



District Personnel

Megan Baker,
District Technician

Beth Eeftink,
District Clerk

Summer 2013

**Bollinger County
Soil & Water
Conservation
District**

406 E. Main, P.O. Box 199,
Marble Hill MO 63764
573-238-2671, Ext. 3



Shane Bess,
District Conservationist
Selma Mascaro,
Resource Conservationist
Kendric Holder
Soil Conservationist

Missouri Dept. of Conservation
Roger Frazier,
Private Land Conservationist

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Saliena Dowd—Chairman; Ronnie Reagan —Vice Chairman; David Retherford, Jr.—Treasurer
Mike Kester—Member; Donna Aufdenberg—Secretary

You're invited to attend

**The Bollinger County
Soil & Water Conservation District**

Customer Appreciation Day!

**The Bollinger County SWCD Board and Employees
would like to thank you, the landowner, for making the
Soil & Water Conservation Program successful.**

Date: Friday, June 7, 2013

Landowners can vote in election between 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Lunch will be provided from 11:00 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Where: USDA Service Center, Marble Hill

No RSVP Required

**SWCD, NRCS, FSA and MDC staff will be present to
answer questions regarding conservation practices,
equipment, and cost-share opportunities.**



Conservation Reserve Program General Sign Up

Terry Birk, Executive Director of the Bollinger County USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA), announced that general sign up for the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) begins on May 20, 2013, and will continue through June 14, 2013. During the sign up period, farmers and ranchers may offer eligible land for CRP's competitive general sign up at their county FSA office.

"CRP is probably one of FSA's most recognizable programs," Birk said. "The various CRP practices help improve water and air quality, increase wildlife habitat and prevent soil erosion, which benefits us all."

Landowners enrolled in CRP receive annual rental payments and cost-share assistance to establish long-term, resource conserving covers on eligible farmland. Land that is not currently enrolled in CRP can be offered during sign up if all eligibility requirements are met. CRP participants with contracts expiring this fall can make new contract offers during the sign up period. Contracts awarded during this general sign up will become effective October 1, 2013.

Birk said all CRP offers are evaluated and ranked using an Environmental Benefits Index (EBI) that indicates the environmental benefits of enrolling the land in CRP. The factors that make up the EBI are: wildlife, water, soil, air, enduring benefits and cost. Decisions will be made following the end of the sign up period and after analyzing the EBI data on all of the offers.

In addition to the general sign up, the continuous CRP program sign up opened May 13, 2013, and remains ongoing. For more information on CRP, please contact the Bollinger County FSA Office at (573) 238-2671, or visit www.fsa.usda.gov/crp.

CRP Informational Meetings

Presenters: Biologists from Quail Forever and the Missouri Department of Conservation and program specialists from the U.S. Department of Agriculture

Topics: Discussion of the 2013 CRP Sign-up, CRP Benefits, your application score, available practices, establishing CRP, performing Mid-contract management

Dates: Thursday, 05/30 at 2pm in the Benton USDA Office
Wednesday, 06/12 CRP Field Workshop at 1 pm at the Dexter USDA Office

**Please plan to attend if you have any interest in learning more about how conservation programs can work to increase income on your farm. Employees from FSA, MDC and NRCS should be present to help answer your questions. Please RSVP to workshop you plan to attend. Refreshments will be provided.



For more information, please contact:
Scott D. James | Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist
USDA Field Office | 6458 State Highway 77 | Benton, MO 63736
m. (573) 418-0787 | o. (573) 545-3593 ext. 112 | sjames@quailforever.org

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Tall Buttercup

Ranunculus acris

Tall buttercup is a European species that has spread throughout North America, typically found in pastures and meadows and sometimes woodlands. Unlike the low-growing [creeping buttercup](#), tall buttercup does not spread by stolons, just by seed, and is upright not creeping. It is recommended you prevent the spread of this species to uninfested areas and control it in areas where it is found, especially pastures being grazed.

