



conserving
natural resources
for our future

Butler County Conservation District

77th Annual Edition

January 2023

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KANSAS BANKERS ASSOCIATION AWARD SOIL CONSERVATION

2022 Key Banker Award for Soil Conservation

Mark Hinnenkamp

Our Thanks to Butler County Banks for Sponsoring the Key Banker Award!

Next time you visit your bank, please thank them for supporting
agriculture in Butler County.

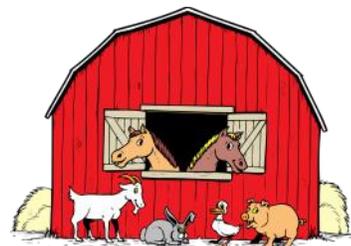
~ AMERICAN AG CREDIT ~ CITIZENS BANK OF KANSAS ~

~ COMMERCE BANK ~

~ COMMUNITY NATIONAL BANK ~ EMPRISE BANK ~ EQUITY BANK ~

~ INTRUST BANK ~ RCB BANK ~

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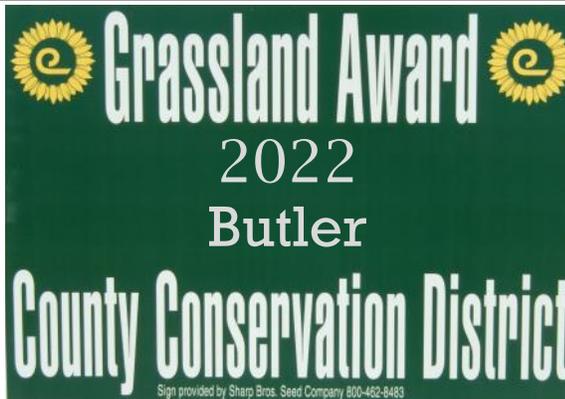
In honor of Kansas' largest
industry, agriculture,
the month of March
will be proclaimed
Kansas Agriculture
Month.

In addition, Tuesday,
March 21, 2023 will
be declared
Kansas Agriculture
Day.



2022 Grassland Award

**Meg Corporation
Mason Greene**



Kansas Bankers Association 2022 Soil Conservation Award Mark Hinnenkamp



Mark Hinnenkamp of rural Benton is the winner of the 2022 Bankers Award for Soil Conservation.

Mark lives just north of Highway 254 off Butler Road. He grew up north of where he now lives and where

his parents farmed and raised livestock. The land he owns on the west side of Butler Road has been in the Hinnenkamp family for 5 generations.

Mark had his own welding business and so never got into farming for himself. Mark leases his land to Gordon Busenitz. The land is no-tilled and a wheat, bean and corn rotation is used. He purchased land on the east side of Butler Road in 2008 to prevent that land from being developed. In all, he has about 300 acres with 35 acres being native hayland.

In 2018, Mark contacted the USDA Service Center to request assistance in dealing with some erosion along his property line in the field west of his house. The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) went out to the field with Mark and suggested building a waterway along the property line. The Kansas Department of Agriculture, Division of Conservation provided cost share assistance in constructing and seeding the waterway. Existing terraces in this field will eventually outlet into the new waterway once the grass is established.

On land Mark owns on the east side of Butler Road, more extensive conservation work was required in order to reduce erosion issues in that field. It was determined that a concrete structure was needed at the bottom of



the field and the terraces in the field needed to be rebuilt. NRCS recommended the USDA Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) to address the erosion issues in this field. Mark received an approved contract and began work immediately.



Mark commented that contractors Don Mauck and Ron Koehn, who have worked for many, many years as conservation contractors, did an outstanding job getting his project completed. Don constructed the waterway and terraces and Ron built the concrete structure.

Kansas Bankers Award—(continued from page 2)

Mark said both Don and Ron were great to work with and coordinated with each other to get their work on site completed in a timely manner.

