

**Quorum Court Minutes**  
**9/12/16**  
**Resolution 2016-7 - PASSED**

**FILED**  
**SEP 13 2016**  
**KADE HOLLIDAY**  
**COUNTY & PROBATE COURT CLERK**

**AGENDA**  
**CRAIGHEAD COUNTY QUORUM COURT**  
**SEPTEMBER 12, 2016**  
**5:30 P.M.**

ASSEMBLY AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

OPENING PRAYER

Briefing by Judge Ed Hill.

- a. Resolution regarding grant request for Southridge Fire Department District.

Public Service Committee:

- a. Assembly and discussion of any current issues.

Finance and Administration Committee:

- a. Review of any financial reports and other business pertaining to the Finance Committee.

Roads and Transportation:

- a. Road Superintendent Eugene Neff will bring the committee up to date on conditions of roads and bridges in the County at this time.

September 13, 2016 Quorum Court Meeting

12 Justices of the Peace Present, Justice Ken Stacks absent.

Justice Max Render presiding, as Judge Ed Hill was called to an emergency, called the meeting to order at 5:30pm.

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Justice Max Render ordered Resolution 2016-7 read dealing primarily with the application of the Southridge Fire Department to the GIF Fire Protection Grant Program for replacement of turnout equipment. Upon reading of the ordinance Justice Barbara Weinstock motioned for the adoption of the resolution seconded by Justice Ray Kidd. The motion passed 12-0. – *Appendix 1*

Justice Josh Longmire inquired as to why the Quorum Court was not notified concerning the situation that occurred with former Maintenance Supervisor Robert Rivers. Assistant Judge Tony Thomas stated that due to the legal nature of this situation comments could not be made until the full legal process was completed but expected to make a briefing to the court concerning the situation after that process had been completed.

Justice Billie Sue Hoggard questioned the use of county owned property for public use, specifically for the use of political parties as the Democratic Party of Craighead County is having a meeting at the Lake City Courthouse. Assistant Judge Tony Thomas stated that all county owned property was open for public use and that there were not discriminatory factors taken into account when scheduling the use of said properties. Justice Josh Longmire stated that that did not seem to be the case as an inquiry about the use of the Lake City Courthouse was made and rejected earlier that day. Assistant Judge Tony Thomas stated that since this inquiry was not made directly to the County Judges office he was not aware of that situation and would handle it accordingly to ensure that the proper rules regarding building use were understood and that all future requests should be transferred to the County Judges office. Justice Josh Longmire quested about the security of documents in those buildings, specifically the Election Annex if it was being used. Assistant Judge Tony Thomas stated that all facilities have a public use area and a separate secured area where the public does not have access such as at the voting annex; however, this is typically the case in all buildings.

Road Superintendent Eugene Neff distributed the monthly road report. – *Appendix 2*

The Craighead County Conservation District distributed their annual report to the court. – *Appendix 3*

With no further business to be discussed Justice Terry Couch motioned to adjourn the meeting into committees with a second from Justice Richard Rogers, all were in favor and the meeting stood adjourned at 5:45pm.

RESOLUTION # 2016-7

Be it resolved by the Quorum Court of Craighead County, State of Arkansas a resolution entitled: GIF Fire Protection Grant Program for the Southridge Fire Department. A Resolution authorizing the County Judge of Craighead County to apply for a grant of behalf of the Southridge Fire Department.

Whereas, the Craighead County Quorum Court has determined that the Southridge Fire Department meets eligibility requirements necessary to apply for a grant under the GIF Fire Protection Grant; and

Whereas, the Southridge Fire Department has presented plans to purchase turnout gear to ensure firefighters have needed protection for fire events; and

Whereas, the Quorum Court of Craighead County recognizes the need for the project, concurs its importance, and supports the Southridge Fire Department in its efforts to proceed with the same; and

Therefore, be it resolved, that County Judge of Craighead County is hereby authorized to submit an application of formal request to the Arkansas Rural Development Commission for purposes of securing state grant funds in the amount of \$3,000 to aid and assist the Southridge Fire Department in executing the proposed project described herein and that the County Judge of Craighead County is further authorized to administer the grant funds for the same project.

**THIS RESOLUTION ADOPTED IN REGULAR SESSION ON SEPTEMBER 12, 2016.**

APPROVED: Ed Hill  
Signature of County Judge

Ed Hill  
County Judge

ATTEST: [Signature]  
Signature of County Clerk

**FILED**  
**SEP 13 2016**  
**KADE HOLLIDAY**  
**COUNTY & PROBATE COURT CLERK**

## **What Type of Projects are Eligible**

Projects eligible for funding consideration under the GIF Fire Protection Grant include, but are not limited to:

- Renovations, new construction, or additions to fire facilities.
- Purchase of fire protection equipment, communication equipment and vehicles.
- Rehabilitation or retrofitting of newly acquired equipment and vehicles.
- The purchase and installation of fire hydrants.
- Maintenance and operating expenses such as office supplies and training program fees.
- The purchase of real estate.

## **Other Eligibility Information**

When applying for a GIF-2 (Fire Protection) Grant, a county may also apply for a GIF-3 (County Fair) Grant during the same cycle, if applicable. However, a county or community may never apply for a GIF-1 (Community Protection) Grant and a GIF-2 Grant during the same cycle.

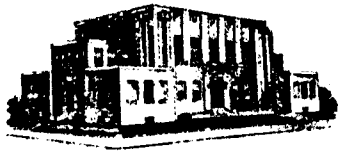
If a county or community is awarded GIF funding during a specific cycle, the entity may also apply for future GIF cycles if necessary. Also, private and non-profit associations may apply for GIF funding, but only if they apply through their individual city or county.

