

# Douglas County Conservation District



Healthy Soil • Clean Water  
Bright Future

Newsletter Quarter 4  
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*

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

Oct 7 - 8, 2021– Public hearings for comments on updated draft of the Kansas Water Plan. 2pm on Oct 7th and 10 am on Oct 8th. The virtual hearings are available at: <https://www.kwo.ks.gov/water-vision-water-plan/water-plan>

Oct 11, 2021– [Finances on the Farm](#)- This hands-on and self-paced course is designed for educational purposes and does not fulfill Farm Service Agency (FSA) borrower's requirements.

Oct 14, 2021 [Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for the Passerine Pavilion](#)– The community is invited to the ribbon cutting to celebrate the new Passerine Pavilion

Nov 10, 2021- [Careers in Agroforestry](#)– 6-7pm Savanna Institute's Farm Director, Erik Hagan, Farm Manager, Kaitie Adams and the University of Missouri Center for Agroforestry's Outreach and Education Coordinator, Hannah Hemmelgarn will discuss their journey to careers in agroforestry, and the on and off-farm opportunities that exist to get started and stay engaged in perennial agriculture.

## Let the Kansas Water Office know what your district means to you

The Kansas Water Office is in the final stages of updating the Kansas Water Plan (KWP). The Water Office is accepting written comments on the KWP until October 15. This is an opportunity for every conservation district, and our supporters, to write in support of conservation districts and all the work we do. State Aid to Conservation Districts has been questioned repeatedly the last few years and the KWO/KWA need to hear from us, and the taxpayers who utilize our programs, regarding all we accomplish across the state with this extremely critical funding.

Written comments are being accepted until midnight on Friday, October 15, 2021. Written comments may be submitted any of the following ways: (1) by U.S. mail or other delivery service to The Kansas Water Office, 900 SW Jackson Street, Suite 404, Topeka, Kansas 66611-1249, or (2) by sending an electronic copy via email to email [kwo-info@kwo.ks.gov](mailto:kwo-info@kwo.ks.gov).

## Conservation Conversation

With the new year just around the corner, the Douglas County Conservation District is reviving its Conservation Conversation series of lectures. We want to hear from you, our customers, on what topics are of interest. Contact our office at [douglasccd1@gmail.com](mailto:douglasccd1@gmail.com) with your ideas and we will see what we can put together.

Beginning in January we hope to offer live speaking engagements every-other month on a variety of topics. In the past we have dealt with farm succession planning, food forests, bird decline, cover crops, hemp production, pollinators, pond management and much more. So let us hear from you, what you would like to hear about and we will do our best to get your topic covered.

Find Us Online: <http://www.douglasccd.com/> and Follow us on Facebook: [www.facebook.com/douglasccd](http://www.facebook.com/douglasccd)

## Welcome to our newest member of the NRCS team!



Brooke Franklin started as the new Natural Resource Specialist at the Lawrence, KS Field Office on August 30<sup>th</sup>. She grew up in Lenexa, KS before graduating in 2019 with a M.S. in Sustainable Food Systems from Prescott College where her focus was on increasing native pollinators and school gardens. Brooke has worked with major food wholesalers and specialty crop farmers, as well as local schools, while advocating for farm to school programs. She is excited to start her career with the NRCS to continue her work advocating for a healthy food system. In her free time, she enjoys cooking, gardening, and running, but mostly spending time with her husband, Dave, two teenage daughters, Teal and Violet, and their two dogs, Onyx and Scooby, on their 3 acres of paradise in Shawnee, KS.

## Welcome to our newest member of the Douglas Conservation District!



Suzy Mooney has started as the New Education Outreach Coordinator for the Douglas County Conservation District. I grew up on a small farm in Missouri, however, I have lived in Lawrence KS for the last 20 years. I have been working the last 2 years in partnership with the NRCS, assisting Tim Miller with both EQIP and CSP applications and contracts and plan to continue to work with the NRCS while working with the District. I believe that for there to be change in agriculture practices, there needs to be opportunities. Opportunities to learn, grow, and explore the different processes, and understand the impact it has. I am excited to help provide these opportunities. I enjoy spending time with my husband (Robert) 6 children, 3 grandchildren, and our dog and cat. Hobbies include cooking, plants, crafts, hiking, biking, and volunteering at church.



