

Douglas County Conservation District



Healthy Soil • Clean Water
Bright Future

Newsletter Quarter 3/2020
VOL. 34 ISSUE 3

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*

COVID –19 Resources

Douglas County Coronavirus Response and Recovery Hub

Douglas County has a [COVID-19 Recovery Coordination Team](#) that is modeled after FEMA's National Disaster Recovery Framework. The team includes: Douglas County, City of Lawrence, Lawrence-Douglas County Public Health, LMH Health, The Chamber of Lawrence, University of Kansas and Lawrence Public Schools. These agencies will help manage the community's long-term recovery and will focus on four areas: economic recovery, health and medical services, housing and human services, and education.

This page provides information, maps and resources about the coronavirus response and recovery in our local area. <https://coronavirus-response-dgco.hub.arcgis.com/>

KDHE Coronavirus (COVID-19) Response

Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) COVID-19 Response <https://www.coronavirus.kdheks.gov/>

COVID-19 Federal Rural Resource Guide

USDA and its Federal partners have programs that can be used to provide immediate and long-term assistance to rural communities affected by the COVID-19 outbreak. These programs can support recovery efforts for rural residents, businesses and communities through:

- technical, training, and management assistance;
- financial assistance; and
- state and local assistance.

https://www.rd.usda.gov/sites/default/files/USDA_COVID-19_Fed_Rural_Resource_Guide.pdf



Douglas County Fair 2020 Update

During the June meeting of the Douglas County Fair Board, the Fair Board approved a proposal to change the format of the Douglas County Fair. The proposal adopted for the 2020 Douglas County Fair will provide a showcase for 4-H members to exhibit their projects. Unfortunately, due to the COVID-19 pandemic the approved proposal will cancel the normal public events our fair contains; this includes all entertainment and commercial events for the 2020 Douglas County Fair. We understand that this decision affects a lot of people in our county and was not taken lightly. We appreciate your understanding and support as we work through these unprecedented times. The Fair Board has met with the Douglas County Extension Council and has worked to create the opportunity for all 4-H/FFA participants to have the 2020 projects judged at the Douglas County Free Fair.

Currently there are no plans for Open Class Exhibits/Displays for 2020. The Fair Board will limit spectators to 4-H exhibitors and family during any activity at the fairgrounds based on Health Department recommendations in effect at the time of the activity. The Fair Board will investigate providing online streaming of selected activities to the general public.

The Fair Board and Extension staff have been in consultation with State, County and City officials to make sure plans for judging 4-H projects meet social distancing and crowd requirements. While the Board is disappointed that a traditional fair will not be possible, it is proud that an alternative could be provided to support the 4-H exhibitors.

Any questions or comments should be directed to the Douglas County Fair Board at dgcountysfair@gmail.com, or the Douglas County Extension Office at 785-843-7058.

Help Support Local Agriculture Related Businesses

Shop Kansas Farms
By Rick McNary

As my wife and I watched a Hallmark movie one evening, she commented that the meat section at the grocery store was empty that day.

However, we had just dined on exquisite beef from KCK Farms in Anthony. I wondered how I could let my friends know about Gregg and Katie Carothers, as well as other great farmers and ranchers in Kansas.

I grabbed my laptop and started the Facebook group, Shop Kansas Farms. It went from zero to 139,000+ members in the first six weeks. I felt like a little kid who saw a plug sticking out of dam and tugged on it and suddenly got bowled over in a flood.

Thankfully, two friends, Meagan Cramer, VP of Communications at Kansas Farm Bureau, and Olivia Fletcher, software developer for Garmin, jumped in a lifeboat and rescued me as they became admins on the site.

