

# Douglas County Conservation District



Clean Water Healthy Lands  
Bright Future

Newsletter Quarter 3/2018  
VOL. 32 ISSUE 3



Protecting Douglas County  
Natural Resources Since 1945

## Events Calendar:

**July 11:** District Board Meeting

**July 30-Aug. 4:** Douglas County Fair,  
Fairgrounds

**August 1:** Pollinator Conservation  
Planning Short Course, Baker Wetlands  
Discovery Center

**August 1:** District Board Meeting

**August 28:** Garden Party Open House,  
4:30-6:00 p.m., USDA Service Center

**September 5:** District Board Meeting

**September 28:** Douglas County Water  
Festival for all Douglas County 5th graders,  
Clinton Lake

**October 3:** District Board Meeting

**October 6-7:** Kaw Valley Farm Tour,  
Self-guided tour of over 20 farms along the  
Kaw River Valley

## Pollinator Conservation Planning Short Course

**Wednesday, August 1, 2018**

**Baker Wetlands Discovery Center**

**1365 N. 1250 Road**

**Lawrence, KS**



The Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation, the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), and the Rush County Conservation District are pleased to announce an upcoming Pollinator Conservation Planning Short Course in Lawrence. This full-day training will provide you with the latest science-based approaches to reversing the trend of pollinator declines and will provide tools necessary to protect and manage habitat for these vital insects.

Registrants will receive the book, Attracting Native Pollinators: Protecting North America's Bees and Butterflies, as well as links to habitat management guidelines and relevant USDA-NRCS and extension publications.

Registration is \$30 per person (due by July 24, 2018). A grant from the Kansas Soybean Commission is available to cover registration for producers, apiarists, educators, and conservation district staff.

Please respond by July 24, 2018 to Stephanie Royer, Rush County Conservation District, 785-222-2615, ext. 101.

## THINGS ARE CHANGING!

Our newsletter will be going to an e-mail only version effective January 2019

## UNLESS

You notify us you wish to continue receiving a copy in the mail. CALL 785-843-4260 ext. 3 and let us know.

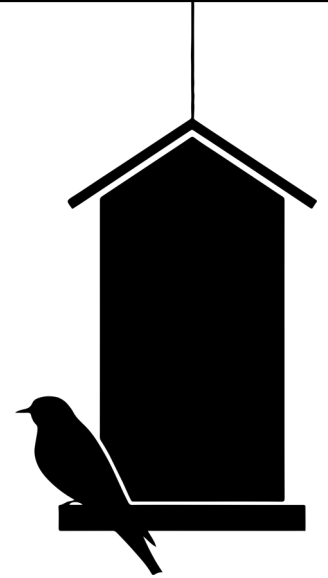
## Garden Party Open House

Join us as we celebrate the third year of the pollinator garden and Monarch Waystation on the grounds of the USDA Service Center, 4920 Bob Billings Parkway in Lawrence. On Tuesday, August 28, from 4:30-6:00 p.m. you are invited to visit the garden, learn more about the role of pollinators in our world, and how you can help.

Bird feeders, bee hotels, and butterfly puddling pools are all ways that we can help our bird and insect visitors feel welcome in our gardens. At 5:00, Geary County Extension Agent Chuck Otte will show examples of various hummingbird feeders and bird houses. DCCD Education & Outreach Coordinator Sue Ann Funk will show different native bee hotels and will highlight the butterfly puddling pool in the DCCD pollinator garden.

Representatives of the Farm Service Agency, the Natural Resources Conservation Services and the Douglas County Conservation District will be on hand to answer any questions you might have.

Refreshments will be served. Hope you can come!



## Kansas Bankers Conservation Awards



It is getting to be that time of year when we start to look for farmers and landowners doing amazing work on their land. In Association with K-State Research and Extension, and Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks, and Tourism, the District is looking for individuals and families who are working to make a difference and promoting conservation best practices.

Please consider landowners who have made efforts in the following categories: Energy Conservation, Soil Conservation, Water Conservation, Water Quality, Wildlife, and Windbreaks. If you have a neighbor, or know of someone that is doing great work, please send their name our way.

To find out more about the program, please visit: <https://tinyurl.com/yd68ldwz>

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

## Speech and Poster Contest

Students are invited to display their knowledge and creativity through participation in the annual Douglas County Conservation District poster, essay, and limerick contest. First, second and third place awards will be given to county winners at the DCCD's annual meeting. First place in each judging category advances to the state level competition.



