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# Christian County Soil and Water Conservation SOIL AND WATER NEWS

April-June 2016

*Special Points of Interest*

- Forage Management Guide for April-June
- What can your Soil and Water District do for you
- Conservation Practices Improve Your Farm
- The Parks and Water Sales Tax
- Calendar of Events
- Christian County Rented and Loaned Equipment

## Forage Management Guide

### 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.



## 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 \$50 per weekday, \$100 per weekend or \$175 for five consecutive weekdays.

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

The Christian County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) 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 one-tenth-of-one percent parks, soils, and water sales tax which is shared by the Department of Natural Resources, Soil and Water Conservation Program and the Division of State Parks. Cost share practices include Permanent Vegetative Cover Establishment or improvement, Planned Grazing Systems, Nutrient and Pest Management, and Water Quality programs. Most state program 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](http://www.swcd.mo.gov/christian) to see how **we can help you.**

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## Conservation Practices Improve Your Farm

A portion of the Parks, Soils and Water Sales Tax is used for Missouri landowners to install soil and water conservation practices through a state cost-share program. These practices conserve soil, which consequently improves water quality by reducing sedimentation in rivers and streams in Missouri.

The Soil and Water Conservation Program is guided by the Soil and Water Districts Commission whose primary responsibility is the determination of policies and procedures to be used by soil and water conservation districts. Funds through county soil and water conservation districts to agricultural landowners to implement conservation practices can reduce the loss of Missouri's soil and conserve and improve the quality of the state's water resources. A cost-share brochure is available online at [www.dnr.mo.gov/pubs/pub2348.pdf](http://www.dnr.mo.gov/pubs/pub2348.pdf).

For more information about cost-share practices, visit the Missouri Department of Natural Resources website at [www.dnr.mo.gov/env/swcp/service/index.html](http://www.dnr.mo.gov/env/swcp/service/index.html).

## How to Improve Soil and Water Resources on Your Farm

Through Missouri's 114 local soil and water conservation districts, the Missouri Department of Natural Resources' Soil and Water Conservation Program provides financial and technical assistance to agricultural landowners for conservation practices. Below are a few examples of how these practices can benefit you.

- Keep your valuable topsoil
- Get the best use of your soil and water resources
- Develop the best nutrient and pest management plan for your needs
- Install a rotational grazing system benefiting your livestock, water resources, land and time
- Through irrigation management, efficiently and uniformly apply water to control run off and conserve water supplies
- Recycle animal waste for use on agricultural land
- Protect your groundwater

Conservation practices can save you time and money and increase your farm's production while protecting the overall natural environment of the state. Landowners can receive up to 75 percent cost-share to install practices through their local district.

The Soil and Water Conservation Program is funded by the one-tenth-of-one-percent parks, soils and water sales tax and administers those funds through local soil and water conservation districts.

If you are interested in addressing any of these concerns on your agricultural land, please contact your local soil and water conservation district. For a listing of soil and water conservation districts in Missouri visit [www.swcd.mo.gov](http://www.swcd.mo.gov).

More information is also available at the Soil and Water Conservation Program website at [www.dnr.mo.gov/env/swcp/](http://www.dnr.mo.gov/env/swcp/)

## The Parks, Soils, and Water Sales Tax

Later this year, Missouri voters will be asked to vote on The Parks, Soils, and Water Sales Tax. The Parks, Soil and Water Sales Tax is a statewide one-tenth-of-one percent sales tax that provides funding for Missouri state parks and historic sites and soil and water conservation efforts. The Tax is divided equally between the two efforts.

**This is NOT a tax increase, it is just the approval to continue the tax that has been in effect since 1984.**

## Calendar of Events

**Regional Management-Intensive Grazing Schools which will be held in Southwest Missouri:**

### Halfway, MO

May 3, 6, 7, 10, & 12

(Evenings & Saturday Daytime)

Dallas Co SWCD | 417-345-2312 Ext. 3 | [debbie.henderson@swcd.mo.gov](mailto:debbie.henderson@swcd.mo.gov)

### Mt. Vernon, MO

May 10, 11, & 12

(Daytime)

Lawrence County MU Extension | 417-466-3102 | [colee@missouri.edu](mailto:colee@missouri.edu)

### Ozark, MO

May 23, 24, & 25

(Daytime)

Christian County SWCD | 417-581-2719 Ext. 3

### Neosho, MO

June 7, 8, & 9

(Daytime)

Newton Co NRCS/SWCD | 417-451-1007 Ext. 3 | [nathan.witt@mo.usda.gov](mailto:nathan.witt@mo.usda.gov)

### Lamar, MO

Sept 17 & 19 | Oct 1 & 4

(Evenings & Saturday Daytime)

Barton County MU Extension | Jill Scheidt | 417-682-3579 | [scheidtjk@missouri.edu](mailto:scheidtjk@missouri.edu)

### Springfield, MO

October 18, 19 & 20

(Daytime)

Greene County SWCD/NRCS | 417-831-5246 Ext. 3 | [mark.green@mo.usda.gov](mailto:mark.green@mo.usda.gov)

**If you would like information about other schools around the state visit the Missouri Forage and Grassland Council website at: <http://mofgc.org>**