



306 South Broadway  
 Taloga, OK 73667  
 580-328-5366

# Dewey County Conservation District

Annual Report July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022

The Dewey County Conservation District is a local subdivision of state government. The district was formed in 1941 to ensure local people are involved in conservation activities.

The main goal of the district is to provide services to land users in protecting and conserving natural resources and to provide a link to state and federal conservation agencies and programs.

A board of five conservation district directors (three elected and two appointed) governs the conservation district.

The district has cooperater agreements with 1351 producers in the county.

The board of directors submits this annual report to inform the public of this past year's conservation accomplishments.

We encourage all citizens to be involved with good stewardship of the land. The office is open Monday-Friday from 8:00 a.m. till 4:30 p.m. and welcomes visitors to our office to get acquainted with conservation efforts

We also invite people to attend our monthly board meeting held on the first Wednesday of each month at 1:30 p.m. in the district office.

**Mission Statement:** To provide leadership, services, technical assistance, education, and administer programs to assist Dewey County producers and the public in the conservation of our natural resources and to improve the environment.

**Vision Statement:** To honor the land and provide services to protect and conserve it!



**Dewey County Conservation District – Generations of Good Leadership**

Dewey County Conservation District honors two great men who served a total of 57 years on the Dewey County Conservation District Board. On May 19, 2022, the district held an evening event at the Dewey County fairgrounds to honor Jimmy Purvine (30 years) and Roger Moore (27 years) for their dedication to conservation in Dewey County. The evening was enjoyed with citations from Representative Mike Dobrinski and plaques presented by the district board. A slide show represented all the work Jimmy and Roger had been involved in. Both men's moto was our goal is to make the land better for future generations. Happy Trails to both of you. The conservation districts are made up of two appointed and three elected board members. Our forefathers who sat on the board worked hard to make the Dewey County Conservation District what it is today. Maybe you will recognize some of the names.

- |                               |                                |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| A.M. Kunc-----1941-1972       | H.C. Gaden -----1941-1958      |
| M.H. Farris -----1942-1948    | Charlie Blackburn----1942-1945 |
| Jess Keller-----1942-1974     | F.L. Snyder -----1945-1948     |
| W.U. Barnes -----1948-1956    | C.W. Hall -----1948-1964       |
| Myron Arthaud -----1956-1975  | Kenneth Cline -----1964-1982   |
| Mervin Lawver -----1958-1971  | Dean Gaden-----1971-1985       |
| R. F. Shaw -----1972-1990     | Vernon Ferguson -----1974-1977 |
| Howard Stephensen --1975-1993 | Max Oakes -----1976-1996       |
| Bill South -----1982-2000     | Keith Wilson -----1985-2006    |
| Jimmie Purvine -----1991-2021 | Roger Moore-----1993-2020      |
| Richard Oakes -----1996-2006  | Michael Morris-----2000-2009   |
| J.C. Buck -----2006-2007      | Jimmy Emmons-----2007-2019     |
| Dale Wilson -----2006-----    | Kenneth Salisbury ---2009----- |
| Ginger Emmons -----2019-----  | Roger Ommen -----2020-----     |
| Ben Marks -----2021-----      |                                |



Coleta Bratten, District Manager was presented the Elmer Maddux Award for Excellence in Advocacy for Conservation in Oklahoma from Oklahoma Association of Conservation District's at the annual meeting in February 2022. Bratten has been with the Dewey County Conservation District since 1998.



## OACD Conservation Capitol Day



Northwest Oklahoma Alliance Legislative Reception. A good discussion on conservation.



Our first event after COVID out in the open under the district lean-to. Soil Health and South Canadian Prescribed Burn Association annual meeting. The district served hot dogs. We had twenty-one in attendance. It was hot, but everyone enjoyed

South Canadian Prescribed Burn Association  
August 25, 2021  
Open House— 1PM—7PM  
Assn. burn equipment will be on display

Hot Dog Feed—5:30 PM  
6:30 PM—short meeting  
events at the district barn yard



Soil Health Conversations with Jimmy Emmons  
7:00 P.M.

Bring your lawn chairs  
Dewey County Conservation District  
201 E Riggs, Taloga, OK

**2022 Major Project** for Dewey County Conservation District was a vegetable garden in front of the office and pollinator planter, partnering with Seiling Homemakers, and Taloga with pollinators planted in the parks. The vegetable garden was quite the talking piece since we were meeting producers outside any way. The pollinator project was successful in Seiling but was planted twice in Taloga and never produced. The town has trouble with plants at the park due to the elevator in the next block and pesticides. We did plant vegetable garden again this spring but not doing as well as last year with the early heat. We have lost several plants this year.



## Plasticulture Field Day - April 21, 2022



Ben Marks, board member hosted the event on his farm near Oakwood, OK. Brian Pritchard, from Elk City, OK was the presenter on laying plasticulture for gardening. The windy day was enjoyed by a different client than the district has worked with before. This was a very educational day. Representative Mike Dobrinski joined us for the event.

