

Ness County Conservation District

Board Members: Thomas Frusher, Chairman; Mark Kerr, Vice-Chairman; Brandon Whitley, Treasurer; Brent Schreiber, Member; and Lawrence Wierman, Member

The Ness County Conservation District not only focused on State Cost Share for this past fiscal year but had the opportunity to assist the NRCS and FSA with the Environmental Quality Incentive Program, Wildlife Incentive Program, Conservation Stewardship Program and the Conservation Reserve Program. NRCS and the district hosted a Management Unit Local Work Group meeting for Farm Bill Programs. The District continues to support the Wet Walnut Creek and Pawnee Watershed Districts. Our district employees participated and assisted in the following local and online training sessions:

Will Frusher-Prior Soil Conservation Technician:

- Contractors Meeting-Ness County
- CART Training-Hays

Jenifer McVicker-Prior District Manager:

- Tool Training Workshop-Greensburg
- Virtual KACD workshop
- Wet Walnut Creek Watershed Meeting-Lacrosse
- Local workgroup meeting-Dighton
- CKLEPG-bimonthly meetings

Makenna Fritts-Current Soil Conservation Technician:

- Tool Training workshop-Greensburg, Range School-Tipton
- Virtual ATV Training workshop

Accomplishments/Programs/Services

- We sell grass seed to producers and contract out a grass driller to run our district grass drills. This is a unique asset to our county and is a great income for our district as well. Our county landowners who don't have the resources to accomplish this project on their own, greatly appreciate this service we offer.
- In Ness County, we like to push the programs we provide to help producers anyway we can. State Cost Share has been a huge help to our county landowners. Every year we use almost all or all of our money allotted to us for Non-Point Source and Water Resource projects; which is around \$35,000 total. Some of our most popular projects, would be terraces, terrace rebuilds, waterways, critical area planting, water wells and solar pumps. Our District Conservationist is great about letting producers know of our program; especially if they are denied funding through an NRCS program.
- Our local watershed district comes to Ness City to provide every 6th grader in our county with a field day in the spring. The district and NRCS employees from our office assist with this day and provide conservation education, using different educational tools every year that are

available around the state. The watershed district sets up different stations with different local agencies at each station to educate the kids on various topics. Lunch is provided by the watershed and then a field trip to a local area is included in the information packed day. We are lucky to have a watershed district that is so involved here in Ness County, the kids really look forward to attending this.

- A popular sale our county likes to participate in every March would be our containerized tree sales. The district places each personalized order for the trees and/or weed barrier. Our district works with Lane County Conservation District to get trees ordered and picked up. Trees and barrier are brought to Ness City by the district and producers are contacted for local pickup. Producers like to take advantage of this local delivery to complete projects for NRCS or State Cost Share. We also keep a nice inventory of drip irrigation parts available for sale to anyone wanting to install a system.