

Area V: Montgomery County

Montgomery County Conservation District from Area 5 does roadside projects every year to help keep the roads in the county to preserve the county roads. They can be as simple as helping to pay for waterways along the side of the road so that the water has somewhere to go other than in the road or maybe redirecting water to a natural drainage area other than the county roads.

The district has been conducting a study on fescue grass roots and the effects of over grazing. The fescue is in four 4 plexi glass containers that are 24 inches tall 4 inches thick and 12 inches wide. Fescue grass is planted in potting soil and it matures in the containers. The district mimics different managing strategies such as haying, rotational grazing, grazing after haying, and then over grazing. With the containers being see through they are able to see what the roots are doing and track the health of the plant. This system allows the district to demonstrate to people how much it is their hurting the bottom dollar by over grazing instead of just telling them.

Montgomery County Conservation District On-Farm Trial is a poverty grass study to show producers the link between it and soil nutrition. They have partnered with K-State Research and extension and are making this a 5 year study. The district located hay meadows in the area that have been over taken with broomsedge for the test sites. Currently they have 12 plots in the field they are treating with different levels of NPK to see how the poverty grass reacts. Because of a working partnership with the extension, there is a lot of data collection. Plans are for the results of this project to be published when it is finished.

The Montgomery County Conservation District was chartered in 1946.