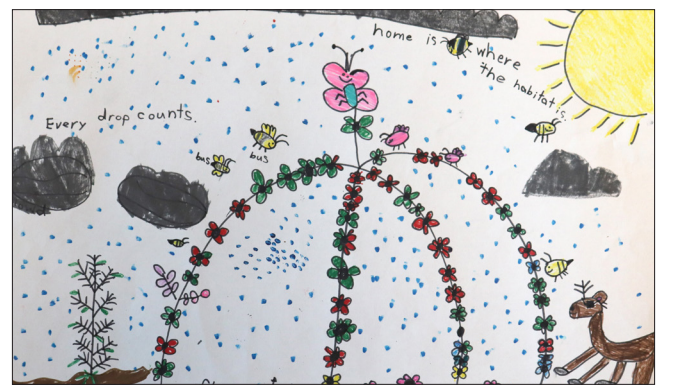
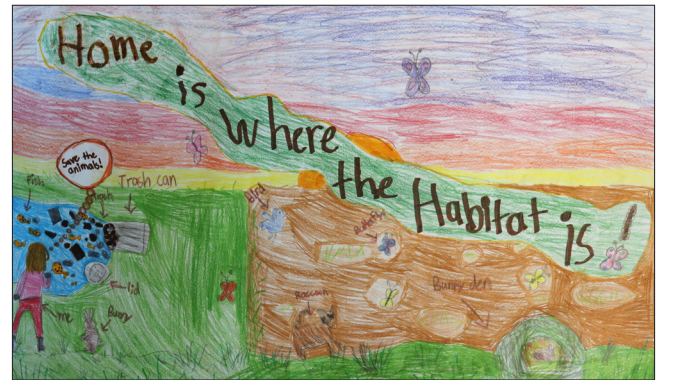
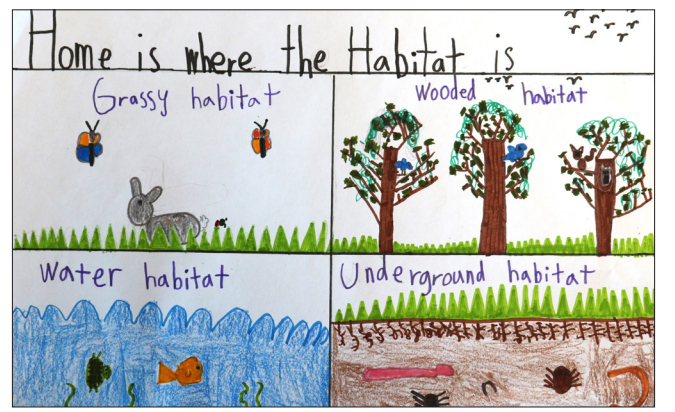


LINCOLN COUNTY

2025 Soil Conservation Edition



1st Grade Poster Winners: First Place Jed Coover (left), Second Place Emery Aufdemberge (middle) and Third Place Aubrie Hamel (right).



2nd Grade Poster Winners: First Place Wyatt Farney (left), Second Place Amber Patrick (right) and Third Place Luna Falcon (middle).



3rd Grade Poster Winners: First Place Scarlett Lebien (left), Second Place Hunter Koehn (not pictured) and Third Place Reid Meitler (right).



4th-5th Grade Poster Winners: First Place Kalli Gardner (left), Second Place Emma Agler (middle) and Third Place Sadie Hull (right).

District hosts Annual Meeting



Alison Rosebrook receives 1st Place in the 2024 KACD State-Level Photo Contest for her entry on "Conservation Practices." (Photo by Becky Rathbun)



Stan Labertew of Labertew Apiaries shares his knowledge of beekeeping and honey production, providing an entertaining and educational presentation at the Conservation Banquet. (Photo by Becky Rathbun)

Lincoln County Conservation District: Beyond the Annual Banquet

The Lincoln County Conservation District honored local conservation efforts at its annual banquet and meeting on Feb. 8 at Lincoln Jr./Sr. High School.

The event honored Camellia "Cami" and Mark Ingelin for the Kansas Banker Award for Soil Conservation, along with youth poster and essay winners.

The Lincoln County Conservation District does much more than host the annual banquet – it's the county's resource center for soil and water conservation.

