

HARPER COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT

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JULY 2009

In This Newsletter

- 2009 Harper County Conservation Tour
- Article - *Take Care of Those Newly Planted Seedlings*
- 2009 Residue Alliance Farm Tour
- New Harper County Buffer Coordinator
- Article - *Why Establish A Buffer?*
- Ongoing Buffer Practices in Harper County
- Article - *Conservation Reserve Program SAFE Project CP38E*
- Back Cover - Harper County Fair

OFFICE PERSONNEL

District Manager
Timothy Clark

District Conservationist
Terry Hodgson

Conservation Technician
Chris Hoskinson

District Secretary and Buffer Coordinator
Misty McFarlane

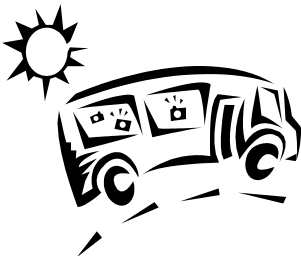
It is the policy of the Harper County Conservation District to prohibit discrimination in its programs on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, religion, disability, political belief, or marital status.

TOUR

YOU'RE INVITED

AUG. 29

2009 Harper County Conservation Tour & Steak Dinner **Saturday, August 29, 2009**



Enjoy an air-conditioned tour of county conservation and management practices and have a great dinner. The bus departs promptly at 2 PM from the Fence Post Supper Club in Harper and concludes at 6 PM back at The Fence Post. Cost for the steak dinner is \$5 and hamburgers for the children are \$1. For reservations, please fill in the form and bring or mail it, along with your payment, to the *Harper County Conservation District, 803 Fanning Drive, Anthony, Kansas, 67003* by **TUESDAY, AUGUST 25, 2009.**

PLEASE RETURN BY TUESDAY, AUGUST 25, 2009

I PLAN TO ATTEND TOUR AND THE DINNER

#ADULTS @ \$5 EACH _____ **#CHILDREN @ \$1 EACH** _____ **TOTAL ENCLOSED \$** _____

NAMES _____ **PHONE** _____

Take Care Of Those Newly Planted Seedlings

Submitted by Terry Hodgson

Now is the time for caring for those newly planted seedlings from this spring. To have successful planting, immediate care and maintenance is essential; without it you have a recipe for disaster, meaning an unsuccessful tree seedling planting.

If you want to see your seedlings survive their first year of life in the field, there are some things that need to be done in order to help ensure their survival. There are two primary things that will make or break a planting after the site prep and planting have been correctly done. The first is weed control. The second is available water. Both are critical.

Weeds compete for the same nutrients, water, and sunlight, seedlings are struggling to get. Therefore, it is essential that any weeds around newly planted seedlings be controlled. Eliminating weed competition is best; since weeds have a denser root system and are able to outgrow newly planted seedlings. Without control, weeds can use up available soil moisture, steal nutrients, and outgrow seedlings, keeping them from sunlight.

Weed control can be accomplished by using weed barrier material, through chemical means, and by physical removal.

Water availability is also critical. Because a newly planted seedling has not had the time to grow a dense root system, it cannot survive for long in dry conditions. It must have moisture readily available.

The best watering cycles are to water plants heavily and infrequently. By saturating the soil around the seedlings, and then allowing the soil to dry out thoroughly, the plant's roots are forced to grow deep into the soil as it chases soil moisture. If light and frequent watering is performed, the roots tend to stay nearer to the surface because they do not have to chase the moisture. So when irrigation is stopped, the roots are not deep enough to reach the moisture found deeper in the soil. A loose rule-of-thumb is to irrigate on sandy soils every three to five days and every seven to 10 days on heavier soils.

Do not fertilize newly planted seedlings. If you suspect there is a nutrient deficiency, have a soil sample analyzed. Most soils have enough nutrients within them to sustain most tree and shrub seedlings. It is easy to over fertilize newly established seedlings and kill them by "burning" their roots.

In most cases, when a fertilizer is applied to newly planted seedlings, the majority of the fertilizer is absorbed by weeds. This only makes controlling the weeds more difficult. Remember, it is tough out there for the newly planted seedlings to make it on their own. Not only will the ones planted this spring face difficulties, but also the seedlings planted the previous two years. It usually takes about three years for seedlings to get established. So care and maintenance to the seedling planting is important for the first three years. The more work you put into your planting, the more benefits you will get out of it for years to come.

