

Greenwood County Conservation District

Summer 2017 Digital Edition Newsletter

1819 East River St.
Eureka, Ks 67045
620-583-6461 Ext. 3

Calendar of Events:

July 17- Continuous State Cost Share Sign-up
July 28-Aug. 31 -Greenwood County Fair Booth
Aug. 8- District Board Meeting
Aug. 30- Woman In Ag Event
Sept. 1- Poster Contest 2018 begins
Sept. 4- Labor Day (office closed)
Sept. 12- District Board Meeting
Sept. 5- Day on The Farm
Sept. 18-29 Earth Balloon school presentations
Oct. 9- Columbus Day (office closed)
Oct. 10- District Board Meeting
Nov. 4- Cattleman's Day
Nov. 10- Veteran's Day (office closed)
Nov. 14- District Board Meeting
Nov. 23- Thanksgiving Day (office closed)
Dec. 12- District Board Meeting
Dec. 25- Christmas Day (office closed)



The 2018 Poster Contest theme is Watersheds- Our Water, Our Home. Students from area schools will be participating in the contest starting in September.

The district will have an educational presentation held at each school.

gwcokansasconservation@gmail.com

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Place *subscribe* in the subject line or call 620-583-6461.

Woman In Ag

August 30th 2017

- Phillips Cabin at Eureka Lake 69 Eureka Lake Rd., Eureka, Kansas 67045
- RSVP by August 23, 2017
- The Greenwood County Conservation District will be hosting a Woman In Ag Event this summer on August 30th.
- This event is geared toward woman and agriculture. There is limited room available so please RSVP early!
- Registration begins at 8:30am on the day of event, AUGUST 30 and first presentation begins at 9:00am.
- Farm Service Agency reporting dates, NAP, Farm Loans.
- Greenwood County Sheriff Office will be speaking on Meth & Marijuana Awareness.
- NRCS will be addressing brush management, birds & blooms plant id, waterways, terraces and tire tanks.
- There will be an estate lawyer speaking on Ag Estate planning and more!
- There is no charge, free lunch and door prizes.
- The event is scheduled to end by 3:00pm.
- Please contact the District office by phone at 620-583-6461 or email gwcokansasconservation@gmail.com to reserve your spot!

If you need an accommodation to participate in this event, please contact Keila Sherman at 620-583-6461 or by e-mail Keila.Sherman@ks.nacdnet.net no later than the end of business on Aug. 23rd. All topics and activities are subject to change prior to day of event.

2018 State Cost Share Is Now Available!

Do you own land in Greenwood County? Are you interested in improving the environmental quality of your land? If so stop by the conservation office and find out how you could possibly qualify for state financial assistance to improve your land.

The Conservation District will be conducting a county-wide sign up for interested owners and operators to accept requests for state cost share assistance beginning July 17 for the 2018 program year. The cost share programs are administered by the State Conservation Commission (SCC) through the conservation districts which provides landowners financial assistance to implement approved conservation practices.

These conservation practices must comply with USDA NRCS Field Office Technical Guide Standards and specifications, or other standards specifications approved by the SCC. Applications receiving approval from the Greenwood County Conservation District and

SCC may start implementation. Any project completed prior to approval by either the District or SCC will **not** be available for cost share assistance.

Participating in the sign-up does not guarantee approval or cost share assistance. Each application submitted goes through a ranking process. Those applications that rank the highest will be placed into a contract. A list of accepted practices can be found elsewhere in this newsletter.

Program funds have been allocated to the conservation. Money comes from the State Water Plan Fund. Anyone interested in receiving cost share assistance from either the Water Resources Cost Share Program or the Non Point Source Pollution Program is encouraged to contact the Conservation District Office to sign up.

If you have any questions or concerns about these programs please call the office at (620) 583-6461. *"Funding provided by the Division of Conservation, Kansas Department of Agriculture through appropriation from the Kansas Water Plan Fund."*



GovDelivery from FSA

Keep up with USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) news with : Gov Delivery Emails & Text Messages. No office? No problem! Receive text message alerts from FSA while on-the-go, in the field, on the tractor or even on horseback. Subscribe to text message alerts to receive timely updates on: Deadline Reminders, Program Notifications, Reporting Requirements, Local Outreach Events. Standard text messaging rates apply. Contact your wireless carrier for details. Expect to receive no more than two text messages from FSA each month, on average. Participants may unsubscribe at any time. For more in-depth FSA program information, we offer our standard electronic news bulleting by email or can visit the agency at www.fsa.usda.gov/subscribe, or contact your local Greenwood/Elk County office. 620-583-5544 To subscribe to text message alerts from Greenwood/Elk County Text **KSGreenwood** to **FSANOW** (372-669) Please remember to report all changes to your farm as soon as they occur!