According to the state conservation commission, conservation districts are a product of the Dust Bowl of the 1930s. Drought conditions led to severe issues with soil erosion during the Dust Bowl days. This prompted passage of the

conservation district law by the Kansas Legislature in 1937. The passage of that bill led to the eventual formation of Kansas conservation districts. The first district was in Labette County in 1938. The most recently formed district is Shawnee County in 1954. All 105 conservation districts in the state – one in each county – provide local leadership by helping assess local natural resource needs.

The conservation district is also the primary local unit of government responsible for the conservation of soil, water and related natural resources within each county's boundary. The districts are political subdivisions of state government charged with this vital role. Funding comes from county and state allocations, with some districts generating funds by providing conservation goods and services.

The district's governing board is comprised of five elected local citizens, known as supervisors. Together they establish local priorities, set policy and administer non-regulatory conservation programs during monthly board meetings. The supervisors, although serving as public officials, do not draw a salary; their services are strictly on a voluntary basis. The supervisors hire conservation district employees to provide day-to-day coordination of district activities. Each conservation district has an annual meeting either in January or February where the public is invited to attend, learning of the district's accomplishments and locally offered programs. An election is conducted to fill the three-year terms of the supervisor's positions. Every qualified elector residing in the county is eligible to vote in this election.

Conservation districts address a wide range of environmental concerns including agricultural and urban erosion and sediment control, water quality and quantity, range and pasture management, fish and wildlife habitat and other natural resource management issues. They collaborate cooperatively with local citizens to solve local conservation problems, benefiting not only the agricultural community, but the entire county. Clean water and fertile soil are basic to the quality of life now and in the future.

Because conservation districts are citizen-directed organizations, they

are practical partners in the coordination of local, state, and federal initiatives to protect natural resources and enhance water quality. In addition to local programs, conservation districts administer the state cost-share programs which provide financial assistance to landowners to install conservation practices. Conservation district employees work closely with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and cooperate with other federal and state agencies to help protect and conserve natural resources in Kansas.

Conservation districts also provide information and education to landown-

ers, schools and the public regarding soil and water conservation issues. Some districts offer conservation related items for sale, such as grass seed and trees. Many districts have equipment available to rent that promotes conservation by preventing erosion and improving water quality like grass drills, tree planters and no-till seeders. Services and activities vary with each conservation district.

For more information about local conservation district services, contact the Lincoln County Natural Resource Conservation Service at (785) 524-4482.

Lincoln County Conservation District

Advocating Soil and Water Conservation

The Lincoln County Conservation District is proud to help ag producers and rural property owners conserve our natural resources for future generations with the following services:

Cost-Share Practices:

- Terraces
- Pipeline
- Terrace Rebuilds
- Replacing Failed Septic Systems
- Tile Outlet Terraces
- Diversion Terraces
- Wells (Livestock Only)
- Plugging Abandoned Wells
- Embankment Ponds
- Range Planting
- Grassed Waterway Construction
- Reshaping of Grassed Waterways

Rental Equipment:

- Holcomb Scraper
- Elston Gopher Plow
- Two Great Plains No-Till Drills
- Root Plow
- Tree Planter
- Fabric Machine
- Baker Disc Plow

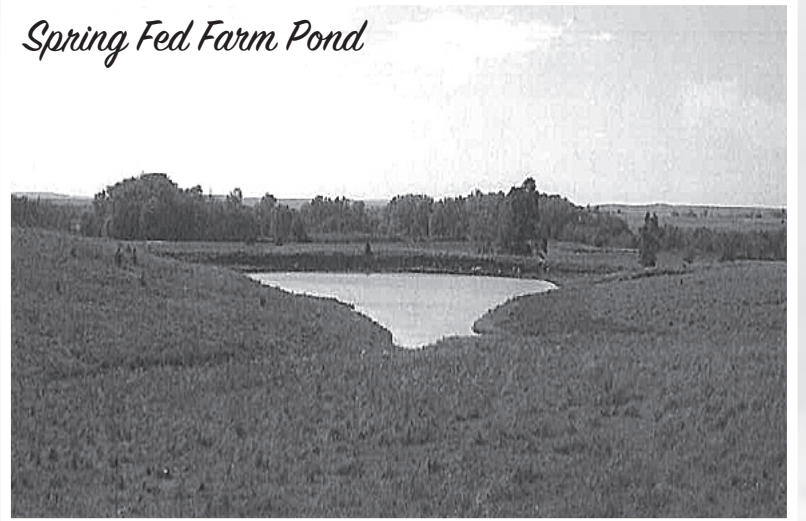
Education Activities:

