

**Fall 2009**

# Okmulgee County Conservation District

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Plat Books are  
now available for  
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## Conservation District Announces New Cost Share Program

The Okmulgee County Conservation District has announced that funds are available for cost-share assistance on selected conservation practices benefiting soil and water conservation. The State of Oklahoma has provided limited funds to our conservation district to help landowners implement measures that protect soil and water resources. "Each local conservation district, with input from local residents and agricultural producers, selects which of the available conservation practices to provide assistance on, based on their local natural resource issues," said Mike Thralls, executive director of the Conservation Commission.

Conservation practices available for the cost-share assistance through the Okmulgee County Conservation District include new pond construction, critical area planting, diversion, fencing (where fence was destroyed by flood), grade stabilization structure, grassed waterway, obstruction removal, pasture and hay planting, range planting, streambank and shoreline protection, nutrient management (restrictions apply), terrace.

The district will be accepting applications from November 2, 2009 through November 20, 2009 with the exception of November 10 and 11 in which the District offices will be closed. Applications are also available for download from the District Website at [www.OkmulgeeConservation.com](http://www.OkmulgeeConservation.com). For more information contact the Okmulgee County Conservation District, 918-756-8111. The district office is located at 819 East 8<sup>th</sup> Street in Okmulgee and office hours are 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

## District Participates in Youth Work Program

The Conservation has two new district aids thanks to the youth work program of the Oklahoma Workforce Investment Board. Megan Whittenberg of Okmulgee and Colton Williams of Dewar. "This is an excellent program to give area youth a positive workplace experience," states Jim Stoy, Okmulgee County Youth Case Manager. Whittenberg stated that the program has given her the opportunity to learn new office skills.



## 2010 Conservation Stewardship Program Signup

The 2010 Conservation Stewardship Program signup will run through January 14<sup>th</sup>, 2010 according to Ronald Goedecke District Conservationist, Okmulgee.

The Conservation Stewardship Program is designed to reward good management of resources and encourage further improvements through annual acreage based payments of 5 years on working agricultural lands according to Goedecke.

Participants who apply will be required to apply new conservation activities on lands they control. They also must be willing to commit time to inventory and document their conservation activities and production systems to determine eligibility and ranking.

To learn more visit [WWW.nrcs.usda.gov/new\\_csp/](http://WWW.nrcs.usda.gov/new_csp/) or come by the NRCS office at 719 E. 8th Street, Suite A, Okmulgee, Oklahoma.

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## **OCCD and First National Bank Announces local Speech Contest Winners**

The Okmulgee County Conservation District and the First National Bank of Okmulgee and Henryetta co-sponsored the 2009 Okmulgee County Conservation Speech Contest. The Morris and Okmulgee FFA Chapters participated in OCCD's speech contest. The theme for the speeches was "Dig It! The Secrets of Soil." The contest is divided into two divisions: Division I for ninth and tenth grade students and Division II for eleventh and twelfth grade students. The first and second place speakers in both divisions will advance to the area contest which will be held in Wagoner in November.

The Division I first place winner was David Nickerson of Okmulgee and second place winner was Cody Currin of Okmulgee. The Division II first place winner was Jamie Malone of Morris and the second place winner was Steven Brown of Okmulgee.

Contest Coordinator Rhnea Stoy would like to thank all the students who participated in these contests, the teachers who promoted the contests and judges Ronald Goedecke, Jane Burgess and Lena Henson.



Left: Judges present Division I first place to David Nickerson and second place to Cody Currin



Right: Judges present Division II first place to Jamie Malone and second place to Steven Brown

## **Okmulgee County Student wins Area Poster Contest**

Oklahoma Association of Conservation Districts announced that Mychaielle McGee of Dewar has won first place in division V of the OACD Area III contest.

Mychaielle's poster competed against winning posters from counties in all of northeastern Oklahoma. The poster contest theme for 2009 was "Dig It! The Secrets of Soil!" and Mychaielle's poster followed that theme with her depiction of a horse grazing in a lush green pasture. Her poster contained the caption of "All Life Rides on Soil".

The poster will now progress to the state level contest in February, 2010 where it will compete against the area winners from four other areas of the state.

**Current and previous editions of the District Newsletter as well as program updates are available on the district website at [www.OkmulgeeConservation.com](http://www.OkmulgeeConservation.com).**

Services and programs provided by the conservation district, NRCS & ODEQ are offered on a nondiscriminatory basis without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, gender, marital status or physical disability.

### **Okmulgee County Conservation District Staff**

District Secretary:  
 Rhnea Stoy  
 District Aids:  
 Bobby Fain  
 Megan Whittenberg  
 Colton Williams

### **Natural Resources Conservation Service Staff**

District Conservationist:  
 Ronald Goedecke  
 Soil Conservationist:  
 Rishell Bowler  
 Creek Nation Coordinator:  
 Lester Ligons  
 Technician:  
 LeRoy Arnold