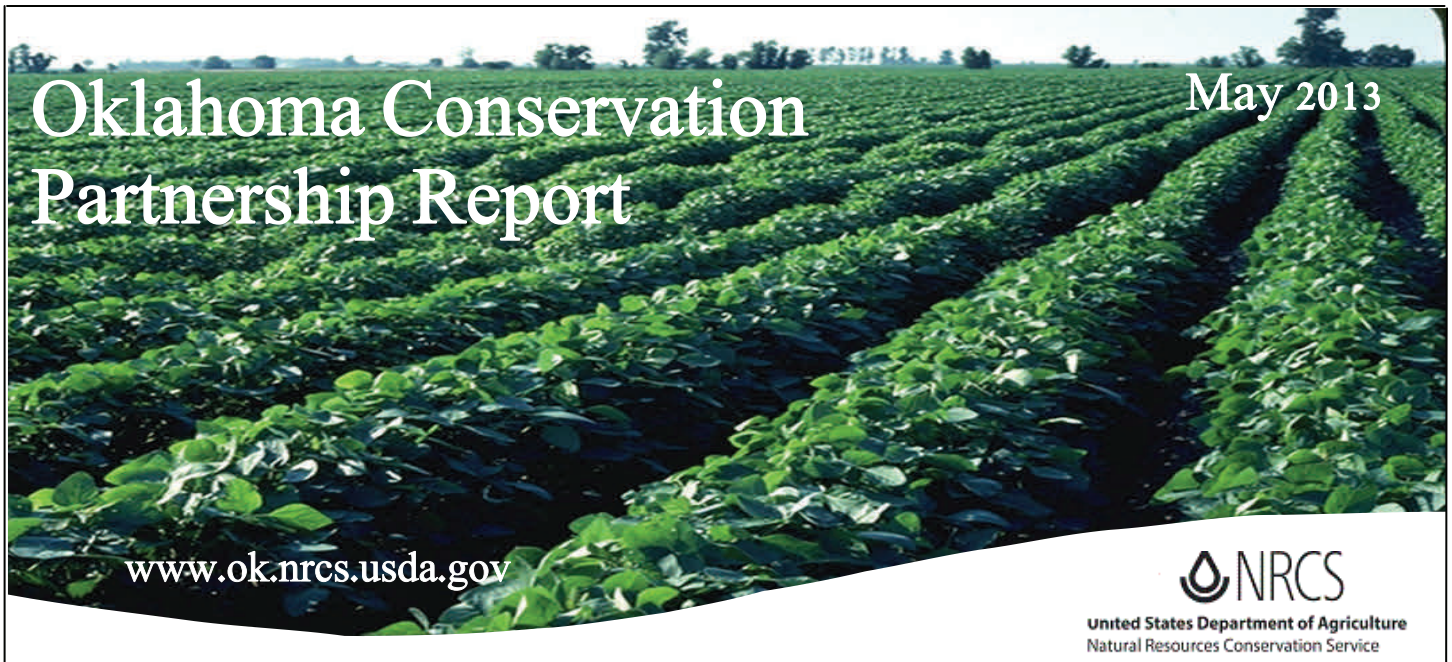
Natural Resources Conservation Service..100 USDA Ste 206 Stillwater, OK 74074 405.742.1204



MISSION: Helping People Help the Land VISION: Productive Lands Healthy Environments

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Soil Health & Livestock Water Sources Workshop & USDA Programs Informational Meeting was a Huge Success

The Natural Resources Conservation Service, (NRCS), the Oklahoma Tribal Conservation Advisory Council (OTCAC), Shawnee, Konawa and Seminole County Conservation Districts partnered to hold a workshop that provided valuable information on USDA programs and conservation training on soil health and waters sources for livestock. The workshop was held on May 22, 2013 on Seminole State College Campus. The workshop provided producers, Tribes, tribal producers and women in agriculture with valuable information that they could utilize in their farming and cattle operations. NRCS soil scientist Jeremy Dennis provided a "hands on" demonstration on importance of soil health with a rainfall simulator demonstration. NRCS Agricultural Engineer, Scott Schneider, presented on Livestock Watering Systems with an emphasis on utilizing water wells. Mr. Schneider's presentation covered many topics: the importance of a having a grazing plan; considerations and criteria for water wells; considerations and criteria for utilizing solar pumps, windmills, and electric submersible pumps for water delivery; considerations for livestock watering facilities for water storage. According to Tom James, NRCS district conservationist for the Wewoka office, "the highlight of the workshop was the soil health demonstration with a rainfall simulator and the presentation on water sources for livestock." The Oklahoma Tribal Conservation Advisory Council (OTCAC) sponsored the meal for the workshop.