## **What Type of Projects are Ineligible**

Projects not eligible for funding consideration under the GIF Fire Protection Grant include, but again are not limited to:

- Utility bills or costs that cannot be measured prior to application.
- Debt financing of any type, new or existing. (Debt financing is defined for the purpose of this program as reimbursement of new or existing loans, loan payments, or reimbursement for equipment, facilities, labor, or property already purchased or constructed.)
- Any and all training, travel, or other personnel related expenses.

**Note: If you are not positive that your project is eligible, please call and speak to a Grants Analyst at 1-888-RURALAR**



**Craighead County  
Highway Department**  
2800 Moore Road  
Jonesboro, AR 72401  
870-933-4510



**Road Report  
August  
2016**

During the month of August a total number 6,744 yards gravel, was hauled from Spurlock pit, a total number 300.69 tons of chat from Vulcan, a total number 456.71 tons of chat from Bradley to the following locations:

A total number 3,744 yards of gravel was hauled in the eastern district

959 834 852 607 998 952 540 884 831 855 849

A total number 3,000 yards of gravel was hauled in the western district

218 441 780 241 150 422 759 745 133 403 460 785 467  
701 108 109 308 773 112 398 331 395 755 160 460  
757 147

Road work on CR 422 CR 361

**Tiles (all tiles are on county right-of-way)**

- 1 driveway tile on 780
- 3 patched on tile 409 130
- 4 driveway tile on 150
- 8 cleaned out tile on CR 773
- 11 installed 18" x 30" county tile on CR 785
- 15 driveway tile installed on CR 468
- 16 put rip on the end of driveway tile on CR 468
- 22 tiles on CR 702 CR 787 driveway
- 23 county tile installed on CR 320
- 24 county tile on CR 909

## Ditching & Clearing

1	CR 422		
	CR 361		
	CR 906		
2	CR 422		
	CR 361		
	CR 936		
3	CR 422		
	CR 361		
	CR 612		
4	CR 422		
	CR 361		
	CR 612		
8	CR 422		
	CR 361		
	CR 834		
9	CR 422		
	CR 361		
	CR 834		
10	CR 422		
	CR 361		
	CR 906		
11	CR 422		
	CR 361		
	CR 906		
15	CR 442		
	CR 361		
	CR 906 finished ditch then moved to CR 975		
16	CR 414		
	CR 975		
17	CR 361		
	CR 975		
22	CR 975		
	CR 361		
23	CR 361		
	CR 975	CR 984	CR 820
24	CR 773	CR909	CR 757
25	CR 361		
29	CR 361	CR 307	
31	CR 361		

## Asphalt

2	CR 323 (Atlas)						
3	CR 323 (Atlas) E-Z Street on CR 409			CR 130			
4	cold mix on CR 204						
	CR 323 (Atlas)						
8	CR 323						
9	CR 789	CR 706					
10	apron on CR 706						
11	CR 745						
15	patched holes on CR 928	CR 204	CR 315 (Atlas)	CR 468	CR 422	CR 348	
16	CR 204	CR 241	CR 250	CR 333			
17	patched holes on CR 204	CR 250	CR 241	CR 745			
22	CR 707						
23	cold mix	CR 333	CR 793	CR 304	CR 745	CR 755	
	CR 360						
	CR 745						
24	CR 745						
25	CR 745	cold mix on CR 912					
29	CR 745						
30	Cold mix patching on 409	425	712	623			
31	CR 755						

## Signs

9	New 911 CR 142/147	CR 113/1136					
	New Stop sign on CR 142						
	30 MPH speed limit sign	CR 751					
	Removed curve sign on CR 780						
	New 911 CR 995/997	CR 959/960					
	Repaired sign on CR 936/959						
16	repaired Stop sign on CR 318/333						
19	new 911 on CR 425/4191						
22	New 911 CR 522/518	CR 616/635	CR 740/741	CR 912/927	CR 997/995		
	Speed limit sign 50 MPH on CR 905						

## Mowing Gerald

1	CR 760	CR 740	CR 741	CR 745	CR 712	CR 718	
	CR 702	CR 901	CR 900	CR 903			
2	CR 900	CR 912	CR 905	CR 762	CR 739		
3	CR 792	CR 791	CR 780				
4	CR 333N	CR 388	CR 333S	CR 318W	CR 353		
8	CR 353	CR 318W	CR 318E	CR 360	CR 309	CR 328	
9	CR 383	CR 380	CR 137	CR 129	CR 121	CR 118	
10	CR 308	CR 394	CR 378	CR 118	CR 127	CR 132	
11	CR 202	CR 203					



15	CR 204	CR 241	CR 250	CR 270	CR 202	
16	CR 425	CR 409	CR 414	CR 403		
17	CR 403	CR 406	CR 476	CR 428	CR407	
18	CR 655	CR 945	CR 928			
22	CR 928	CR 905	CR 912	CR 901	CR 903	CR 910
	CR 702	CR 745	CR 754			
23	CR 712	CR 718	CR 760	CR 740	CR 741	CR 762
	CR 792	CR 791				
24	CR 780	CR 766	CR 753	CR 757	CR 755	CR 730
25	CR 766	CR 752	CR 307	CR 324	CR 323	
29	sprayed round up		CR 315	CR 328	CR 307	picked up road
	closed signs					
30	CR 333N	CR 333S	CR 318E	CR 319	CR 360	CR 318W
31	CR 753	CR 380	CR 137	CR 118	CR 127	CR 114