Mark recently retired from his welding business. Most of the welding he did was for pipeline companies. Mark likes to fish and has two large ponds in front of his house. The ponds were stocked in 2005. Because of the recent droughts, he has had to pump water from one pond to the other in order to save the fish. He enjoys the geese and ducks that use the pond. He also likes to hunt.

Another one of his hobbies is blacksmithing. He built most of his blacksmithing tools himself and creates beautiful knives using his blacksmithing skills.

Mark's wife Sherri passed away in 2022 from ALS (Lou Gehrig's Disease). He has a daughter Andi, son in law Paul and Grandson Ewen Woljtal who live in New York State. They enjoy visiting the farm any time they can.

The 2022 Bankers Award for Soil Conservation is sponsored by the Kansas Bankers Association.

Congratulations, Mark!

**Back in the 1800's,
cowboys hung lanterns
from their saddles at night,
It's the first example of
Saddle Light Navigation...**



Local Work Group Meeting Scheduled for February 22, 2023 at Augusta Public Library

A Local Work Group (LWG) meeting is going to be held on Wednesday, February 22, 2023 at the Augusta Public Library, 1609 State Street, starting at 1:00 PM; the meeting will last approximately 2 hours. This LWG meeting will be focusing on issues in the El Dorado Management Unit (Butler, Chautauqua, Cowley and Elk Counties).

The purpose of this meeting is to gather information and make recommendations to the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) State Conservationist, as well as other state and local leaders, related to addressing natural resource concerns identified at the local level. The recommendations gathered locally, as well as a consolidated report for the entire state of Kansas, will be shared with all interested parties.

"LWGs are important because they provide recommendations on local and state natural resource priorities and criteria for U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) conservation activities and programs. It is critical that the 'boots on the ground' have a voice in the process," said Dan Meyerhoff, KACD Executive Director.

Topics to be covered at the LWG meeting will include:

- A resource assessment review
- Identification of local priority resource concerns
- Training Needs in the Management Unit
- Outreach Opportunities in the Management Unit
- Other issues raised by meeting attendees

Those encouraged to attend include agricultural producers and the general public, representatives of agricultural and environmental organizations and governmental agencies carrying out agricultural and natural resource conservation activities. The LWG can also take into account concerns of particular historically underserved groups and individuals including but not limited to women, persons with disabilities, socially disadvantaged, and limited resource groups.

Our LWG meeting will also have a virtual component to allow you to participate remotely if you wish. Please contact the Conservation District at 316-320-3549 to obtain your virtual link.

2022 Grassland Award MEG Corporation—Mason Greene



Mason Greene and family of MEG Corporation are the winners of the 2022 Grassland Award sponsored by Sharp Brothers Seed Company and the Kansas Association of Conservation Districts.

The Greene’s have been in the cattle business for three generations. Mason runs a commercial cattle operation. They market their cattle as value-added, non-GMO, natural beef. They run stockers and have a 700 head cow/calf operation. They have one full time employee, along with Mason who currently run the operation. They lease pasture along with operating on several hundred acres Mason’s Dad Stan owns between Cassoday and El Dorado which includes some cropland. They have recently converted some of the cropland (around 600 acres) to hardy fescue for early winter grazing.

Mason shared that well managed pastures will typically take care of themselves. Weeds are typically not an issue when grass is managed properly; however, Sericea Lespedeza is an exception to this rule. It can take over a good pasture quickly and choke out the good grass; they are diligent in spotting Sericea Lespedeza and controlling it before it becomes an issue. They also burn their pastures once every 3-4 years to control weeds, brush and trees.



Mason has used several cost share programs through the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and the Conservation District. They have participated in the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) for cover crops, the Great Plains Grassland Initiative through EQIP and received funds for cover crops through the Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategy (WRAPS) program.

Mason said cost share helps them do more management on more acres; they wouldn’t be able to make improvements and manage at the level they do without this help.

Land they manage is leased to deer hunting through that season. They allow others to hunt and fish at other times of the year. Mason has seen a decline in turkeys and less Prairie Chicken over the years but waterfowl and deer populations are good.

