

SUMMER 2008

Okmulgee County Conservation District

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**The New
Okmulgee
County Plat
Books are
now avail-
able for \$45**

Abandoned Oil Field Sites Cleaned Up

Despite the many torrential rains this spring the Okmulgee County Conservation District has managed to complete a large abandoned oil well site on the property of Robert Pinkston, Sr. This site was over 40 years old and made up of deep crevices that had become snake havens. "This site was a hazard to man and beast," states OCCD equipment manager Bill Grammer.



Left: Pinkston Oil Damaged Site "Before" reclamation

Right: Pinkston site after clean up and leveling. Site



A second site is nearing completion on the Shoe Nail Ranch which involves a different approach to reclamation. Because of a rock shelf and the lack of available soil on this 8 acre site, Grammer proposed cleaning up the site and forming a dam thereby creating a 4 acre pond. With the approval from DEQ program manager Marvin Boatright, Grammer and equipment operator Bobby Fain used dozers and track hoes to build the pond with existing available soil. Using this technique at this site saved an estimated thirty thousand dollars in DEQ project monies.

OCCD Launches County Poster Contest

In Cooperation with the National Association of Conservation Districts and the Oklahoma Association of Conservation Districts, the Okmulgee County Conservation District initiated a poster contest for the 5th grade students of Okmulgee County. The theme (chosen by the NACD) for the 2008 poster contest is "Water is Life" and the posters must reflect that theme in order to be judged.

Some of the criteria with which the posters are judged is: depiction of conservation practices, clever slogan, and originality. The poster contest will be offered to all the schools in Okmulgee County and will be coordinated with the schools as they attend the OCCD Natural Resource Days. Schools participating in the spring were Okmulgee, Henryetta & Dewar. Schools participating in the fall are Beggs, Morris, Preston, Schuler, Twin Hills, Wilson and local home school groups. The winners from this spring are: Laura Putman from Dewar, Emma Russell from Okmulgee, Allysa King from Henryetta. Contest Coordinator, Rhnea Whitworth-Stoy wishes to thank all of the teachers and principals who assisted with the contest, the USDA personnel who assisted with the poster judging, to Henryetta Wal-Mart who provided local prizes and to the Okmulgee County Conservation District Board who will be providing the grand prize to the District winner in October. She would especially like to thank all the students who worked hard and created the beautiful posters for the contest.



Shoe Nail Ranch Oil Damaged Site "Before" reclamation



Shoe Nail Ranch Oil Damaged Site "After" reclamation

If you know of an oil damaged property, contact OCCD at 756-8111 for information on reclamations. Land repairs are done at no cost to the land owner.

Okmulgee County Conservation District Staff

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Rhnea Stoy
Equipment Manager:
Bill Grammer
Equipment Operator:
Bobby Fain

Natural Resources Conservation Service Staff

District Conservationist:
Ronald Goedecke
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“Water is Life” Natural Resource Days

Okmulgee County Conservation District hosted two natural resource days at Okmulgee’s Kiddy Lake in early May for the fifth grade students from Okmulgee, Henryetta & Dewar schools. The other schools in the county are invited to participate in the fall of the year.

This spring’s classes began a new format with the coordination of the National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) poster contest theme with OCCD’s natural resource days.

The topics demonstrated were erosion control along stream banks, presented by Dena Powers of OSU Extension and Rick Clovis of Creek Nation 4-H; macro invertebrates in rivers and streams by Scott Grant from Tulsa County Conservation District; pollution prevention techniques in a watershed by Cheryl Cheadle, state director of Blue Thumb project; how a wetland works by Lori Jones from U.S. Fish and Wildlife; Incredible Journey water cycle activity by Rishell Bowler from NRCS; fishing clinic by Danny Bowen and staff from the State Fish Hatchery.

For more information about the Natural Resource days or OCCD’s other conservation education programs, contact Rhnea Stoy at 756-8111.



Left: Fishing Clinic provided by Danny Bowen, State Fish Hatchery



Right: Cheryl Cheadle demonstrating how to prevent pollutants from getting into our rivers and streams.

Governor Signs Conservation Legislation

Senate Bill 1374 authorizes the Oklahoma Capitol Improvement Authority to issue a bond that includes \$25 million to repair damages to conservation infrastructure. The Oklahoma Conservation Commission, working with the local conservation districts, the USDA NRCS and other partners, will use the funds for construction, repair and replacement of flood control dams damaged in 2007 weather disasters. OCC will also be able to repair roadside erosion and restore riparian (stream bank) vegetation damaged by flooding and to purchase equipment necessary to carry out the repairs.

Senator Roger Ballenger, Representative Jerry Shoemaker and Representative Dale Turner all supported the conservation legislation.

Okmulgee County has 19 watershed dams, all maintained by the Conservation District, and only one suffered any significant damage during the rains of 2007. The necessary repairs were paid for out of Okmulgee County Conservation District local funds.

Local Producers Receive Poultry Litter Transfer Assistance



Billy Grammer, Field Operations Manager spreading poultry litter for Tom Porter on cropland. Many farmers have found poultry litter a good alternative to commercial fertilizer as prices rise. Possible cost-share for

manure transfer is available through the Natural Resources Conservation Service for 2009. Several local producers were as assisted in 2008 under the Okmulgee County Conservation Districts Manure Transfer Program.