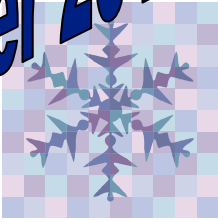


Winter 2010



OKMULGEE COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Okmulgee County Conservation District

719 E. 8th, Suite B Okmulgee, OK 74447 Phone: (918) 756-8111 FAX: (918) 756-0716

Locally Led Cost Share Program Introduces Program Year 12.

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.

The great advantage of the Conservation Cost-Share Program for Oklahoma is that it is a locally-led program," said Mike Thralls, executive director of the Conservation Commission. "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."

Conservation practices available for the cost-share assistance through the Okmulgee County Conservation District include new pond construction, pasture planting, brush management, pest management, critical area planting, diversion, fencing, grade stabilization structure, grasses waterway, pipeline, range planting, nutrient management, terrace, watering facility, water well. The district will be accepting applications from January 25, 2010 through February 5, 2010. For more information contact the Okmulgee County Conservation District, 918-756-8111. The district office is located at 819 East 8th Street in Okmulgee and office hours are 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Okmulgee County Plat Books are available for \$45

Morris Student Wins Second at area Meeting

Jamie Malone, Morris High School Senior competed in the northeast Oklahoma area speech contest of the Oklahoma Association of Conservation Districts with her speech entitled "What is the Secret of Life?" taking second place. All the speeches in the contest were required to follow the OACD theme of "Dig It! The Secrets of Soil!"

Miss Malone, the daughter of Sam & Dalena Malone and is a member of the Morris FFA. Jamie's speech covered the early days of conservation and the many programs of the Okmulgee County Conservation District such as the Locally Led Cost Share Program and the operation and maintenance of Okmulgee County's 19 flood control structures.

Also competing in the OACD contest was Cody Currin a Freshman at Okmulgee High School. Cody is a member of the Okmulgee FFA Chapter. Cody's speech explained the partnership of the Okmulgee County Conservation District and the Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality and their processes of reclaiming abandoned oil fields and mine lands.

Miss. Malone will be representing Okmulgee County by competing in the OACD state contest on February 21, 2010.



Program Year 12 info at a glance

- ◆ **Cost Share Rate — 75%**
- ◆ **Maximum Payment Per Practice — 3500.00**
- ◆ **Maximum Payment Per Person — 5000.00**
- ◆ **Cost Share Sign-up Dates: Jan. 25 — Feb. 5, 2010**



Ligons (center) receives service award from Representative Jerry Shoemake (left) and Senator Roger Ballenger.

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Lester Ligons Retires after 28 years of Federal Service

Lester began his career with the Soil Conservation Service in 1981 (later known as the Natural Resource Conservation Service), as a Technician trainee at the Okmulgee Field Office. After a year he then accepted the position as the Technician for the Bristow Field office from 1982-1991. Since then Lester has been located at the Okmulgee Field Office where he has served as Technician & Soil Conservationist for 6 years, Soil Conservationist for 2 years and 10 years as Tribal Resource Conservationist for Creek Nation. Lester has serviced Creek, Hughes, McIntosh, Muskogee, Okfuskee, Okmulgee, Seminole, Tulsa, Wagoner, Rogers and Mayes Counties throughout his years of service.

Lester has trained several employees throughout his career and has developed a keen relationship with Creek Nation. He has provided many years of services and loyalty to the agency and will be greatly missed.

Resource Guide Published

The Mvskoke Food Sovereignty Initiative, a Native American led organization whose mission is to promote sustainable agriculture, partnered with the Okmulgee County Conservation District and the United States Department of Agriculture to compile information about agriculture related programs into a user friendly resource guide. Ms. Vicky Karhu, MFSI founder and president and her staff met with the various USDA departments and with the OCCD staff to obtain program information about the guide.

The Resource Guide for Farmers and Ranchers is available at the Conservation District and NRCS office and at the office of the Mvskoke Food Sovereignty Initiative located at 208 W. 6th Street, Okmulgee, OK. MFSI may be reached my phone at 918-756-5915 or on the web at www.mvskokefood.org.

Sign-up for Grassland Reserve Program

The Okmulgee County Farm Service Agency (FSA) and the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) are accepting application for the 2010 Grasslands Reserve Program (GRP). GRP is a voluntary program that provides financial and technical assistance to landowners and operators for the restoration and conservation of the nation's grasslands.

FSA and NRCS offices will accept GRP applications on a continuous basis for easements of rental agreements. Applications received prior to February 19, 2010 will be evaluated for 2010 funding; applications received after this date will be evaluated for future GRP years funding.

The GRP program has several enrollment options: permanent easements and 10, 15, or 20 year rental agreements. Application evaluation for acceptance in the 2010 GRP will be based on ranking criteria that will emphasize grazing operations; protection of grassland, land that contains forbs, and shrubland at the greatest risk from the thread of conversion to uses other than grazing; plant and animal biodiversity; restoration costs; and expiring Conservation Reserve Program contracts. For additional eligibility criteria and information regarding GRP, contact the Okmulgee County FSA or NRCS office at 918-756-0850.

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, martial status or physical disability.

Okmulgee County Conservation District Staff

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 Rhnea Stoy
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 Bobby Fain
 District Aids:
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Natural Resources Conservation Service Staff

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