wild violets begin to put out their first leaves. Watch for vibrant green in the leaf litter, grass thatch, and on recently burned fields.



**WANT TO KNOW HOW YOU CAN
ADD NATURE TO YOUR LANDSCAPE?**

**Hannah Pippert
Wildlife Biologist**

(785) 764 5565

hpippert@pheasantsforever.org

Whole Farm Health Series Coming soon!

This is a three week mini series designed to help farmers learn about the interrelationships between soil health, financial resilience and personal health and wellness.

Feb 23, March 2 and 9th, Thursdays from 5:30 – 8:30 PM at Grace Community Church, Overbrook, KS (Dinner included).

There will be a diverse group of speakers and presentations.

These events are hosted by :
Douglas County Extension office, KAWS (both Clinton Lake and Hillsdale Lake watersheds), Farm Bureau and Douglas County Conservation District.

Watch our Facebook page for more details
www.facebook.com/douglasccd



Upper Wakarusa Watershed
~ WRAPS Program ~



Watershed Priorities
2022 - 2025

Upper Wakarusa Upland and Riparian Areas

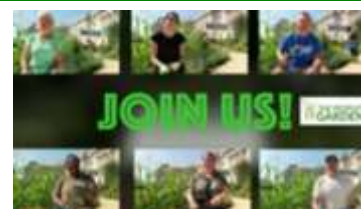
- Conservation Cost Share and Consultation** 
- Soil Health**
 - Cover Crops
 - Permanent Vegetation/Buffers
 - Nutrient Management/Applications
- Livestock**
 - Waterers
 - Feeding Sites
 - Permanent and Temporary Fencing
 - Rotational Grazing
- Small Farm Projects**

Call or Email Andrew Rutter
andrew.rutter@kaws.org
785-764-9362

Connecting the waters, lands, and people of Kansas



This project has been funded in part through Section 319 of the Clean Water Act.



USDA is expanding its People’s Garden Initiative to include eligible gardens nationwide. School gardens, community gardens, urban farms, and small-scale agriculture projects in rural, suburban and urban areas can be recognized as a “People’s Garden” if they register on the USDA website and meet criteria including benefitting the community, working collaboratively, incorporating conservation practices and educating the public. Affiliate People’s Garden locations will be indicated on a map on the USDA website, featured in USDA communications, and provided with a People’s Garden sign.

To learn more about People’s Garden or to register one, visit the People’s Garden webpage at usda.gov/Peoples-Garden.

From Farmers.gov



Baldwin City & Unincorporated Townships

Lumberyard Arts Center
718 High St, Baldwin City, KS
Thursday, Jan. 5th, 5:30pm-7pm

BIPOC Perspectives

(Black, Indigenous, People of Color)
Lawrence Public Library Auditorium
707 Vermont St, Lawrence, KS
Tuesday, Jan. 10th, 6pm-7:30pm

Lecompton & Unincorporated Townships

Lecompton Community Building
333 Elmore St., Lecompton, KS
Wednesday, Jan. 18th, 5:30-7pm

Farmer Perspectives

Flory Meeting Hall at the Douglas County Fairgrounds
2120 Harper St, Lawrence
Thursday, Jan. 26th, 11:30am-1pm



Please Join us for a Burn Demonstration

Douglas County Conservation District in partnership with Pheasants Forever and Grassland Heritage Foundation are sponsoring a burn event.

We will discuss the benefits of burning along with safety and protocol. With a live burn assisted by Ks Wildlife and Parks and the KS Fire Management– Kansas Forest Service.

Burn Details

Location: 1083 E 1400 Rd, Lawrence KS

When: Saturday, March 25th

Time: 9:00am

Lunch to follow.

Please RSVP by calling 785-843-4260 ext. 3.



Fire is a natural process that is essential to the health of forests and prairies alike, and has long been used by property owners and land managers to prevent unwanted stands of brush and cedar trees. Used properly, it can be a valuable tool. Used incorrectly, it contributes too many escaped fires in Kansas that cause property damage to neighbors, and expense to already under-funded fire departments all over the state. There is also a push in some other areas, where smoke from spring burning in Kansas causes air quality issues (as far away as the Tennessee valley on some days) to restrict any open burning. Politically, this seems unlikely to happen in the near future, but with current hot button issues of global warming and greenhouse gasses, it is only common sense for landowners to police themselves so that outside regulations will not limit our use of this valuable tool in the future.

One of the first steps in burning is to develop a plan for proper burning and to assemble the needed equipment. Proper preparation is essential to conducting a safe burn. Also contact local fire or law enforcement authorities to see what permits or notifications are required to burn legally. Once the plan is developed, the site prepared, and the equipment and needed help available, the final step is to actually select a time to burn. The critical factor for this is to study weather forecasts carefully. Many of the escaped burns on private land in Kansas occur because someone begins burning on an ideal morning, without being aware of weather changes that are coming – either because a weather system is changing later in the day, or the normal daily changes that occur as a spring day gets hotter, drier, and windier over the course of the day, which dramatically changes the fire behavior.

If there is a Fire Weather Watch or Red Flag Warning issued, no burning should occur.

Check the [Fire Weather Information](#) section of your local National Weather Service office website to learn of any watches or warnings. The other valuable information to review in the fire weather forecasts include wind changes, lowest relative humidity (if it will likely drop below 20%, burning will be very difficult to control), and other such factors that influence fire behavior. Items that are not fire safety related, but could impact future regulations, include transport winds and smoke dispersal. These help to identify where your smoke is going and who it will impact. If smoke dispersal is poor, wait to burn. If it is good, see where transport winds will take it.