- Kansas Range Youth Camp
- Environthon
- Annual Meeting
- Fourth Grade Ag Day for Lincoln and Lucas-Sylvan Elementary
- Stewardship Week Material
- Earth Day Activities
- Women in Agriculture Meetings

Items for Resale:

- Seed
- Marking Flags
- Weed Barrier Fabric
- Trees (cedar)
- Escape Ramps

Spring Fed Farm Pond



Contour Buffer Strip



No-Till Planting



Kansas Bankers Association Soil Conservation Award

The Lincoln County Conservation District and the Lincoln County Key Bankers Association are proud to recognize Camellia “Cami” and Mark Ingelin as the recipients of the 2024 Kansas Banker Award for Soil Conservation. This prestigious award highlights the importance of soil and water conservation efforts and honors farmers and landowners who demonstrate outstanding dedication to sustainable agricultural practices.

Cami’s family farm, located in northwest Lincoln County in Cedron and Orange Township, has been a cornerstone of conservation efforts for nearly a century. The land was first purchased in the 1920s by her grandparents, Sydney and Bertha Tuttle, who farmed it until the 1950s. In 1952, Wey and Charlene Tuttle, Cami’s parents, took ownership and made significant improvements, including extensive terrace work.

Today, Cami and Mark oversee approximately 800 acres of pasture and cropland, with the help of Rod and Janet Seehafer’s family and David and Lynn Wacker’s family, who serve as tenants. Together, they have implemented numerous conservation measures to protect the land and ensure its sustainability for future generations.

Some of the conservation practices and programs utilized on the farm include:

Participation in the State Cost Share Water Re-



L-R: Brady Coover, Kimberly Meyer, and Cami Ingelin at the banquet, where Ingelin was honored as a recipient of the 2024 Kansas Banker Award for Soil Conservation. (Photo by Becky Rathbun)

source Program for four years

Restoration and improvement of existing soil conservation structures

Construction of terraces

Establishment of grassed waterways and critical area plantings

Implementation of no-till farming and crop rotation to enhance soil health

Cami ensures that conservation improvements are made incrementally each year, rotating projects to maximize the long-term benefits to the land.

When asked about receiving this honor, Cami expressed deep gratitude and emphasized that the award is a shared achieve-

ment. She credited the Seehafer and Wacker families for their dedication to maintaining and improving the land, the NRCS office team for their invaluable assistance with cost-share programs, and local contractors like Tom Robinson and Nelson Construction for their work on terrace reconstruction and waterway repairs.

In her closing remarks, Cami shared her heartfelt appreciation: “Thank you to the Board of the Conservation District for this award and for all the opportunities that have been given to me over the years. I am very grateful.”

The Lincoln County Conservation District and the Key Bankers Association proudly congratulate

Cami and Mark Ingelin on receiving the 2024 Kansas Banker Award for Soil Conservation, recog-

nizing their dedication to preserving and protecting Kansas’s agricultural resources.

Congratulations Conservation Award Winners!

We support conservation through:

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- Fertilizer Recommendations
- Conservation Trees
- Plant Disease Diagnosis
- Insect & Weed Identification
- No-Till Information
- Crop & Livestock Information



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Essay contest winners all from USD 299



Samuel Heller (above), Grace Krisher and Lauren Brokes (not pictured) were essay winners. (Photo by Becky Rathbun)

1st Place Essay
Samuel Heller

Home Is Where the Habitat Is

According to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service “of the 20% of Great Plains grasslands that remain undisturbed, 93% of it is unprotected and at risk of conversion.” Kansas wildlife habitats are being negatively affected by current land management practices. But how can we help reverse and negate the effects? A few examples of these practices are overgrazing, overswathing, and under-diversified fields. The effects of these practices can be seen through the local wildlife population’s decline.