Tom James, NRCS District Conservationist for the Wewoka office, provided an overview of NRCS programs and funding opportunities for producers.

Producers are engaged in the "hands on "soil health demonstration and rainfall simulator presented by Jeremy Dennis, NRCS.

Engineering Review

The Engineering for Conservation Planning Course

On April 22-26, 2013, the 15th session of the Engineering for Conservation Planning training course (aka Engineering Bootcamp) was held at the Best Western Cimarron Hotel and at the USDA-ARS Hydraulics Laboratory in Stillwater. Eighteen students (1 District Conservationist, 7 Soil Conservationists, 2 Rangeland Management Specialists, 3 Soil Conservation Technicians, 2 Construction Inspectors, 1 Secretary, 1 OCC Employee, and 1 County Conservation District Employee) participated in the training course. During this week long course, they were introduced to many facets of Oklahoma NRCS engineering. For example, the students were taught basic surveying skills and introduced to five common conservation practices (Diversion, Terraces, Waterways, Ponds, and GSSs). Their knowledge was tested near the end of the course through a field review, affectionately known as the Conservation Olympics.

Part of the course was held at the USDA-ARS Hydraulics Laboratory, giving the students an opportunity to tour and observe some of the testing facilities at the lab. One of the highlights of the ARS Lab tour was seeing water flow through the Roller Compacted Concrete scale model flume.

The course had great participation from the students and the instructors. Without everyone's great participation and extra efforts, this course could not have been a success.

Engineering for Conservation Planning students in front of the Roller Compacted Concrete scale model flume at the USDA-ARS Hydraulics Laboratory in Stillwater, OK. Pictured: front row from left to right – Lesley Carson, Matt Howell, Derek Kelso, Roderick Dukes, Rick Doyle, Diana Neumeyer, Laurie Bogle, Jimmy Ward, Barrett Robertson, Austin Bain, Joshua McNeff; middle row – Eric Shaw; back row from left to right – Matt Irby, Tracy Reeder, Kim Brandt, Clay Horton, and Ronald Beckloff. Not pictured: David Finley

Outreach Review

NRCS Participates at the US EPA Region 6 Tribal Nonpoint Source Workshop

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) participated at the US EPA Region 6 Tribal Nonpoint Source Workshop. The title of the workshop was *Nonpoint Source Pollution Management and the Watershed Approach*. The tribal workshop was held May 7 through May 9, 2013 in Tulsa, Oklahoma. Invitations were extended to all 39 Tribes of Oklahoma and tribes from New Mexico, Arkansas, Texas and Louisiana. Dr. Carol Crouch, NRCS American Indian and Alaska Native Special Emphasis Program Manager and District Conservationist for the NRCS Purcell field office, was selected as a panelist to share how NRCS is collaborating with tribes, tribal members and producers to effectively deliver "hands on" conservation workshops, program opportunities and technical assistance available for conservation planning. Dr. Crouch also presented how NRCS has developed strong partnerships in Indian Country through collaboration with tribes, tribal members and producers, USDA partners, state conservation agencies and the Oklahoma Tribal Conservation Advisory Council (OTCAC). Through collaboration NRCS has been able to identify the type of conservation workshops and training that is needed to address conservation issues or concerns in different geographic locations across the state. She also provided an overview of NRCS farm bill programs available to Tribes, tribal members and producers. There were twenty three tribes of Oklahoma and one tribe from Nevada, Nebraska, Kansas, Michigan and New Mexico in attendance.