**Harold**

18 July	CR 160	CR 250	CR 270	CR 268	CR 263	
19 July	CR 246	CR 263	CR 243	CR 255	CR 264	
10 August		CR 468	CR 442			
11	CR 461	CR 478	CR 486	CR 482	CR 474	
15	CR 372	CR 317	CR 374	CR 346	CR 368	CR 390
16	CR 366	CR 330	CR 762	CR 7629	CR 7628	
17	CR 751	CR 723				
24	CR 910	CR 766	CR 773	CR 324	CR 343	CR 328
	CR 308					
25	CR 308	CR 328	CR 341	CR 399		
29	CR 308	CR 328	CR 398	CR 383	CR 394	CR 378
30	CR 267	CR 270	CR 272	CR 277	CR 290	CR 278
	CR 276	CR 273				
31	CR 277	CR 278	CR 267	CR 270	CR 259	CR 252

**Timmy**

1	859	858	861	865				
2	856	849						
3	864	890	841	855				
4	868							
8	874	855	879					
9	864	837	852	850				
10	831	840	856	837	867			
11	854	837	876					
15	912	862	837					
16	878	837	876					
17	814							
18	866	867	865	884	874	882	855	
22	514	869	842	838				
23	834	853	836					
24	847	832	583	556	558	563		

25	559	567	504						
29	506	560	543	535	502	830	831		
30	500	513	509	510	507	508	523	514	541
31	508	514	512	524	531				

**Misc.**

Working on equipment, cleaning equipment, hauling equipment, calling in locates, mowing shop yard, cleaning shop etc.

- 1 cut up tree on CR 422 hauled to Spurlock pit  
Cleaned up gravel on 141 that a dump lost
- 4 opened up ditch on 130  
1 load of sb2 to the City of Black Oak  
1 load ¼ minus to the City of Monette  
Hauled off brush and roots to Spurlock pit  
Hauled tile 24"x50" to CR 422
- 8 cleaned out asphalt in hole on 759 and filled in with chat  
Hauled off on CR 422
- 9 4 loads of sand hauled to Lake City  
3 loads sand hauled to Nettleton School  
5 loads of sand to City of Black Oak  
Worked on CR 759  
Striping on CR 323
- 10 5 loads of sand hauled to Black Oak  
1 load sand to the City of Caraway  
Moved dozer from Spurlock to CR 361  
Moved # 26 from Black Oak Sand pit to CR 907  
Picked up barrels on CR 118  
Dug out holes on CR 745  
Wash out fixed on CR 509
- 11 hauled tile to CR 785
- 15 moved unit # 26 to CR 906 then to CR 975  
Moved unit # 35 from CR 460 to CR 468  
Picked up brush on CR 390  
Measured for the city of Lake City CR 986 990 feet long

**Clean road off from cutting trees on CR 409**  
**Picked up Love seat took to Spurlock**

- 16 hauled off trees from CR 414
- 17 chip limbs on CR 514
- 3 loads chat hauled to the City of Brookland
- Digging out holes on CR 745**
- 23 wash out on CR 774
- 24 dug out ditches and moved tile down from one driveway to the next
- 25 wash out on CR 308
- 29 dug out spots on 755 and filled in with gravel
- 30 dug out ditch on CR 460
- Wash out repaired on CR 425 CR 4191 around tile on CR 468
- 31 Striping on CR 745
- Digging out road bed and putting gravel back on it CCR 755
- Cleaned up piles of brush off the road

Eugene Neff

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Eugene Neff". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped "E" and a stylized "Neff".

Road Superintendent  
EN/ca

**Grader Report  
August  
2016**

**Mark Knight – Cash Route**

1	189	197	193					
2	177	172	173					
3	180	181	185	192	199	191	187	
4	281	288	280	197				
8	217	207	233	237				
9	270	268	263					
10	267	277	278	290	276	273		
11	255	264	243	246				
15	checked roads – rain out							
16	checked roads- rain out							
17	cut brush on 379							
18	cut brush on 540			put out road closed signs				
19	put out road closed signs							
23	161	160	155	fixed washouts				
24	161	160	155	161	fixed washouts			
25	161	put out cold mix						
29	spread gravel on 160							
30	161	189	197	193				
31	192	191	199	187	190	185	181	180

**Steve Boyd – Sterlings Springs Route**

1	783	781	7808	757	777	775	774	773	
2	779	796	795	761	790	793	785	772	
3	769	771	729	763	765	7625	7679		
4	740	741	706	703	746	728	757	7182	726
15	rain								
16	rain								
17	rain								
18	rain								
22	714	700	710	713	715	773	774	775	
23	757	787	783	781	7808	789	785	772	
24	799	796	795	797	793	791	7822	790	
25	740	741	703	706	746	729	763	765	

29	773	774	775							
30	787	781	783	7808	789	7822	787			
31	740	741	703	701	763	765	945	933	936	776

**Curtis Sharp – Brookland Route**

23	943	951	952	963	938					
24	937	925	936	952	953	940	960			
25	959	969	931	991	979	970	977			
29	903	925	937	947	938	939				
30	7676	963	936	957	736	735	733	738		
31	973	936	graded with Robert							

