

CONSERVATION on the GROUND

WHAT'S GOING ON: SPRING AND SUMMER



PRODUCER OUTREACH

SPRING TOUR 2024

On May 15th, 2024 the district held its annual Spring Tour for our area producers and community. Attendees were taken out to the field for presentations on cover cropping and nutrient management.

Then returned to town for talks about forest management practices and virtual fencing. Great information and discussion were had. To keep these tours exciting and educational, please let us know what you would like to see or hear about for our Spring Tour 2025!

BIRTHDAY NEWS

FUN FACT!



Columbia Conservation District has turned 75 this year!

June 1949 – CCD was born in the wake of the Dust Bowl and Soil Conservation Service to help protect and enhance our precious natural resources.



PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

In 2023 roughly \$199,000 was allotted for an pivot irrigation project as the Irrigation Efficiencies program has had a recent uplift making the program more viable option for landowners. In 2024, the district approved roughly \$115,000 of its Natural Resource Investment funds for a cattle crossing improvement, stream bank stabilization and irrigation efficiencies project.

Voluntary Stewardship Program (VSP)

“[VSP] offers agricultural landowners farm-friendly options for protecting fragile and/or hazardous natural resources — referred to as “critical areas” — in places where agricultural activity is conducted.” (WSCC 2024). This program provides opportunities for landowners to avoid future regulation by voluntarily preserving their natural environment, wildlife habitats, and sources of fresh drinking water through site-specific practices. VSP can be a big help by focusing on results and may open up cost share funding opportunities to accomplish projects. The Columbia County VSP Work Group has set aside \$170,000 in grant funds this biennium to directly benefit area producers through cost-share programs and technical assistance, and are currently looking for new applicants for 2024/2025.

District Board Update

As of July 2024, the Board of Supervisors has a newly appointed member, Zane Patton. Cody Chapman has been reappointed to the board and his term will last until 2027.

Welcome and Thank you Zane! And Thank You to Cody Chapman for your dedication and continuing to serve on the CCD board.

Please contact the district if you would like to know more about being on the board and a fundamental piece to conservation!

Project Types & Best Management Practices

Project: Livestock Water Development	Project: Riparian Habitat Improvements
Spring Development	Riparian Tree/Shrub Planting
Well	Plant Protection Tube
Pipeline	Drip Irrigation
Hydrant	Riparian Fence
Storage Tank	Corral Fence (Relocation)
Trough	Feed Area Fence (Relocation)
Heavy Use Area Protection	Critical Area Planting
Pump	
Protection Fence	Project: Cropland Improvements
Critical Area Planting	Residue Management (Reduced tillage)
	Nutrient Management
Project: Range/Pasture Improvements	Pest Management
Rangeland Planting	Pasture/Hayland Planting
Pasture/Hayland Planting	Terrace
Tree/Shrub Planting	Sediment Basin
Cross Fence	Grassed Waterway
Windbreak	Windbreak
Equipment/Livestock Crossing	
Multipurpose Pond	Project: Instream Habitat Improvements
	Beaver Dam Analogs
Project: Manure Management	Post Assisted Log Structures
Heavy Use Area (Feed pads)	Engineered Instream Structures
Waste Storage Structures	Fish Barrier Removal

NEW FUNDS ARE AVAILABLE!

Nutrient Management (liming and soil testing), Fuel Reduction for Riparian Zones and Forest Management have all received new sources of funding! Please call or come talk to us about the options available to you.

Project Examples: forest stand improvement, tree pruning, fire fuel breaks, wildfire mitigation/suppression/rehabilitation, forestry mulching/mastication, and debris removal.

OUTREACH AND PROGRAM EVENTS

EDUCATION AND OUTREACH FUTURE EXPANSION

The district has continued its efforts to reach our community in multiple ways and looks to expand it further!

Ongoing education for the youth through the Dayton School District, annual producer meetings and tours, a new website for valuable information and instant updates, and newsletters quarterly to help keep the community involved.

- The district will be hosting open public gatherings which will provide opportunities for community members to learn about different topics in natural resources and speak with experts in these areas. These events will be free and open to the public. If there are any topics of interest you would like to suggest, please let us know.
- Starbuck School District is a valuable part to our community and the district would like to include them in our education for the youth as we move forward into the 2024/2025 school year!

*Created and Paid for by Columbia Conservation District