Observations I've made:

1. **Fear is the fundamental driver; but the farming community provides hope.** Empty meat counters strike fear into the heart of any consumer. However, the farming community is providing hope.
2. **A local and regional community is being built around agriculture.** I have spent the last 20+ years in the hunger space and it is my opinion that any solution to hunger has to be done in the context of community and that community has to be based on need, not on convenience. Shop Kansas Farms is a community based on need.
3. **Education is happening.** Consumers are learning how agriculture works and people in agriculture are learning to speak a language the consumer understands.
4. **Rural revitalization is taking place.** This new economy is providing opportunities in rural areas that have been slowly dying.
5. **It's hard to stay focused on the purpose.** The single purpose is to connect people looking for food to the wonderful farm and ranch families of Kansas so they could purchase directly from them. However, many members have tried to take it in other directions, but our admins/moderators have stayed true to the mission.
6. **People want to buy local.** The disruption of our food chain has intensified the desire for people to buy local.
7. **A Regional Food System is being built.** In the previous food chain, the average calorie traveled 1,500 miles to reach our plates. Now, people are purchasing food from as close as their next-door neighbor.
8. **This is a movement.** Already, these type of "Shop Our State Farms" are springing up around Americas as people follow this model.
9. **Farmers have a new communication platform.** For years, farmers and ranchers have looked for ways to connect to consumers to dispel fears about food, provide learning opportunities and just become friends.

This will continue after Covid-19 crisis. Companies spend millions of dollars crafting a narrative for a product. However, now consumers have their own stories. Know your food, know your farmer, is no longer a catch phrase because real relationships are being built as people buy from people.



FROM THE LAND OF
KANSAS

From the Land of Kansas is a trademark program designed to promote and celebrate agricultural experiences and products grown, raised or produced in Kansas. The From the Land of Kansas brand makes it easier for people to find and support Kansas-made products and Kansas-based businesses. The program offers an array of incentives to Kansas companies – big and small – who grow, raise, serve or produce products in the state.

Farmers Market Directory <https://www.fromthelandofkansas.com/market/list>

Soil Health Workshop in the Upper Wakarusa Watershed

When:

August 11, 2020
8:00 AM—Noon

Location:

Clinton Wildlife Area
206 N. 1600 Rd
Lecompton, KS 66050

Speakers:

Dave Kohake

NRCS, Area Resource Soil Scientist

Matt Wyckoff,

Prime Ag Services LLC.



REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED:

To register by email: douglasccd1@gmail.com
Phone: 785-843-4260 ext 3

Join us on our next soil health workshop. Our team will also be discussing the cover crop planting tests being carried out at the field site we will be plotting and comparing five different cover crop planting methods. The field in which we are carrying out this study is adjacent to the workshop site. We will learn from Matt Wyckoff, Owner of Prime Ag Solutions about things you can do to improve your soil health and increase your bottom line. Participants will see a hands-on water infiltration demonstration by Dave Kohake, NRCS Soil Scientist. Dave will be pulling a soil sample from the field and explaining the results.

We would like to extend a special **Thank You** to Tom Funk and Kevin Lane for providing recommendations, feedback and access to their field.



Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) 2021 Applications Open

The Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) provides financial and technical assistance to agricultural and forestry producers to address natural resource concerns and deliver environmental benefits such as improved water and air quality, conserved ground and surface water, reduced soil erosion and sedimentation, and improved or created wildlife habitat.

For more information contact your local NRCS Office:

Douglas County—Lawrence Service Center

4920 Bob Billings Parkway
Lawrence, KS 66049
(785) 843-4260

<https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/ks/programs/financial/eqip/>

[Forestland Health](#) (PDF; 83 KB)

[Grazing Lands Health](#) (PDF; 176 KB)

[High Tunnel System](#) (PDF; 76 KB)

[Livestock Waste](#) (PDF; 86 KB)

[Organic Transition](#) (PDF; 81 KB)

[Soil Health](#) (PDF; 81 KB)

[Water Quality](#) (PDF; 87 KB)

[Water Quantity](#) (PDF; 86 KB)

[Wildlife Habitat](#) (PDF; 76 KB)

[Beginning Farmer or Rancher](#) (PDF; 88 KB)

