

Douglas County Conservation District



Clean Water Healthy Lands
Bright Future

Newsletter Quarter 4/2015
VOL. 29 ISSUE 4



Protecting Douglas County
Natural Resources Since 1945

Farm & Ranch Succession Planning

Tuesday, November 10, 7:00 p.m.

Lawrence Public Library

Events Calendar:

October 24-25: Mother Earth News Fair, Topeka

November 4: District Board Meeting

November 5: Rye or Rye Not Cover, Field Day/
Cover Crop Meeting, Axtell KS

November 10: Farm & Ranch Succession
Planning, Lawrence Public Library, 7:00 p.m.

November 11: Veteran's Day, Office Closed

November 14: Jayhawk Audubon Society
Autumn Seed Sale, Pre-orders due Nov. 10th

November 22-24: KACD Annual Convention,
Wichita

November 26: Thanksgiving Day, Office Closed

December 2: District Board Meeting

December 9: Storm-water Management
Workshop, Topeka

December 25: Christmas Day, Office Closed

January 1: New Year's Day, Office Closed

January 6: District Board Meeting

January 14: Pasture Leases, Shawnee Co.
Conservation District, Topeka

January 19: Food Forest, a Conservation
Conversation lecture, Eudora Community Center

January 23: Eagles Day Event, Lawrence

Succession – the process that transfers farm and ranch ownership, management and leadership from one generation to another – is an important issue on farms & ranches and in rural communities across Kansas. Very few topics in agriculture take such an emotional toll on farm and ranch families as succession.

It is important to contrast “succession planning” and “estate planning” as they are each used interchangeably. Estate planning is about how assets will be transferred to heirs and the legal means to do so. Succession planning certainly includes estate planning, but it is so much more: establishing a vision and mission for the operation; maintaining family relationships and communication; evaluating feasibility; and transferring power.

Come learn about the importance of succession planning, the steps in the planning process, and some resources to help farm families ensure that their efforts are successful. Our speaker is Forrest Buhler, Staff Attorney for the Kansas Agricultural Mediation Services (KAMS), a program administered through K-State Research and Extension (KSRE) at Kansas State University. Forrest is part of a team with KSRE that this past year put on several conferences across the state on “Planning for Farm and Ranch Succession.” The team also developed a website with succession planning resources.

Contact the Conservation office (843-4260, ext. 3 or e-mail douglasccd1@gmail.com) for your free tickets to this event!

Part of the Conservation Conversation lecture series

*To provide leadership and assistance in promoting individual responsibility for the conservation of
Douglas County natural resources.*

Mark your calendars for our 70th Annual Meeting!

When: Tuesday, February 9, 2016

Time: 6:30 p.m.

Where: Douglas County Fairgrounds,
Building 21

We hope you will be join us as we celebrate 70 years of conservation in Douglas County. The evening will include a recap of the past year, as well as the Board of Supervisors' elections and honor the Bankers Award and Poster& Limerick Contest.

Conservation Conversation

The Douglas County Conservation District is beginning a new series of lectures on a wide variety of topics. Our kick-off gathering is Tuesday, November 10th at 7:00 p.m. at the Lawrence Public Library focusing on farm and ranch succession. More information can be found on the front page of this newsletter.

On January 19th, we plan to feature Food Forests, which is a gardening technique or land management system, which mimics a woodland ecosystem by substituting edible trees, shrubs, perennials and annuals. Fruit and nut trees make up the upper level, while berry shrubs, edible perennials and annuals make up the lower levels.

March and May topics are being developed. Watch this space in the next newsletter for upcoming lectures.

Small Acreage Contractors Needed

One of the jobs of the Douglas County Conservation District is to serve as a connector between landowners and contractors able to supply services. The District has a great contractor list, but sometime we run into difficulty finding contractors willing to work on small acreages. Think 5-10 acres or less.

Working with small acreage landowners presents a unique set of problems when trying to make connections with contractors. To be profitable, contractors must look at their return on investment when bidding a project, and often, small projects are just not cost effective. Consequently there is little interest in doing them.

To better serve Douglas County, the District is looking for contractors willing to work small acreages. We are especially interested in contractors willing to do spraying, seeding, and prescribed burning. If you would like to be added to our small acreage contractor listing, please call 785-843-4260 or send an email to douglasccd1@gmail.com

We never know the worth of water till the well is dry.
~Thomas Fuller, Gnomologia, 1732

Youth Conservation Education



Stream Trailer at Liberty Memorial Central Middle School discussing watersheds this fall.