**Mark Haines & Jeff Sanford – Bono Route**

7-28	147	111	150	159	147							
1	120	122	123	137S	124	125	130	148	134	101	117	119
	112	132	133	147	194	171	170					
2	304	322	337	345	335	329	305	303	315	339	320	317
	372	348	315	313	314	309	316	312	342	338	339	361
	380	364	394	383								
3	1375	150	3285	328	33	326	323	336	389	379	377	
4	140	137N	142	159	146	147	144					
8	341	399	398	194	171	170	191					
9	304	326	323	336	380	391	361	362	382	381	384	390
	392	331	Redwood									
10	328	308	378	317	339	3183	376	350	351	137N	142	361
11	140	137S	124	125	142	147	139	148	134	146	150	361
19	361	380	317	342	364	376	fixed washouts					
22	361	386	364	362	326	323	378	336	334	333	369	
23	328	379	377	395	147	137S	120	121	111	119	117	305
	335	365	337	372	374	317	101	111	133	132	131	149
	134	130	148	124	125	139	123	122	120	378	334	
24	147	331	390	300	360	363	304	348	315	309	316	313
	342	338	376	350	1375	140						
25	146	142	159	398	3981	spread chat on 308			spread gravel 152			150
	170	171	119	111	194	171	320	322	363	360	303	329
	339	395	335	377	374	317	170					
29	328N	341	144	159	194	399	331	395	spread gravel on 336			323
	326											
30	194	171	170	192	191	199	187	180	181			
31	170	spread gravel on 194			spread gravel 147			spread gravel on 147S			100	
	Redwood	355	347	350	351	364	361					

**Robert Anderson – Bowman Route**

1	912	910	909	907	915	927	906					
2	955	962	965	954	956	972						
3	975	986	985	984	973	934						
8	spread gravel on 998											
9	spread gravel on 952			998								
10	spread gravel on 998			graded 997	994	995	990	922	926			
15	rain											
16	rain											
17	rain											
18	rain											
22	912	910	914	916	915	907	906	927	903	917	909	
23	955	958	954	rain								
24	965	956	975	985	986	984	924	687	80	981		
25	973	934	936	993	997	995	994	990	999			
29	912	910	927	914	916	907	909	911	917	915		
30	955	965	962	954	956	958	975	924	984	985	986	
31	973	972	934	936	999	997	990	994	995	969	979	977
	970	931	991	959	960	940	953	952	999			

**JW Redding – Monette Route**

1	591	544	542	553	538	rain						
2	571	538	551	530	526	522	581	591				
3	516	582	565	575	585	564						
4	502	535	504	543	549	545	506	560				
8	563	558	562	585	565	Monette City Dump Road						
9	531	548	540	532N	532S	520	cleaned out ditches on 532N					
10	spread gravel on 540											
11	559	567	558	563	567	518	528	591				
15	rain											
16	rain											
17	rain											
18	rain											
22	549	551	530	518	571	526	wet					
23	broke down		rain									
24	504	535	502	543	549	506	545					
25	560	558	559									
30	558	563	567	562	585	564						
31	565	575	516	591	582	581						

**Phillip Hurst – Caraway Route**

1	Spread gravel on 831											
2	spread gravel on 834 852											
3	509	508	512									
4	513	510	839	500	556	583	554	834	853	847	836	854
8	837N & S		831	832	841	852	830					
9	840	848										
10	880	882	855	884	854	856	876	Hatchiecoon				
11	890	884	869	864	862	850	spread gravel on 884		859	858		
15	rain											
16	rain											
17	rain											
18	rain											
22	837 N& S 831		830	841								
23	890	880	882	855	876	878	dug a ditch on 878					
24	864	850	spread chat on 855			spread gravel on 841			831			
25	spread gravel 831											
29	509	508	512	513	500	510	836	840	848	852	856	
30	862	858	859	869	554	1/2of 583		spread gravel on 855				
31	882	878	½ of 868		spread gravel on 855							

**Allen Biggers – Bay Route**

1	648	650	655	639	641	672	664	683	Lillie Rd			
2	675	672	686	690	683	682	693	804	802	809	Thomas St	
3	812	810	660	815	688	816	822	818	808	821	813	820
	824	817										
4	815	823	819	826	696	828	691	626	679			
8	698	680	681	664	646	626	652	625	618			
9	616	653	615	607	635	638	645	639	672	Baker St		
10	648	650	656	664	641	Cooper Rd						
11	672	675	690	683	682	686	693	664				
15	804	809	808	813	821	820	818	815	816	822	Lillie Rd	
16	rain											
23	660	810	812	815	817	819	826	696	888	691	698	
24	679	680	681	664	646	652	625	double graded 626				
25	645	634	616	607	615	618	653	639	double graded 635		645	
	Cut ditches on 655											
29	641	672	664	655	650	675	648	Lillie Rd		Cooper Rd		
30	672	639	683	slides on blades								

**Bryan Tyler – Valley View Route**

1	spread gravel on 218		441									
2	423	412	431	439	440	441						
3	450	444	218	227	<del>209</del>	<del>210</del>						
4	452	451										
8	607	612	608	617	619	604	611	602	621	403		
9	456	480	478	482	486	474	461	442	468	464	466	462
	460	467	463	441								
10	102	104	108	109	200	201	202	213	209	218	227	210
	206											
11	452	451	423									
22	607	612	610	608	617	619	604	611	602	621	429	430
	460	463	467	462	464	466	472	468	478	474	461	442
	456	403										
24	102	104	108	109	spread gravel on 108			109				
25	218	227	209	210	213	206	202					
29	423	412	431	439	438	440	444	430				
30	spread gravel on 460											
31	452	451										

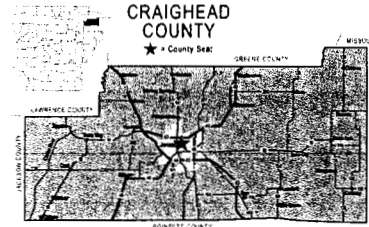




# CRAIGHEAD CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Annual Report for July, 2015—June, 2016

The mission of the Craighead Conservation District is to provide local leadership in the conservation and wise use of soil, water and related resources through a balanced information, education and technical assistance program that protects, restores, and improves those resources for future generations.