[Socially Disadvantaged Farmer or Rancher](#) (PDF; 88 KB)

[Anderson Creek Wildfire Initiative](#) (PDF; 301 KB)

[National Water Quality Initiative](#) (PDF; 104 KB)

[On-Farm Energy Initiative](#) (PDF; 80 KB)

[Working Lands for Wildlife - Lesser Prairie-Chicken Initiative](#) (PDF; 81 KB)

[Working Lands for Wildlife - Monarch Butterfly Initiative](#) (PDF; 72 KB)

Farmers and Ranchers in Kansas Can Now Apply for Financial Assistance through USDA's Coronavirus Food Assistance Program (CFAP)



Agricultural producers can now apply for USDA's Coronavirus Food Assistance Program (CFAP), which provides direct payments to offset impacts from the coronavirus pandemic. The application and a payment calculator are now available online, and USDA's Farm

Service Agency (FSA) staff members are available via phone, fax and online tools to help producers complete applications.

The agency set up a call center in order to simplify how they serve new customers across the nation.

Applications will be accepted through August 28, 2020.

Through CFAP, USDA is making available \$16 billion for vital financial assistance to producers of agricultural commodities who have suffered a five-percent-or-greater price decline due to COVID-19 and face additional significant marketing costs as a result of lower demand, surplus production, and disruptions to shipping patterns and the orderly marketing of commodities.

We also want to remind producers that the program is structured to ensure the availability of funding for all eligible producers who apply.

In order to do this, producers will receive 80 percent of their maximum total payment upon approval of the application. The remaining portion of the payment, not to exceed the payment

limit, will be paid at a later date nationwide, as funds remain available.

Producers can download the CFAP application and other eligibility forms from farmers.gov/cfap. Also, on that webpage, producers can find a payment calculator to help identify sales and inventory records needed to apply and calculate potential payments.

Additionally, producers in search of one-on-one support with the CFAP application process can call 877-508-8364 to speak directly with a USDA employee ready to help. This is a good first step before a producer engages the team at the FSA county office at their local USDA Service Center.

Applying for Assistance

Producers of all eligible commodities will apply through their local FSA office. Those who use the online calculator tool will be able to print off a pre-filled CFAP application, sign, and submit to your local FSA office either electronically or via hand delivery. Please contact your local office to determine the preferred method. Find contact information for your local office at farmers.gov/cfap.

Documentation to support the producer's application and certification may be requested after the application is filed. FSA has streamlined the signup process to not require an acreage report at the time of application and a USDA farm number may not be immediately needed.

More Information

To find the latest information on CFAP, visit farmers.gov/cfap or call 877-508-8364.

Wild About Kansas Photo Contest Going on Now

PRATT – Have you been working on your outdoor photography skills recently? If you've taken a photo highlighting Kansas wildlife, outdoor recreation, hunting, fishing, or local landscapes consider submitting your work in the 2020 "Wild About Kansas" 8th annual photo contest hosted by *Kansas Wildlife and Parks Magazine*! Deadline for participating in the contest is Oct. 18 by 11:59 p.m.

Here's how to enter.

1. Visit ksoutdoors.com, click "Publications," then "2020 Wild About Kansas Photo Contest."
2. Carefully read each category description, and contest rules.
3. Complete the "2020 'Wild About Kansas' Entry Form" found at the bottom of the webpage. (You will receive a confirmation code upon completion).
4. Copy your confirmation code into the subject line of a new e-mail.
5. Attach your photos, and detail which category each photo should be entered into (one category per image). E-mail your photos to kdwpt.wildaboutkansas@ks.gov.

Participants whose images have been selected for a 1st, 2nd, 3rd



place or honorable mention award will have their winning imagery featured in the 2021 January/February photo issue of *Kansas Wildlife and Parks Magazine*.

