

Professional Development

The Franklin County Conservation District is here to assist schools and teachers with meeting their professional development needs by offering environmental and agriculture based education workshops. We want to help energize your students with environmental education! Not only do we offer local workshops and trainings, the Conservation District offers scholarships on a regular basis for educators to attend regional and state events.

We can facilitate a workshop over spring break, summer break, on a Saturday or even during an in-service day to bring the world of Environmental Education to your classroom. We offer various hands-on learning programs which fit into the Next Generation of Science Standards and Common Core for cross curricular lessons. Our current District Manager has been with the Franklin County Conservation District since April of 2001 and in that time has become a certified facilitator for Project WET, WILD and related curriculum. She served on the development committee for the Kansas Environmental Literacy Plan in 2009 and continue to work closely with Kansas environmental education professionals through the Kansas Association for Conservation and Environmental Education (KACEE), Kansas Green Schools Program and Kansas Foundation for Agriculture in the Classroom; the Conservation District Board is extremely confident in her ability to help your school meet their environmental education needs!

In the past the Conservation District has facilitated fun and interactive workshops focusing on lessons from the following curriculum:

Project WET (Water Education for Teachers) is an award-winning, nonprofit water education program and publisher. The program facilitates and promotes awareness, appreciation, knowledge, and stewardship of water resources through the dissemination of classroom-ready teaching aids and the establishment of internationally sponsored Project WET programs.

Project WILD is one of the most widely-used conservation and environmental education programs among educators of students in kindergarten through high school. It is based on the premise that young people and educators have a vital interest in learning about our natural world. A national network of State Wildlife Agency Sponsors ensures that Project WILD is available nationwide --training educators in the many facets of the program. Emphasizing wildlife because of its intrinsic value, Project WILD addresses the need for human beings to develop as responsible citizens of our planet.



Participants enjoy a laugh during Adaptation Artistry

Growing Up WILD offers several lessons from the Project WILD curriculum that have been revamped and put into a big book specifically for Pre-K students.

Flying WILD is a guide designed to celebrate birds! Lessons from the curriculum are designed to introduce upper elementary and middle school students to bird conservation. Half of the activities in Flying WILD are designed to involve students as leaders!



Teachers at Appanoose Elementary participating in Migration Headache from Flying Wild Curriculum.

The **Project WILD Aquatic** curriculum emphasizes aquatic wildlife and aquatic ecosystems. It is organized in topic units and is based on the Project WILD conceptual framework.

Project Learning Tree uses the forest as a window to the world to increase students' understanding of our environment; stimulate students' critical and creative thinking; develop students' ability to make informed decisions on environmental issues; and instill in students the commitment to take responsible action on behalf of the environment.

WET in the City is an urban environmental education program that focuses on water resources. The program provides the opportunity for young people to participate in engaging activities that creatively explore the science of water, its cultural context, and the complex issues surrounding its management and stewardship.

The Wonders Of Wetlands! (WOW!) and **Discover a Watershed ~ The Missouri** are two other programs we have included in previous workshops as well.

Visit www.KACEE.org for a list of upcoming workshops across the State. Scholarships for registration fees are often available for Franklin County teachers through the Franklin County Conservation District. Simply contact our office at 785-241-7201 for more information or to inquire about a scholarship.

The *Kansas Foundation for Agriculture in the Classroom* (KFAC) also offers various opportunities for teachers to gain graduate credit and beneficial information to put to use in their classrooms. KFAC hosts summer sessions for teachers to gain knowledge on incorporating agriculture into the classroom, while earning graduate credit. Scholarships to assist with tuition costs for summer sessions are available or Franklin County teachers through the Franklin County Conservation District. We had five Franklin County teachers attend the 2013 Summer Session in Manhattan; the photo below was taken at the Flint Hills Discovery Center.



KFAC and Kansas Farm Bureau partner each winter to host Be Ag Wise Workshops. The one day workshop is generally offered in four or five locations across the state on Saturdays in January and February. Participants experience interactive lessons and receive copies of the lessons and other materials to take home. <http://ksagclassroom.org/teachers/agwise.htm>

KFAC offers **free downloadable lesson plans** for educators on their website, educator's guides, student activity pages, contests, awards and so much more! Log onto <http://ksagclassroom.org/> to learn more about the great opportunities KFAC has available. KFAC also has a great Facebook page with all kinds of informative posts and workshop updates!

Are you interested in bringing these great activities to your school for your staff to experience? Contact us today at 785-241-7201 or via email at frco.conservation@gmail.com to inquire about scheduling a workshop focusing on any combination of the above mentioned programs.