When asked about changes he has seen over the years in ranching, Mason said how cattle are marketed has changed and the margins are thinner. Years ago, a 200 head herd could take care of a family, now it takes much more than that to support a family.

Something that helped Mason out early on was that his Dad started “handing over the reins” years ago and gave him the responsibility for making decisions in the operation and management of the ranch. He made mistakes but learned from them. “It’s not as easy as it looks,” Mason commented.

While the ranching operation keeps Mason busy, he does attend his kids school events and has served on several Boards over the years. One of his hobbies is endurance running. *Continued on page 5*



Grassland Award—

(continued from page 4)

Mason and his wife Caitlin have 4 children; Hayden is attending the University of Kansas, Sam and Charley attend El Dorado High School and Olivia is in grade school.

Congratulations, Mason!

The 2022 Grassland Award is sponsored by the Kansas Association of Conservation Districts Grasslands Committee and Sharp Brothers Seed Company.



Farm Field Trial Earthworm Study

Grant funds were received from the Kansas Department of Agriculture/Division of Conservation to conduct a Farm Field Trial. Butler and Cowley County Conservation Districts teamed up with Southwestern College's Biology Department to conduct an earthworm study. Rick Cowlshaw, Biology Professor (and Cowley County Conservation District Supervisor), is taking students out to the field during different seasons to collect, count and identify earthworms in different field environments (rangeland, no till cropland with cover crops, no till cropland and conventional tilled cropland). A report of their findings will be produced when the study is completed.

Southwestern College biology students searching for earthworms in a sample they dug in their rangeland site on a very cold day in November 2022.



Research Shows ~ Healthy Soil Makes Healthy Watersheds that Clean and Hold More Water

A watershed is an area of land that drains to a particular water body such as a lake or stream. Recently, Kansas flood risk managers have wondered if improved soil health in upper parts of watersheds could help manage flood risk further down in the watershed. The Kansas Silver Jackets interagency team used modeling to answer this question: how would changes in soil properties due to soil health management systems reduce flood risk?

What did the Research Show? Less runoff and lower flood peaks in a watershed where soil health management systems cause the soil to act more like a sponge. The smaller volume and lower speed of runoff water decreases the modelled likelihood of downstream flood damages.

Healthy soil reduces erosion and sedimentation in streams and creeks because rain soaks in instead of washing away. Healthy soil improves water quality because it acts as a filter and holds onto plant nutrients instead of running off into streams as pollutants.

Improved soil health can reduce the likelihood and amount of flood damage, especially when there is a lot of agricultural land upstream of flood prone communities. Good soil health will help flood risk management and improve water quality. Flood risk and water quality program leaders should work together to encourage soil health management efforts.

For more information, <https://kswraps.org/kansas-healthy-watersheds-project/> or contact Scott Satterthwaite, Kansas Department of Health and Environment, scott.satterthwaite@ks.gov.



Register Now for the 2023 Women Managing the Farm Conference

Meaningful conversations between women farmers, rural business leaders and landowners have been a goal of the Women Managing the Farm Conference since the event began in 2005, and the 2023 meeting is no exception.

The conference will be held February 15-17, 2023 in Manhattan. Topics range from ag advocacy at large and small scales to the impact of military aggression on global food security to mental health. The 2023 Women Managing the Conference offers women the chance to explore how to grow their operations, their communities and themselves.

For more registration information, go to <http://womenmanagingthefarm.com/registration>.

Highly Erodible Land (HEL) and Wetland Determinations

Jeff Parks, DOC Technician
El Dorado Field Office

Landowners and/or Operators, if you are participating in government programs and are unsure if your land has an HEL determination or Wetland determination, you should contact the Farm Service Agency (FSA) or Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS).

If you have plans to create a new drainage system, do land leveling, filling, dredging or land clearing of trees, an AD-1026 form will need to be completed with the FSA office.