Photos must be:

- 1 megabyte (MB) or larger
- Taken in Kansas
- Appropriate for the category entered

For more information, visit ksoutdoors.com/Services/Publications/Magazine/2020-Wild-About-Kansas-Photo-Contest

Online Events from Noble Research Institute

JULY 9: Stocking Fish in Warm Water Ponds

Ponds can provide you with endless hours of recreation, and they can increase the value of your property. If you are interested in stocking your new or existing pond with fish, join consultant Mike Porter to find out how to get started. You'll have the chance to ask questions and engage in online discussion during this livestreamed event.

REGISTER: <https://www.noble.org/events/>

TIME: Noon—12:40 CST

WHAT YOU WILL LEARN: How to stock fish to establish a new fishery

How to stock a pond with fish to improve an existing pond

HOW YOU WILL LEARN: Online seminar & Q&A

WHO SHOULD ATTEND: Landowners or managers looking to improve management of their ponds for fishing

RELATED RESOURCES:

[“Proper Management Ensures Good Quality Fisheries in Ponds,” Noble Research Institute](#)

[“Think Before Putting Fish, Plants, Water and More in a Pond,” Noble Research Institute](#)



JULY 16: Managing Existing Fish in a Pond

Do you want to catch bigger bass from your pond? If so, you'll want to join consultant Steven Smith to learn what tools and techniques you can use to improve the quality of fish in your pond. You'll have the chance to ask questions and engage in online discussion during this livestreamed event.

REGISTER: <https://www.noble.org/events/>

TIME: Noon—12:40 CST

WHAT YOU WILL LEARN:

- How to manage an existing fish population to improve it
- How to increase the size of bass and other fish species

HOW YOU WILL LEARN:

- Online seminar
- Q&A

WHO SHOULD ATTEND:

- Landowners or managers looking to improve management of their ponds for fishing

RELATED RESOURCES:

[“Monitoring Bass and Bluegill Populations in Ponds,” Noble Research Institute](#)

[“Managing a Stunted Largemouth Bass Fishery,” Noble Research Institute](#)

[“Key Concepts: Quality Largemouth Bass Sport Fishing in Ponds,” Noble Research Institute](#)



What do the candidates for County Commissioner have to say:

Douglas County Conservation District asked: As a county commissioner, how do you feel you can best support agricultural conservation within Douglas county and the District's goal to provide leadership and assistance in promoting individual responsibility for the conservation of Douglas County natural resources?

Nancy Thellman



County Commissioners have a unique role to play in promoting and funding efforts that save our soil. By "save our soil," I mean more than stopping soil erosion. Keeping soil where it belongs is only one part of soil conservation. There's more we can do—much more.

Soil is essential to life. Soil makes the food we eat, filters the water we drink, cleans the air we breathe, and soil sequesters carbon—a critical component driving climate change. We already live with increasingly frequent and extreme weather events, changed temperature zones, changed patterns of animal and pest migration, struggling agricultural economy, deleterious impacts on human health, and even inward migration of island and coastal dwellers struggle with rising ocean levels. Conserving soil—the living, breathing skin of the earth—is absolutely essential, now more than ever. We in Douglas County must play our part.

To that end, I support funding our county conservation district more than state statute requires—and we do. Further, I support generous funding and other forms of county in-kind efforts as measurable improvements in soil conservation, soil health, carbon sequestration, water quality and dedication to regenerative soil practices are made for rural and urban landowners alike.

Our district does good work already, especially through education. But these challenging times demand so much more. I stand ready to help with that work and have, in fact, enlisted the interest of the No Regrets Initiative (www.noregretsinitiative.com) to establish a public/private funding partnership in this important work. Curtailed by Covid-19, I have no doubt the Conservation District Board of Directors will eventually pick up this important collaborative work once this strange season of Covid-19 allows. In the meantime, I'm grateful for their ongoing efforts to serve Douglas County and it's living soil

Karen Willey



Hello! I am Karen Willey, a farmer/rancher in southern Douglas County, a former member of the DCCD board, and a current member of the K-State Extension board. I am running for a seat on the County Commission representing District 3. My territory is the entire western half of the county including Big Springs, Stull, Clinton, Lone Star, Globe, Worden, west Lawrence, and Lecompton, so

the 3rd district is our best chance of electing a commissioner who speaks for farmers, landowners, and anyone who travels gravel to get home.