Identification

Tall buttercup is an upright, perennial broadleaf plant that grows from a cluster of fibrous roots. Stems are 1 to 3 feet tall, hairy, hollow, leafy below and branched above. Each root crown typically has several stems in a cluster. Flowers have 5 to 7 glossy yellow petals, are about 1 inch wide, and grow on long stalks.

Leaves at the base grow on long stalks and are divided deeply into 3 to 7 coarsely lobed segments that radiate from a common point like fingers on a hand. The upper leaves are smaller and have fewer lobes and teeth. Leaves are softly hairy. Seedlings have 2 egg-shaped cotyledons with 3 to 5 noticeable veins. Young plants form a rosette. The first true leaves are hairy, round to heart-shaped in general outline, and shallowly lobed and toothed. Leaves have long leaf stalks that are hairy except at the base.



Impacts

Tall buttercup can dominate a pasture given the opportunity, especially those with acidic soils and/or over-grazing. It could hinder colonization by native species in a prairie or grassland habitat if it were allowed to invade and spread.

The main impact is to livestock. Fresh buttercup plants are toxic to grazing animals, who can suffer from salivation, skin irritation, blisters, abdominal distress, inflammation, and diarrhea. Fortunately, buttercup has a strong, bitter taste so animals generally try to avoid it if more palatable forage is available. Also, the toxin *protoanemonin* is not very stable and loses its potency when dry, so buttercup is not generally toxic in hay. Unfortunately, livestock occasionally develop a taste for buttercup and consume fatal quantities. It is safest to keep populations of buttercup under control on grazed pastures and offer plenty of healthy forage.

Growth & Reproduction

Tall buttercup spreads only by seed and is a short-lived perennial. It blooms from late May to September and is pollinated by a variety of insects. Seeds are dispersed by wind, birds, farm animals, small rodents, clothes and tires. Seed germination is usually in spring and generally requires open soil.

Tall buttercup can be found in a variety of habitats, including wet lowlands and rich woodlands and is a common weed in pastures, meadows, and along roadsides. It usually does not persist in cultivated fields. Tall buttercup prefers heavy, moist soils but can grow in sandy or gravelly soil if there is sufficient moisture available.

Control

Prevention & Cultural Control

- In lawns and pastures, promote healthy grass by overseeding, fertilizing as needed, and not over-grazing. Adding lime can improve grass health and keep buttercup from re-establishing. However, lime won't control buttercup that is already well-established.
- It also helps to improve soil drainage. Reduce compaction by aerating and avoid trampling when soils are wet.
- Clean mowers and other equipment to avoid spreading buttercup seeds to un-infested areas.

Manual

- Pull or dig up plants, removing all of the roots. Digging is most effective in the spring and early summer while the soil is moist and roots won't break off as much.
- Disturbance of the soil can increase seed germination.

Mechanical

- This weed will not survive cultivation so plowing a field or meadow will help control it.

Chemical

- Herbicides can be used if allowed and appropriate for the site and land use. Follow all label directions to ensure safe and effective use.
- Broadleaf herbicides can be applied over grassy areas infested with buttercup to selectively kill the buttercup and not the grass. Products containing the active ingredient MCPA are most effective on buttercup. Metsulfuron (Escort, Ally) is also effective but can harm some grasses. Follow label directions on timing and rates.
- Glyphosate (e.g. Roundup, Aquamaster) can be applied to actively growing plants before they seed. Keep spray off of grass and other plants. Re-seed or re-plant bare areas after removing buttercup to keep it from re-infesting the area.
- It will probably take at least two or three applications to eradicate tall buttercup because of the seed bank and because some mature plants will generally recover.



SWCD Announces Annual Poster Contest Winners

The Bollinger County Soil & Water Conservation District (SWCD) recently hosted its annual Poster Contest. The 2013 Theme was “Where Does Your Water Shed?” The contest was open to all 4th, 5th and 6th graders in Bollinger County. Students researched the following topics to incorporate into their posters: direct/indirect uses of water, water resource regions, water cycles and Bollinger County watersheds.

