

# Douglas County Conservation District



Clean Water Healthy Lands  
Bright Future

## Events Calendar:

**October 6-7:** Kaw Valley Farm Tour

**October 13-14:** Mother Earth News Fair, Topeka

**October 16:** *Plug That Well* Conservation  
Conversation, Extension office, 7:00 pm

**November 2-3:** Kansas Association of  
Conservation & Environmental Education  
Conference, Lawrence

**November 7:** District Board Meeting, 11:45 am

**November 13-14:** Governor's Conference on the  
Future of Water in Kansas, Manhattan

**November 16-17:** Kansas Rural Center Annual  
Farm & Food Conference, Wichita

**November 18-20:** Kansas Association of  
Conservation Districts Annual Convention,  
Wichita

**November 22:** Thanksgiving Day, Office Closed

**December 6:** District Board Meeting, 11:45 am

**January 2:** District Board Meeting, 11:45 am

**January 16:** Soil Health Workshop featuring Neal  
Kinsey, Flory Meeting Hall

**January 19:** Eagles Day Event, Lawrence

**February 12:** DCCD Annual Meeting

Newsletter Quarter 4/2018  
VOL. 32 ISSUE 4

Protecting Douglas County  
Natural Resources Since 1945



## Time is Running Out!



This newsletter is going to an e-mail only version effective February 1, 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.

## Plug That Well

**Tuesday, October 16, 7:00 p.m.**

**Deal Six Auditorium, K-State Research & Extension  
2110 Harper, Lawrence**

Unused or abandoned water wells that are not properly plugged can pose many threats. Proper plugging not only removes these threats, it also eliminates or reduces liability exposure for the landowner and protects and improves property value.

According to state law, the landowner is responsible for the plugging and reporting of abandoned water wells on his or her property, and local regulations may dictate additional or more strict requirements. To help landowners become aware of and understand state and local plugging regulations, Pam Chaffee, chief of the Water Well and Technical Support Unit of the Kansas Department of Health and Environment will share information and answer questions.

**Please let us know if you will be attending by contacting the Conservation office (785-843-4260, ext. 3), e-mail [douglasccd1@gmail.com](mailto:douglasccd1@gmail.com) or check out our website: [www.douglasccd.com](http://www.douglasccd.com)**

**Part of the Conservation Conversation lecture series**

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

## Your Source For Seed

We may not have magic beans, but we do have some great seeds. Whether you are looking for native warm season grasses, cool season grasses, cover crops, or forbs and flowers, the District has what you need. We carry a full line of seeds, and can custom mix at no additional charge. Looking for that Big Bluestem, Little Bluestem, Indiangrass, Sideoats Grama, and Switchgrass mix? The District has it. Have a seeding mix put together by the NRCS or Kansas Wildlife and Parks? We can do that too. We can help with any CRP or EQIP mix. Need a specialty forb and wildflower mix for your Monarch garden, or other pollinator project? We can custom blend or provide you with a standardized mix. Looking for brome, rye, fescue or other cool season grass? We have a bunch.

When you are looking for service and a high quality product, we are the place to come. Most orders arrive within ten days. No order is too big or too small.

Seeding dates for native warm season grasses begin December 1<sup>st</sup> and run through May 15<sup>th</sup> with March 15<sup>th</sup> to May 15<sup>th</sup> being optimal. Seeding dates for cool season grasses begin August 15<sup>th</sup> and end October 1, with a second round beginning December 1<sup>st</sup> and running through April 15<sup>th</sup>. Legumes follow the same planting dates as cool season grasses.

Need a way to get those seeds in the ground? The District can help with that as well. Rent our 6 foot no-till drill for \$100 plus \$10 an acre. An economical way to get the best results from your seeds.

Here at the District, we know what farmers, producers, landowners, and homeowners expect from the seed they purchase. Call us for pricing, we would love the opportunity to meet your seeding needs.



## SARE Farmer Rancher Grant Program

The Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE) Farmer Rancher Grant Program began in 1992 to fund farmers and ranchers striving for agricultural sustainability. This competitive grant program is for farmers and ranchers who want to explore sustainable solutions to problems through on-farm research, demonstration, and education projects.



Farmer Rancher grants have funded a variety of topics including pest/disease management, crop and livestock production, education/outreach, networking, quality of life issues, marketing, soil quality, energy, and more.