Range Youth Camp 2017

The Greenwood County District will sponsor students each summer to attend Kansas Range Youth Camp. This camp has been held for over 55 years. This past June 20-23 two students from GW county were sponsored. Ethan Westerman, a sophomore of Eureka and Colby Hamilton of rural Virgil attended. It was held at Camp Mennoscah in Kingman County. They enjoyed activities of swimming, canoeing, fishing and hiking after a full day of learning.

- The purpose of the camp is to learn about rangeland ecosystems. What they are and how to manage them.
- The students studied on many topics pertaining to rangelands.
- Soils, plant identification, wildlife habitat, stocking rates, grazing systems, and other rangeland topics.
- The kids took a field trip to a nearby wildlife area and a feedlot for dairy animals. For the final project kids worked in groups to develop a complete management plan for a nearby property.



Above Photo: Ethan Westerman of Eureka, Ks.



Above Photo: Colby Hamilton of rural Virgil, Ks.

Range Youth Camp 2017



The camp had a group of 16 campers and 5 counselors.



Range Youth Camp was first held in 1960.

Alone But Not Orphaned

Vickie Cikanek - It is hard to think that a baby animal alone in the wild is not actually alone. Human instinct says that a baby should be cared for 24/7. However, in the wildlife world it is not uncommon for a baby animal to be left alone for several hours while the parents go out to find food or maybe tend to other young. Often times the parents are within eye site of the young, ready to come to their rescue should they need it.

Fawns are usually left in open fields during the day to rest while the mother keeps a close eye from afar. She does this in the best interest of the fawn. If she stays too close and in one area too long, her scent and size will be likely to attract more predators, but you can be sure she will return for feeding time. Spring storms will blow baby birds out of their nests, but if you watch long enough you will see the parents continue to feed and incubate the young while on the ground. These things have been happening even before humans were around and momma birds are equipped with the instincts to be able to handle all sorts of situations like this.

Every year around this time, baby animals are brought to Kansas Department of Wildlife Parks and Tourism (KDWPT) Game Wardens, or Biologist or to licensed rehabbers with good intentions of 'saving' them but in

reality more harm is being done than good. Baby animals, just like human babies, are better off with their mothers and their own kind. This is where they learn the necessary tools to survive the rough conditions they will endure through their entire lives, such as finding food and escaping predators. However good the intentions are, a baby bird, rabbit, squirrel, deer etc. will not do as well being raised by a human and living in a cage only to be released when it is deemed old enough.

So, when you see a baby wild animal, do not first assume that it is abandoned. If it is out in the country, enjoy the site (by all means, take pictures) and then leave it alone to continue its' hopefully long life as a WILD animal. If it is in your back yard, try to keep your dogs and cats confined or better yet inside to ensure they don't injure the young animal. If this is not possible you can put the baby on the other side of a fence or in a box with the lid open (if it is a baby bird or squirrel) so the parents can still get to it. Don't worry, your scent will not keep the parents from continuing to care for it. That is an urban legend. Once the baby is safe, then you can watch it from afar.

Everyone is encouraged to get out this spring and summer to enjoy Kansas' wildlife, especially the babies, just remember to leave them alone. Let nature take its course. This will be their best chance for survival. As always it is important to remember, wild animals, even the

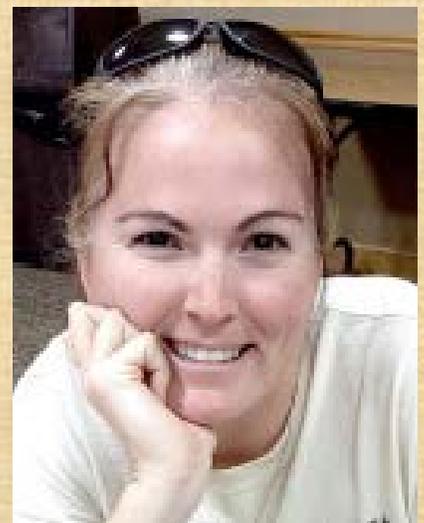
cute little babies, can carry diseases such as tapeworm, roundworms and other bacteria that can be transferred to humans and domestic animals.

