



Christian County Soil and Water Conservation SOIL AND WATER NEWS

Forage Management Guide for January - March

January - March 2015

Special Points of Interest

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“Manage forage in the winter! What forage?” Some people may be asking these questions. If you have planned ahead and stockpiled forage for the winter months, you may just now be turning in to those fields. Management choices you make now can affect how much forage you have next winter. The following items are things you need to be considering in the next few months:

January: Get fields in shape for over-seeding legumes by grazing to within two inches or less. Inventory feed supplies and utilize stockpiled forage to the best advantage. Review your grazing system and make changes for improvements.

February: Start over-seeding of legumes on pastures. Continue to graze or feed hay in order to tread-in seed. Install changes needed in the grazing system.

March: Apply Fertilizer to cool season pastures. Finish over-seeding legumes. Continue to graze over-seeded pastures for growth control. Consider the addition of magnesium to mineral mixes to off-set possible grass tetany. Apply lime according to soil test. Lime can be applied any time of the year.

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. All 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**.

Calendar of Events

January 21, 2015

ARC/PLC & 2014 Farm Bill Meeting

The meeting will be held **1-4 pm**
at the Ozark School Farm
360 Old Prospect Rd., Ozark, MO
For additional information, contact
The USDA Office 417-581-2718 Ext. 106

February 2015 - March, 2015

Annie's Project Barry County

Contact The University of Missouri
Extension Office 417-581-3558

March 3, 2015

31st Annual Spring Forage Conference

Website: springforageconference.com

Get advice on your forest with MO Woods App By Brian Schweiss, MDC

Hey, landowners, grab your smartphones. There is a new app ready for landowners with woods and forests.

It was developed specifically to assist Missouri landowners in an initial evaluation of their woodlands for forest health, wildlife habitat and timber sale potential.

In the app there are links to other resources that may be of use too, such as insect and disease issues for Missouri woods, wildlife habitat improvement options and timber sale guidance (from the Call Before You Cut website). Using the app, landowners now can email their results along with a picture of their woods and even request assistance from a forester.

Both iPhone and Android users can download this app, as it is available in both app stores. Start by searching for "Missouri Forestkeepers" or "MO Woods." Once downloaded on your phone, head to the woods. The app will guide you through some steps to gather information. A series of pictures will help determine details about the woods.

One of the first questions asked is about forest density. The app requires a visual estimate of the density using low, medium and high as references. Next up is tree species identification. Identify the primary species in your forest that make up the main canopy of trees. Leaf pictures are provided to assist in identification. For each species chosen, the app asks for an estimate of the percent present in the forest. It also asks for an average size of tree for each species. Three categories are there to give guidance on how to measure trees. Then, figure out the average quality of your trees in the species.

Continue on to the next step and three different prescriptions will be given: one for timber sale potential, one for forest health, and one for wildlife value. Interested landowners can then send an email to request further assistance or to simply ask a question about their forest. The MO Woods app is not a substitute for a forester. It is meant to be a starting point, and is written to capture statewide scenarios in broad categories. It will not identify specific market conditions or forest health issues. When in doubt, send an email to a local forester.

Parks, Soils and Water Sales Tax Benefits Missourians for 30 Years

The Soil and Water Conservation Program is unique within the country as the program has a dedicated funding source unlike any other. The program receives one-half of the Parks, Soils and Water Sales Tax of Missouri, which has been approved by voters each time it has come to a vote over the past 30 years.

In 1984, 1988, 1996 and 2006 Missourians voted to support the Parks, Soils and Water Sales Tax, which funds activities by the department's Soil and Water Conservation Program, including Missouri's 114 soil and water conservation districts and the Missouri State Parks.

The Parks, Soils and Water Sales Tax has now been in place for 30 years. Over the years, soil and water conservation programs have helped Missouri landowners keep more than 175 million tons of soil from eroding into the waterways of our state.

The Soil and Water Districts Commission has responded to the growing need to address water quality issues in addition to soil erosion. Agriculture depends upon water, and it in turn, has an effect on the quality and quantity of water leaving agricultural fields. Conservation practices applied to these fields improve water infiltration and reduce runoff and erosion.

Funding to support Missouri's 114 county soil and water conservation districts (SWCD) helps landowners with technical and financial assistance to construct traditional practices to prevent soil erosion, such as terraces, grassed waterways and ponds. Funding also helps to implement practices designed specifically to improve water quality. These erosion-control practices fight the loss of topsoil, which affects everyone—good soil is critical for food production. Properly implemented management practices, such as nutrient and pest management and stream buffers will reduce runoff and result in improved water quality in Missouri's streams and rivers.

Changes in business efficiencies and processes within the Soil and Water Conservation Program have allowed the department to increase the funding available to landowners while improving administrative and personnel support for local soil and water conservation districts.

In fiscal 2014, the department's Soil and Water Conservation Program had \$27.7 million available from the Parks, Soils and Water Sales Tax available for landowner incentives. More than 60 cents of every tax dollar dedicated to soil and water conservation will be used for erosion control and protecting our water resources through implementation of conservation practices. The largest portion of the remaining funds goes to support soil and water conservation districts.

Since the initial passage of Missouri's Parks, Soils and Water Sales Tax in 1984, the Department of Natural Resources has provided more than \$600 million to Missouri agricultural landowners to implement more than 210,000 conservation practices to protect the state's soil and water resources. In addition, revenues from the tax allowed Missouri to have the highest reduction in its rate of soil erosion when compared to other states with more than 10 million acres of cultivated cropland.

The program staff carry out the duties set forth by Statute to provide resources to the local districts. Statute provided for the creation of the Soil and Water Districts Commission. The commission is comprised of six landowner farmers, three from north of the Missouri River and three from south of the river, and four ex-officio members. Ex-officio members are the directors of the Department of Natural Resources, Department of Agriculture, Department of Conservation and the Dean of the College of Agriculture of the University of Missouri. The commission establishes policy and guidance for the districts. Program staff perform tasks at the request of the commission and under the direction of the Natural Resources department director. The program oversees the administration of state cost-share through developing the program budget and reviewing, revising, and implementing the cost-share policy and cost-share contracts to ensure the policy determined by the commission is met.

Each district's board of supervisors is comprised of four elected positions who are agriculture landowners from within the county and a University of Missouri Extension agent that serves as the board secretary. The districts are able to secure local funding sources and are provided grants for administration of the district and personnel to carry out district activities. Local boards oversee the district's cost-share program by hiring technical and administrative staff, approving cost-share contracts and setting the priorities for the district. Each district board can set cost-share policies more stringent than provided by the commission, and each board develops the district's conservation goals for submission of the Needs Assessment.

The Soil and Water Conservation Program uses resource planning annually to determine cost-share funding for all 114 districts. The conservation practices that landowners may use are defined within seven resource concerns. Each resource concern contains conservation practices best suited to reduce soil erosion or improve water quality as defined by the program's mission. The resource concerns are: animal waste management, grazing management, irrigation management, nutrient and pest management, sensitive areas, woodland erosion, and sheet, rill, and gully erosion.



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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.

SWCD Board of Supervisors:

Sam Schaumann - Billings	Chair
Tim Maples - Spokane	Vice-Chair
Joe Rozell - Garrison	Treasurer
Gordon Carriker - UMC Extension	Secretary
Rusty Estes - Sparta	Member

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