According to an article in <sup>1</sup> *The Washington Post*, a boy entering his bug collection in the 4-H competition at the Kansas State Fair included a spotted Lanternfly. The spotted Lanternfly is considered an invasive species that has been primarily infesting the eastern states after coming to Pennsylvania in 2014 from Asia. This specimen was found in Thomas County Kansas more than 850 miles from the nearest known infestation of spotted lanternfly. The spotted lanternfly adults do not normally fly far but are considered good hitchhikers. Residents of counties where they do have infestations are encouraged to inspect vehicles and goods before transporting.

<sup>2</sup> The *Topeka Capital Journal* had more to say about the hitchhiking habits of the spotted lanternfly. In the fall or early winter, the lanternfly will seek flat surfaces to lay mud-like egg masses. They lay them on wood, brick stone metal as long as the mud will attach. So, if a traveler passes through an infested area and was stopped long enough, the lanternfly could make it's way to Kansas.

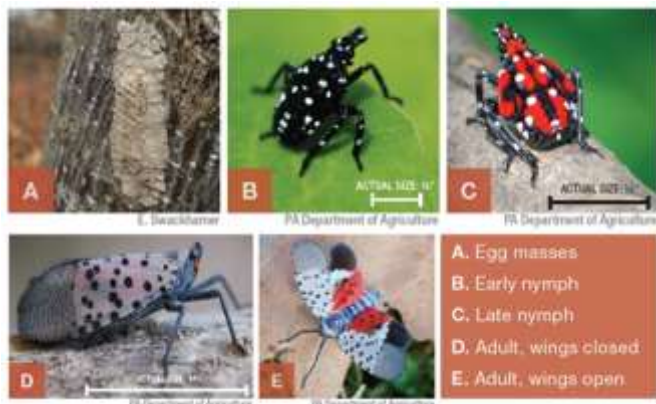
Surprisingly the spotted lanternfly is not a fly at all, they are actually related to cicadas and thorn bugs. Although they can appear to be a pretty bug. What they do to the plants is anything but. As mentioned above, the spotted lanternfly is an invasive species. An invasive species is a non-native species that can cause great economic and environmental harm. The lanternfly is Causes harm by using its piercing mouth to feed on the honeydew liquid inside over 70 plant species including grapes, apples, hops, walnuts and hardwood trees. While feeding the spotted lanternfly leaves behind a sticky substance. This substance turns to mold and blocks the plant from photosynthesizing and kills the plant.

One lanternfly does not mean that there is an infestation. This sighting is currently under investigation by the USDA and the Kansas Department of Agriculture. <sup>2</sup> If you discover the insect crush any adults, then scrape off the eggs and place in a plastic bag with rubbing alcohol or hand sanitizer to kill them. Then contact the Kansas Department of agriculture in Topeka at 785-296-3556.

Thank you to Pen State College extension office for the following pictures and information on the Spotted Lanternfly.

## Spotted Lanternfly: What to Look For

**Spotted Lanternfly, *Lycorma delicatula*, is a new threat to the United States, and experts are still learning how to combat it.**



Life Stages of Spotted Lanternfly All life stages of



**Early Stage Nymph of Spotted Lanternfly** An early stage nymph (1st-3rd instars). These hatch from the eggs and are just a few millimeters in length. As they age, they grow to be ~1/4 inch long. They have black bodies and legs, and are covered in bright white spots. They are strong jumpers, and will jump when prodded or frightened. Image by Dalton Ludwick



**Spotted Lanternfly Egg Masses - Fresh** Freshly laid egg masses, which are about 1" long and laid on hard surfaces, including trees, stones, patio furniture, etc. The egg masses are covered in a white putty-like substance, which age over time to look like cracked mud. Image by Erica Smyers.