And don't forget the ticks, fleas and mites that carry their own host of diseases. It is for your safety and for the safety of our wildlife that it is against Kansas State Law to possess a wild animal, no matter if you think it is injured or orphaned.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding a supposed sick, injured or orphaned wild animal please contact your local biologist. For Greenwood County, contact Vickie Cikanek at 785-501-0867.



*Vickie Cikanek,
District Wildlife Biologist*





Toronto Lake Info and Evening Tour

Thursday, August 10 6:00 PM – Dusk
Cross Timber State Park Office 144 Hwy 105
Toronto, Ks 66777

Pizza and salad served at 6pm
Flood Control Provided by Toronto Lake
Sedimentation Issues and the Future of the Lake
Fishery management at Toronto
Wildlife and Recreational Opportunities
Conservation Practices in the Watershed

RSVP to Cross Timbers State Park Office
620-637-2213 by Monday, August 7
(Limited to the first 50 callers)

If you need an accommodation to participate in this event, please contact Keila Sherman at 620-583-6461 ext. 3, or by e-mail at gwcokansasconservation@gmail.com No later than August 7, 2017.

Keeping Watering Facilities Clean- Produces Happier Livestock

Water is the most important nutrient for cattle!

Design of Watering Facilities

A watering facility can be any tank, trough, or other device that provides water for livestock. It comes in all shapes and sizes with fiberglass and steel being the most common materials. Concrete and recycled materials (like tires and plastic waterers with built-in heaters) are also widely used. Properly sizing a watering facility is important to help the producer decide which type best fits the operation and also to make it the most economical.

A well-designed watering facility system can not only provide water that will meet the daily needs for the livestock, but it can also improve animal distribution around the pasture. The recommendation of the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is to keep all areas of a pasture within 1320 feet of a water source, but a maximum of 900 feet is best. Use lower distances when the slope is steep.

Knowing how much water cattle will drink is very important. Cattle generally need 1-2 gallons per day per 100 pounds of weight. That is 6-18 gallons per day for beef cattle and 10-30 gallons per day for dairy cows. Hot weather maximums for cattle can range up to 20-25 gallons per day, but credit should be given for the water content of forage eaten throughout the day as well. Most NRCS watering facilities are designed by assuming 15-20 gallons per day for a cow/calf pair. Other cattle watering facts are that they drink 1-2 gallons per minute and take 2-3 minutes per watering event. They also prefer at least 3 inches of water depth in order to put their muzzles in 1-2 inches while drinking.

All designs should provide a minimum of a three-day supply in the event of a power loss, pump failure, or other emergency conditions. This volume can be provided in several locations in a rotational pasture system or just in one location if desired. Exceptions to this rule would only be if an auxiliary power supply is available or the water source is a rural water system or a reliable spring or spring-fed pond.

By Kelly J. Klausmeyer, Agricultural Engineer
Natural Resources Conservation Service
Hays, Kansas
Resource: <https://www.nrcs.usda.gov>