First, many pastures in the area have been overgrazed over the years, even more so in recent years due to drought. Overgrazing leaves less and less material for the plant to regenerate, diminishing the amount of foliage available for wildlife. It also encourages erosion when there are less plants to hold the soil in place. In order to put a halt to these harmful practices, we can follow the general rule of thumb when it comes to grazing: take half leave half. This means you allow your livestock to take half of the available foliage and you leave half for the plant and the wildlife.

Similar to overgrazing, overswathing is also a substantial problem. Overswathing is when Kansans swath prairieland leaving smaller amounts of habitat left for upland game birds. By simply refraining from swathing small patches of prairie grass and encour-

aging CRP (The Conservation Reserve Program) land, new habitats can be created by converting fields to pastures and pastures to CRP. We can also preserve existing habitats by seldomly swathing waterways.

Finally, diversification of crops is a primary method of conservation; however, recently there has been less and less diversity in crop rotations. This can cause soil quality to plummet and make it harder for other plants to grow there. This also leaves less food for wildlife in different seasons. For example, if you were to only plant summer crops, wildlife would have more trouble finding things to eat in the fall. In order to combat this, simply cycle crops like wheat, soybeans, milo, sudan grass, etc.-every one to two years.

So I’ll ask you again, how are wildlife habitats in Kansas being hurt by current land management practices and how can we help reverse and negate the effects? Us as Kansans can help stop negative land management practices by using the take half leave half rule, converting more land back into prairie or preserving the existing prairie, and diversifying our crops to help our soil.

2nd Place Essay
Grace Krisher

Home Is Where the Habitat Is

Imagine a world with Clean Farming. Clean Farming, also known as sustainable agriculture, is an approach to farming that focuses on producing food in a way that is healthy for consumers

and the environment. This method emphasizes the use of natural processes and renewable resources, aiming to reduce the negative impacts of farming on the environment. Clean farming is essential for maintaining soil health, conserving water, and reducing pollution, all of which are crucial for the long-term sustainability of agriculture.

One of the key principles of clean farming is maintaining soil health. Healthy soil is the foundation of productive agriculture, as it supports plant growth and helps retain water and nutrients. These practices minimize soil erosion, enhance organic matter, and promote beneficial microorganisms, all of which contribute to a more resilient and productive farming system.

Also having clean farming can help the animals stay healthy and not die. Goats will eat everything that they can get into. The cows help with the soil because their poop will get mixed in with the soil and fertilize the soil. Pigs help unroot weeds and brush that are not wanted. Chickens also help keep the farm clean by eating weeds, food scraps, and insects.

Clean farming emphasizes water conservation. Agriculture is a major consumer of freshwater resources, and inefficient water use can lead to depletion of water supplies and degradation of water quality. Clean Farming practices, such as drip irrigation, rainwater harvesting, and the use of drought-resistant crop varieties, help to optimize water use and reduce wastage. By conserving water, clean farming ensures that this vital resource remains available for future generations and helps to mitigate the impacts of climate change.

Reducing pollution is a crucial aspect of clean farming. Conventional farming often relies on synthetic fertilizers and pesticides, which can contaminate soil, water, and harm wildlife. Clean Farming practices prioritize the use of natural inputs, such as compost and biological pest control, to minimize the environmental impact. Additionally, Clean Farming can encourage the adoption of integrated pest management strategies (also known as IPM), which combine biological, cultural, and mechanical methods to control pests in a more sustainable and environmentally friendly way.

In conclusion, clean framing is an essential approach to agriculture that promotes environmental stewardship, resource conservation, and long-term sustainability. Also by maintaining soil health, conserving water, and reducing pollution, Clean Farming practices ensure that agriculture can continue to provide food for future generations without compromising the health of the planet. Embracing clean farming is not only beneficial for the environment but also for the health and well-being of consumers and farming communities worldwide.

Imagine a world with clean farming in it.

3rd Place Essay
Lauren Brokes

Home Is Where the Habitat Is

Home is where the habitat is everywhere in the world. Habitats are an essential part of animals’ lives in wildernesses all over the world. An animal’s habitat is the place where it finds food and shelter for itself and its young. I would compare an animal’s habitat to your home, your house. Your home is a safe place where

you eat and sleep. Your house is your habitat and it is important to you and your family-imagine your house getting destroyed. It would be the same for animals when their habitats are destroyed.