If there are questions regarding tree removal or hydric soil, check with NRCS while you are visiting with FSA.

The best plan is to have the HEL and Wetland determination completed before starting your projects.

A copy of Form AD-1026 can be found online at:
www.fsa.usda.gov/ad1026form

AD-1026
(10-30-14)

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FarmServiceAgency

HIGHLY ERODIBLE LAND CONSERVATION (HEL) AND WETLAND CONSERVATION (WC) CERTIFICATION

*"To make a difference in the world, you don't have to be perfect, clever or beautiful. You just need to be kind."
~ Paul Oxtan*

Sign Up Now for Financial Assistance in Implementing Conservation Practices on Your Farm or Ranch Cost Share Sign-Up—January 1 to April 30

Controlling soil erosion on your farm or ranch can be expensive. That's why financial assistance is made available to local landowners through the Kansas Department of Agriculture/Division of Conservation. The Conservation District administers these funds for Butler County. Funds are provided to landowners who qualify based upon state criteria and local program requirements set forth by the Conservation District.

Landowners who are interested in receiving financial assistance need to fill out an application before April 30, 2023 to be considered for our next round of funding that we receive in July 2023. Applications received by April 30th are prioritized and ranked based on a number of factors. These include the type of practice to be implemented, whether the practice is located in a high priority watershed and location of practice to sensitive areas such as perennial or intermittent streams, wells or public water supplies. Applications that rank high are funded first.

Conservation practices eligible for cost share include: grassed waterways, terraces, underground outlets, diversions, pasture and hayland planting, range seeding, sediment control basins, wetland creation, filter strips, ponds, watering facilities, fencing, plugging abandoned water wells, upgrading livestock waste systems and repairing failing septic systems. A complete list of guidelines and eligible practices can be obtained at the conservation office.

All cost share practices must meet NRCS Standards and Specifications in order for cost share to be paid.

If you have some erosion issues, call us or stop by and talk to us. We can pull up a map on the computer to discuss areas in your field(s) that concern you and then come out to the field. With your help, we can determine the best way to solve an erosion problem. It costs you nothing to ask or have us come out and look. We can provide some estimates on cost so you can make a determination on whether you want to proceed with the project.



For more information on the cost share program, eligibility, or a complete list of practices that can be funded with cost share, contact Sandy Koontz at the Conservation District office, 316-320-3549.

Butler County Conservation District Supervisors



Back Row—Richard Scott, Justin Grunder, Russell Janzen
Front Row— Linda Klaassen, Walter Burress

**"In nature nothing exists alone."
~ Rachel Carson**

Thanks to all past and present conservation district supervisors for your time and talents and your service and commitment to protecting our soil and water resources.

"There is simply no issue more important. Conservation is the preservation of human life on earth, and that, above all else, is worth fighting for."

— Rob Stewart



Root Plow

Don't push out those hedge rows! We have a root plow. There is a \$25 charge to use the root plow.



The Biology of Soil Compaction

Excerpts from an article by James J. Hoorman, Extension Educator, Cover Crops and Water Quality, Ohio State University Extension, Columbus; João Carlos de Moraes Sá, Soil Organic Matter and Fertility Specialist, University of Ponta Grossa, Ponta Grossa, Brazil; and Randall Reeder, Extension Agricultural Engineer, Food, Agricultural, and Biological Engineering, Ohio State University Extension, Columbus



What is a clod? Many farmers complain that their soil is cloddy and hard to work. Clods are man-made and do not usually exist in the natural world. Bricks and clay tile are formed by taking wet clay from the soil and heating and drying the clay. When farmers till the soil, they perform the same process by exposing the clay to sunlight, heating and drying the clay until it gets hard and turns into a clod. Tillage also oxidizes the soil and results in increased microbial decomposition of organic residues. Organic residues keep clay particles from chemically binding. Clay soils that remain protected by organic residues and stay moist resist turning into clods because the moisture and organic residues keep the clay particles physically separated. Organic residues act like sponges, absorbing water and soil nutrients and cushioning soil particles. Clods act like bricks, resisting water absorption and making soils hard and compacted.