**The 2018 Poster Contest theme is “Watersheds-Our Water, Our Home”.**

The poster contest is open to grades Kindergarten through 12th grade. Posters should be on 12” x 18” paper with a horizontal orientation, and this year’s theme, “Watersheds-Our Water, Our Home” should be included.

The **Essay Contest** is open for grades 5-8, and the essay should be typed on letter-sized paper, 500 words or less with the subject: **why conservation is important**.

The **Limerick Contest** is available for grades 3-8 and should reflect a conservation theme.

All three contests are open to any Douglas County Student. Complete rules are available in the DCCD office or on the District website: [www.douglasccd.com](http://www.douglasccd.com) **The deadline for the 2018 contest is September 20, 2018.**

## Photo Contest

As part of the Douglas County Fair July 30—August 4, the Conservation District is sponsoring a “Best Conservation Photo” contest. A \$25 award will be given to the top Conservation-themed photo in three categories: 4-H, Junior Division (Open Class) and Senior Division (Open Class). In addition to the cash award, the winning photo in each category will be displayed at the annual meeting of the Douglas County Conservation District, and the top youth photograph chosen by the Board of Supervisors will be entered into the Kansas Association of Conservation District’s (KACD) State Contest.



Subject matter includes conservation practices within the county including: cover crops, contour farming and strip cropping, grass waterways, livestock management, and stream bank stabilization. A full list of possible subjects can be found on the KACD website [www.kacdnet.org/conservationcommittee](http://www.kacdnet.org/conservationcommittee) or in the DCCD office.

Complete information on entering the photography contest can be found in the Douglas County Fair book at <https://dgcountyfair.com/fair-info>.

### Conservation Partner Profile

Each quarterly newsletter, we feature one of our 'Partners in Conservation'. Whether we cooperate by hosting workshops and lecture series together or helping out at each other's events, we appreciate our partnerships with groups in the community.

## Common Ground Community Garden Program

The Common Ground Community Garden Program, established in 2012, is a community gardening and urban agriculture program created by the City of Lawrence and overseen by the Lawrence-Douglas County Sustainability Office and the Food Policy Council. The goal of the program is to transform vacant or under-utilized city properties into vibrant sites of healthy food production for city residents.



Additionally, the incubator farm provides land to local entrepreneurs looking to start or scale-up their food production business. Gardeners and garden managers can further support their community by donating produce to local organizations and by hosting workshops and classes, community workdays, and volunteer events to engage community members in their local garden.



With the financial support of a National Association of Conservation District's Urban Agriculture grant, the District has teamed up with the Common Ground program to facilitate the development of a Common Ground Community Garden Toolkit. In addition to guiding growers through the city's Common Ground program, urban conservation best practices for the gardens and associated incubator farm will be introduced in the Toolkit.

For more information about the Common Ground Gardens, contact the Sustainability & Food Systems Planner and Common Ground Manager Helen Schnoes @ [hschnoes@douglascountyks.org](mailto:hschnoes@douglascountyks.org) or visit the website at <https://lawrenceks.org/common-ground/>

## Kaw Valley Farm Tour October 6th and 7th 2018



The Kaw Valley region offers a wealth of sights, tastes and traditions. Now in its 14th year the farm tour provides fun and interactive farm experiences, supports local farms and introduces individuals of all ages to the many faces of agriculture in the Kaw Valley.

The Kaw Valley Farm Tour is the perfect event for friends and families, and a great way to make connections between the farmers in the fields and the foods on our tables. Info and Tickets are available at [www.kawvalleyfarmtour.org](http://www.kawvalleyfarmtour.org).



## DCCD Demonstration Farm

We are heading into our third year of operating the District's demonstration farm located at the corner of N1000 and E1500 Roads in the center of Douglas County. Board Supervisor David Brown is our acting farm manager.

For those of you who have not heard about the farm, District supervisors decided in 2016 to lease acreage so that we might demonstrate certain farming practices. Our 23 acres site is split into four farm fields with each field being used for one practice. Field 1 demonstrates crop farming using regular tillage practices, Field 2 demonstrates crop farming with no-till practices, Field 3 demonstrates no-till practices with a single species cover crop planting, and Field 4 demonstrates no-till practices with a multi-species cover crop planting.

