

# CONSERVATION CONNECTIONS

a quarterly publication of the Dickinson County Conservation District



## State Cost-Share Deadlines Extended

Due to adverse weather conditions and circumstances beyond landowner control, the Division of Conservation announced that FY19 Water Resource (WR) and Non Point Source Pollution (NPS) cost-share contracts that were scheduled for completion in May, 2019, will be extended into the next fiscal year.

During regular years, NPS contracts expires after 1 year and WR contracts can be encumbered into the following year when necessary.

Because of the flooding conditions in many counties that affected both landowners and area contractors, that policy has been revised for contracts already in place and originally expiring in May or June, 2019.

Landowners are encouraged to complete projects as soon as possible, but the contracts will not expire until 2020.

If you have questions regarding this revision or about your specific contract, please contact the Dickinson County Conservation District.

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Funding for some programs provided by the Division of Conservation, Kansas Department of Agriculture through appropriation from the Kansas Water Plan Fund.

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## USDA Announces Availability of \$12.5 million in Conservation Innovation Grant Funding

SALINA, Kansas—June 10, 2019—USDA announced today it is investing up to \$12.5 million to help support the adoption of innovative conservation approaches on agricultural lands. USDA’s Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is accepting proposals through July 30, 2019 for national Conservation Innovation Grants (CIG) and through June 14, 2019 for State CIG funding opportunities. CIG projects inspire creative problem-solving that boosts production on farms, ranches, and private forests—ultimately, they improve water quality, soil health, and wildlife habitat. All U.S.-based non-federal entities and individuals are eligible to apply.

“Conservation Innovation Grants enable partners to co-invest with NRCS on the next generation of agricultural conservation solutions,” said Kansas NRCS State Conservationist, Karen A. Woodrich. “Conservation Innovation Grants have helped spur new tools and technologies to conserve natural resources, build resilience in their operations, and improve their bottom lines, and we’re excited to see what these proposals will offer.”

### National CIG

CIG supports the development and field testing, on-farm research and demonstration, evaluation, or implementation of conservation technologies, practices, and systems and approaches to incentivizing conservation adoption. Grantees must match the CIG investment at least one to one. The 2019 CIG priorities are:

- Increasing the pace and scale of conservation adoption
- Water quantity
- Pollinator habitat
- Urban agriculture

The complete funding announcement information can be accessed through the [Conservation Innovation Grants webpage](#). The National CIG program supports early pilot projects or demonstrations of promising conservation approaches.

National CIG program is distinct from the \$25 million [announced on May 15](#) for On-Farm Conservation Innovation Trials. On-Farm Trials is a new CIG component created by the 2018 Farm Bill. On-Farm Trials include a Soil Health Demo Trial.

Applications for this national CIG must be submitted through [Grants.gov](#) by 5:00 p.m. Eastern Standard Time (EST) on July 30, 2019. A webinar for potential applicants is scheduled for 12:00 p.m. EST on June 11, 2019. Information on how to participate in the webinar is posted on the [CIG website](#).

### Kansas NRCS CIG

In conjunction with the national CIG, Kansas NRCS is also offering CIG statewide competitions (award maximum of \$75,000) in Kansas. Projects must be within Kansas and may be area-based or statewide in scope. The complete 2019 Kansas CIG Request for applications can be found at [Grants.gov](#). Reference the Grant Opportunities Number: USDA-NRCS-KS-CIG-19-GEN0010101. Applications must be submitted by **5:00 PM CST on June 14, 2019** on [Grants.gov](#).

### More Information

On December 20, 2018, President Trump signed into law the 2018 Farm Bill, which provides support, certainty, and stability to our nation’s farmers, ranchers, and land stewards by enhancing farm support programs, improving crop insurance, maintaining disaster programs and promoting and supporting voluntary conservation. NRCS is committed to implementing these changes as quickly and effectively as possible, and today’s updates are part of meeting that goal.