Control, Check, Clean

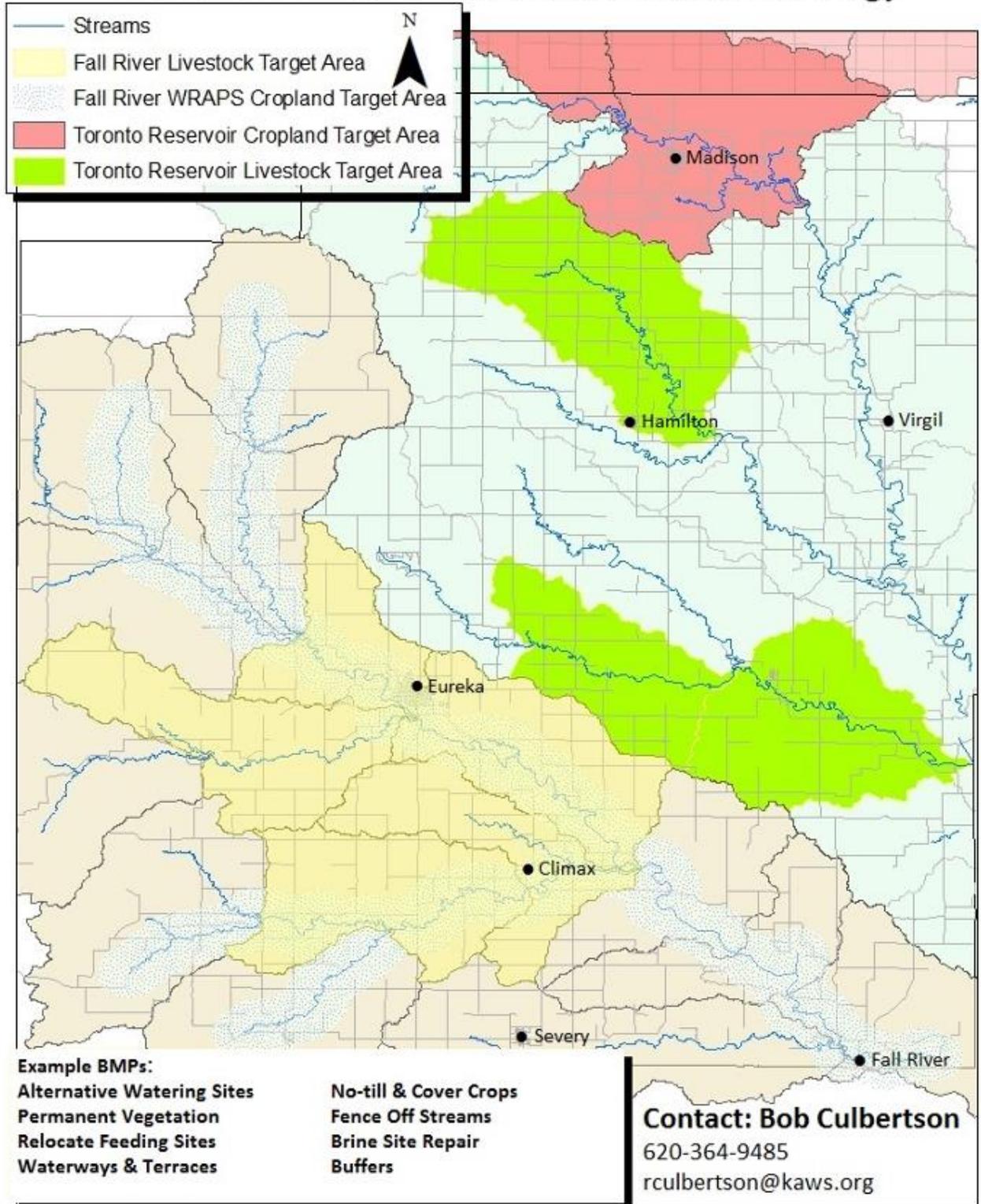
- The District can help with the cost of installing a new tank. (Certain requirements to be eligible.)
- Clean water keeps your herd healthy. Treatments may be necessary.
- Maintenance on tank is very important. When not cleaned properly, contaminants may accumulate inside and cause sickness.
- Check inlets and outlets regularly for damage or clogging.

Why Use a Tank

- Improve water quality in ponds by fencing out cattle and using an access lane or tank behind a dam.
- Pond water can become contaminated with manure, dissolved solids, nitrates, algae or sulfates producing poor water.
- Clean water is available at all times to livestock.



Toronto Reservoir and Fall River Reservoir WRAPS Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategy





Fall River and Toronto Wraps Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategy

The Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategy (WRAPS) offers financial assistance to help producers address water quality and soil erosion concerns on their farms and ranches. Both Fall River and Toronto WRAPS have similar goals-reduce sedimentation and nutrient load in these two federal reservoirs. *Below are a few practices that are available for cost share.*

Establishing a riparian buffer along a stream, Fencing ponds and adding alternative livestock water sources. Repairing gully erosion that was a result of salt water contamination and historic oil production. Implementing cover crops on cropland for soil improvement and livestock forage. Installing a cedar tree revetment to protect an eroding stream bank. Waterway and terrace construction (no-till fields). Other Best Management Practices that improve water quality may be funded *Below are the steps to WRAPS financial assistance:*

Contact project coordinator, local NRCS personnel, conservation district, or local Kansas State University extension personnel. Describe and discuss project and location. Schedule project site visit. Project coordinator, in cooperation with NRCS, will estimate project cost based on county wide average costs.

More information about Conservation Client Gateway may be found on the following Website- <https://www.ks.nrcs.usda.gov> or by calling NRCS at the Eureka Service Center 620-583-6461 Ext. 3

USDA NRCS
U.S. Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation Service

4 Reasons to Use Conservation Client Gateway

How Conservation Client Gateway can assist your conservation efforts

- 1 REQUEST TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE
- 2 APPLY FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE
- 3 REVIEW, SIGN AND SUBMIT APPLICATIONS AND CONTRACTS
- 4 TRACK YOUR PAYMENTS

Got Walnut Trees!