A total of 289 students from Leopold, Meadow Heights, Woodland and Zalma participated in the poster contest. A first, second and third place grand prize winner was chosen in each grade. Winners received ribbons and cash prizes and each schools art department received a \$100 gift card donation. The winners from the 4th grade category are: 1st place - Kelly Thomsen, Woodland School; 2nd Place - Dillon Filer, Woodland School; and 3rd Place - Jamon Frymire, Woodland School. The winners from the 5th grade category are: 1st place - Jenny Vandeven, Leopold School; 2nd Place - Dylan Cook, Meadow Heights School; and 3rd Place - Jared Allen, Leopold School. The winners from the 6th grade category are: 1st place - Tate Hanners, Meadow Heights School; 2nd place - Hannah Vandeven, Leopold School; and 3rd place - Collin James, Leopold School.

The Bollinger County SWCD appreciates each student that participated in the poster contest and would like to especially thank the local schools and art teachers.



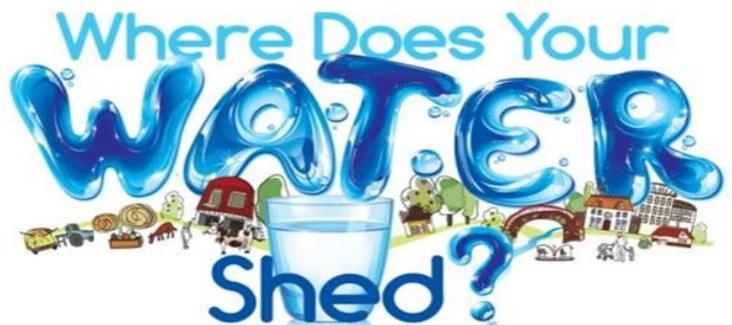
Winners from Woodland School pictured L-R are: Dylan Filer, Jamon Frymire, Kelly Thomsen.



Winners from Leopold School front row L-R: Jared Allen & Collin James; back row L-R Hannah Vandeven & Jenny Vandeven.



Winners from Meadow Heights School pictured L-R are: Tate Hanners and Dylan Cook.





Bollinger County 15th Annual Women In Agriculture Educational Program

When: June 19, 2013 (Wednesday)

Time: 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Where: Morning Portion will be held at the Marble Hill United Methodist Church
Afternoon portion will be held at 1000 Oaks Winery on Hwy 51 N.

**Provide your own transportation to winery, please carpool if possible.
Doors open at 8:30 with complimentary coffee and doughnuts; Lunch is provided.**



Soil Health
Backyard Chicken Coop
Fall Gardening
1000 Oaks Winery Tour



**It's free to attend but pre-registration IS REQUIRED!
To reserve your seat call 238-2420 or 238-2671, Ext. 3**

Prescribed Fire Workshops

When: Tuesday, August 6, 2013 from 5:30 - 8:30 p.m.

Where: Black River Electric Coop
2600 Highway 67
Fredericktown, MO 63645

Presented by: Missouri Department of Conservation



Prescribed fire is a low cost way for landowners to manage grasslands, CRP and old fields for forage production and/or improve wildlife habitat.

This workshop will include classroom discussions on methods, equipment, safety, and why and when you would use fire as a management tool. Emphasis will include how to conduct a safe and effective burn to control sprouts, encourage beneficial plants and create diverse wildlife habitat. Participation will qualify landowners to have a prescribed burn plan prepared for their fields and use available loan equipment.

To register for the workshop please contact the Missouri Department of Conservation at 573/223-4525. Registration required.

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1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410
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Bollinger County SWCD
P.O. Box 199
Marble Hill, MO 63760

**Visit us on the
Web!**

**[www.swcd.mo.gov/
bollinger](http://www.swcd.mo.gov/bollinger)**

To remove your name from our mailing list or have any questions please call 573-238-2671 ext. 3.

Equipment Rental

The Bollinger County SWCD & Missouri Department of Conservation have the following equipment available for completing your farming practices:

7' No-till Drill—\$10.00/acre
10' No-till Drill—\$10.00/acre
Pasture Renovator—\$6.00/acre
Root Plow—\$10.00/day
Wildlife Food Plot (1 row) Planter
Burn Spray Trailer