

Area I: Smith County

Photo Left to right: David Herredsberg-Vice-Chairman, Martin Seemann-Board Member, Joe Wiehl-Board Member, Dustin Warner-Treasurer, James Sweat-District Manager, Charlene Smith-PBP Clerk, Gary Wolters-NRCS Soil Conservation Technician, James Molzahn-NRCS Supervisory District Conservationist, and Jay Overmiller-Chairman (Alan Heiman-Soil Conservationist not pictured)

In 2001, the Smith County Conservation District along with Osborne, Rooks, Graham, Norton and the Phillips County Conservation District formed the Kansas Natural Resource Foundation. Through this foundation, the six conservation districts have put on WACKY Day for all the 6th graders in the six-county area. This year with two schools not in attendance, there were over 250 students that enjoyed the day. The students have an opportunity for a fun day learning by going to hands on demonstrations. Demonstrations are put on by volunteers from NRCS, FSA, FLP, Kansas State Extension, and other volunteers. Demonstrations include Wildlife, Fish, Soils, ATV Safety, Pollinators, Fur Harvesting, Worms, Rainfall Simulator, Stream Trailer, Water Jeopardy, Enviroscape, Surveying, Sandbox, Rangeland Discovery, and a Sawmill. During the lunch periods, while a third of the students eat a catered lunch, a third of the students attend a Kansas Wildlife and Parks game warden and his scent dog demonstration, and the other third of the students go to a home-made carnival where the games take on the theme of the day.

Services offered by the Smith County Conservation District is a no-till grass drill, weed barrier applicator, tree planter, and a root plow. The district also offers Eastern Red Cedars trees for sale that are hand dug

out of the Platte Valley in Nebraska early in April for those planting windbreaks. The profit from sales of cedar trees, grass seed, flags, wildlife escape ramps for stock tanks, underground outlet pipe and supplies, weed barrier fabric, and drip irrigation systems help for the continued operation of the Smith County Conservation District.

Smith County Conservation District employees helped with the *Feds Feed Families* program. This year the employees at the service center gathered 711 pounds for the three food pantries of Smith County.