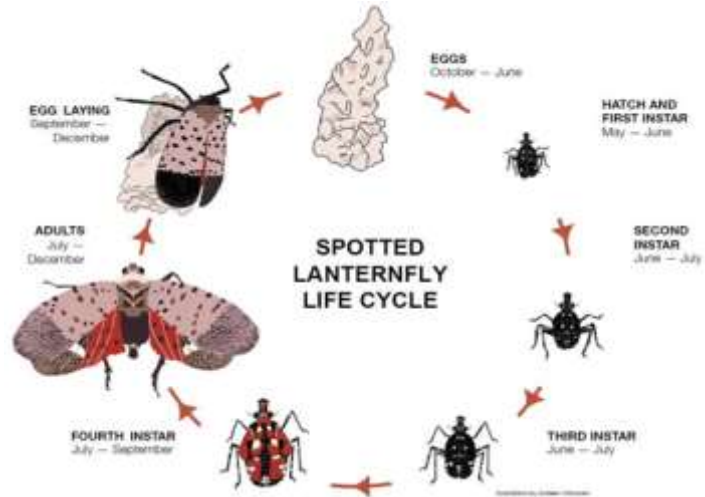


**Late Stage Nymph of Spotted Lanternfly** A late stage nymph (4th instars). These are the last nymph stage before becoming adults. They are ~1/2 inch long, and are bright red, covered in black stripes and white spots. They are strong jumpers, and will jump when prodded or frightened. Image by Dalton Ludwick

## Spotted Lanternfly: What to Look For –continued



Adult Spotted Lanternfly - Top-view The top-view of a spotted lanternfly adult. Adults are about 1" long. The females tend to be slightly larger than the males. Photo by Mike Houtz.



Life Cycle of Spotted Lanternfly The life cycle of spotted lanternfly, beginning from egg to adult. There is one generation per year. Adults die in the winter, and leave the eggs overwinter and hatch in the spring



Adult Spotted Lanternfly - Side-view The side-view of a spotted lanternfly adult. Photo by Dalton Ludwick.



Adult Spotted Lanternfly- Open-wings An adult spotted lanternfly with its wings open. While spotted lanternfly adults can fly, they often prefer to jump and glide. You will see their wings when they are flying and gliding. You may also see them when they are frightened, or when they have been poisoned with an insecticide. Photo by Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture.

## Kansas Department of Parks, Wildlife and Tourism Deer Vehicle Crashes Increase in Fall

Mating season and the quest for more secure habitat have deer on the move this time of year, increasing the chances of vehicle collisions. Typically, the greatest occurrence of deer-vehicle crashes is in mid- November when the rut, or mating season, peaks. According to the Kansas Department of Transportation, 15 percent of Kansas crashes last year were deer-related.

The Kansas Highway Patrol (KHP) cautions drivers to avoid taking extra-ordinary measures to avoid striking a deer in the road, lest a bad situation become even worse. "If you are unfortunate enough to have a deer enter the highway in front of your car, it is best to hit the animal and not swerve to avoid it," said the KHP's Lt. Adam Winters. "Often we find more serious crashes occur when you swerve in avoidance."

Other tips to avoid deer collisions include:

Be especially watchful at dawn and dusk when deer are particularly active.

Watch for more than one deer, as they seldom travel alone.

Reduce speed and be alert near wooded areas or green spaces such as parks or golf courses and near water sources such as streams or ponds.

Deer crossing signs show where high levels of deer/vehicle crashes have occurred in the past.

Use your bright lights to help you detect deer as far ahead as possible.

If you do hit a deer, here are some additional tips:

Don't worry about the animal. Law enforcement will arrange to have the animal removed from the road when they arrive. Tell law enforcement dispatch if the deer is still in the road when reporting the crash call.

If possible, remain in the vehicle, and remain buckled up, protecting yourself in the event there is a secondary crash involving another vehicle.

