



Kansas Conservation Districts

The Basics

Module I

What you will learn in this module

- What is a Conservation District?
- What is the purpose of a Conservation District?
- Who are the people involved?
- What agencies are involved?

What is a conservation district?

- The 105 Kansas Conservation Districts are political sub-divisions of the state and are governed by a five-member board of supervisors elected by qualified electors within the boundaries of each county.
- Most of the Conservation Districts in the state are housed in the same USDA building with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS).

The purpose of conservation districts

- The Conservation District board of supervisors determine local priorities most effective in controlling erosion or improving water quality based upon critical needs identified within the county.
- Financial incentives for land treatment projects are available to landowners through the Conservation District.

The purpose of conservation districts (cont.)

- Kansas Conservation Districts work to provide public education relating to the benefits of sound conservation practices.
- They work to convince all local residents to protect the natural resources and protect and improve its profitability.

Who are the people involved?

- Members of the Conservation District Board of Supervisors are elected by the residents of the county at the Annual Meeting. They serve a three year term.
- District employees provide service to the public and producers. These may include the District Manager, District Secretary, Water Quality Coordinator, Buffer Coordinator and/or Non-Point Source Coordinator.

Who are the people involved?

The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) provides technical assistance through their:

- District Conservationist.
- Soil Conservationist.
- Soil Conservation Technician.
- Engineers, Biologist, Forester, Specialists.

(All NRCS personnel may not be located in every office)

Conservation Partners

- Natural Resources Conservation Service.
- Kansas Association of Conservation Districts.
- Kansas Department of Agriculture.
- Farm Service Agency.
- Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks.
- Kansas Department of Health and Environment.
- State Association of Kansas Watersheds.
- Kansas Water Office.
- K-State Research Extension.
- National Association of Conservation Districts.

Conservation services available from the District

- Cost-share on conservation practices.
- Districts may have the following available:
Grass seed, equipment rental, trees, weed control fabric, and other conservation items at a reasonable price.
- Technical assistance and Design work.
- Educational material.

Summary

Supervisors are elected by the residents of the county to represent their interests in natural resource conservation. They are leaders, using their own operations and activities to set a good conservation example to others, and demonstrate conservation benefits.

Resources Available

- **Resources**
 - Conservation District Handbook
 - Conservation District Law
 - “Proud to Serve” Recruitment Reference Book
- **Where to find**
 - Located in each district office
 - Located in Chapter 6 of the Conservation District Handbook
 - Located in each district office