



FY2016 Cost-Share Sign Up

Cheyenne County Conservation District is conducting a Cost-Share sign-up May 18 through May 29, 2015, to accept requests for State financial assistance to install enduring conservation practices. The Conservation District administers State cost-share programs locally to improve water quality and reduce soil erosion. Funding is provided by the Kansas Department of Agriculture - Division of Conservation (DOC). Landowners with natural resource concerns on their property are encouraged to visit the Cheyenne County Conservation District to discuss the possibility of receiving State financial assistance.

How to Apply

Submit a completed application at the USDA Service Center or print off an application on our website. You must have an application on file to be eligible.

Important Information

Submitting an application, does not guarantee cost-share assistance; work cannot begin until you have received an approval letter. Failure to do so will result in ineligibility. All work must meet NRCS Specifications and Standards prior to payment. The Landowner/DOC contract is a 10 year agreement.

Our mission is to promote the stewardship and sustainability of natural resources for future generations in Cheyenne County. We are proud to serve the residents, producers and landowners of Cheyenne County, Kansas.

Eligible Practices for Cost-Share

- Terraces
- Field Windbreaks
- Grass Plantings
- Livestock Water Supplies
- Cross Fencing
- On-Site Waste Water Systems



5 Gallon Colorado Blue Spruce from the 2015 Tree Sale.

In This Issue

- 2015 Home Garden Program
- Pheasant Recovery
- How to Volunteer
- Kids Conservation Corner
- ...and more!



Produce from the Home Garden was donated to the Senior Center in 2013

2015 Home Garden Program

The Cheyenne County Conservation District is sponsoring the Cheyenne County Home Garden Program to assist county residents in establishing their own small, home gardens. Applicants will be provided with plans to build a 4- by 8-foot raised bed and 10 complimentary packets of seeds to grow in their garden.

The objective of the program is to encourage people to grow some of their own fresh produce. Participants will also be asked to share some of their harvest by bringing it into the conservation office where it will be weighed and donated to the local food pantry. There will be a prize awarded to the participant that donates the most produce at the end of the season.

Sadly, the Home Garden Program did not thrive in 2014 due to a massive hail storm on July 18 that pounded Cheyenne County. In 2013, winner Brian Holzwarth donated 1,525 pounds of food for the Home Garden Program. Let's make this year rival 2013!

For an application, please stop into the conservation office; call Dani at 332-2341, extension 101 or go to our website at www.cheyennecountycd.com. Seeds will be available on a first come, first served basis.

Those who benefit from the Home Garden

In the past 4 years, harvests from the Home Garden Program have been donated to the Cheyenne County Food Pantry; Senior Center; Good Samaritan Village in St. Francis and Goodland; Local Schools and members of our community.

Herman Antholz Memorial Scholarship

The Cheyenne County Conservation District offers 2 college juniors/seniors with a one-time, \$250 scholarship.

Criteria

- Resident of Cheyenne County
- Majoring in Agriculture or Wildlife
- Deadline to submit application is August 28th of the current year.
- Be willing to be interviewed by Cheyenne County Conservation District Board of Supervisors
- Applicants will be notified by letter regarding District Board's decision.

Looking for a Contractor

Contact the Conservation Office for a list of Contractors that fit your needs. We have contractors for Earth Work, Well Drilling, Fence Building and On-Site Waste Water and more!

Summer Supplies

Don't forget that the district keeps drip irrigation tubing and fixtures; weed barrier rolls, squares and pins on hand for your convenience. All proceeds from the sale of trees, drip irrigation and weed barrier help to fund educational resources in Cheyenne County.



This pheasant is thriving in a habitat with excellent ground cover and food sources.

Helping Pheasants Recover from Drought

By Daryl Fisher, KDWPT Biologist
Garden City, Kansas

Pheasant populations appear to be starting to recover from the drought in western Kansas in recent years. If landowners or farmers want to return to the days of good bird hunting success, what can they do to help speed the recovery of pheasants? Ensuring good habitat, is the only way to increase pheasant numbers and population recovery. The habitat components that are most important to upland game birds are winter cover, nesting cover, and brood cover. Water is also a necessity for upland birds, but pheasants (and quail) usually get their water requirement from dew and from the foods they eat, so don't require an available supply of open water.

Winter cover is generally a heavy cover that can provide some insulation necessary to help pheasants survive severe cold temperatures and snow. It should also be near a source of winter food, which is generally waste grain from harvested crop fields or possibly a dense stand of forbs (broadleaf plants, often called weeds) and its associated supply of seeds. Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) stands and larger farmstead windbreaks with vegetation between the rows provide good winter cover.