2009 Residue Alliance Farm Tour

Date

August 20, 2009

Time

3:30 pm

Place

Oxford High School
301 E. Maple St.
Oxford, KS



The South Central Kansas Residue Alliance Chapter is sponsoring a tour of several Cowley & Sumner County farms to learn about cropping and tillage systems, soil quality and erosion issues, and pest/nutrient management. We will meet at the Oxford High School, board the bus, take a tour, then return to the High School Commons Area for a FREE meal, business meeting and networking opportunities.

RSVP to: wanda.jackson@ks.nacdnet.net by August 14, or call (620) 221-1850 ext. 3

For more information contact: Terry Hodgson at (620) 842-5483 ext. 28 or Wanda Jackson at (620) 221-1850 ext. 3

New Harper County Buffer Coordinator

Misty McFarlane

Not only am I the district secretary, but I am now the new buffer coordinator.

My family and I moved to Harper County in 2005, needing to get out of the 'big city' of Arkansas City, where I was born and raised. I've always been a country girl and wanted to live in a small town. The atmosphere of Anthony and Harper County is exactly where I want to raise my kids. I have my own web designing business and am also an independent Avon sales representative. I'm currently a student at Cowley County Community College, where I'm working on getting my degree in Web Design. I love quilting (active member of the Krazy Quilter's Quilt Guild), horseback riding, reading, fishing and going

camping with my family.

Most Harper Countians know my husband, Marc. He isn't new to Harper County, having worked for several of the farmers that live in the area when he was younger. He is employed by K & K Diesel. We've been married almost 12 years and have two children. Our daughter, Aubrey, is 10 and our son, Rhett, is 4. We are members of the Anthony church of Christ. We currently reside 3 miles north of Bluff City, where we raise a garden, pigs, chickens and cattle.

I'm looking forward to serving you as the new buffer coordinator. ***I am normally in the office Monday through Thursday from 8 am to 4:30 pm.*** Come by sometime and say hi!

Why Establish A Buffer?

By Misty McFarlane, Buffer Coordinator

Agricultural producers all share a similar goal: to protect their land assets, while still maintaining profitability. A good, commonsense way to do that is to use conservation buffers. Conservation buffers are strips, or small areas of land in permanent vegetation. Buffers help to manage environmental concerns such as soil loss and nutrient or pesticide runoff. Conservation buffers also help by reducing costs on marginally productive land areas.

Established buffers also demonstrate a producer's commitment to the environment by protecting soil, air and water quality as well as improving wildlife habitats.

Benefits of Buffers

Conservation buffers slow water runoff, trap sediment, and enhance infiltration with the buffer. Buffers also trap fertilizers, pesticides, pathogens, and heavy metals. They help trap snow and cut down on blowing soil in areas with strong winds. In addition, they protect livestock and wildlife from harsh weather and buildings from wind damage.

Conservation buffers reduce noise and odor. They are a source of food, nesting cover, and shelter for many wildlife species.

Buffers also provide connecting corridors that enable wildlife to move safely from one habitat area to another.

If properly installed and maintained, they have the capacity to:

- Remove up to 50 percent or more of nutrients and pesticides.
- Remove up to 60 percent or more of certain pathogens.
- Remove up to 75 percent or more of sediment.

Like the trim on a house makes the house look better, well-planned conservation buffers improve the appearance of a farm or ranch. If used as part of a comprehensive conservation system, buffers will make good use of areas that often should not be cropped.

The Continuous Conservation Reserve Program (CCRP) sign up makes establishing conservation buffers on your farm operation economically attractive. To get the process of installing buffers started, or to get answers to your questions, please come see me at the Harper County Conservation District or call (620) 842-5910.

Ongoing Buffer Practices in Harper County

These are several practices already in place here in Harper County.



Field Windbreak (CP5A)

Rows of trees and shrubs used to reduce wind erosion, and protecting young crops. Provides excellent protection for wildlife. Located along field borders or within a field.



Grassed Waterway (CP8)

Strips of grass seeded within cropland where water tends to concentrate or flow off a field. Primarily used to prevent gully erosion, can be combine with filter strips or riparian buffers to trap sediment and other pollutants.



Contour Grass Strips (CP15A & CP15B)

Narrow bands of perennial vegetative cover planted on the contour in a crop field or terraces and alternated down the slope with strips of crops. Can reduce soil erosion, minimize transport of sediment and other water-borne contaminants and provide wildlife habitat.



Filter Strips (CP21)

Strips of grass used to trap sediment, fertilizers, pesticides and other pollutants before they reach streams and lakes.