Water Resources Review

Status of Oklahoma Watershed Rehabilitation Projects as of 5-15-13

Watershed	Dam No.	County	Conservation District	Status	
In Planning					
Little Washita	26	Caddo	South Caddo CD	Estimated completion 10-1-13	
Upper Elk	23D	Beckham	North Fork of Red River CD	Estimated completion 10-1-13	
Planning Completed - Awaiting De-					
Sallisaw Creek	32	Sequoyah	Sequoyah County CD	Pending Landrights	
Rock Creek	15 & 16	Murray	Murray County CD		
In Design					
Quapaw Creek	15M	Lincoln	Lincoln County CD	Pending	
Barntiz Creek	11	Dewey	Dewey County CD	Estimated completion 12-15-13	
Barnitz Creek	5	Dewey	Dewey County CD	Estimated completion 3-15-14	
Fourche Maline	7M	Latimer	Latimer County CD	Estimated completion 3-1-15	
Cottonwood Creek	16	Canadian	East Canadian CD	Estimated completion 3-1-15	
Upper Black Bear	62	Noble	Noble County CD		
Sallisaw Creek	29	Sequoyah	Sequoyah County CD		
Under Construction					
Caney-Coon Creek	2M	Coal	Coal County CD	Estimated completion 6-1-13	
Sallisaw Creek	26	Adair	Adair County CD	Estimated completion 6-1-13	
Rehabilitation Completed					
Sandstone Creek	16A	Roger Mills	Upper Washita CD		
Barnitz Creek	14	Dewey	Dewey County CD		
Mill Creek	18	Johnston	Johnston County CD		
Double Creek	1,2,3,4,5,6	Washing-ton	Caney Valley CD		
Cavalry Creek	6	Washita	Washita County CD		
Sandstone Creek	12,17A	Roger Mills	Upper Washita CD		
Sergeant Major Creek	1,2	Roger Mills	Upper Washita CD		
Cobb Creek	2	Washita	Deer Creek CD		
Sallisaw Creek	15,16,20	Adair	Adair County CD		
Big Wewoka Creek	29	Seminole	Seminole County CD		
Cottonwood Creek	17	Canadian	East Canadian CD		
Sallisaw Creek	18M	Adair	Adair County CD		*ARRA
Sugar Creek	L-43	Caddo	West Caddo County CD		*ARRA
Upper Clear Boggy	35	Pontotoc	Pontotoc County CD		*ARRA
Cobb Creek	1	Washita	Deer Creek CD		
Upper Clear Boggy	36	Pontotoc	Pontotoc County CD		
Cottonwood Creek	15	Kingfisher	Kingfisher County CD	Decommission	*ARRA
Turkey Creek	9	Washita	Washita County CD		
Upper Clear Boggy	33	Pontotoc	Pontotoc County CD		*ARRA
Sugar Creek	L-44	Caddo	South Caddo County CD		*ARRA
Upper Clear Boggy	34	Pontotoc	Pontotoc County CD		*ARRA

*American Recovery Reinvestment Act

Zone 1 Review

Logan County - Guthrie Field Service Center

On the evening of Monday April 22nd, the Logan County Conservation District hosted their annual Banker's Awards Banquet at the Logan County fairgrounds. Students in grades K-12 were awarded for their participation in poster, speech and essay contests based on conservation issues. Awards were also given to the district cooperator of the year, educator of the year, and the 2013 partner in conservation. The banquet was very well attended with over 180 people present, and many non-traditional customers were reached at the event.

On April 27th, Josh Ketch (RMS Guthrie FO) presented to goat producers about NRCS cost share programs at the 2013 Langston Goat Field Day. Producers were told what cost share opportunities were available and how to apply. The meeting was well attended, with over 50 people attending the presentation. FSA and APHIS were also present and gave presentations about the services they offer to producers.

Texas County - Guymon Field Service Center

The Texas County Conservation District's annual Resource Day for area 4th graders was held on April 30, 2013 at the Texas County Fairgrounds. 325 students and support staff attended the day's activities. Partners assisting with the presentations included OCC, ODWC, NRCS, Forest Service and Greener Pastures natural products.

Alan Messenger, DC, presenting information on soils and aerial photography during the Texas County Conservation District's annual resource day for area 4th graders

Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation presenting information on skins and skulls at the Texas County Conservation District annual resource day for area 4th graders

Zone 2 Review

Delaware County - Jay Field Service Center

Michael Ramming, District Conservationist in Jay, and Kevin Wood, Information/Education Coordinator of the Delaware County Conservation District helped with the Grove Grade School outdoor classroom on April 26th, 2013. Due to heavy rainfall, the event was moved into the grade school. 10 different stations were set up in various classrooms and approximately 200 4th grade students went through the stations. Michael and Kevin went over the importance of water quality and demonstrated this using the Enviroscape.

Muskogee County - Muskogee Field Service Center

The Muskogee County Conservation District and NRCS staff set-up a booth at the Muskogee Farmer's Market for Earth day. Those present: Jared Newton-SCT, Andy Qualls-District Technician and earth team volunteer Joyce Qualls. Staff gave away 100 virginia pine trees, provided district news, general conservation and programmatic information to interested participants. Approximately 200 participants stopped by and visited the booth.

