

Watershed Operations

April 2013

Watershed Operations—Lyons Creek Watershed Site 15

Introduction

In rural Kansas, flooding is a frequent threat to farms and small communities. Lives and livelihoods are seriously impacted, and rebuilding efforts can strain local economies. Lyons Creek Site 15, a flood control dam, provides needed protection to critical resources, such as agricultural land, roads, and bridges.

Funded through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009, this project was part of the Obama Administration's plans to modernize the nation's infrastructure, jumpstart the economy, and create jobs. NRCS used Recovery Act dollars to update aging flood control structures, protect and maintain water supplies, improve water quality, reduce soil erosion, enhance fish and wildlife habitat, and restore wetlands. NRCS also acquired easements and restored floodplains to safeguard lives and property in areas along streams and rivers that have experienced flooding.

Project Description

- **Location:** Morris County, Kansas, 1st Congressional District
- **Federal Funding:** \$871,391
- **Project Status:** Completed September 2010

Lyons Creek Watershed Site 15

Partners

- Lyons Creek Watershed Joint District #58
- Dickinson County Conservation District
- Geary County Conservation District
- Marion County Conservation District
- Morris County Conservation District
- U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) – Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

Benefits

The dam provides the community over \$33,000 in average annual flood protection benefits. Fifteen miles of stream corridor, with a floodplain that encompasses 45 farms and ranches and approximately 2,700 acres of agricultural lands, also benefit directly from improved flood protection. County roads and bridges used by residents are also protected from flood damage.



Lyons Creek flows out of its banks and emerging crop seedlings covered by floodwaters will not survive. Floodwaters cause other problems too such as soil erosion, scouring, sedimentation, and other water quality concerns.

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Economic Opportunities

The flood control project provides the community long-term economic opportunities. Reducing flood damage expenses for farmers and citizens alike, means resources are now being made available elsewhere-on productive, proactive investments in land, business, and infrastructure.

Statewide Perspective

Making sound investments in our rural communities' infrastructure, including flood prevention measures, is critical to the long-term economic health of the state.

For More Information

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www.ks.nrcs.usda.gov



Lyons Creek is out of its banks destroying newly planted crops. The Lyons Creek #15 dam allows farmers to get their crops to market by reducing the threat of flooding.

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