

Area III: Reno County

Photo Left to right: Brent Stuckey-Treasurer, Melody McCurry-Vice-Chairperson, Jerry Clasen-Board Member, Sam Sanders-Chairperson, and Chloe Wilson-District Manager

The Reno County Conservation District is led by a fantastic group of supervisors that represent different faces of agriculture in our county. Besides our standard responsibility to manage state cost share programs and encourage better land management, we are proud to provide wide ranging conservation education events for diverse populations. We kick the year off with a Legislative Breakfast for our County and State Representatives to help them better understand current resource concerns in our area and also to dialog about how we can better serve our community. We follow this with our largest outreach event of the year, the Reno County Water Festival where we bring 750 fourth graders together from across the county to learn about water availability and stewardship. Leveraging Soil Health Education funds from the Division of Conservation and a critical partnership with the Cheney Lake Watershed, an EPA 319 WRAPS project, we are able to coordinate our largest adult education event, a Summer Soil Health Workshop, that brings in hundreds of producers from across the state to learn from experts in Soil Health from across the nation. Of course, not all education happens on a big scale – so we also host small workshops aimed at specific populations and resource concerns. The past three years we have cooperated with the Hutchinson Fire Department, Kansas Forest Service, Prescribed Burn Associations and NRCS to educate homeowners that lie in the urban/wildland interface about residential wildfire risk and land management practices that can mitigate the potential damage. Too, we continue to maintain several legacy outreach efforts that bring extra support to our community. We help coordinate a bicycle recycling program that culminates in an Annual Bicycle Safety Clinic and bicycle giveaway and we support the Hunters for the Hungry meat distribution efforts throughout Reno County – almost 1400 pounds of meat was donated to charitable organizations in 2018.

The Reno County Conservation District is happy to serve Reno County and is grateful for dedicated partners in NRCS, FSA, and certainly the Cheney Lake Watershed.