We harvested beans in 2016 and corn in 2017. This year we have planted soybeans to follow last year's corn crop. Due to poor rains, we did not have to deal with the massive cover crop growth that hampered planting a little bit in 2017.

One of the highlights of this year was conducting a tour of the fields as part of our District's Soil Health day. Candy Thomas with the NRCS was there to demonstrate water erosion issues using a rainfall simulator.

We hope to have another tour this Fall, so look for an announcement on Facebook or in our next newsletter.



## Restoring A Prairie? We Can Help!

If beginning to restore native land is on your to-do list for the fall, the Douglas County Conservation District can help.

**Seed:** The District sells native warm season grass, cool season grass, forb, flower and cover crop seeds. Contact the office for a price list.

**Drill:** The District rents a 6-foot LandPride seed drill. Included with the drill are three seed boxes for grains, small seed and warm season grasses. The drill has a pin hitch and can be pulled to your field with a half-ton or larger pick-up truck. Once at the field, you will need at least a 40 horsepower tractor with rear hydraulics and a tow bar to operate the drill. The cost is \$100 plus \$10 per acre.



**Financial or technical assistance:** The District administers state cost-share programs providing landowners with assistance to implement approved conservation practices. Although the deadline has passed for this year's state cost share, applications for the federal Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) are also available in our office.

Let us know how we can help you achieve your conservation goals.

## 2018 Farmers Markets

Farmer's Markets are a terrific way to find local food, and Douglas County has many options. Choose your day and check out these Douglas County Farmers' Markets:



### Tuesday

**Lawrence Tuesday Market**  
**@725 Vermont St.**  
**Lawrence Public Library Outdoor Plaza**  
 May -October, 4pm-6pm  
[www.lawrencefarmersmarket.com](http://www.lawrencefarmersmarket.com)

### Wednesday

**Farmers Market**  
**@ Clinton Parkway Nursery,**  
**4900 Clinton Parkway**  
 Wednesdays through Sept., 4:30pm-6:30pm

### Thursday

**Cottin's Hardware Farmers Market**  
**@ 1832 Massachusetts Street, in back parking lot**  
 Thursdays, May -Oct., 4pm-6:30pm  
[www.cottinhardware.com/farmersmarket](http://www.cottinhardware.com/farmersmarket)

### Friday

**Perry Lecompton Farmers Market**  
**@ 24 HWY & Ferguson Rd.**  
**(in the Bernie's Parking Lot) Perry**  
 Fridays May-October, 4-6:30 pm  
[www.perrylecomptonfarmersmarket.com](http://www.perrylecomptonfarmersmarket.com)

### Saturdays

**Baldwin City Farmers' Market**  
**@ High Street (Downtown)**  
 Saturdays April -Sept., 7:30 am-12:00 pm

**Eudora's Market On Main**  
**@724 Main Street**  
 Year-round Saturdays, 9:00 am-12:00 pm  
[www.EudoraMOM.com](http://www.EudoraMOM.com)

**Lawrence Saturday Market**  
**@ 824 New Hampshire St.**  
 April -August, 7am-11am  
 September -November, 8am-12pm  
[www.lawrencefarmersmarket.com](http://www.lawrencefarmersmarket.com)

Find Us Online:

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

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

### Douglas County Conservation District

Located in the USDA Service Center:

4920 Bob Billings Pkwy, Suite A

Lawrence, KS 66049

**Phone:** 785.843.4260, ext. 3

District Manager: [Randy.Winchester@ks.nacdnet.net](mailto:Randy.Winchester@ks.nacdnet.net)

Conservation Technician: [Thomas.Ehlinger@ks.usda.gov](mailto:Thomas.Ehlinger@ks.usda.gov)

Education & Outreach: [Sue.Funk@ks.nacdnet.net](mailto:Sue.Funk@ks.nacdnet.net)

Do you have an idea or interest that you would like to share, or a topic you would like to see covered as part of the Conservation Conversation? Contact our office: 785-843-4260, ext. 3.


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## 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:

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David Brown, Treasurer  
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District Personnel:

Randy Winchester, District Manager  
Thomas Ehlinger, Conservation Technician  
Sue Ann Funk, Education & Outreach

Natural Resources Conservation Service:

Tim Miller, Supervisory District Conservationist  
Coleen Davison, Soil Conservationist

Farm Service Agency

785.843.4260, ext. 2  
Johnathon Alley, Co. Exec. Director  
Debbie Chappelle, Program Tech.  
Jessica Yost, Program Tech.