The pandemic has strained our food system especially for farmers marketing cattle, hogs, goat, and lamb this spring as the processing plants filled up or slowed down. Douglas County needs to step up its support for agricultural infrastructure, especially the local businesses that help farmers market and process their

crops.

Farmers are all too familiar with taking risks. Adopting new conservation practices can improve profitability and resilience on our farms, but they involve some initial risk. There are funds available to help with that through the Conservation District. Soil health, erosion controls, pollinator habitat, and native spaces benefit our farms, neighborhoods, and human health. I am committed to these practices on my farm and I am committed to funding organizations that provide support for people interested in voluntary conservation work.

I have great hope that the Douglas County Conservation district will be the voice of our landowners and land stewards to the county commission and provide cutting edge conservation learning opportunities to our urban and rural residents. I especially enjoy helping our city neighbors understand and value our local farms. I bridge the gap between the urban and rural communities in Douglas County and I would be glad for your vote for the County Commission. Thank you! – Karen Willey

Ronald Thacker



Ronald and his wife Karmell Thacker reside on 20 acres in Lecompton township. Approximately 13 acres are hayed by a neighbor and there is a small orchard, vineyard, and beehives. They have been Farm Bureau members since 2011 and their property is financed through Frontier Farm Credit. They are members of Rural Water District #6 and Free State Electric Co-

op. Ronald graduated from Perry-Lecompton High School and is a 20-year Navy Veteran. He earned a bachelor's degree in accounting from Baker University, a master's degree in Public Administration from Troy University, and a master's degree in National Security and Strategic Studies from the Naval War College. Ronald served as Trustee for Lecompton United Methodist Church, on the Territorial Days Committee and as Lecompton City Treasurer. He is currently serving on the Lecompton Fire District Board, Precinct Committeeman for Lecompton and is chairman of the Douglas County Republicans. He serves on the Kansas Republican State Committee and helped select Kansas delegates to the 2020 National Republican Convention.

Ronald has significant experience in Logistics, Budgeting, Purchasing, Infrastructure, and Life Cycle Maintenance through his Naval Service. This experience translates directly into the government oversight role expected from a Douglas County Commissioner. The biggest challenge Ronald sees facing Douglas County is rapid urbanization and how we keep the balance between economic growth and preserving our agricultural economy and small-town heritage. As county commissioner Ronald can best support agricultural conservation by making sure that the true conservation experts, the landowners themselves, have the strongest voice in land management. NOT those who would impose a political position on land management or try to drive landowners out with excessive regulation and taxes. For more information or to schedule a speaking engagement please email Ronald.thacker@hotmail.com

Candidates for County Commissioner response continued.

Sara Taliaferro



Every time I drive around Douglas County, I am struck by the beauty and harmony of its patchwork of family farms, natural areas, and small communities. I know that Douglas County has a good record of stewardship of its historic agricultural, natural, and cultural resources. But I also understand that Douglas County's population has increased by 10% between 2010 and 2018

and will continue to grow. I know that growth and development patterns of the cities and towns within the County will have impacts on its rural areas. Therefore, as County Commissioner, I will work collaboratively with all residents to ensure a balance of human and conservation needs while we adapt to the changes and, during that process, preserve what we value.

Foremost in the environmental work I have done is an awareness of how critical water is to the health and livelihood of the region. I once spent a summer surveying riverbanks to document their health and to catalog the trees and plants growing there. I saw firsthand how these areas along rivers and streambanks serve as filters that protect the water from pollutants, control erosion and sedimentation, and provide habitat for wildlife. This in turn protects agricultural lands from erosion. Any development or human activity needs to respect and preserve these natural areas along streams and rivers, as well as to keep intact our County's agricultural lands, wetlands, woodlands, and prairies.