This fall, the Douglas County Conservation District has been out and about in the area. We demonstrated the stream trailer with Liberty Memorial Central Middle School, highlighted adaptations at the Topeka Water Festival, and shared “All the Water in the World” with Eudora second-graders at the FFA day on the farm.



The Douglas County Conservation District has many educational programs that can teach about conservation of soil and water, including “The Incredible Journey”, and “Edible Aquifer”. Please call or e-mail the office for information on educational activities, lessons, and programs that are available: 785-843-4260, ext. 1128 or douglasccd1@gmail.com.

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.

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Jayhawk Audubon Society

Jayhawk Audubon is all about, yes, birds...but also pollinators, prairie dogs, black-footed ferrets and otters, reptiles, amphibians...(you get the idea); and the healthy habitats and water resources needed by all these creatures. We support the survival and well-being of wildlife and ecosystems by promoting public awareness, enjoyment, and appreciation of these things we value. We also believe that human well-being depends upon a healthy, intact environment.

The most important ways we reach out to people are Kaw Valley Eagles Day, the Learning About Nature Project school field trips, and our monthly public programs and birding field trips. Kaw Valley Eagles Day, co-sponsored by the Army Corps of Engineers and Lawrence USD 497, is completely free to all ages. Please join us for the 20th annual Eagles Day celebration on January 23rd, 2016! The event, held at Free State High, features 20 or more exhibitors, children’s activities, live raptors, speakers, and field trips to Clinton Lake to view wild Bald Eagles with spotting scopes. It is always a great free escape from cabin fever in the winter!

Our Learning About Nature Project takes 6th grade classes to natural areas where the students engage in small-group activities involving up-close encounters with frogs, snakes, birds, aquatic and terrestrial plants, nature-inspired art or writing activities—the offerings are as varied as the skills and interests of our knowledgeable volunteers. Over 7,000 participants have benefited from the LANP field trips over the past 10 years, which we provide to schools free of charge.

Please visit our website www.jayhawkaudubon.org to learn about our monthly programs which range over a wide variety of topics; monthly field trips; and seasonal seed, book and feeder sales. There you can read our monthly newsletter and check out our kids’ pages full of nature-related information and puzzles.

U.S. Department of Agriculture Natural Resource Conservation Service

EQIP Funding Deadline

Kansas agricultural producers who want to improve natural resources and address concerns are encouraged to sign up for the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) through the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). Kansas NRCS State Conservationist Eric B. Banks announced that November 20, 2015, will be the deadline.

"Producers can sign-up for EQIP at any time throughout the year, but to compete for the upcoming funding, I encourage producers with resource concerns to submit an application by the application deadline," Banks said.

EQIP is a voluntary conservation program available for agricultural producers. Through EQIP, NRCS will provide financial and technical assistance to install conservation practices that reduce soil erosion and sedimentation, improve water and air quality, and create wildlife habitat.

Many applicants have interest in financial assistance to address soil erosion and water quality issues on cropland. However, there is also financial assistance available for grazing land operations, confined livestock operations, organic producers, and wildlife habitat improvement, just to name a few. More information about financial and technical assistance can be found on the Kansas NRCS Web site at <http://www.ks.nrcs.usda.gov>.

"EQIP also helps address the unique circumstances of socially disadvantaged, veteran, limited resource, and beginning farmers and ranchers, who have natural resource concerns that need to be addressed on their land," said Banks. Qualifying Kansas producers compete separately and receive higher payment rates.

Producers interested in EQIP should submit a signed application to the local NRCS field office. Applications submitted by November 20, 2015, will be evaluated by NRCS staff. For more information visit the Kansas NRCS Web site or your local USDA Service Center.

Farm Service Agency

Youth Loans

The Farm Service Agency makes loans to youth to establish and operate agricultural income-producing projects in connection with 4-H clubs, FFA and other agricultural groups.

Projects must be planned and operated with the help of the organization advisor, produce sufficient income to repay the loan and provide the youth with practical business and educational experience. The maximum loan amount is \$5000.

Youth Loan Eligibility Requirements:

- Be a citizen of the United States or a legal resident alien
- Be 10 years to 20 years of age
- Comply with FSA's general eligibility requirements
- Be unable to get a loan from other sources
- Conduct a modest income-producing project in a supervised program of work Demonstrate capability of planning, managing and operating the project under guidance and assistance from a project advisor. The project supervisor must recommend the youth loan applicant, along with providing adequate supervision.

Stop by the county office for help preparing and processing the application forms.