Nesting cover enables the hen to make and hide a nest for her eggs. The vegetation types that serve this purpose are generally grassy with enough standing residual vegetation from the previous year's growth (such as CRP), or have enough new growth, as found in a good stand of green wheat.

Brood cover is generally the required habitat component that is in shortest supply. Brood cover is vegetative habitat that provides a good population of insects (required food for chicks) that is fairly sparse at ground level, small chicks can easily move through it, but it also provides overhead cover, so hawks and owls cannot easily see the hen and chicks moving around. Examples of brood cover include harvested wheat fields that are not tilled or sprayed for weeds right away, somewhat thinner CRP stands that have been inter-seeded with forbs or have been lightly disked, and fields that have been planted to cover crops that contain a variety of forbs. Cover crops are not only a good way to improve soil health (which helps crop production), but can also be excellent brood habitat for pheasants and quail.

Please contact your Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) office or conservation district office located at your local county U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Service Center (listed in the telephone book under United States Government or on the internet at offices.usda.gov) for assistance. More information is also available on the Kansas Web site at www.ks.nrcs.usda.gov. Follow us on Twitter @NRCS_Kansas. USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Contact Us:

Cheyenne County
Conservation District
614B W US Business Hwy 36
St. Francis, KS. 67756

785.332.2341 X 101

dani.holzwarth@ks.nacdn.net

www.cheyennecountycd.com

Board of Supervisors:

Dylan Loyd
Chairman

Mark Keller
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Chris Hingst
Treasurer

Roger Orth
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Spencer Schlepp
Member

Danielle Holzwarth
District Manager

NRCS Personnel:

Keith Kisner
Supervisory District
Conservationist (Atwood Office)

Cale Rieger
Conservation Technician

The Cheyenne County Conservation District is a local entity of state government, operated by a locally elected board of supervisors. Our agency is housed in the same USDA building as the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) and Farm Service Agency (FSA).

Board meetings are held the first Tuesday of each month and are open to the public. If you wish to meet with the Board, please notify the office and a time will be reserved for you

Volunteer Opportunities

The Earth Team Needs You!

Conserving natural resources requires the time, energy, knowledge and talent of many individuals. With the help of Earth Team volunteers, the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) can expand its services, ultimately putting more conservation on the ground.

NRCS and its volunteer program, the Earth Team, help America's farmers and ranchers conserve the Nation's soil, water, air, and other natural resources. Through partnerships with individual landowners and local communities, NRCS plans and implements voluntary conservation practices and offers incentive-based conservation programs that benefit both the landowner and the environment.

Who can volunteer? Anyone age 14 and older can be an Earth Team volunteer.

What can Earth Team volunteers do?

- Assist with field visits
- Perform clerical duties
- Assist with layout of conservation projects
- Conduct soil surveys
- Test water quality
- Create communications products
- Coordinate and staff events
- Develop and present educational materials

2015 District Activities



The district helps to sponsor educational programs throughout the year. The pictures above were taken during the Poster Contest Session and Kids Conservation Round-Up in Colby.



The district's annual fundraiser is the tree sale every spring. This year over 5,000 trees were sold to Cheyenne County and neighboring counties. Supervisors and volunteers help make this resource available.

Kids Conservation Corner

What Makes Soil Alive?

We can all see things that live on the soil such as plants, animals and people, but did you know there are a lot of things that live in the soil? Things living in the soil are called soil organisms. Some organisms are big enough to be seen with your eyes, other organisms are so small they can only be seen with a magnifying glass or a microscope. The job of the organisms is to keep the soil healthy.

Soil is a living thing – it is very slowly moving, changing and growing all the time. Just like other living things, soil breathes and needs air and water to stay alive. Healthy, living soil provides us with our everyday needs. Not only the obvious things such as food, grass, plants and trees but also some not-so-obvious things like medicines, paint, paper, ink, chalk and shampoo just to name a few.

Soil Sprouts Life

Soil supports all kinds of living activities. It nourishes crops that we use for food and trees that we use for building materials. Wildlife and livestock survive by eating plants that grow on the soil. We build houses and roads on top of the soil.



Soil Is Alive

Right Beneath Your Feet

When you look at soil can you see the different layers? These layers in the soil are called soil horizons.

The O horizon is the top layer. It is made up of plant litter and keeps the soil very healthy. The plant litter decomposes into nutrients that enrich the soil and form the next layer.

