

## 2022 Poster Contest Luncheon

by Elizabeth Davis

Due to current COVID restrictions, the Bates County Soil and Water Conservation District was unable to hold their annual Cooperator Appreciation Open House this year. In order to honor the 2022 Poster Contest winners, the Board of Supervisors voted to hold a Poster Contest Luncheon. The luncheon was held March 24, 2022, at the First Christian Church, 11 W. Pine Street, Butler, MO, with a small group of people in attendance.

This year's theme was "Healthy Soil Healthy Life." Posters are judged at 50% on theme, 30% for visual appeal, 10% for originality and 10% for universal appeal. The top contest winners from each class receive a ribbon and cash prize.

In all, 154 fourth graders from seven area schools participated in the event. From each school, a first-place winner was picked, and from those seven, the field was narrowed to the four winners who were recognized at Thursday's luncheon.

This year's Bates County winners were as follows:

4<sup>th</sup> Place – Enzie Schaller – Miami Elementary, daughter of Renner & Melanie Schaller

3<sup>rd</sup> Place – Molli Gonzales – Adrian Elementary, daughter of David & Christy Cable

2<sup>nd</sup> Place – Arianna Hilgenberg – Hudson Elementary, David & Niki Hilgenberg

1<sup>st</sup> Place – Sophie Starkey – Butler Elementary, daughter of Andrea Baxter

Each county winner received a plaque in addition to the ribbon and cash prize for placing first in their school. The first-place county poster will advance to the State level competition. State Poster Contest winners will be announced at the Annual Training Conference held in November, at TanTarA Resort. We would like to thank the schools, teachers and parents for allowing their students to be a part of this activity. We are especially thankful to all the students who submitted a poster. You are the future of our Conservation Nation. Each and every one of the posters showed a genuine interest in preserving our Natural Resources through good conservation practices.

Even though we had to limit attendance to a small group this year, everyone had an enjoyable time. All who attended were much appreciated for making a fun 'lunch hour awards' for the four county winners.

Board Members in attendance were: Mike Rapp, Chairman; Mark Nelson, Vice-Chairman; Tyler Reinke, in coming Treasurer, Dillion Franklin out going Treasurer and Ramon Arancibia, Secretary.

Personnel in attendance were: Brad Powell and Elizabeth Davis, SWCD staff and Jody Jones, NRCS staff.

We would like to thank everyone that attended our Poster Contest Luncheon and hope that next year we can get back to more of a 'normal' gathering for recognition of these fourth-grade students that do an outstanding job on their posters.