Habitats all over the world are being destroyed in different ways. One way our local habitats are being destroyed are by invasive species. Invasive species are animals and plants that come into an area and take up all the resources such as water, nutrients, and land needed by the native plants and animals to thrive. Another way in which invasive species destroy habitats is because there are no natural predators for them or anything that will control the population or slow down and stop the growth of these species. Noxious weeds are one type of invasive species in Kansas that can destroy a habitat. Some examples of noxious weeds are Musk Thistle, Field Bindweed, Johnson Grass, Creeping Thistle, and the Eastern Red Cedar Tree.

The Eastern Red Cedar Tree can be used to describe how an invasive species can destroy a habitat. Cedar trees spread

very quickly because of how many seeds they produce which multiply the number growing in an area. They also take up a lot of water and nutrients that are needed by native plants to survive. Without necessary water and nutrients the native plant species will start to die out. And without the native plant species the native animal species will have no food or shelter. Without food and shelter the native animals will start to die out or move out, thus showing how an invasive species can affect an area by destroying an animal’s habitat. Solutions to keep the noxious weed population down, Kansans could chop and spray the Musk Thistle and any other weed or grass, and cut down the cedar trees before they get too big.

It’s very important for Kansans such as you and I to take care of our land and the natural areas of our state, because if the invasive species are not controlled they could potentially over take the native plants and use up all the resources. This is how the native habitats are being destroyed leaving the native animals homeless.



Aiden Sulsar honored for achievements at state level with a 3rd Place poster finish. (Photo by Becky Rathbun)

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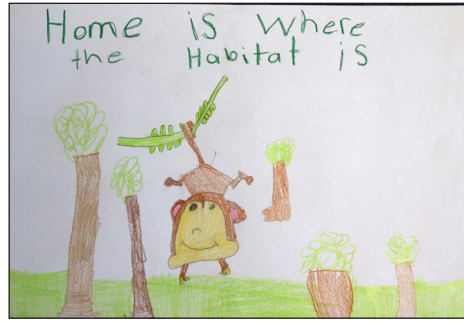
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Kalli Gardner proudly displays her award after receiving Honorable Mention in the 4th-6th Grade Division at the KACD State-Level Poster Contest, representing USD 298 with her conservation-themed artwork. (Photo by Becky Rathbun)

3rd Place Posters



Aubrie Hamel - 1st Grade



Luna Falcon - 2nd Grade



Reid Meitler - 3rd Grade



Sadie Hull - 4th-5th Grade

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CELEBRATING “DAY ON THE FARM”



Lincoln and Sylvan-Lucas elementary students explore farm life at Lincoln County Farm Bureau’s Day on the Farm at Rosebrook Farms. Held each September, the event features hands-on sessions led by local farmers, businesses, and volunteers who share their knowledge despite the busy harvest season. Above Right: (L-R) Leann Lamb, Maleah Beatty, and Jazlyn Blazier. (Courtesy photo)



Third, Fourth and fifth graders from Lincoln and Sylvan-Lucas Unified elementary schools in north-central Kansas have the chance to experience agriculture each year, thanks to Lincoln County Farm Bureau’s Day on the Farm. The event is hosted at Rosebrook Farms in Lincoln every second Thursday of September. Katie Lyne, county coordinator, planned the 12 years of the program. This program host kids with diverse backgrounds there are kids who have never been around tractors and others who regularly help on their family farms. Students experience farm life through eight sessions that are led by local businesses, farmers and volunteers. This event is special because of the farmers who help put it on. The event falls in the busiest time of year for our area farmers because of harvests, but they’re willing to donate their time and expertise to educate youth. These volunteers come from our local FFA students, board members of Farm Bureau, ag extension agents, conservation districts and farmers.

Conservation Accomplishments in 2024:

Grassed Waterway	109 acres	\$16,722.86
Pipeline Livestock	4500 Linear Feet	\$6,500.00
Terrace/Diversion	18078.40 Linear feet	\$14,962.74
Pumping Plant for Water solar systems		\$22,500.00
Water Well Livestock	5 livestock well	\$22,500.00
Water Facility Tank		\$4,260.00
On-Site Waste System	9 complete	\$22,500.00
Fencing	3100 Linear Feet	\$6,820.00
Soil Health Education Local Field Day		\$2,500.00
TOTAL ASSISTANCE PAID		\$119,265.60