An agricultural system that combines a continuous living cover (cover crops) with continuous long-term no-till is a system that closely mimics a natural system and can restore soil structure and soil productivity. A continuous living cover plus continuous long-term no-till protects the soil from compaction in five major ways. First, the soil surface acts like a sponge to help adsorb the weight of heavy equipment traffic. Second, plant roots create voids and macropores in the soil so that air and water can move through the soil. Roots act like a biological valve to control the amount of oxygen that enters the soil. The soil needs oxygen for root respiration and to support aerobic microbes in the soil. However, too much soil oxygen results in excessive carbon loss from the aerobic microbes consuming the active carbon. Third, plant roots supply food for microorganisms (especially fungi) and burrowing soil fauna that also keep the soil from compacting. Fourth, organic residues left behind by the decaying plants, animals, and microbes are lighter and less dense than clay, silt, and sand particles, so adding organic residues to the soil decreases the average soil density. Fifth, soil compaction is reduced by combining microaggregates into macroaggregates in the soil. Microaggregate soil particles (clay, silt, and particulate organic matter) are held together by humus or old organic matter residues, which are resistant to decomposition, but microaggregates tend to compact in the soil under heavy equipment loads.

The original document can be viewed here: <http://ohioline.osu.edu/sag-fact/pdf/0010.pdf>.

Kansas Range Youth Camp



June 13-16, 2023

Sponsored by:



If **YOU** are interested in plants, livestock, or wildlife, attend an educational event like no other in Kansas!

Participants: Upcoming High School Sophomores, Juniors, & Seniors

Location: Camp Mennoscah, Murdock, KS (in Kingman County)

Learning: Range Plant Identification, Plant Growth, Stocking Rate Determinations, Livestock Nutrition, Rangeland Wildlife Management, and much more!

Special Items: Field Trips, Steak Dinner

Activities: Swimming, Canoeing, Fishing, & Hiking

Tuition: \$250 per participant*

*Interested students should contact their local Conservation District, Extension Office, Farm Bureau office, livestock association, and/or other local business for possible financial assistance.



*Educating Kansas youth
for over 50 years!*



Contact: Courtney Jackson, Kansas Range Youth Camp Chairman
116 Fox Street, Council Grove, KS 66846---- 620-767-5111---courtney.jackson@usda.gov

Range Youth Camp Scholarships Available!

Attention upcoming high school sophomores, juniors and seniors with an interest in rangeland management—Each year the Conservation District offers scholarships to attend the week long Range Youth Camp sponsored by the Kansas Section Society for Range Management.

During this week long camp, students will learn to identify rangeland plants, determine plant growth and stocking rates, discuss livestock nutrition, rangeland wildlife management and much more!

Fun activities are also scheduled and include swimming, canoeing, fishing and hiking.

Tuition is \$250. The Conservation District offers full scholarships to students who attend from Butler County.

Contact the District Office for more information, 316-320-3549.

Rent the District's No-Till Drills!



The Conservation District has four Great Plains Model 1006NT No-till Drills for rent. They are 13 feet wide with a 10 foot planting width. Three have 3 seed boxes and 1 has 2 seed boxes with capability to drill seed crops, brome, native grass and small seed such as wildflowers.

The drills have a single hitch and hydraulic lift. A 70 horsepower tractor or bigger is recommended for pulling in the field. You can pull it behind your truck when you pick it up. These drills rent for \$9.50 an acre with a 10 acre minimum (\$95 minimum charge).

Butler County Conservation District is an equal opportunity provider and employer.



When you use the Conservation District's no till drills, root plow, or purchase geotextile or flags, you help support our education and information programs?

Thank you!

USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Geo-Textile Fabric

The Conservation District has geo-textile fabric for sale. The fabric comes in a 15 foot width and you can order as many feet as you need. It is \$2.80 per square yard.