Sustainable Agriculture  
Research & Education

The 2018 Farmer Rancher program call for proposals is now available. The deadline is December 6, 2018. For more information, check out their website at [www.northcentralsare.org](http://www.northcentralsare.org)

## Soil Conservationist Retires

Coleen Davison, Soil Conservationist at the Lawrence Field Office recently retired from the Natural Resources Conservation Service.

An open house was held at the office on Tuesday, September 25th to honor over 35 years of service.

Coleen started her career in 1983 as a Student Trainee for the agency which was then called the Soil Conservation Service. She worked three summers (Olathe, Fort Scott and Kingman) while attending Kansas State University. After graduation, she worked full time as a Soil Conservationist in Lyndon then became the District Conservationist in Sedan in 1987. She moved back to northeast Kansas to work at the Lawrence NRCS office in 1990 where she remained for 28 years until her retirement at the end of September, 2018.

Coleen will continue to live in Lawrence and plans to spend more time backpacking, biking and traveling.



## 2019 Acreage Reporting Dates

In order to comply with FSA program eligibility requirements, all producers are encouraged to visit the Douglas County FSA office to file an accurate crop certification report by the applicable deadline.

The following acreage reporting dates are applicable for Douglas County:

Nov. 15, 2018            grass, clover and alfalfa

The following exceptions apply to the above acreage reporting dates:

If the crop has not been planted by the above acreage reporting date, then the acreage must be reported no later than 15 calendar days after planting is completed.

If a producer acquires additional acreage after the above acreage reporting date, then the acreage must be reported no later than 30 calendar days after purchase or acquiring the lease. Appropriate documentation must be provided to the county office.

If a perennial forage crop is reported with the intended use of "cover only," "green manure," "left standing," or "seed," then the acreage must be reported by July 15th.

Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) policy holders should note that the acreage reporting date for NAP covered crops is the earlier of the dates listed above or 15 calendar days before grazing or harvesting of the crop begins.

For questions regarding crop certification and crop loss reports, please contact the Douglas County FSA office at 785-843-4260

## Conservation Partner Profile

This month we feature the Douglas County Heritage Conservation Council and their role with the 2018 Kaw Valley Farm Tour.

### Douglas County's Rural Sites Featured in 2018 Kaw Valley Farm Tour

Historical sites in rural Douglas County are featured in this year's Kaw Valley Farm Tour. The sites were added to provide an understanding of the rich agricultural heritage of the area. The sites showcase historic buildings that were and continue to be part of the cultural fabric of Kansas. This portion of the KVFT is coordinated by the Douglas County Heritage Conservation Council which works to ensure the conservation of natural and cultural resources.

#### Coal Creek Library –698 E 1719 Road, Vinland Open Sat 9-4 & Sun 12-4 pm



The historic Coal Creek Library was established in 1859 and operates much like a museum that reflects the rural Vinland heritage. Don't miss this tour stop! Local interpreters greet visitors.

#### Vinland Grange - Oak & Main Streets Open Sat 9-4 & Sun 12-4 pm



Built in 1884 of native limestone, the Vinland Grange was designed with an upper meeting hall over a main level business space that usually housed a cooperative farm store. Explore this unique historic site complete with a Sanitary WPA privy! Local interpreters greet visitors.

#### Vinland United Methodist Church 1724 N 692nd Road/ Open Sat & Sunday 1-4 pm



Built in 1880 & rebuilt in 1942 after a fire, the original bell can be heard ringing across the valley. Historical materials on display. Members greet visitors.

#### Barnes Farmhouse & Apple Barn 714 E 1728 Rd, Vinland Sat. 9-4 & Sun 12-4 pm



This farm was owned by Vinland co-founder, William Eliot Barnes (1832-1925). In 1856, Barnes purchased 160 acres, established the Coal Creek Nursery, and started what is believed to be the first vineyard in Kansas. Local interpreters greet visitors.

#### Clearfield School - 2162 N 600 Rd Eudora Area Open Sat. 9-4 and Sunday 1-4 pm



The Clearfield Community was established in the 1850s by German immigrants. See the authentic interior and hear local stories told by local interpreters!

#### Vesecky Farms –1814 N. 600 Rd, Baldwin City Area Open Sat. 9 to 6 and Sunday 12 - 6



The stone farmhouse was built in 1866. The barn proudly displays a quilt block. Three generations work the farm. Great stop for families who enjoy farm animals!

**Pearson Farmhouse -Black Jack Battlefield & Nature Park –Open Sat. 9-4 and Sunday 1-4 pm**



Overlooking the battlefield the farmhouse was built in 1890 by Robert Hall & Catharine Baysinger Pearson. In 1856 Robert fought with John Brown at Black Jack.