## Dickinson County Cost Share Funding History

The following represents actual dollars of cost-share funding provided to landowners from 2015 to 2018

Water Resources Program		Non-Point Source Pollution Program	
2015	\$ 18,780.92	2015	\$ 12,684.42
2016	\$ 16,106.05	2016	\$ 11,973.10
2017	\$ 16,160.63	2017	\$ 15,300.00
2018	\$ 14,321.25	2018	\$ 11,610.00

# CONSERVATION SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED

Each year, the Dickinson County Conservation District awards \$1000 scholarships to two students who plans to further their education in the conservation field or a related discipline. This year, the scholarships were awarded to Rylie Volkman and Joshua Sandow.

Rylie Volkman is a 2019 graduate of Abilene High School and the daughter of Chad and Stacy Volkman. After high school, she plans to attend Kansas State University to complete a bachelor's degree in agricultural education and communications. She plans to follow in the footsteps of the agricultural educators that taught her, helped her build her skill set, and inspired her passion for teaching others. After college graduation, she plans to pursue a career as an agricultural extension agent or high school agriculture teacher, hopefully closer to her home town.



Joshua Sandow is a 2019 graduate of Hope High School. His parents are Kevin and Kam Sandow of Hope, Kansas. Joshua plans to attend Emporia State University to pursue a degree in Environmental Science. He hopes to become a Game Warden close to his home after graduation.



The Conservation District will begin accepting applications for the 2020-2021 school year in early 2020. More details and scholarship applications will be available on the Resources, Forms, and Publications page of their website later this year: [www.dkcoconservation.com](http://www.dkcoconservation.com) or Facebook page: dkcoconservation

In the past ten years, the Dickinson County Conservation District has awarded more than \$22,000 in scholarships to Dickinson County Students who pursue an education in conservation and related fields.

## Watershed Structures and Conservation Practices Help Reduce Flooding Damages

SALINA, May 30, 2019—Extreme rainfall events of May 2019 brought severe flooding and property damage to many residents in central and eastern Kansas. Floodwaters also caused traffic disruptions, including the closure of northbound lanes on the Kansas Turnpike.

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) employees have been surveying the damage from the record-setting rainfall events.

Despite the lowland flooding damage, NRCS engineers and conservationists determined if it hadn't been for the flood control structures installed by watershed district sponsors, flooding damages could have been much worse. NRCS models estimate that the federally assisted watershed dams built in Kansas helped prevent over \$7.0 million in flooding damages from the May 6-8 storms, and \$18.3 million for the May 20-21 storms.

Kansas NRCS State Conservationist, Karen A. Woodrich, said, "Over 50 years ago, NRCS worked with local landowners to construct structures to help reduce flooding damages. Those structures are still doing their job today."

NRCS, with assistance from watershed sponsors and in cooperation with private landowners, has constructed 830 flood control structures in Kansas through the Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act. These funds authorized NRCS to provide assistance with the planning and installation of flood control structures and in applying conservation practices. In addition to federally assisted watershed dams, the Kansas Department of Agriculture—Division of Conservation, has assisted with the construction of 550 additional watershed dams.

## Conservation Jumble

A **isflso** fuel is formed over many years from the remains of living organisms.

Water from rain or snow that sinks into the earth and is stored there is called **urrtganewdo**.

A **nno-wrlbeaene** resource cannot be replaced after it is used.

Electricity created from moving water is **oiydchtrleecr** power.

**cdia iran** is rain containing acids formed when air pollutants react with water vapor.

The addition of any unwanted substance into the air is called **ari tlioolnpu**.

The practice of reducing energy is energy **sictaenoovrn**.

**Nacrbo exmionod** is a colorless, odorless, poisonous gas made of carbon and oxygen.

The warming of our Earth is called **llobag arnmwgi**.

Solar, geothermal, wind, and hydropower are all **erablewne** energy sources.

To keep items that can be used again is to **eresu that item**.

**Ylecerc** means to recover a resource from an item and use it to make a new item.

Energy from the Earth's interior is **meetlorgah nergye**.

To **erceud** is to cut down on the use of resources.

Energy from the sun is **oasrl yngree**.

**Aoisbms** fuels are fuels made from things that once were alive.

A resource that can be replaced within a reasonably short period of time is called a **ablerenew** resource.

Coal, petroleum, natural gas and oil are **onn** renewable resources.

The 2019 Waterfest was held at Brown's Park in Abilene. Close to 300 4th graders from schools around the county participated in a variety of water quality and water conservation activities. Volunteers prepared a hot lunch for all participants and volunteers and Milford Lake Nature Center presented a Birds of Prey program.