Marking Flags

If you need some flags we sell them for \$7.50/100 count. They come in white, blue and pink.





Conservation District's 76th Annual Meeting

Make reservations now to attend Butler County Conservation District's 77th Annual Meeting at 6 PM on Thursday, February 9, 2023 at The Benton Church, Benton, Kansas. RSVP required! Please call 316-320-3549. Please RSVP before February 6, 2023.

Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and Conservation District Staff

NRCS Staff:

- Stephen Kolarik—Acting District Conservationist
 - Micajah (Cage) Goins—Soil Conservation Technician
 - Kathryn Gonzalez—Soil Conservationist
 - Jeff Parks—NRCS/Kansas Department of Agriculture/
Division of Conservation Technician
 - Holly Edmondson—NRCS/PBP Contract Clerk
 - Dawn Ledebor—Pheasants Forever
Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist
- Conservation District Staff:
- Sandy Koontz—Conservation District Manager



The Rose Hill Rocket Green School Club assisted with WOW! in Andover. One of the 4 sessions they ran was a demonstration on caring for honey bees.

Andover WOW! Wonders of Water Water Festival at Robert Martin Elementary in Andover in October 2022



Kathryn Gonzalez and Jeff Parks demonstrating the Stream Trailers



Cage Goins demonstrating the Rainfall Simulator



Sandy Koontz demonstrating the EnviroScape Watershed Model



Vickie Cikaneck, District Wildlife Biologist with Wildlife and Parks showing wildlife skins and skulls



Tara Varner, Butler County Farm Bureau Education Coordinator, running the Pumpkin Exploration Session

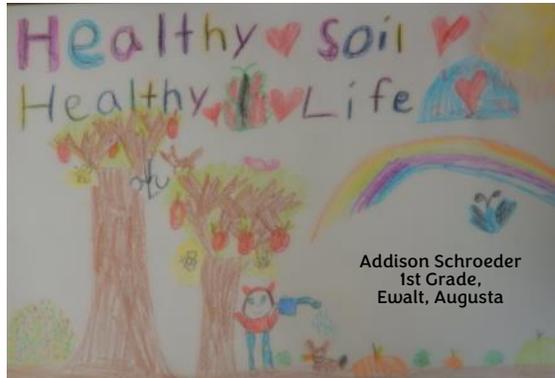
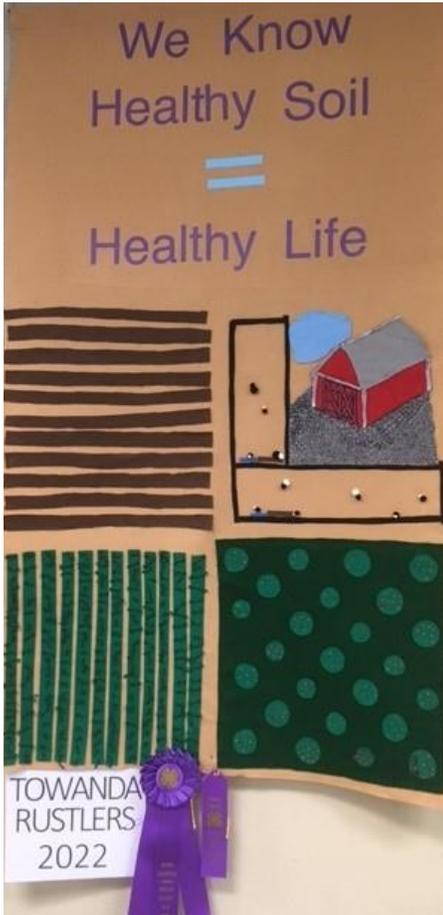
"Teaching to care for the Environment is teaching to value Life."