Statewide, Kansas has lost almost six thousand farms since 2000. Douglas County has generally bucked that trend, but I know this cannot be taken for granted nor left to chance. I look forward to adjusting our response to new challenges and deepening the partnerships and collaborations from the state level on down to the family farm and natural heritage sites, ensuring that we work together to make all communities strong.

Sara Taliaferro, Candidate for Douglas County Commission, District 2

Shannon Portillo



I've served on the Board of Directors for the Willow Domestic Violence Center for the past five years. We have an annual operating budget over 1.5 million, and every month as a board we review our finances, but a few years ago we started a practice at our monthly board meetings of telling the story of a single line item in the budget. That line item may be our rural outreach,

or professional development for our staff, or transitional housing for survivors. It's a way for us to discuss the numbers and connect them to our mission and to our role in the community. Budgets at their core are values documents. When I look at the overall budget for the Willow I'm proud of the story it tells. As County Commissioner I will work to ensure that our county budget reflects the values and goals of our voters. I will be accountable to our voter's calls for conservation and sustainability. As commissioner I will also ensure we have diverse voices appointed to key community boards and leadership positions. As we consider agricultural and environmental conservation, we must acknowledge the Indigenous lands we are on and engage with Indigenous com-

munities as a central part of our efforts to conserve Douglas County natural resources. I look forward to working with the Douglas County Conservation District, and serving as a Commissioner representing District Three. Please do not hesitate to reach out if you would like to discuss my candidacy and policy stances further.

Pam McDermott



Thank you for the opportunity to respond to your request for information about my thoughts on supporting agriculture conservation and the District's goals in our county. I care very much about Lawrence and Douglas County, and now, because I have decided to try to serve our community in a different way, I am in a process where I am meeting more people, listen-

ing, and learning.

One of my faith values that I strive to live by is that we are to be good caretakers of the natural resources this earth has been blessed with. We all have many choices we make each day to either steward the resources we have or to use them up for our own benefits.

Water and soil are two of the most basic resources we have and how we steward them has an enormous impact on the ability of farmers to feed the world today and on into the future when my grandchildren and yours are raising families. Understanding that connection and promoting individual responsibility to the next generation is good and important work.

I understand the USDA NRCS, the KDA Division of Conservation, and our local Conservation District all cooperate to help our local landowners be good stewards of our natural resources, and I trust that our local leadership is engaged, creative, and entrepreneurial in their approach to serving people.

I look forward to gaining more insight so that I can support the Conservation District as needed.

Shannon Reid



As your Douglas County Commissioner, I commit to actively listening to folks throughout our community about what support and leadership should look like when it comes to providing assistance in promoting meaningful conservation efforts around our entire district. I will not pretend to be an expert about things I haven't learned enough about just yet; however I will commit to learning what I don't yet know and trusting

the expertise of local agricultural producers and conservationists who are already doing the work. I believe protecting our natural resources through sustainable practices and purposeful land management is key to creating a more healthy & robust environment for both our local families and all of our area wildlife residents. Douglas County is full of so much incredible natural beauty & thriving ecosystems; it is our county leaders' responsibility to provide the tangible support deemed necessary to help educate and assist individuals all around the county about how to be the the most impeccable stewards of the land and waterways that we all enjoy.

Welcome new board member Dr. John Bradley



Photo from the Climate+Energy Project John Bradley Case study 2015

Dr. Bradley is a native of Lawrence, KS. He earned his doctorate of Veterinary Medicine at Kansas State University in 1987. He then completed formal small-animal internship training at the University of Illinois. Dr. Bradley practiced in California and Virginia before coming back to Lawrence and taking over the family practice, Bradley Animal Hospital.

John Bradley's ranch in Douglas County prioritizes water quality, time management, and animal health.