If you must be outside your vehicle, stand as far off the road as possible; make sure hazard lights are activated; don't stand between your vehicle and another vehicle; and make sure children are kept properly restrained in your vehicle.



To report a crash on Kansas highways from a cellular phone, call \*47 (\*HP) for a highway patrol dispatcher or \*582 (\*KTA) for assistance on the Kansas Turnpike. The crash can also be reported by dialing 911.

(Information provided by <http://ksoutdoors.com>).



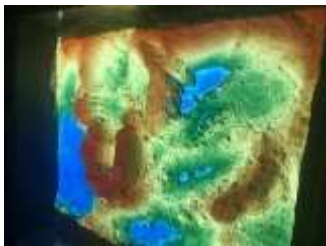
## Educational Opportunities For Your School

The Douglas County Conservation District has access to several different ways to help your children appreciate and understand conservation.

We can bring these tools to your school and present them for you or just be there to help you with your own presentation.

Just contact us and let us know which presentation you had in mind. We do need plenty of notice as these items are shared through-out the state.

Available items include:



Augmented Reality Sandbox



Earth Balloon



Inflatable and Non inflatable Soil Tunnel



Wind Erosion Simulator



Rainfall Simulator



Soil Tunnel Trailor



Stream Trailor

## Help Needed for Douglas County Families

Douglas County is expanding food recovery on local farms. Recovering unsold produce from farms started last year with a local group of community members called Community Organized Gleaners. This growing season Douglas County is joining forces and expanding this effort!

Since the pandemic, Douglas County agencies who provide food to those in need have seen a significant increase in visits to their food pantries and facilities. Just Food's pantry supplies food to community members weekly, the Lawrence Community Shelter provides four meals daily, and community members pick up from Sunrise Project's take-what-you-need porch which is always open, and provides community meals weekly. Some of the most requested items from the families served at Just Food are fresh foods including produce. Food recovery requires the help of many hands! You can support food waste reduction and recovery of edible food while helping feed people in need by signing up to volunteer. We are actively signing up volunteers for the upcoming season to help glean fields, deliver food, and recruit gleaners. Individuals and groups are welcome. Please contact Jamie Hofling at [jhofling@douglascountyks.org](mailto:jhofling@douglascountyks.org).

If you are a farm interested in having your field gleaned, contact Food Waste Reduction Specialist, Jamie Hofling at [jhofling@douglascountyks.org](mailto:jhofling@douglascountyks.org).



## Voice your opinion

The City of Lawrence and all of Douglas County are impacted by climate change in ways that seriously affect people, ecosystems, and businesses. We are building a Climate Action Plan to adapt to these impacts and work to slow climate change. We are looking for voices from every corner of the community. That includes you. Go to [lawrenceks.org/climate](http://lawrenceks.org/climate) to participate





**THANK YOU FOR OUR GENEROUS SPONSORS****Advertise Your Business Here****Help Support the Conservation District**

**\$200 gets your business card size ad in our  
newsletter for 1 entire year.**

**Call 785-843-4260 x6497 for more information.**

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](mailto:douglasccd1@gmail.com)

**Contractor & Vendor Information**

4500 Sub Bldg: Pkwy, Suite A,  
Lawrence, KS 66049  
Phone: 785.843.4260, ext. 3  
Website: [www.douglasccd.com](http://www.douglasccd.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:

David Brown, Chair  
Luke Ulrich, Vice Chair  
Lowell Neitzel, Treasurer  
John Bradley, Member  
Jordan Olsen, Member

District Personnel:

Randy Winchester, District Manager  
Jeremy Gaines, Soil Technician  
Suzy Mooney, Education Outreach

Natural Resources Conservation Service:

Tim Miller, Supervisory District Conservationist  
Brooke Franklin, Natural Resource Specialist  
Suzy Mooney, NRCS Clerk

Farm Service Agency

785.843.4260, ext. 2  
David Sweany, County Executive Director  
Debbie Chappelle, Program Tech  
Jessica Siedschlag, Program Tech