If those wishing to burn will ensure that weather conditions will be safe, and that smoke dispersal will be good, without unduly impacting urban areas, prescribed fire will likely remain a useful resource in the land manager's tool box for years to come. **If not, we may eventually find it regulated to the point of being unusable.**

Article provided by the Kansas Forest Service.

ANNUAL LOCAL WORK GROUP MEETING

TO GATHER LOCAL PRODUCER INPUT

MONDAY FEBRUARY 27, 2023 1 - 3 PM

BAKER WETLANDS & DISCOVERY CENTER
1365 N 1250 RD, LAWRENCE KS 66046

The purpose of this meeting is to provide local producers with the opportunity to make recommendations to the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) State Conservationist and other federal and state agencies related to addressing natural resource concerns at the local level. We strive to have a diverse audience participate in the public event to assure all "boots on the ground" who are implementing voluntary conservation have a voice in the process.

Contact 785-241-7201 to request any special accommodations. Remote access will be available for those unable to attend in person; call for access code.



Cohosted by the Douglas, Franklin, Johnson, Miami, Shawnee and Wyandotte County Conservation Districts together with the Kansas Association of Conservation Districts

Douglas County, Kansas residents can take soil samples to the K-State Research and Extension Office in Douglas County. Through a grant from the Douglas County Conservation District, Douglas County Agriculture producers are eligible for up to 5 free soil tests each year. Soil samples can be taken to the:

K-State Extension Office in Douglas County
2110 Harper Street
Lawrence KS 66046
785-843-7058

Soil Testing Equipment is available to Douglas County Residents

- Soil probe
- Soil Compaction Meter

Check out our website for how to collect samples: <http://www.douglasccd.com/equipment-seed--contractors.html>

Upcoming 2023 Presentation From the Jayhawk Audubon Society

January Educational Presentation:

Native Plants in the City: 5 Ideas

by Katie Kingery-Page | Jan. 23rd (Mon.) 7 p.m.

Native plant landscapes in urban settings provide many things: wildlife forage and habitat, especially when part of a larger patch mosaic of habitats; soil+ root system to absorb storm-water and sequester carbon; microclimate adjustment through robust vegetation without irrigation; potential for a psychologically restorative environ; and a place for solitary or cooperative experiences of wonder. Drawing from her projects, the Meadow and Grassland Interview, landscape architect Katie Kingery-Page joins us from Kansas State University to share big ideas to inspire our civic imagination.



Last week, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) mailed the 2022 Census of Agriculture paper questionnaires to all known agriculture producers across the nation and Puerto Rico. **Last month**, producers in the states received their survey codes with an invitation to respond online. Any producer who did not respond online now has the option to complete the Ag Census at agcounts.usda.gov or by mail. Producers who have already responded to the 2022 Census of Agriculture online do not need to respond again. The deadline for response is Feb. 6, 2023.

Douglas County Conservation District Has tools to help you with your controlled burn.

The Douglas County Conservation District has the following equipment for residents to use:

- *Drip Torch*
- *Backpack Sprayer*
- *Flapper*

These Items are available for residents of Douglas county to check out free of charge. Contact the Douglas County Conservation Office at 785.843.4260 ext. 3 for more information or go to the link below.



Drip Torch



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



Backpack Sprayer



Flapper

A New Year- A new sign up!!

Time to mark your calendar and start thinking about upcoming projects such as terraces, waterways, tile systems, livestock waterers, streambank protection, and more.

Sign-up #1 runs from now through April 1, 2023. A second sign up may be available if we still have funds.

All cost-share practices must be built to Division of Conservation (DOC) approved standards. Specifications are based on USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Field Office Technical Guide Standards and Specifications. Cost-share funds are allocated using a ranking process approved by the Division of Conservation. Landowners should receive notice of approved projects no later than July 31, 2023.

To apply for funding, please call us (785-843-4260 x6500) to discuss how we can help with your next conservation project! An application can be downloaded from our website at <http://www.douglasccd.com/cost-share-programs.html>.

The Kansas Division of Conservation (DOC) administers state cost-share programs through your Conservation District. The District provides landowners financial and technical assistance to implement approved conservation practices. Funding is provided by the Division of Conservation, Kansas Department of Agriculture through appropriation from the Kansas Water Plan Fund.

Do you have a business that does conservation work in Douglas County?

If so, please contact us and get listed on our contractor list, free of charge.

This is often the first place people go to look for someone to do work on their land once approved for EQIP or state cost-share.

douglasccd1@gmail.com



Douglas County Conservation District

4920 Bob Billings Parkway, Suite A

Lawrence, KS 66049

Return Service Requested

DOUGLAS COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Funding provided by the State Conservation Commission through appropriation from the Kansas Water Plan Fund. All programs and services of the Conservation District are available to anyone without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age or handicap.

Douglas County Conservation District 785.843.4260, ext. 3

Office Hours: 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday

Board of Supervisors:

Jordan Olsen: Chairperson

Lowell Neitzel: Vice Chair

John Bradley: Treasurer

David Brown: Member

MacKenzie Flory: Member

District Personnel:

Suzy Mooney, District Manager

Jeremy Gaines, Soil Technician

Natural Resources Conservation Service:

Tim Miller, Supervisory District Conservationist

David Mooney, NRCS Clerk

Brooke Franklin, Natural Resource Specialist

Hannah Pippert, Pheasants Forever

Jennifer Green, Soil Conservationist

Farm Service Agency

785.843.4260, ext. 2

Garrett Pounds, County Executive Director

Debbie Chappelle, Program Tech

Jessica O'Trimble, Program Tech