13 Years of Fun



Build-A-Watershed



Edible Aquifer



Volunteers prepare BBQ lunch



Mr. Lurch the turkey buzzard came to visit



Milford Nature Center Birds of Prey



Miss Raindrop



Boy Scout Camp at Brown's Park



## Envirothon 2019

Two teams from Dickinson County competed in the regional Kansas Envirothon competition at Council Grove. Herington High School placed 3rd in the Regional competition and Hope High School placed 7th out of 15 teams. Our neighbors to the north, Clay County High School placed 1st in their regional competition at Lake Wilson and went on to place 2nd in the State Envirothon. Congratulations to all the teams for their hard work!

The Kansas Envirothon is a competitive environmental learning opportunity for high school students. Testing is done in



five areas: Aquatics and Ecology, Forestry, Soils and Land Use, Wildlife and a Current Issue that changes yearly. Rangeland is a subject area tested at Regional competitions. An Oral Presentation over the Current Issue is done only at the State Competition.

Teams are made up of 5 high school students. Typically the students are from the same high school, but teams from 4-H groups, Scout troops, FFA teams and other organizations are allowed with prior approval from the Kansas Envirothon Committee.

In Kansas, the Regional and State competitions are held in April. The location of the State Competition varies from year to year so students and advisors can experience all areas of the State. The North American Competition is held in late July of each year and it's location moves from State to State and

into the Canadian Provinces.

The Kansas program is run by a committee of Conservation District Employees. Natural Resource Conservation Service, The Kansas Forest Service, Kansas Wildlife, Parks and Tour-



ism, and other agencies provide support to the Kansas Envirothon committee. Teams are typically sponsored by their local Conservation District.

Check out the Kansas Envirothon Facebook page, and check out our pages on the KACD website. Another good place to look is on the NCF Envirothon Facebook page and website. These sources have information about current competitions and study resources.



# Thank you to all our sponsors!



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## **Equipment Rental and Sales**

The Dickinson County Conservation District provides conservation equipment rental service to area landowners. Contact Cindy Dooley at 785-263-2787 extension 332 to schedule your rental.

Great Plains No Till Drill  
Delivered: \$50 Delivery Fee + \$15/Acre  
First 1/2 Acre Free  
Customer Pickup: \$15/Acre  
\$80 Minimum

Truax Grass Seed Drill  
Delivered: \$40 Delivery Fee + \$11/Acre  
First 1 Acre Free  
Customer Pickup: \$11/Acre  
\$40 Minimum

Drip Torch  
\$100 Deposit  
\$5/Day 1st 3 Days  
\$25/Day After 3 Days

CoCoRaHS Rain Gauge—\$32

**30" Wire Stem Marking Flags—Fluorescent Pink**  
100 for \$10.00 or 1000 for \$100.00  
(\$10 minimum)

## NOTARY PUBLIC SERVICE AVAILABLE

Funding to produce this newsletter is provided in part by the Division of Conservation through appropriation from the Kansas Water Plan.

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## CALENDAR

JULY 4—INDEPENDENCE DAY (OFFICE CLOSED)

JULY 8—REGULAR BOARD MEETING

AUGUST 12—REGULAR BOARD MEETING

SEPTEMBER 2—LABOR DAY (OFFICE CLOSED)

SEPTEMBER 9—REGULAR BOARD MEETING

OCTOBER 7—REGULAR BOARD MEETING

OCTOBER 14—COLUMBUS DAY (OFFICE CLOSED)

NOVEMBER 11—VETERANS DAY (OFFICE CLOSED)

NOVEMBER 12—REGULAR BOARD MEETING

NOVEMBER 28—THANKSGIVING DAY (OFFICE CLOSED)

DECEMBER 9—REGULAR BOARD MEETING

DECEMBER 25—CHRISTMAS DAY (OFFICE CLOSED)

JANUARY 13—REGULAR BOARD MEETING

JANUARY 20—MARTIN LUTHER KING JR BIRTHDAY (OFFICE CLOSED)

FEBRUARY 6—REGULAR BOARD MEETING



Dickinson County Conservation District  
328 NE 14th Street  
Abilene, KS 67410