

**SUMMER 2008**

# Okmulgee County Conservation District

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**OKMULGEE  
COUNTY  
CONSERVATION  
DISTRICT**

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

## Abandoned Oil Field Sites Cleaned Up

The Okmulgee County Conservation District completed four land reclamation projects this fiscal year. The District also re-visited two previous sites adding either chicken litter or sludge, drilling with seed, adding fertilizer, and hay mulched and pinned. These were all abandoned oil fields sites that had severe salt scarring. These sites were 40 to 50 years old. The Conservation District is currently looking for sites to work on for the 2010 contract. If you have such a sight contact us at 756-8111.



## Conservation Stewardship Program

The Natural Resources Conservation Service has announced a stewardship program where the land user can receive financial assistance while conserving the natural resources on their operation. The Conservation Stewardship Program encourages producers to improve conservation systems by installing additional activities and improving, maintaining, and managing existing conservation activities.

If you can answer "yes" to the following three questions, CSP may be right for you:

- ◆ Are you ready to apply new conservation activities on your agricultural land or on your non-industrial private forestland?
- ◆ Are you willing to commit time to inventory and document your conservation activities and production system to determine eligibility and ranking?
- ◆ Do you have records and will you continue maintain records to document your conservation activities?

This program is available nationwide and will have a continuous enrollment. Contact District Conservationist Ronald Goeckede at the NRCS Okmulgee Field Office at 719 E. 8th Street, Okmulgee, OK or call them at 918-756-0850 to find out more about the Conservation Stewardship Program.

## Koziol Re-Elected to District Board

Janet Koziol of Morris has been declared elected to a three year term on the Okmulgee County Conservation District Board of Directors by the Oklahoma Conservation Commission. Janet has served on the Board for 9+ years and served 6 of those years as the vice-chair.

Janet was raised on the Dillingham Ranch in Northwest Okmulgee County as the ranch manager's daughter. Janet and her husband Buddy currently run a commercial cow-calf operation on 230 acres. With Buddy working off the ranch, Janet stays involved with all parts of the operation. Her experiences in ag related fields include the ownership/operation of two commercial greenhouses in the Okmulgee and Henryetta area. Janet's father Bob Bell worked for the Soil Conservation Service (later renamed NRCS) later served on the district board. Mr. Bell also sculptured in bronze. One of his pieces is in the fountain at Okmulgee City Hall.

**[www.OkmulgeeConservation.com](http://www.OkmulgeeConservation.com)**

The Okmulgee County Conservation District recently launched a website intended as an educational and informational tool for citizens of Okmulgee County. Program updates will be posted to the website, so check it frequently for the latest updates.

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Dwane Thompson, Chair  
 Janet Koziol, Vice-Chair  
 Tom Porter, Secretary-Treasurer  
 Robert Pinkston, Jr., Member  
 Elmer 'Butch' Burgess, Member

## Conservation Bond

The Oklahoma Legislature authorized a 25 million dollar bond issue for conservation in the 2009 session. The legislation was signed by Governor Henry. The primary purpose of the bond funding is to repair damage to the state's conservation infrastructure from flood events over the past several years.

The Conservation Commission has allocated the 25 million dollars as follows:

Watershed Rehabilitation \$8,800,000; Watershed Operation and Maintenance \$7,100,000; Kingfisher Flood Protection \$4,000,000; Sugar Creek FEMA and Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program Projects \$3,000,000; Conservation Cost Share \$2,100,000.

The **Watershed Rehabilitation** funds will be used as the local sponsor match for rehabilitation projects on upstream flood control structures. The Commission is working cooperatively with NRCS and Conservation District sponsors of watershed projects to rehabilitate high hazard dams in the state. NRCS funds 65% of the rehabilitation project costs with the local sponsor funding 35%. The \$8,800,000 from the conservation bond will result in over 25 milling of watershed rehabilitation construction in Oklahoma.

The **Watershed O&M** funds will be made available to conservation districts for use in addressing their high priority watershed O&M needs. IN addition, a portion of these funds will be used as the local sponsor match for NRCS Emergency Watershed Protection projects to repair damage to upstream flood control structures.

The **Conservation Cost Share** funds Will be directed to conservation districts that have been in a federally declared flood disaster over the past several years. Funds will be used to provide cooperators with cost share money to repair damaged practices. This cost share program will operate similarly to the locally led cost share program.

(Continued)

### **Conservation Cost Share** (Continued)

While the cost share program has not been launched and the details have not been announced we have some information about the proposed guidelines:

If approved the qualified practices will be critical planting area, pond construction, grassed waterway, range planting, terrace, diversion, grade stabilization structure, pasture and hay planting, nutrient management

- Funds are available only to districts that were declared a Federal Disaster in 2007/2008. Okmulgee County Conservation District is one of those districts.
- Each district in a disaster declaration receives \$26,250 in cost share funds.
- Cost share rate is 75%
- Maximum cost share payment is \$5,000
- \*Bond funding requires a 15 year maintenance agreement

The proposed guidelines for this cost share program will be before the Oklahoma Conservation Commission meeting in September and will roll out to the districts in September after approval by OCC. If you believe you may qualify for this cost share program contact the Okmulgee County Conservation District at 756-8111.

All programs and services of the Okmulgee County Conservation District 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  
 Equipment Manager:  
Bill Grammer  
 Equipment Operator:  
Bobby Fain

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

District Conservationist:  
Ronald Goedecke  
 Soil Conservationist:  
Rishel Bowler  
 Creek Nation Coordinator:  
Lester Ligons  
 Technician:  
LeRoy Aonold