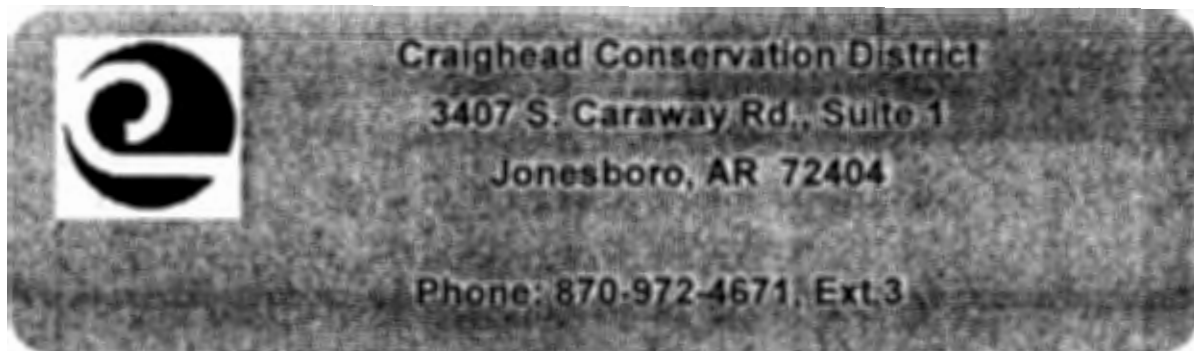
The Craighead Conservation District is governed by a board of five directors who pledge to promote the wise use of soil and water in the county. The board has a strong commitment to develop a comprehensive plan of work that will meet the needs of the citizens of our county and to protect the quality of life for future generations to come.

**DIRECTORS:**

- Danny Finch, Chairman
- Jerry Don Clark, Vice-Chairman
- Greg Nall, Secretary
- Alec Farmer, Member
- Mike Hook, Member

**OFFICE STAFF:**

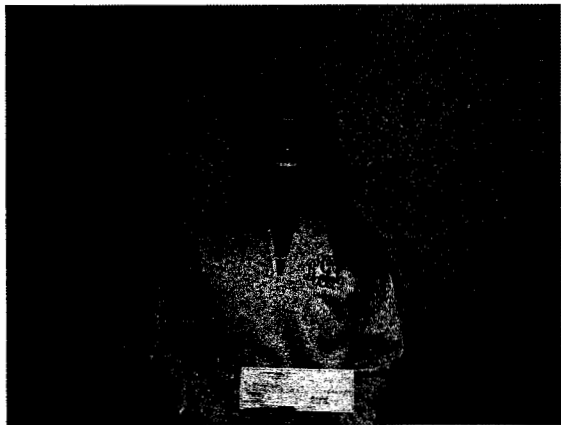
- Tanner Johnston, NRCS District Conservationist
- Jerry Smith, NRCS Soil Conservation Technician
- Mary Clayton, NRCS Soil Conservationist
- Vicki King, District Secretary
- Will Young, WRP Technician
- Cain Kelly, Easement Technician
- James Howell, Technical Assistant



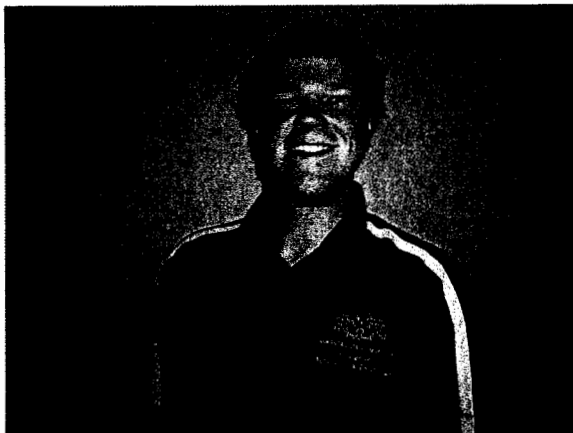
## **District Newsletter**

A newsletter is prepared in Microsoft Publisher four times each year and e-mailed to several hundred people. *(Attached is one of the quarterly newsletters)*

## **ASU Scholarships**



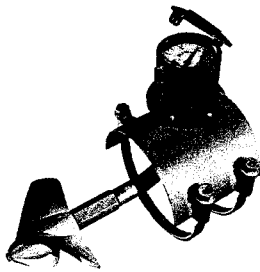
Each year the Craighead Conservation District awards a \$1,000 scholarship to two ASU Agriculture majors. This year's recipients were: (top) Bailey Grissum, a junior Animal Science major from Mt. Home; (bottom) Hunter Biram, a junior Agricultural Business major from Pleasant Plains.



## **Land-Leveling Cost-Share Program**

The District has a land-leveling design cost-share program. We pay \$5.00 per acre up to \$1,000.00 per entity per year on the design. The landowner or farmer fills out an application and provides the district with a cut sheet (design of field) and a receipt showing they paid for the design. After the field is leveled, the district technician does an inspection then the board approves it for payment.

## **Flow Meter Cost-Share Program**



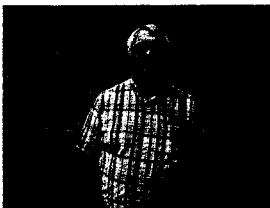
The District will cost-share on the purchase of 8 inch and 10 inch McCrometer portable flow meters. The landowner/producer will pay 60% of the cost and the District will pay 40%.

## **Easement Technician**

Craighead Conservation District employs an Easement Technician, Cain Kelly, who is funded by the Natural Resources Conservation Service. Cain is an Arkansas State University graduate with a degree in Agriculture Business with an emphasis in Marketing and Management.



