



Christian County Soil and Water Conservation SOIL AND WATER NEWS

April - June 2015

Special Points of Interest

- Forage Management Guide for April - June
- What your Soil and Water District can do for you
- Meet Thomas Calton
- If soil health is your goal, till as little as possible
- Calendar of Events
- Board of Supervisors
- Christian County Rented and Loaned Equipment

Forage Management Guide for April - June

April: Prepare to burn warm season pastures and hay fields if needed. Finish cool season grass and legume plantings for complete re-establishment. Implement grazing system. Check warm season grass fields for weed competition and spray appropriate chemicals if needed. Install above ground watering system. Check existing ones. Check over-seeded legumes for grass competition. When livestock have grazed the grass canopy down to where they are biting off the legumes, give the pasture a rest. Remember, legume plants need sunlight to survive.

May: Cut high quality, cool season grasses and legume hay. Fertilize warm season grasses, hay and pastures. Apply brush and weed control to cool season grass pastures. Rotate pastures frequently to take full advantage of fast and high quality forage. Plant warm season annuals.

June: Cut warm season grasses for hay or graze as needed to fill the forage gap. Monitor rest periods on grazing systems as cool season grass growth is starting to slow down. Longer rest periods are needed to adequately feed the herd. Harvest fescue seed for cash crop.

What can your Soil and Water Conservation District do for you?

The Christian County Soil and Water Conservation District and partners have the ability to help you make your farm as productive and efficient as you want it to be. Through our various cost share programs, rental equipment and **free** technical assistance we are here to help you. SWCD's are funded by a Parks and Soils Sales Tax...you pay it why not use it!

Cost share practices include Permanent Vegetative Cover Establishment or improvement, Planned Grazing Systems, Nutrient and Pest Management, and Water Quality programs. Most state programs pay up to 75% of the state average cost or a per acre incentive. Contact our office at 581-2719 or www.swcd.mo.gov/christian to see how **we** can help **you**.

Meet Your New Soil & Water Technician

Thomas "Tom" Calton began his District Technician duties as a shared resource working with SWCD and NRCS on March 23, 2015. Though stationed in Christian County, Tom will be working in the counties of Christian, Douglas, Ozark, Stone and Taney assisting landowners in the design and implementation of cost-share programs. In his spare time, Tom enjoys doing anything that takes him outdoors and spending time with his young family. He had previously worked for forestry with MDC and with the state of Utah DNR.

If Soil Health Is Your Goal, Till As Little As Possible

Tillage can destroy soil organic matter and structure along with the habitat that soil organisms need. Tillage, especially during warmer months, reduces water infiltration, increases runoff and can make the soil less productive. Tillage disrupts the soil's natural biological cycles, damages the structure of the soil, and makes soil more susceptible to erosion.

Benefits of Reduced - Till/No-Till

Aiding in Plant Growth – Soils managed with reduced/no-till for several years contain more organic matter and moisture for plant use. Healthy soils cycle crop nutrients, support root growth, absorb water and sequester carbon more efficiently.

Reducing Soil Erosion – Soil that is covered year-round with crops, crop residue, grass or cover crops is much less susceptible to erosion from wind and water. For cropping systems, practices like no-till keep soil undisturbed from harvest to planting.

Saving Money – Farmers can save money on fuel and labor by decreasing tillage. Improving nutrient cycling allows farmers to potentially reduce the amount of supplemental nutrients required to maintain yields, further reducing input costs.

Providing Wildlife Habitat – Crop residue, grass and cover crops provide food and escape for wildlife.

Production Inputs

Soils can be disturbed if inputs are not applied properly, potentially disrupting the delicate relationship between plants and soil organisms. Soil Health Management Systems help minimize that potential disturbance, while maximizing nutrient cycling, which can lead to greater profitability for producers.