2024 Conservation Education

Regional Envirothon, Wilson Lake	60 Students
4th Grade Ag Day, Sylvan Fair Grounds	46 Students/6 stations
Gurley Salt Marsh Day	44 Students/ 4 stations
AG Day on the Farm	70+ Students/8 stations
Speech Contest – Local	8 students
Photo Contest	4-H entry open class
Building Soil for Better Crops Presentation	5th grade
Earth Day School Presentations	USD 298 & 299 Students
Poster/Essay thru NACD & KACD	USD 298 & 299 Students
Saline Co. & Rolling Hills Zoo EdVenture Days	105 Students

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Carl Nielsen Honored for 15 Years of Conservation Service



Carl Nielsen accepting token of appreciation for his many years of service from Brady Coover. (Photo by Becky Rathbun)

After 15 years on the Lincoln County Conservation District Board, Carl Nielsen is stepping down, leaving behind a legacy of dedication and service. Elected in 2010, replacing Jim Gabelman, Carl served as Vice Chairman for 14 years. He played a vital role in signing and ranking 191 conservation contracts through the state cost-share program, ensuring valuable resources supported local conservation efforts. Beyond meetings, Carl was a dedicated volunteer, contributing countless hours to the 4th Grade Ag Day Education Program, setting up for annual meetings, and representing the district at events. In recognition of his service, the Lincoln County Conservation District presented Carl with a Jerry Thomas Print as a token of appreciation.

District Action Plans

Initiative I

- Priorities directed toward Farms with excessive soil erosion within Lincoln County
- Conservation District makes available for rent equipment for producers.
- Facilitate seeding of marginal cropland to grass or to promote establishment of windbreaks!
- Education programs thru local articles, newsletters concerning natural resource topics carried out annually.

Initiative II

- Increase the efficiency and effectiveness of district operation
- Memorandums of understanding reviewed yearly between Lincoln County Conservation District, State of Kansas, and United State Department of Agriculture.
- Monthly Board Meetings held first Thursday of each month at the USDA Service Center.
- Promote good stewardship of natural resources, Conservation district participate in Kansas Bankers Association Awards Program.

Initiative III

- District Manager to visit county students, encourage students in all contests providing information to students.
- Advertise for Women in Agriculture, Soil Health Alliance Programs, Eco Harvest Program, Rangeland Soil Health, Farm Trial Determination, Climate Smart Initiative, workshops held in corporate with other counties.
- 4th Grade Conservation Field Day, Gurley Salt Marsh education day, Envirothon, Speech programs, AG on Farm.
- Conservation District partner with Lincoln County Farm Bureau Association for educational activities for youth i.e., Day on the Farm) and adult educational program.
- Range Youth Camp and KS Range School for adults held at Ringneck Ranch.

Initiative IV

- Encourage observance of Soil Stewardship Week,
- Promote Earth Day thru schools and non-accredited private schools.

Initiative V

- Provide programs to all minority producers in the county.
- Ensure all new minority producers are added to Conservation District Mailing list for FSA quarterly new information.

Initiative VI

- Promote minorities serving on Conservation District Board
- Promote Community awareness of the district activities.
- Promote and publicize the conservation provision of the farm bill, new information on programs, provide information thru county newspaper, The District Update, and key producers and groups, social media.

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Students Showcase Expertise at One Water Speech Contest



Students who participated in the One Water Speech Contest delivered memorized five-minute speeches on the importance of water conservation. Abby Diabel was named the local champion and advanced to the regional contest in Ellsworth, where she earned 2nd place. Pictured: Back row (L-R): Serenity Steinike, Connor Charvat, Harlan Pancost, and Anna Feldkamp. Front row (L-R): Abby Diabel, Maggie Labertew, Hannah Pahls, and Hallie Thielen. (Courtesy Photo)

District Managers Tour Star Seed's Outdoor Plant Facility



District managers from 13 different counties visited Star Seed for a tour of their outdoor plant facility, gaining insight into the company's operations and seed production processes. (Courtesy Photo)

State Cost Share

What is Cost-Share?