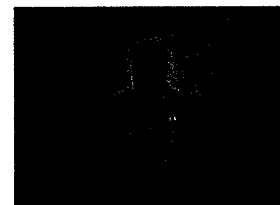
## **Technical Assistant**



Craighead Conservation District employs a Technical Assistant, James Howell, who is retired from the Natural Resources Conservation Service. This position is funded by NRCS.

## **WRP Technician**

Craighead Conservation District employs a WRP (Wetland Reserve Program) Technician, Will Young, who is funded by the Natural Resources Conservation Service. Will is an Arkansas State University graduate with a degree in Agriculture Business.



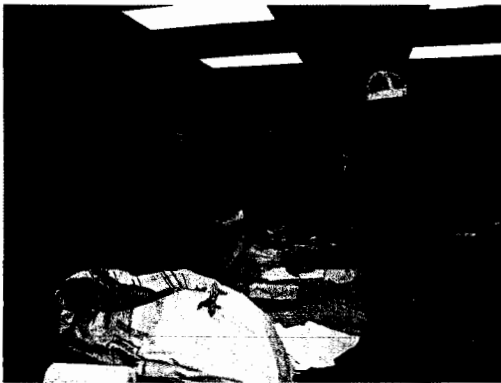
## Specialty License Plate



Conservation District's specialty license plate has been approved by the Arkansas State Police and the Revenue Department. Individuals will pay an extra \$25 per plate. Five dollars will go to the Arkansas Association of Conservation Districts to re-coop the upfront costs.

Twenty dollars will be given to the conservation district that the plate was purchased in. The \$25 is tax deductible.

## Earth Day Project



Conservation Districts and NRCS employees packing trees

The Craighead and Poinsett County Conservation District's partnered with Gigi's Cupcakes for an Earth Day Project. The Conservation District's were at Gigi's on April 22 and 23, 2016 and gave away 400 oak and pine seedlings to their customers. Gigi's Marketing Director, Brittney McKee, worked closely with Vicki

King (Craighead Conservation District) and Brandy Gardner (Poinsett Conservation District) to coordinate this project. NRCS employees helped package the seedlings.



Brittney McKee, Marketing Director of Gigi's



Vicki King at Gigi's Cupcakes

## **Federal Programs**

The 2014 Farm Bill Programs made conservation districts responsible for organizing local work groups to identify and prioritize resource concerns in Craighead County.

### **ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY INCENTIVES PROGRAM (EQIP)**

EQIP provides financial and technical assistance to agricultural producers in order to address natural resource concerns and deliver environmental benefits such as improved water and air quality, conserved ground and surface water, reduced soil erosion and sedimentation or improved or created wildlife habitat.

### **AGRICULTURE CONSERVATION EXPERIENCED SERVICES**

Through the Agriculture Conservation Experienced Services (ACES) Program, experienced workers, age 55 and over, help NRCS employees provide technical services in support of conservation.

### **WATERSHED REHABILITATION PROGRAM (Rehab)**

Local communities, with NRCS assistance, have constructed over 11,800 dams in 47 states since 1948. Many of these dams are nearing the end of their 50-year design life. Rehabilitation of these dams is needed to address critical public health and safety issues in these communities.

### **TECHNICAL SERVICE PROVIDER (TSP)**

TSPs are individuals, private businesses, nonprofit organizations and public agencies certified to work with NRCS to help agricultural producers plan and apply conservation practices on the land. TSPs develop conservation plans including Conservation Activity Plans; plan, design, lay out, and install conservation practices; and inspect completed practices for certification, as applicable.

## **Federal Programs**

### **CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM (CSP)**

CSP helps agricultural producers maintain and improve their existing conservation systems and adopt additional conservation activities to address priority resources concerns. Participants earn CSP payments for conservation performance—the higher the performance, the higher the payment.

### **EMERGENCY WATERSHED PROTECTION (EWP)**

The purpose of the Emergency Watershed Protection Program (EWP) was established by Congress to respond to emergencies created by natural disasters. The EWP Program is designed to help people and conserve natural resources by relieving imminent hazards to life and property caused by floods, fires, drought, windstorms, and other natural occurrences. The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) administers the EWP Program; EWP-Recovery, and EWP-Floodplain Easement (FPE).

### **REGIONAL CONSERVATION PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM (RCPP)**

The Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) promotes coordination between NRCS and its partners to deliver conservation assistance to producers and landowners. NRCS provides assistance to producers through partnership agreements and through program contracts or easement agreements.

## STATE PROGRAMS

### ARKANSAS AGRICULTURE WATER QUALITY LOANS (AgWQL)

The AgWQL program aims to help farmers and landowners implement conservation practices and protect Craighead County's water resources.

### IRRIGATION WELL REGISTRATION

Every irrigation well (approx. 3,600) in the county has to be registered every year from October to March 1. Crop and acres are reported along with payment. The data collected is entered into the computer in cooperation with the Arkansas Natural Resource Commission and United States Geological Survey via internet connection.

### WATER CONSERVATION TAX CREDIT

The purpose of this program is to encourage water users to invest in (1) the construction of reservoirs to use available surface water, thereby reducing their dependence on ground water; (2) the conversion from ground water use to surface water use; and (3) land-leveling to reduce agricultural irrigation water use.

2016 funding brought into Craighead County through programs that the Craighead Conservation District has participated in.