Field Borders (CP33)

Grass-seeded areas along the edges of crop fields. Provides excellent wildlife habitat for quail and upland birds.



Cross-Wind Trap Strips (CP24)

Rows of perennial vegetative cover planted in varying widths perpendicular to the prevailing wind direction. Can effectively control wind erosion on crop fields subject to high average annual wind speeds.

Conservation Reserve Program SAFE Project CP38E

USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) offers a Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) to enhance high priority wildlife habitat in Kansas. The SAFE project will assist to design, install and maintain permanent upland bird nesting and brood-rearing habitat on any cropland, or the dryland corners of center-pivot irrigation systems.

Sign-up

Sign-up at your local FSA offices for the CRP SAFE Habitat Initiative, which will run continuously until the acreage goal is met.

Eligible Land and Practices

All areas of Kansas will be eligible for this practice. In addition, land must meet basic CRP eligibility requirements. Acceptable land is cropland that was planted or considered planted to an agricultural commodity in four out of six years between 2002 and 2007 and is physically and legally capable of being planted in a normal manner to an agriculture commodity.

Eligible location

Acres may be enrolled anywhere within the cropped field (including alfalfa and other non-program crops, crop rotations, and summer-fallow).

- Acres are ineligible in fields of non-native grasses, including fescue, brome, Caucasian bluestem, yellow bluestem and Bermuda.
- CP38E acres may not be established immediately adjacent to native perennial grass enrolled in CRP under the same ownership, with the exception of waterways, where the CP38E strip would essentially widen the other continuous practice strip. CP38E acres may intersect (not parallel) with any Continuous or General CRP.
- Acres may be enrolled next to grazed or hayed native pasture.
- Acres are intended to be islands of edge habitat in a cropped field and thus General Signup CRP may **NOT** be established such that edge habitat is reduced within the same field with CP38E.

Contracts

Contracts are for not less than 10, nor more than 15 years.

Eligible size:

- Maximum acreage enrollment is 5 acres for fields less than 25 acres in size, or 20% of a field for fields 25 acres or greater, with a maximum acreage of 80 acres per field.
- Fields less than 5 acres may be enrolled in their entirety.
- Enrolled acreage must average between 30 and 200 feet in width, although strips may be narrower or wider in places to accommodate special concerns or better accommodate the farming operation (eliminating point rows, for example). The shape of enrolled acres is not limited to strips. Multiple CP38E strips or patches will be allowed in a field. Strips or patches must be separated by a minimum of 30 feet.

New, Expired or expiring CRP

New, expired or expiring CRP may be enrolled but existing cover must contain wildlife suitable cover including a native grass mix, with a forbs/legume component comprising 10% or more of the plant composition, and must not contain greater than 5% non-native grasses. If the existing cover does not contain 10% forbs/legume in the plant composition, the cover needs to be upgraded. An approved management practice must be completed on existing grass cover during the first or second year of enrollment.

Rental Rates

Rental rates are based on three predominant

soils on land offered for enrollment. FSA bases rental rates on the average value of dry-land cash rent for the past three years and adjusts rates to reflect the relative productivity of soils within each county.

SIP and PIP Payments

A one-time up front signing incentive payment (SIP) of \$100 per acre for CRP contracts for 10 or more years will be paid by FSA after eligibility criteria are met and the CRP contract is approved. A one-time practice incentive payment (PIP) equal to 40 percent of the eligible installation costs will be paid after the CRP practice is installed, eligible costs are verified and other payment eligibility criteria are met.

Cost-share Payments

In addition to the payments described, FSA will pay up to 50 percent of the eligible cost of establishing a permanent cover.

Wildlife emphasis

Conservation plans and planting specifications will be designed to maximize wildlife benefits. Habitat shall not be used for turn rows, roads, or for feeding or storage of hay, or equipment storage.

Cooperating Agencies

CRP and CCRP is administered by USDA's FSA with assistance from USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and the Harper County Conservation District. For additional information please contact any of the agencies above or Misty McFarlane, Buffer Coordinator for the Harper County Conservation District at 620-842-5910.



**“Tried Butters Yet?”
Come by and see our farm and butter display!**

**Making Tracks to the Harper County Fair!
We will be at the fair August 6th - 8th, 2009**

Come See Us At The Fair!



HARPER COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT
803 FANNING DRIVE
ANTHONY, KANSAS 67003-2866

**BULK RATE
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
Anthony, KS 67003
Permit No. 22**