(Information provided by www.fsa.usda.gov).

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.

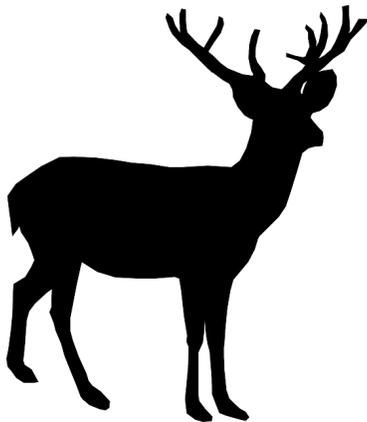
The Kansas Highway Patrol (KHP) cautions drivers to avoid taking extra-ordinary measures to avoid striking a deer in the road, lest a bad situation become even worse. "If you are unfortunate enough to have a deer enter the highway in front of your car, it is best to hit the animal and not swerve to avoid 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>).



Need a Conservation Plan or interested in finding out how the District can help with your land or farming operation. Call 785-843-4260 extension 1129.

Douglas County K-State Extension

Emerald Ash Borer Confirmed in Douglas County

The Kansas Department of Agriculture along with the U.S. Department of Agriculture has confirmed the presence of emerald ash borer in Douglas County.

On Sept. 30, 2015, an EAB larva was removed from a girdled tree trap in Eudora by KDA in cooperation with the City of Eudora, USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service's Plant Protection and Quarantine (USDA-APHIS-PPQ), and the Kansas Forest Service.

"In Kansas, we have worked for years on emerald ash borer prevention and surveillance efforts," said Jeff Vogel, KDA Plant Protection and Weed Control program manager. "These vigilant surveillance efforts allowed us to catch the pest early, which allows communities to prepare for the eventual impact of the emerald ash borer."

Immediately after confirmation by KDA and USDA-APHIS-PPQ, Kansas expanded an emergency intrastate quarantine, currently in place in Johnson, Leavenworth and Wyandotte counties, to include Douglas County to help prevent further spread of EAB in Kansas.

Vogel said all Kansans will play an important role in monitoring for EAB. In cooperation with USDA-APHIS-PPQ, the Kansas Forest Service and K-State Research and Extension, KDA plans to host educational meetings in Douglas County to provide information about EAB

To learn the most current information on the quarantine, visit <http://agriculture.ks.gov/divisions-programs/plant-protect-weed-control/emerald-ash-borer>.

(Information provided by www.douglas.k-state.edu)



Emerald Ash Borer on penny for size comparison

Farmers' Markets

Even though the days are getting cooler, farmers' market still provide opportunities for purchasing locally grown goods. Check out these markets:



Lawrence

Hours: Saturdays
Sept. 5-Nov. 21: 8am-12 pm
Location: 824 New Hampshire St.

Lawrence-Indoors

Hours: Thursdays, 4 pm-6 pm
Market Season: Nov. 5-April 28
Location: Cottin's Hardware
1832 Massachusetts Street

Eudora

Hours: Saturday, 9 am-noon
Market Season: winter
Location: 724 Main St.,
originally Trefz Variety Store



Did you know the Conservation District has equipment to loan free of charge? Including:

Soil Compaction Meter, Soil Probe, Prescribed Burn Equipment

Call or stop by our office today to reserve!



Looking for a Contractor?

We just updated our Contractor and Vendor list for 2015. Visit our resources pages to view the brochure that includes earthwork, burn assistance, brush clearing, well drilling, tree/shrub planting, and much more!

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

Website Resources Page

Visit the link below to view program presentations from 2013-present. Click on the files you would like to view or download.

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

Find Us Online:

Website: www.douglasccd.com

Facebook: www.facebook.com/douglasccd

Twitter: [@douglasccd1](https://twitter.com/douglasccd1)

Follow us for quick up to date information!

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.

• E-Newsletter •

Due to increasing budget constraints as well as conservation of natural resources, the District is moving towards using the electronic version of our newsletter. We will continue to send paper but encourage those that can to sign up for the electronic version.

Please send an email to Randy Winchester at randy.winchester@ks.nacdnet.net providing your contact information and email address or sign-up on our website at www.douglasccd.com. Thank you for supporting our conservation efforts!

Your Ad Here!

The Douglas County Conservation District produces a quarterly newsletter and we want to include your business information. Call Randy at 785-843-4260, ext. 3, to get more information on rates and other details.

Douglas County Conservation District

Located in the USDA Service Center:

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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

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Sue Ann Funk, Education & Outreach

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