## Oklahoma Conservation Cost Share Program

The Oklahoma Conservation Cost Share Program in Dewey County is finishing up Yr. 23 & 24. We had 52 applications in program year 23 and 48 applications in year 24. In year 23 we were able to provide \$54,360.02 in cost share and in year 24 we have \$59,086.82 so far to work with. The woody residue treatment was many of our applications in year 24, since the Rhea Fires this is still a great concern. The NRCS has several sign ups, but landowners and renters have changed making it a concern for more producers as they work the land.





National land and range contest was a blast even though we had to fight the rain.

Dewey and Major County Conservation Districts co-hosted the OACD Area 1 meeting in Fairview, OK on November 4, 2021.



Both boards were asked to help serve the meal since COVID was still around. The day went off without any problems as far as the audience knew. Back stage isn't always fun.

## Providing Equipment and Services to Producers in the District

The Dewey County Conservation District has eleven pieces of equipment to rent to producers to assist with conservation on the ground. Equipment for rent: four grass drills, two no-till drills, aerator, scraper, sprigger, hay hauler, and gopher machine. The district equipment is used year-around now since we have the no-till drills. The district delivers and repairs equipment plus takes care of the flood control structures. The district also sells seed and gopher bait. This equipment assists producers to get conservation on the ground through the EQIP, OK state cost share, and other programs.

## Watershed Program

Dewey County Conservation operates and maintains 22 flood control structures located on Barnitz and Quartermaster Creeks. Dewey County Conservation District is the local sponsor. It takes effort from all staff to do O & M work in the field. The primary goal of the district's watershed program is making sure the dam's function as they were designed and remain safe. Dewey County has 6 high hazards dams that require emergency action plans on them. Emergency actions plans are updated each year. All dams are inspected yearly. Dewey County does use the Dam Watch system to assist during heavy rain fall. The district works with wildlife trappers for beaver control and NRCS for technical assistance on the structure designs to keep the dams operating in a safe manner. OCC provides aid from George Moore, watershed technician and NRCS engineers has been a great help in checking out issues on the dams. Paul Clark, NRCS-USDA- Taloga Resource Conservationist is the team watershed contact that is available for guidance on watershed issues. Spraying and mowing sites help with doing inspections on the dams. The district does yearly watershed inspections and checks what operation and maintenance needs to be scheduled for repairs. This year we had seven flood control structures sprayed for brush and weeds.

Michael Clark, District Technician joined the district in April 2022. Welcome Mike!





The district staff and board members participate in training to better assist our customers in conservation on the ground.

- \*OACD meetings
- \*NACD meetings -virtually
- \*Watershed webinars - virtually
- \*NRCS -teams training virtually
- \*NRCS Teams - Security training
- \*OACDE conference calls
- \*OACD trainings
- \*OCC Team meeting, monthly trainings
- \*Jason – engineering and conservation planning training – virtually and field
- \*Coleta- presented on NRCS Conservation and Programs Webinar on OK cost share and Locally Led Importance
- \*NCDEA provided monthly Convene training for all district employees in the USA. Stress, safe place to work, cultures, dealing with emotions, etc.
- \*Telework as necessary
- \*Local work groups
- \*Locally Led meetings
- \*OMES trainings

## Information and Education

The districts educational activities are set up to reach all ages of life. We work with all county schools, churches, senior citizens, and nursing homes on the yearly soil stewardship theme.

Other activities included:

- County Fair
- 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Outdoor Classroom
- Poster contest
- County School grants to assist with educational projects
- South Canadian Prescribe Burn Association
- Stewardship program with schools, churches, and senior centers, and nursing homes
- District website: [deweycountyconservation.co](http://deweycountyconservation.co)

## USDA Conservation Programs

The conservation district works closely with the NRCS in carrying out conservation work in the county. The NRCS staff provides technical assistance to the conservation district and to county land users. The NRCS also administers several federal cost share programs.

Listed below are accomplishments through federal conservation programs for Farm Bill 2014/2018.

- Ranking 52 applications for Oklahoma State Cost Share Year 23 - 19 conservation plans developed
- Ranked 48 applications in OK Cost Share year 24, 16 conservation plans developed.
- Environmental Quality Incentives Program Fund Pools: Team 3, Monarch Butterfly, Air Quality, HU West Zone: 29 new contracts - \$576,404.61- 4,556 acres
- Administers and maintains conservation plans, grazing and haying modifications for CRP contracts
- CSP-GCI – 1 new contract - \$6,756.00- 125.1 acres
- Total active contracts: 193, obligated \$3,730,462.77 - 33,900.1 acres

Services and programs provided by the conservation district and NRCS are offered on a nondiscriminatory basis without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, gender, marital status, or physical disability.