— Mohith Agadi

Educational Events/Activities Sponsored by the Conservation District

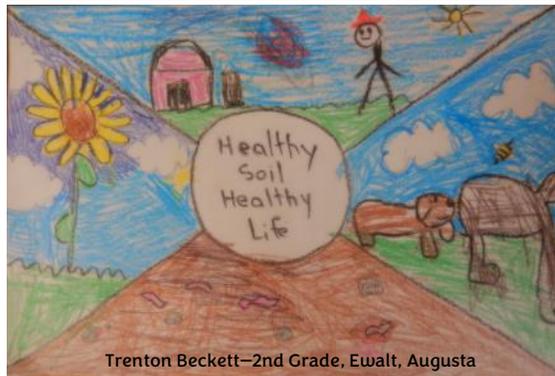
4-H Conservation Banner Sponsored by the Conservation District

This banner, created by the Towanda Rustlers 4-H Club, received Grand Champion at the 2022 Butler County 4-H Fair. The Conservation District Sponsors the Conservation Banner Division at the Fair.

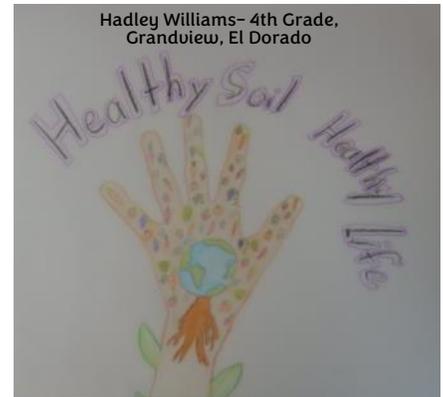


2022 Poster and Limerick Contest

The top poster was created by Addison Schroeder, a first grader from Ewalt Elementary in Augusta. The second poster was created by Trenton Beckett, a second grader from Ewalt Elementary in Augusta. The poster below was created by Hadley Williams, a fourth grader from Grandview Elementary in El Dorado. The limerick at the bottom was created by Bricken Lewis, a fourth grader from Rose Hill Intermediate. These were all first place winners in our poster/limerick contest in 2022 and were submitted to the state contest sponsored by the Kansas Association of Conservation Districts.



The theme for the 2022 Poster, Limerick, 4-H Banner and Photo Contest was Healthy Soil—Healthy Life



Conservation District 4-H Photo Contest

The Conservation District sponsors the Conservation Photo at the Butler County 4-H Fair. Kylee Barlett of Rose Hill Rustlers received 1st place in the 2022 Conservation Photo Division.



Healthy Soil—Healthy Life
There once was a crop named Bob
He didn't have a job.
He needed soil
So he won't boil
And turn in to corn on the cob!

Limerick by Bricken Lewis, 4th Grader, Rose Hill Intermediate

Poster and Limerick Contest Winners

The 2022 Conservation Poster and Limerick Contest theme was "Healthy Soil ~ Healthy Life". Six schools and 24 teachers participated this year. We received 425 entries; 404 posters and 21 limericks and paid out \$1,090.00 in prize money to students and \$2,400.00 in teacher incentives.



2022 POSTER CONTEST WINNERS

Andover—Robert Martin Elementary—Fifth Grade

- 1st Place — Dallin Ericksen
- 2nd Place — Hudson Bieberle
- 3rd Place — Emrie Edwards

Honorable Mentions—Isabella Kieffer, Ella Snavelly, Tate Allums, Evelyn Dible, Saran Saravanan, Juliet Beus

Augusta—Ewalt Elementary—Kindergarten

- 1st Place — Kyriss Konhoff
- 2nd Place — Jesse McDaniel
- 3rd Place — Gracelynn Abbott

Augusta—Ewalt Elementary—First Grade

- 1st Place — Addison Schroeder
- 2nd Place — Ivy Harrod
- 3rd Place — Kylee Borden

Addison's poster was submitted to the Kansas Association of Conservation Districts State Contest

Augusta—Ewalt Elementary—Second Grade

- 1st Place — Trenton Beckett
- 2nd Place — Abby Williams
- 3rd Place — Adalynn Rebel