Installing feeding pads and watering sites preserve the streams and ponds on the 300 acres of cool season grass

in northeast Kansas. Managed rotational grazing increases water holding capacity, retention and infiltration. Bradley planted buffer strips along all creeks that are or were being farmed to decrease erosion. They planted the crop areas into native grass through the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP). The fields were prone to erosion and fairly rocky soil, but these improvements both decrease erosion and loss of topsoil while improving the water quality.

Bradley's management system is designed for one person to do most of the work in one day. Operating a busy veterinarian practice means that the operation must run smoothly with little daily oversight. Efficient use of human energy, wise use of available resources, and solar power all contribute to the overall management of the ranch. Winter stockpile grazing reduces the need to feed hay from six months a year down to just 45- 60 days (during calving) a year. Reduced haymaking saves fuel and nitrogen input costs. The property has mostly brome and fescue cool season grasses, so nitrogen fertilizer is required and has to be applied to make hay. Then you have to mow the hay, bale the hay, haul the hay to store it, and haul it when you need it. Additionally, you have to gather and spread the manure that collects in feeding areas.

Thank You to Mike Flory for serving on the Douglas County Conservation District Board for 21 years



The Douglas County Conservation District would like to thank Mike Flory for his 21 years of service to the District and the Douglas County community. Mike served as a District Board Supervisor until February 2020. During his tenure, Mike was a vocal advocate for youth education, always willing to vote "yes" to fund scholarships and youth programs. He and his wife Cheryl continually participated in the District's County Water Festival and the state's Picture, Essay, and Limerick conservation education contest. In addition to his District responsibilities, Mike served on the Kansas Association of Conservation Districts (KACD) Conservation and Education Youth Committee and judged many a young person's speech at the KACD Annual Convention.

As a protector and advocate for District operations, there was no one better than Mike. He helped to make conservation a priority with farmers and producers, and important in the county. He worked to make the District better, and the District will miss Mike's wisdom, experience, and focus on making conservation and the environment better in Douglas County.

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County Committee ELECTIONS 2020



Nominations Open for the 2021 County Committee Elections

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Farm Service Agency (FSA) encourages all farmers, ranchers, and FSA program participants to take part in the Douglas County Committee election nomination process.

FSA's county committees are a critical component of the day-to-day operations of FSA and allow grassroots input and local administration of federal farm programs.

Committees are comprised of locally elected agricultural producers responsible for the fair and equitable administration of FSA farm programs in their counties. Committee members are accountable to the Secretary of Agriculture. If elected, members become part of a local decision making and farm program delivery process.

A county committee is composed of three to 11 elected members from local administrative areas (LAA). Each member serves a three-year term. One-third of the seats on these committees are open for election each year. This coming calendar year, 2021, LAA Voting District 2 is open.

LAA 2 District 2

Northern Boundary- N 1500 Rd

Eastern Boundary- E 1300 Rd

Southern Boundary- Franklin County Line

Western Boundary- Shawnee County Line

If you or someone you know, lives within this boundary, and is interested in serving on our committee, please request a nomination form from the FSA Office.

County committees may have an appointed advisor to further represent the local interests of underserved farmers and ranchers. Underserved producers are beginning, women and other minority farmers and ranchers and landowners and/or operators who have limited resources.

All nomination forms for the 2021 election must be postmarked or received in the local USDA service center by Aug. 1, 2020. For more information on FSA county committee elections and appointments, refer to the FSA fact sheet: *Eligibility to Vote and Hold Office as a COC Member* available online at: fsa.usda.gov/elections.

