

Program cutoff date set for Nov. 2

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) has announced Friday, Nov. 2, as the cutoff date for the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) applications to be considered for Fiscal Year (FY) 2008 funding.

The Environmental Quality Incentives Program, one of the largest programs in the 2002 Farm Bill, is a voluntary conservation program that promotes environmental quality and assists producers to meet local, state, and federal regulations.

New Self-Assessment Worksheets

When farmers or ranchers apply for 2008 the Environmental Quality Incentives Program funding, they will be required to fill out the Kansas Self-Assessment Worksheet.

"If they plan to apply, they should start the process very soon if they haven't done so already," Mr. Klaege, Environmental Quality Incentives Program, said.

"The self-assessment worksheet is an educational tool," he explained, "providing landowners with a clear indication of what natural resource concerns they have, what they can accomplish, and what they need to do to qualify for the program."

"We see the worksheets as a time-saving and money-saving tool," said Mr. Klaege. "We envision them reducing the time it takes Conservation Service to process applications for the program. By reducing the federal dollars required to administer the program, more dollars should be available for producers."

Limited Resource and

"The program is available to help address the unique circumstances and concerns of limited resource and beginning farmers and ranchers, who have natural resource concerns that need to be addressed on their land," Mr. Klaege said.

"In Kansas limited resource and beginning farmers and ranchers may receive a higher payment rate through Incentives Program for structural and vegetative practices."

Kansas Identifies Priority

Natural Resource Concerns

The fiscal year 2008 Kansas eligible priority natural resource concerns are as follows:

- Forestland Health—Productivity, Health, Vigor
- Grazing Lands Health—Productivity, Health, Vigor; Noxious or In-

vasive Plants; and Inadequate Stockwater

• Soil Condition—Organic Matter Depletion

• Livestock Waste—Water Quality and Air Quality

• Water Quality—Nutrients/Pesticides/Suspended Sediment

• Water Quantity—Inefficient Water Use on Irrigated Land; Aquifer Overdraft; Insufficient Water Flows in Water Courses

Cutoff Date Set to Evaluate Applications

"After Nov. 2, Natural Resources Conservation Service staff will begin evaluating applications received in Kansas. All contracts will be signed and obligated with producers by Jan. 25," Mr. Klaege, said.

The service will evaluate each application and give higher priority to those applications that use cost-effective conservation practices; treat multiple resource concerns; address national, state, or local priorities; and provide the most environmental benefits.

Review of 2007 Funding

Kansas received over \$23.9 million in FY 2007, and over 1,600 contracts were funded. More than 2,900 applications were received.

In Kansas, the funds will help farmers and ranchers install conservation practices that improve and protect Kansas's priority natural resource concerns.

"The objective of the Environmental Quality Incentives Program is to address natural resource concerns through the application of improved conservation systems. It is an environmental enhancement program," Mr. Klaege said.

Apply at Local Office

Agricultural producers interested in participating in the program can apply at any time at their U.S. Department of Agriculture Service Center at their local Natural Resources Conservation Service office located on West Highway 36 in St. Francis.

Information about 2008 program is available on the Web site at www.ks.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/eqip/2008 or at your local Service Center. This will include information about 2008 program — Kansas fact sheet; the Kansas Self-Assessment Worksheets; an application form; a list of eligible practices and payment rates; and specifics on Kansas's ranking process, including criteria used to evaluate applications.



TORCHED PICKUP was brought to town by the Cheyenne County Sheriff officers Monday morning. The pickup was burned to the point that there was little identification, no

seats, no color and, of course, no plastic. Sheriff Craig Van Allen said the case is under investigation.

Herald staff photo by Karen Krien

SCHOOL

Continued from Page 1A

the cafeteria, auditorium and the gymnasium.

The administration is continuing to look into a hoist for lowering and lifting the wrestling mats. The wrestling room was moved to the upper level of the wrestling room which was formerly used as the weight room. The weights had made holes in the floor so the areas were flipped. However, now there is a problem getting mats to and from the gymnasium for wrestling matches. A hoist will be in place before the wrestling season begins.

Raises

Superintendent Schiltz proposed a salary increase for all school personnel with the exception of himself. Last year, the base salary for teachers was raised \$1,000. He suggested doing this again this year as it helps attract new teachers when needed. The base would raise from \$31,000 to \$32,000. The average raise would be 6 percent.

The board will not make a decision on the raises until the October meeting with the raises, if approved, going into effect on the November payroll.

Health insurance

The superintendent had been

notified that the school's group insurance with Blue Cross Blue Shield would be going up an average of 12.5 percent. Mr. Schiltz suggested that the board raise the amount paid on the insurance premiums as they had done in the past.