The Kansas Department of Agriculture, Division of Conservation (DOC) currently funds two programs in Lincoln County to provide financial assistance to landowners who instill conservation practice(s) that provide the highest water quality and/or water conservation benefit. The goal of cost-share administration is the effective and efficient expenditure of limited funds to improve and protect Kansas' water resources. The two programs are: Water Resources Cost-Share Program (WRCSP) and Non-Point Source Pollution Control Program (NPSPCP). The WRCSP and NPSPCP provide financial incentives to landowners for the establishment of conservation practices that reduce soil erosion, improve or protect water quality, and reduce the consumptive use of water supplies. (1) Protection of public water supply lakes and groundwater sources (2) Priority issues identified through the State Water Planning Process

Facts About Cost-Share in Lincoln County

Landowner(s) cannot receive more than landowner limit set by the board in a cost-share project per program per year.

Payments are based on County Cost the cost of project practices and components determined annually by KACD board of directors.

CAC does NOT always

reflect the practice installation cost, and it is the landowner's responsibility to get project quotes from contractors.

Practice must meet resource concern to be considered. The project must meet all NRCS design specifications.

Applications will be ranked based on conservation improvement designed thru local board and state DOC Kansas

Contract includes agreeing to a 10-year minimum of maintaining the practice according to required maintenance procedures.

The landowner is responsible for selecting a contractor and project estimation costs.

Project cannot be started until signature signed contract is approved by Kansas Department Of Conservation (KDOC) and designed by National Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) technician.

Landowner must keep and submit all receipts for a project's cost, including labor and seed tags, to the Lincoln County Conservation District

Cost-Share Q & A

Q: Can I apply for financial assistance for the new septic system recently installed in my home?

A: No, one of the first eligibility requirements for financial assistance consideration is that the project has not been started or completed.

Q: Where can I sign-up for financial assistance on

some terraces I need?

A: At the conservation district office located in the same county as the property where the proposed terraces are going to be installed. Note that conservation districts have designated sign-up periods for accepting requests for financial assistance, so you will need to find out when you can sign up. The conservation districts is located in the USDA Service Centers, 112 East Court Street, Lincoln.

Q: I cash lease my neighbor's pasture for my cattle to graze. I pay for all improvements such as fencing and fertilizing the grass. Can I get cost-share to have a water well dug and pipeline installed?

A: The state's cost-share programs only provide financial assistance to landowners. Perhaps you would want to plan arrangements with the landowner and have him/her apply for the financial assistance.

Q: I received state cost-share money a few years back on a waterway. I am getting ready to sell my farm ground. What do I need to do about the contract that I signed?

A: It is your responsibility to obtain a written contract/agreement with the new owner to transfer the maintenance obligations to the new landowner of within 10 years of the practice completion date. You will also need to provide the conservation district with a copy of the copy/agreement.

Experiencing Gurley Salt Marsh



All 8th grade students from Lincoln and Sylvan-Lucas spent a morning learning why a salt marsh is important to conservation. Spencer Fehr, Archaeologist, Area 4 Manhattan NRCS office educates the group. (Courtesy Photos)

Meet Rian Reeder: Lincoln's New Division of Conservation Technician

The Lincoln office is excited to welcome Rian Reeder, who joined as the Division of Conservation Technician in December. A central Kansas native, Rian has always had a passion for agriculture and land stewardship.

After high school, she attended Butler Community College, where she studied Farm and Ranch Management, earned a spot on the Dean's Honor Roll in 2012, and served as Ag Club President. She then continued her education at Kansas State University, pursuing

Agronomy and actively participating in the Agronomy Club. During her time at K-State, she completed an internship with Farmway COOP, gaining valuable hands-on experience in the industry.

Her career path has taken her through a variety of roles, from welding at Vortex to working as a farmhand at LAAS Farms, then moving into soil conservation as a technician with USDA-NRCS in Mitchell County. She later transitioned to a sales representative role with Crown

Distributors, but ultimately, her passion for agriculture and conservation led her back to the field. When this position in Lincoln became available, she saw it as the perfect opportunity to return to soil conservation and serve the local community.

While she is still learning the nuances of her new role, Rian has already proven to be a valuable asset to our team. We invite you to stop by the office, say hello, and welcome her to Lincoln!



Thank you to all area farmers involved in the conservation effort!



The Lincoln County Farm Bureau Association commends farmers who utilize conservation practices preserving our natural resources for future generations.



Congratulations to this year's award winners!

Lincoln County Farm Bureau



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