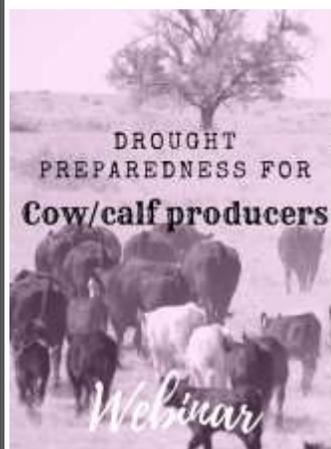


The FarmLink Project is a grassroots movement striving to prevent food waste and alleviate food insecurity during the COVID-19 pandemic. While farms are experiencing extreme surplus due to reduced commercial orders, food

banks are facing soaring demand and shortages of donated food. FarmLink is innovating a new supply chain to transport surplus produce from farms to food banks in need. 100% of donations to FarmLink are used to purchase produce and pay the wages of farmers and truckers. We keep employees staffed, prevent fresh produce from ending up in landfills, and put food onto the tables of those who need it most. <https://thefarmlinkproject.org/>

If you would like to join their effort or contribute in any way, please email contact@thefarmlinkproject.org.

Drought Preparedness for Cow/Calf Producers

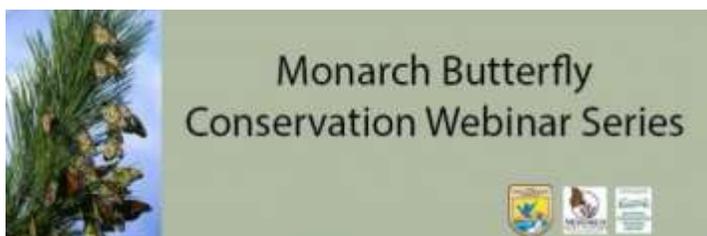


Registration is now open for an educational webinar offered by KSU Beef that will help Kansas beef cattle producers prepare to manage and reduce the impacts of drought and reduced forage availability on cow herds. The webinar will be hosted by the Kansas State University Animal Sciences and Industry Department and K-State Research and Extension via Zoom on July 9, at noon CDT.

For questions about the event or to register, please contact Lois Schreiner at lschrein@ksu.edu or 785-532-1267.

REGISTRATION LINK

https://ksu.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_2vhN6AQSQZazXWfn5qeq9w



There are many free resources that you can use to educate yourself and others about monarchs. There are also many online resources about monarchs, milkweed, establishing habitat, and monarch conservation topics. MJV has compiled many of these online resources for you to use. Additional information and resources are available by visiting our [partner's websites](#).

The MJV partners with the USFWS to develop and host a series of webinars on monarch biology, monitoring, and conservation. To register and see a list of our upcoming webinars <https://monarchjointventure.org/news-events/events#webinar>

July 28th - [Research Reports from the Field: Habitat](#)

August 25th - [Best Management Practices for Monarchs and Other Pollinators on Rangelands](#)

September 22nd - [Lawns to Legumes: Policy in Place to Help Pollinators](#)

October 27th - [Conservation of Monarchs in Mexico](#)

November 17th - [Farmers for Monarchs - Habitat Creation](#)

December 15th - [Fundraising for Monarchs](#)

[The Monarch Joint Venture](#) (MJV) is a partnership of federal and state agencies, non-governmental organizations, businesses and academic programs working together to protect the monarch migration across the United States.

To understand the monarch migration, they rely on the help of citizen scientists to collect data during all phases of the annual life cycle of monarch breeding, migrating, and overwintering. While measuring and studying overwintering colonies may give the best estimate of population size, it is important to gain insight into breeding population trends and factors influencing the migration within the U.S.

Follow the link to see some of the many opportunities to participate in monarch citizen science efforts in the U.S.

https://monarchjointventure.org/images/uploads/documents/citizen_science.pdf

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
Heather McPeek, Education &
Outreach
Jeremy Gaines, Soil Technician

Farm Service Agency

785.843.4260, ext. 2
Debbie Chappelle, Acting County Exec. Dir.
Jessica Siedschlag, Program Tech.
LeeAnn Robertson, Program Tech

Natural Resources Conservation Service:

Tim Miller, Supervisory District Conservationist
Suzy Mooney, NRCS Clerk