Honorable Mentions—Evey Gostautas and Lucy Atherton

Trenton's poster was submitted to the Kansas Association of Conservation Districts State Contest

Augusta—Ewalt Elementary—Third Grade

- 1st Place — Austynn Armstrong
- 2nd Place — Lilly Bybee
- 3rd Place — Natalie Simpson

Augusta—Ewalt Elementary—Fourth Grade

- 1st Place — Kristi Lee Santistevar
- 2nd Place — Parker Zorn
- 3rd Place — Keaton Sims
- Honorable Mention—Sophie Bryan

Augusta—Ewalt Elementary—Fifth Grade

- 1st Place — Aydris Fox
- 2nd Place — Beau Dawson
- 3rd Place — Cash McClure
- Honorable Mention—London Bridwell

Augusta—Garfield Elementary—Fourth Grade

- 1st Place — Mollie Tatom
- 2nd Place — Myla Hartley
- 3rd Place — Daniel Grover
- Honorable Mention—Mary Jane Walker

Circle—Oil Hill—El Dorado—Third Grade

- 1st Place — Adrian Vazquez
- 2nd Place — Samuel Lim
- 3rd Place — Blaikley Tharp
- Honorable Mention—Faith Bosserman

El Dorado—Grandview Elementary—Fourth Grade

- 1st Place — Hadley Williams
- 2nd Place — Shyane Bradshaw
- 3rd Place — Abby Remsberg

Hadley's poster was submitted to the Kansas Association of Conservation Districts State Contest

Rose Hill Intermediate—Fourth Grade

- 1st Place — Clara Lee
- 2nd Place — Anna Nguyen
- 3rd Place — Kinsley Row
- Honorable Mention—Abriel Smith

2022 LIMERICK WINNERS

Rose Hill Intermediate—Fourth Grade

- 1st Place — Bricken Lewis
- 2nd Place — Mackenzie Chandler
- 3rd Place — Sutton Nash

Bricken's limerick was submitted to the Kansas Association of Conservation Districts State Contest

TEACHER AWARDS

Each teacher received a \$100 incentive for participating in our contest:

Andover—Robert Martin Elementary

Shanie Rucker, Cristie Karber, Kelsi Barlow

Augusta—Ewalt Elementary

Ashlee Sims, Kynnedee Sanders, Lauren Maska, Kristy Watkins, Miranda Laing, Shelly Dunsmoor, Rachel Basquez, Melissa Rebel, Leslie Lewellen, Jason Puckette, & Easton Brown

Augusta—Garfield Elementary

Jennifer Cody & Jennifer Husselman

Circle Oil Hill

Sara Martin & Taylor Hall

El Dorado—Grandview Elementary

Jim Shum & Linda Barker

Rose Hill Intermediate

Emily Bastian, Tammie Classen, Nicole McCall & Stephanie Woodrome

Thank you for teaching environmental education in your classrooms!

Congratulations to All!



Our 2023 Poster, Limerick, 4-H and Stewardship Theme is, "One Water"

Butler County Conservation District
2503 Enterprise, Suite B
El Dorado, Kansas 67042
316-320-3549



**Conservation District's 77th Annual Meeting to be held
Thursday, February 9, 2023 at The Benton Church in Benton**

The 77th Annual Meeting of Butler County Conservation District is scheduled for Thursday, February 9, 2023 at The Benton Church in Benton. The meeting will start at 6:00 PM.

For reservations, please call the Conservation District at 316-320-3549 or email sandy.koontz@ks.nacdnet.net. Registration deadline is February 6, 2023.

Check out Butler County Conservation District's Website:
www.butlercountyconservationdistrictks.com

**2022
Key Banker Award
for
Soil Conservation
Mark Hinnenkamp**

**2022
Grassland Award
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Funding for this newsletter has been provided by the Kansas Department of Agriculture—Division of Conservation through appropriation from the Kansas Water Plan Fund.