Andy Qualls, District Technician await to distribute pine trees to market visitors

Local visitors shop/visit the various booths at the local farmers market opening day

Zone 2 Review cont....

Ottawa County - Miami Field Service Center

The Miami Field Office staff assisted the Northeast Oklahoma A&M College with the Annual Land and Range Contest on April 5, 2013. Over 100 students participated in the contests.

Students participating in the NEO A&M Land Judging Contest

April 22, 2013 - Earth Day Celebration and Grand Opening of the Red Cedar Recycling Center, owned and operated by Modoc and Ottawa Tribes of Oklahoma. Steven Davied, District Conservationist represented the Natural Resources Conservation Service.

The tribes opened this facility to recycle materials and the staff demonstrated the recycling equipment.

Zone 3 Review

Cleveland County - Norman Field Service Center

Cleveland County NRCS and Conservation District set up a booth at the 2013 Earth Day Festival in Norman, over 1,800 people were in attendance. NRCS had different publications on creating an invitation to a healthy apartment, backyard, country home, neighborhood and schoolyard. The district borrowed the soils painting tub, many children enjoyed painting with soils.

Zone 3 Review cont....

Grady County - Chickasha Field Service Center

Grady County NRCS in conjunction with the Turner Farms hosted the 62nd National Land & Range Judging Contest. More than 700 FFA & 4-H members from 32 states were involved in the competition. Total registration for the event exceeded 1,000 with coaches, sponsors officials & group leaders in addition to the contest. The teams judged the adaptability of land for various purposes including farming, range management & homesite construction. Oklahoma has hosted this event since 1952.

McClain County - Purcell Field Service Center

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and the McClain County Conservation District partnered to hold a conservation educational workshop on May 9, 2013. Participating in the conservation workshop included; the NRCS soil health demonstration and rainfall simulator, NRCS water pollution impacts within a watershed demonstration, Purcell fire department, Oklahoma Wildlife Conservation Service, McClain County OSU extension, Purcell police department, Oklahoma State Forestry Service, McClain County Sheriff department and the Oklahoma Fish Lab, under the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife. There were 153 students in attendance for the workshop.

Wes Lee, OSU Extension

Washita County - Cordell Field Service Center

Malcolm Jones (Soil Conservationist) and Robert Jackson (SCT) assisted with the Washita County Conservation District Outdoor Class Room. Malcolm Jones taught a class on the importance of soil and Robert Jackson assisted with guiding the students to each educational station. There were 186 students that attend this event.

Zone 4 Review

Eastern Oklahoma Ag Trade Show

The Poteau, Stigler, and Wilburton NRCS offices partnering with the Conservation Districts in Haskell, Latimer, Leflore and Sequoyah Counties conducted their **7th Annual Eastern Oklahoma Ag Trade Show** at the Leflore County Fairgrounds near Poteau on April 25.

The event attracted over 25 vendor booths and 200 attendees. Information was provided pertaining to agricultural equipment and supplies, financial assistance, farm bill programs and available USDA services. Speakers gave presentations about horticulture and rotational grazing topics as well as poultry topics for both under-graduate and graduate level continuing education credits.

Other partner's co-sponsoring the event included: Farm Service Agency, The Kerr Center for Sustainable Agriculture, the Oklahoma Tribal Conservation Advisory Council, OK Farms, OSU Cooperative Extension Service, OK Beef Council, OK Farm Bureau, Leflore County Cattlemen's Association, and KTCS 99.9.

A few pictures from this year's event:

Haskell County - Stigler Field Service Center

The Haskell County Conservation District with assistance from the Stigler NRCS staff conducted their 22nd Annual Fishing Clinic on May 9th for all 5th grade students in Haskell County. Due to rainy conditions the event was held at the Haskell County Fair barns in Stigler. There were about 220 students and teachers from four schools that attended the event. This event offered the opportunity to rotate through 10 minute learning stations teaching about fishing tackle identification, Oklahoma wildlife rules and regulations, casting instructions, and fish identification. The students from the rural schools attended the morning sessions and the Stigler school students attended the afternoon sessions. During the last hour of both the morning and afternoon sessions the students actually got to fish at the nearby Stigler City Lake. Each student went home with a "goodie bag" filled with various information and other items and a new rod and reel provided by a tremendous support from area businesses. Photo showing a student that actually caught a fish at the lake during the event. This was the first time for many of the students to actually fish. Over 60 Earth Team volunteer hours were donated in conducting this very successful event.