Got Walnut Trees? A Little Work Can Go a Long Way Thad Rhodes, District Forester, Kansas Forest Service Manhattan, Kansas Throughout the area there are numerous patches of woodlots that often are overlooked as pieces of "waste" ground, either considered infeasible to farm or left idle as wildlife habitat. These areas are generally composed of a variety of trees, including black walnut; a plant that many consider to be the most valuable timber species in Kansas. However, the presence of walnut trees on a property does not necessarily mean that the trees have commercial value. Trees having commercial value need to be at least 16 inches in diameter (distance straight through the center of the trunk) measured 4.5 feet above the ground, and have a trunk length of at least 8-9 feet. When these criteria are met, the value is determined by the quality of the log, which is determined by the number of defects present (knots, seams, rot, etc.). "Clean," referred to as veneer quality, have the most value. While little can be done to increase a tree's value once the tree is of harvestable size, there are certain things that you can do when a tree is smaller that will lead to a good return on your investment. Pruning lower branches will help create higher quality logs. By removing the branches when they are small creates more time for

the tree to seal the wound and avoiding a defect in the mature tree. It will be very important to make the pruning cut in the proper location—just outside of the branch collar and then treating the pruning cut so as to not affect the sealing process. As walnut trees get larger and develop a sawlog-length trunk, less attention will need to be spent on pruning; instead, more focus should be given to crowding issues. As less valuable tree species start to grow and compete for space and sunlight, efforts need to be made to ensure the more desirable trees are favored. This may involve selectively removing or deadening trees that are too close or killing any vines that are growing into the canopy. For timber production, it is also important not to thin a woodland too heavily, as the remaining trees will provide benefits such as wind protection and the shade necessary to prevent excessive branching. Proper management of a woodland is not a one-shot approach. Over time woodlands will tend to change naturally; therefore, it is important to occasionally re-evaluate the condition of the stand to determine what can be done to ensure the most productive growth. By providing the trees with a little guidance along the way, this "waste" ground can be developed into something that you can be proud

of—and make income at the same time. This article is meant to serve as an oversight of things to think about as you start addressing management options for woodlands. For more specific information, please contact your local Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Service Center or K-State Research and Extension Office. For more information, visit the Kansas NRCS Web site www.ks.nrcs.usda.gov/programs or your local U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Service Center. To find a service center near you, check on the Internet at offices.usda.gov. Follow us on Twitter @NRCS_Kansas. Helping People Help the Land USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.



Farm Service Agency 1819 E River Street, Eureka, Ks 67045

Important Final Dates:

- Aug. 1- nominations due for 2017 COC election candidates
- Aug. 1- Enroll into 2017 ARCPLC program
- Sept. 1- NAP application closing date for 2018 small grain hay/graze
- Nov. 15- report 2018 perennial grass acreage
- Dec. 15- report 2018 planted small grain acreages
- Dec. 15- MPP- Dairy election period ends

Kansas Forest Service 2610 Claflin Road Manhattan, Ks 66502

- Summer Fire Field Day -August 3
- Emerald Ash Borer Workshop -August 16
- Preparing for the Emerald Ash Borer -August 16
- 23rd Annual Fall Forestry Field Day -October 4

District Forester for Greenwood County
Dennis Carlson 2803 N Lorraine, Suite J
Hutchison, KS 67502
620—921—3554 email at: dcarlson @ ksu.edu

**FALL RIVER and TORONTO
WRAPS Watershed Restoration
and Protection Strategy**

Bob Culbertson – Project
Coordinator – New Strawn, KS –
620-364-9485 culbertson@kaws.org
Jeff Davidson – Livestock and
Watershed Specialist – Eureka, KS
620-583-4437 - jdavidso@ksu.edu

District Board of Supervisors

Robert Brink, Chairman
Eric Bitler, Vice Chairman
Katie Greenwood, Treasurer
Preston Beeman, Member
Richard Howard, Member

District Staff

Keila Sherman, Manager

NRCS

Luke Westerman, Conservationist
Garan Belt, Rangeland Specialist

Farm Service Agency

Cindy Coon, Program Technician Brandi Dimick, Program
Technician Velma Larimer, Executive Director

The Greenwood County Conservation District and the Natural Resources Conservation Service prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, or marital or family status.

Board meetings: 2nd Tuesday of each month

www.greenwoodcounty.org & [Facebook.com](https://www.facebook.com/greenwoodcountyks)