The new insurance plan will go into effect on Nov. 1. The board will make a decision on the insurance plan at the October meeting.

In other business

In other business:

- The board approved Joslyn Ketzner, first grade, and Jacquelyn Ketzner, eighth grade,

to attend the St. Francis schools, waiving the tuition. They are the children of Noel and Tabetha Ketzner.

- Mr. Knodel and Mr. Schiltz plan to attend the Kansas Association of School Board Region 9 fall meeting on Oct. 10 in Hoxie.

- The board approved contract amendments for Gloria Cassidy and Sandy Smull who will be teaching part-time in the first grade. There are 30 students enrolled in first grade this year.

Contracts approved were: Melvin Confer, bus driver; Brad Matthies,

WASTE

Continued from Page 1A

Fall Cleanup because city employees cannot pick up hazardous waste products.

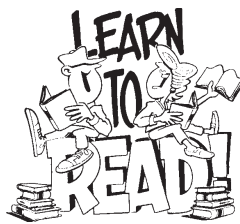
Some of the items considered as hazardous are: paints, solvents, cleaners, pesticides, aerosol cans, batteries and used oil. Automobile lead acid batteries will be accepted.

All hazardous materials brought to the landfill on Saturday must be in sturdy boxes and any used oil should be in disposable containers. However, materials should be left in their original containers so they can be accurately identified.

Don't dump hazardous materials

together and if loose or leaking, secure them before transporting them to the landfill. Also, don't carry open containers of liquids with strong odors, especially if they might spill, inside a closed automobile and pack all items so they won't tip, break or spill during the trip.

For more information, contact the landfill at 785-332-8842.



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OCTOBER CONSULTANT SCHEDULE

| | | |
|-----------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------|
| Allergist | Jeffrey S. Rumblyrt, M.C. | Oct. 15 |
| Cardiologist | Barry R. Smith, M.D. | Oct. 10, 24 |
| Cardiologist | Vijay D. Subbarao, M.D. | OCT. 11 |
| Counseling Services | | Thursdays by Appt. |
| Dermatologist | Charles W. Ruggles | OCT. 25 |
| Dietitian | Sarah Linfon, RD, LD | Mon. - Fri. |
| Ear, Nose, Throat | Alfred N. Carr, M.D. | Oct. 5, 19, 26 |
| Endocrinologist | Gerald S. Poticha, M.D. | OCT. 11, 18, 19 |
| Gastroenterologist | Jeffrey D. Huston, M.D. | OCT. 15, 16 |
| General Surgeon | David D. Beck, M.D. | OCT. 11, 25 |
| General Surgeon | David M. Meiniczek, M.D. | NOV. 29 |
| General Surgeon | Jeffrey S. Cross, M.D. | OCT. 4, 18 |
| Gynecology | Laura A. Rokosz, M.D. | OCT. 17, 31 |
| Internal Medicine | Moe Shafei, M.D. | |
| Neurologist | Steven J. Gulevich, M.D. | OCT. 3, 4, 24 |
| Obstetrics/Gynecology | David Forschner, M.D. | NOV. 21 |
| Oncology/Hematology | Martin J. Rubinowitz, M.D. | Oct. 2 |
| Ophthalmologist | David S. Pfoff, M.D. | OCT. 16, 23, 30 |
| Ophthalmologist | Brian C. Joondeph, M.D. | Oct. 17 |
| Ophthalmologist | William S. Clifford, M.D. | OCT. 8 |
| Ophthalmologist | Ronald E. Wise, M.D. | OCT. 5, |
| Orthopedics | Dr. Armodios Hatzidakis, M.D. | OCT. 29 |
| Orthopedics | Timothy Birney, M.E. | OCT. 8 |
| Orthopedics | Rajesh Bazaz, M.D. | OCT. 8 |
| Orthopedics | James C. Holmes, M.D. | OCT. 15 |
| Orthopedics | Kevin Nagamani, M.D. | OCT. 3 |
| Orthopedics | Edward H. Parks, M.D. | OCT. 22 |
| Podiatry | David E. Ouderkirk, D.P.M. | OCT. 24 |
| Podiatry | Daniel Mallet, D.P.M. | OCT. 24 |
| Psychiatrist | John C. Faul, M.D. | OCT. 3, 5, 17 |
| Pulmonologist | Kenneth H. Weisiger, M.D. | Call for dates |
| Speech Therapy | Lisa Paxton, CCC-SLP | Mon. - Thu. |
| Substance Abuse Dir. | Fred Waters, CADC III | Mondays |
| Urologist | Darrell D. Werth, M.D. | OCT. 9 |
| Urologist | Wallace M. Curry, M.D. | NOV. 6 |
| Urologist | Kevin R. McDonald, M.D. | Oct. 16 |

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