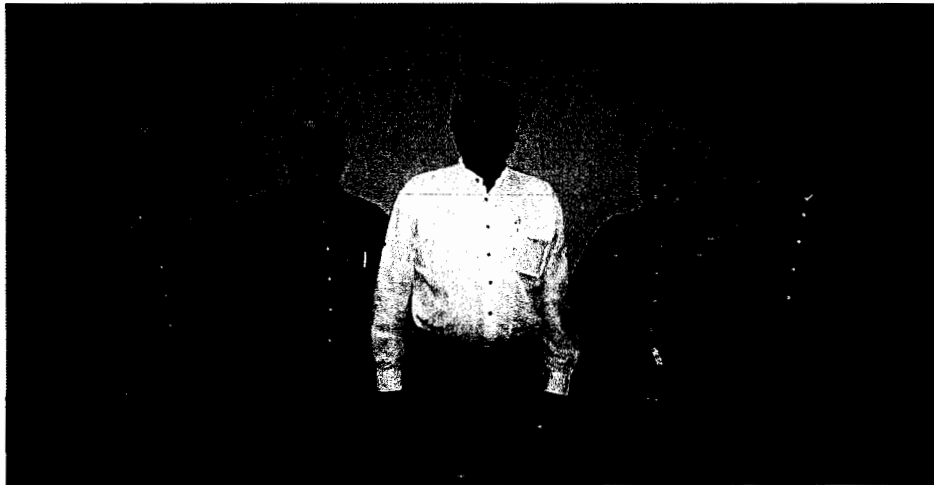
### FEDERAL PROGRAMS

PROGRAM	CONTRACTS OBLIGATED	ACRES	OBLIGATION AMOUNT
CSP	14	16,480	\$ 274,506
EQIP	33	4,726	\$ 1,120,727
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>53,626</b>	<b>\$ 1,395,233</b>



STATE PROGRAMS

PROGRAM	APPLICANTS	AMOUNT
WELL REGISTRATION	320	\$ 35,410
TAX CREDITS	3	\$ 5,163
TSP		\$ 2,410
TOTAL	323	\$ 42,983

**Craighead Conservation District Board**

Greg Nall      Jerry Don Clark      Danny Finch      Mike Hook      Alec Farmer

All programs of the Craighead County Conservation District are available on a non-discriminatory basis without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, sex, age, marital status or disability.

*Thank You* to the Craighead County Quorum Court for your continued support and financial assistance, which allows us to help farmers and landowners in our county and to educate the public about agriculture and the conservation of our natural resources.

# CRAIGHEAD CONSERVER

AUGUST, 2016

## NEW DISTRICT CONSERVATIONIST IN CRAIGHEAD COUNTY

Tanner Johnston began his work as the NRCS District Conservationist for Craighead County in December, 2015. He graduated from Arkansas State University in 2006 with a Bachelor of Science in Agronomy. Tanner began his career in conservation in September, 2007, working for the Randolph County Conservation District. Beginning September, 2009, he worked in the Jonesboro Area Office as a Civil Engineering Technician. Beginning August, 2010, he worked as a Soil Conservationist for NRCS in the Sharp County Office. Beginning January 2013, he worked in the Independence County NRCS Office as a District Conservationist.

Tanner and his wife Anna, have two daughters, Alyssa and Madison and live in Pocahontas.

*Welcome to Craighead County!*

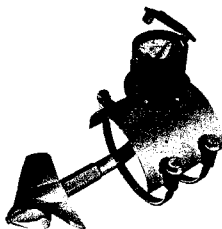


Cain Kelly, Easement Technician for Craighead Conservation District, graduated from Jonesboro High School and Arkansas State University with a degree in Agriculture Business with an emphasis in Marketing and Management. He was Vice President of the Agribusiness Club and was also selected by faculty to be in the Honors Club and Society of Leadership and Success. Cain loves hunting, fishing and being outside.

*Welcome Cain!*

Will Young, Wetland Reserve Program Technician for Craighead Conservation District, graduated from Jonesboro High School and Arkansas State University with a degree in Agriculture Business. He was a member of the Alpha Gamma Rho Fraternity where he got his start in agriculture working for a few different crop consultants. Will loves hunting, fishing and being outside. *Welcome Will!*

## CRAIGHEAD CONSERVATION DISTRICT FLOW METER COST-SHARE PROGRAM



The Craighead Conservation District will cost-share on the purchase of 8 inch and 10 inch portable flow meters. The District will pay 40% and the landowner/producer will pay 60% of the cost. These are McCrometer meters and will be limited to one meter per operation. If you are interested in purchasing one, please contact Vicki King at 870-972-4671, ext. 3

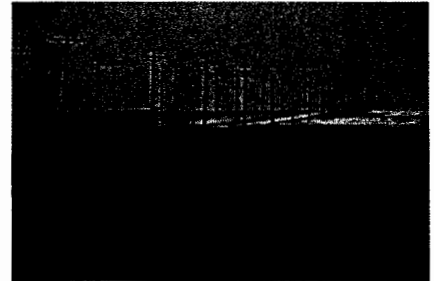
## LOOK UP FOR HAZARDS DURING HARVEST

The rush to harvest can lead to farmers working long days with little sleep; and that increases the chance of an accident. Here are a few tips on how to stay safe when operating farm equipment near overhead power lines:

- \* Use a spotter when operating large machinery near power lines.
- \* Use care when raising augers or the bed of grain trucks around power lines.
- \* Keep equipment at least 10 feet from power lines-at all times, in all directions.
- \* Inspect the height of farm equipment to determine clearance.
- \* Always remember to lower extensions when moving loads.
- \* Never attempt to move a power line out of the way or raise it for clearance.
- \* If a power line is sagging or low, call your local electric co-op.

If contact is made with a power line, stay on the equipment.

Make sure to warn others to stay away, and call 911. Do not leave until the utility crew says it is safe to do so. The only reason to exit is if the equipment is on fire. If this is the case, jump off the equipment with your feet together, without touching the ground and vehicle at the same time. Then, still keeping your feet together, hop to safety as you leave the area.