**Blue Jacket Crossing Vineyard & Winery-1969 North 1250 Road, Eudora Area/Open Sat. 9 to 6 and Sun 12 - 6**



The historic Blue Jacket Crossing was located on the historic Oregon Trail. The area was named in honor of the Bluejacket family who were Shawnee Indian. They operated a ferry crossing for travelers on the lower crossing of the Wakarusa River. Enjoy wine tasting and the vineyard setting.

**2018 Kansas Bankers Association Awards**

There is still time to nominate a friend or neighbor for the Kansas Bankers Award. The purpose of this program is to stimulate a greater interest in the conservation of the agricultural and natural resources of Kansas by giving recognition to those farmers and landowners who have made outstanding progress in practicing conservation on their farms. Each year over 200 Kansas producers and landowners are recognized through this program. It is co-sponsored by Kansas Bankers Associates, K-State Research and Extension, Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks, and the Douglas County Conservation District.

The conservation awards may be given in the following categories:

- |                   |               |           |
|-------------------|---------------|-----------|
| Soil Conservation | Water Quality | Energy    |
| Wildlife          | Buffer        | Grassland |

This year’s winners will be announced at the upcoming Annual Meeting of the Douglas County Conservation District on February 12, 2019.

This program is a wonderful opportunity to recognize some of the landowners in Douglas County that have worked hard for conservation! Call 785-843-4260 with your nominations. Thank you ...when we all work together, great things can happen!

**The Year of the Bird**

In recognition of the 100th anniversary of the signing of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, 2018 has been declared the Year of the Bird. The National Audubon Society, National Geographic, BirdLife International, and the Cornell Lab of Ornithology are part of the yearlong celebration of birds.



*Photo by Rodney Wright*

Check out <http://www.audubon.org/yearofthebird> each month for a featured action to help the birds.



*Photo by Rodney Wright*

## Kansas NRCS Welcomes New State Conservationist

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) in Kansas welcomes new State Conservationist, Karen A. Woodrich. She will oversee 95 local service centers, 4 area offices, 1 Plant Materials Center, and 240 employees who work directly with farmers and landowners.

Woodrich brings a background of diverse experience to the Kansas natural resources conservation partnership. Karen began her career with NRCS in Kalamazoo, Michigan as a Soil Conservationist in 1998. She has worked in various technical and managerial positions including Assistant State Conservationist for Field Operations in Iowa; Assistant State Conservationist for Operations in Illinois; and Acting State Conservationist in Vermont. Prior to coming to Kansas, she served as State Conservationist in Kentucky since 2011.

In 2014, Karen served as the Interim Central Regional Conservationist in Washington D.C. and in 2017, she served as a Senior Policy Advisor to the Acting Deputy Undersecretary of the newly formed Farm Production and Conservation (FPAC) Mission Area at USDA in Washington D.C.

She serves as the Chair of the NRCS Chief's Advisory Committee, on the USDA Board of Directors for the National Water Quality (NWQI) and Mississippi River Basin (MRBI) Initiatives, and is engaged with several national conservation partnership committees. Karen has been accepted into the Federal Executive Institute Training program for Senior Government Executives.

"I am honored to be the new State Conservationist in Kansas," said Woodrich. "I look forward to meeting and working with our customers, partners, and staff in this position to learn about the many great things Kansas is already doing to help conserve natural resources and to continue to move the state forward in agricultural conservation."

She is a north-central Wisconsin native and was raised on a dairy farm and Christmas tree farm. Woodrich graduated from the University of Wisconsin with a Bachelor's degree in Soil Science. Karen and her husband are looking forward to fishing, raising a few cattle, a few chickens, and tending to vegetable and flower gardens, while exploring the beautiful landscape

### Mark your calendars for our 72th Annual Meeting!

When: Tuesday, February 12, 2019, 6:00 p.m.

Where: Flory Meeting Hall, DG Co. Fairgrounds

Join us as we celebrate conservation in Douglas County. The evening will include a recap of the past year, the Board of Supervisors' elections, and we will honor the Bankers Award and Poster & Limerick Contest winners.

*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.*

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

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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:

Jordan Olsen, Chair  
Luke Ulrich, Vice Chair  
David Brown, Treasurer  
Mike Flory, Member  
Lowell Neitzel, Member

District Personnel:

Randy Winchester, District Manager  
Sue Ann Funk, Education & Outreach

Farm Service Agency

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

Natural Resources Conservation Service:

Tim Miller, Supervisory District Conservationist