Livestock Grazing

Improperly managed grazing can disturb the soil. There are several ways to graze livestock to reduce environmental impacts. For example, implementing a rotational grazing system instead of allowing livestock to continuously graze pasture allows pasture plants to rest and regrow.

Soil Health Management Systems

Implementing Soil Health Management Systems can lead to increased organic matter, more soil organisms, reduced soil compaction and improved nutrient storage and cycling. As an added bonus, fully functioning, healthy soils absorb and retain more water, making them less susceptible to runoff and erosion. This means more water will be available for crops when they need it.

Soil Health Management Systems allow farmers to enjoy profits over time because they spend less on fuel and energy while benefiting from the higher crop yields resulting from improved soil conditions. Healthy soils also provide a buffer for precipitation extremes (too wet or too dry).

Contact your local NRCS office to learn more about Soil Health Management Systems and the technical and financial assistance available to help “Unlock the Secrets in the Soil.”

Calendar of Events

2015 Christian County Livestock and Forage Conference

Tuesday, April 7, 2015

6:00 p.m

Clever High School.

Call The University of Missouri Extension Office to make reservations
417-581-3558

2015 SW Missouri Regional Grazing Schools Schedule:

April 21, 24, 28, May 1, 2015 (evenings)

April 25, 2015 (Saturday – all day)

Location: Halfway, MO

Contact: Dallas County SWCD
417-345-2312, ext.3

April 28, 29, 30, 2015 (daytime)

Location: Mt. Vernon, MO

Contact: Lawrence County Extension
417-466-3102

June 9, 10, 11, 2015 (daytime)

Location: Neosho, MO

Contact: Nathan Witt
417-451-1007, ext.3

September 15, 17, 22, 24, 2015 (evenings)

September 19, 2015 (Saturday - all day)

Location: Greenfield, MO

Contact: Cedar County SWCD
417-276-3388, ext. 3

September 16, 17, 18, 2015 (daytime)

Location: Crane, MO

Contact: Stone County SWCD
417-723-8389

September 22, 23, 24, 2015 (daytime)

Location: Marshfield, MO

Contact: Webster County SWCD
417-468-4176, ext.3

October 20, 21, 22, 2015 (daytime)

Location: Springfield, MO

Contact: Greene County SWCD
417-831-5246, ext.3

If you would like information about other schools around the state visit the Missouri Forage and Grassland Council website at:

<http://mofgc.org/index.html>

or

<http://mofgc.org/index>

SWCD Board of Directors

Sam Schaumann - Billings

Tim Maples - Spokane

Joe Rozell - Garrison

Gordon Carriker - UMC Extension

Rusty Estes - Sparta

Chair

Vice-Chair

Treasurer

Secretary

Member



Christian County SWCD
1786 S. 16th Ave. Ste 102
Ozark, MO 65721
417-581-2719 ext. 3
417-581-3863 fax
www.swcd.mo.gov/christian

PRSR STD
US POSTAGE
PAID
SPRINGFIELD, MO
PERMIT # 777

Christian County Equipment Rental

- **No-Till Drill:** 3-10 ft. Haybuster, No-Till Drills; \$10.00 per acre with a 10 acre minimum charge and a \$20 delivery fee. *All equipment listed above is delivered and picked up.*
- **Spinning Jenny:** \$75 refundable deposit
- **Ground Rod Driver:** \$100 refundable deposit
- **Broadcast Seeder for ATV:** Electric motor; \$100 refundable deposit
- **Soil Auger:** \$70 refundable deposit
- **Burn Equipment:** \$70 refundable deposit, requires an approved burn plan
- **Gasoline Powered "T" Post Driver:** Rent at a rate of \$55 per half day, \$100 per weekday or \$150 per weekend.

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in its programs on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs and marital or familial status. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at 202-720-2600 (voice and TDD)

To file a complaint, write the Secretary of Agriculture, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C., 20250, or call 1-800-245-6340 (voice) or (202) 720-1127 (TDD). USDA is an equal employment opportunity employer.