Arkansas' highest peak, Mount Magazine, was once part of the valley floor, surrounded by much taller mountains that have since eroded away.



## Craighead Conservation District Information

### Directors:

Danny Finch—Chairman

Jerry Don Clark—Vice Chairman

James Howell—Technical Assistant

Will Young—WRP Technician

Cam Kelly—Easement Technician

## COOK UP AN HERB GARDEN

The use of herbs dates back to ancient times, but the form in which they have been used has varied. It wasn't that long ago that most herbs were simply dried and packaged in little glass jars, hanging on a wooden rack in the kitchen. Today, you may buy small bags or bundles of fresh herbs at the grocery store and at farmers' markets. But fresh-cut herbs don't last long once you get them home. To make using fresh herbs even easier, why not grow your own?

Herbs may be annual or perennial plants, or grown as houseplants. Annual herbs are those that you must replant every season as they complete their life cycles in a year. Some are cool-season plants, while others are grown in warm temperatures. Perennial herbs will come back for more than one year and some can last a lifetime.

The most common annual herb grown and used today is basil. Basil is a heat lover and thrives outdoors all summer long. Another common annual often planted in the vegetable garden is dill. This tall, wispy-leaved plant can be used for both foliage and seeds. Again, full sun is best.

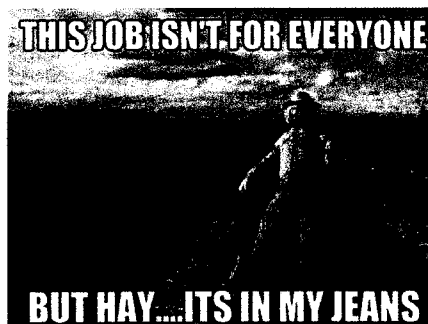
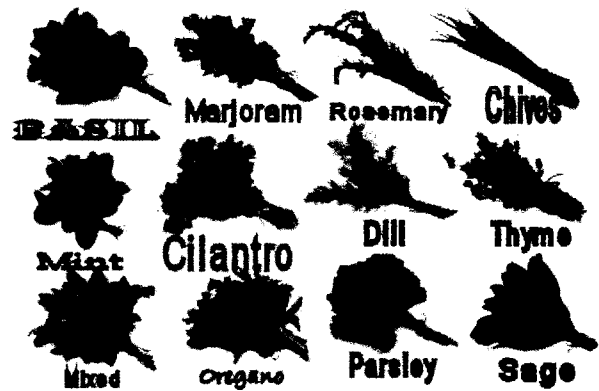
Cilantro is an herb you either love or hate. Cilantro grows best in cool weather. Plant it in the fall to grow with your winter annuals of pansies and violas.

Parsley is actually a biennial. The first season you get foliage and the second season, it blooms, sets seeds and dies. Some cooks prefer the flat-leaf parsley over the curly leaf, but they both grow well in the garden.

Thyme is one of the most heat-and-drought-tolerant plants around. Thymes prefer a dry site in the sun. It is a great addition around stepping stones, a border to a garden or even in containers.

Sage is another evergreen, easy-care herb for the garden. There are more than 900 species of salvias, some of which are considered more ornamental than culinary, but there are numerous common culinary salvias or sages as well. The main culinary salvia is *Salvia officinalis*. This is the sage you commonly add to the turkey stuffing at Thanksgiving.

Regardless of whether you are a new gardener or an experienced one, herbs are an easy addition to the garden, where you can enjoy their beauty, and to the kitchen, where you can use them to cook.



## ARKANSAS'S TOP 10 AGRICULTURAL COMMODITIES

1. **Broilers:** had a \$3.83 billion production value in 2014. Arkansas's chicken houses boasted 969.8 million head.
2. **Soybeans:** Arkansas farmers harvested 158.4 million bushels with a production value of \$1.71 billion.
3. **Rice:** Arkansas ranks #1 in the nation for rice production, churning out 111.95 million hundred weight in 2014 with a \$1.42 billion production value.
4. **Cattle and Calves:** Arkansas inventory totals more than 1.6 million head, 863,000 of which are beef cows. Cattle and calves had a \$624.53 million production value in 2014.
5. **Turkeys:** Arkansas produced 30 million turkeys, weighing in at a total of 612 million pounds. This commodity had a \$449.82 million production value.
6. **Chicken Eggs:** The 12.13 million laying hens in Arkansas produced approximately 1.9 billion eggs for hatching, while 1.06 billion made it to America's tables. Eggs had a \$482.35 million value of production in 2014.
7. **Corn:** Arkansas fields produced enough corn to sweeten 39.64 billion cans of soda on 530,000 harvested acres. This field crop had a \$401.4 million value of production.
8. **Hay:** Hay, grown to feed livestock in the winter or supplement their food intake year round, had a \$284.2 million value of production. Arkansas farmers harvested a total of 2.45 million tons on 1.22 million acres.
9. **Cotton:** Arkansas produced 787,000 bales of cotton, which is enough to make 195.96 million bedsheets. Cotton had a production value of \$243.64 million in 2014.
10. **Wheat:** Wheat had a \$139.36 million value of production in 2014. Arkansas producers harvested 24.88 million bushels on 395,000 acres. Each acre yielded about 63 bushels.

# ARKANSAS



On a scale of 1-100 with 100 being the best, Arkansas's air quality ranks at 91.9%

21 minutes—average drive time to work



Population—2.67 million (33rd in Nation)



15% lower cost of living compared to the rest of the country

More than half of the state is covered by forestland



\$109,100—median home cost