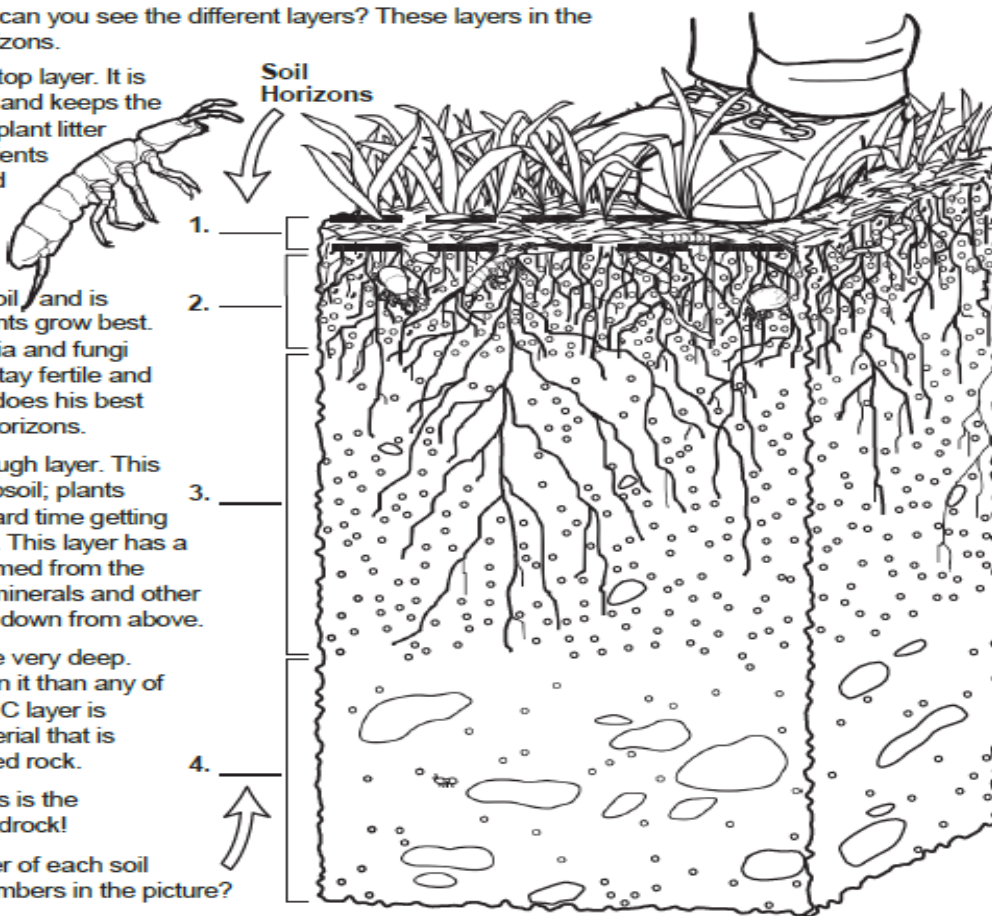
The A horizon is the living layer. This layer is also called the topsoil and is where the roots of plants grow best. It is also where bacteria and fungi live that help the soil stay fertile and hold water. Springtail does his best work in the O and A horizons.

The B horizon is a tough layer. This layer is also called subsoil; plants and animals have a hard time getting through the B horizon. This layer has a lighter color and is formed from the accumulation of clay minerals and other compounds that seep down from above.

The C horizon can be very deep. It has less living stuff in it than any of the layers above. The C layer is formed by parent material that is created from weathered rock.

Below the soil horizons is the hardest layer of all: bedrock!

Can you write the letter of each soil horizon next to the numbers in the picture?



Edible Soil Recipe

You can make edible soil with food that looks like all the different soil horizons. What you will need: Clear cup, cookies, vanilla pudding, chocolate pudding, and sprinkles

1. Place a whole cookie at the bottom of the cup. The cookie symbolizes the bedrock found under the soil.
2. Crumble up a cookie or two and drop the pieces on top of the whole cookie. The crumbled pieces symbolize the C horizon and parent material.
3. Spread vanilla pudding over the cookies. The light pudding symbolizes the B horizon and the subsoil.
4. Spread the chocolate pudding over the vanilla. The dark pudding symbolizes the A horizon and all the nutrients found in topsoil.
5. Drop the sprinkles on the top. The sprinkles symbolize the O horizon and the plant litter above the topsoil.