



SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Christian County Soil and Water Conservation SOIL AND WATER NEWS

January-March
2016

Special Points of Interest

- Forage Management Guide for January-March
- What can your Soil and Water District do for you
- State Cost-Share Program Definition
- Calendar of Events
- Christian County Rented and Loaned Equipment
- SWCD Board of Supervisors



Forage Management Guide

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 grazing system and make needed 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 grazing system.
- Attend Spring Forage Conference in Springfield and any other soils and crops meetings to stay on top of technology.

March:

- Apply fertilizer to cool season pastures.
- Finish over-seeding legumes.
- Continue to graze over-seeded pastures for grass 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. 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 to see how **we can help you.**

State Cost-Share Programs

Sensitive Areas

The concern: Sensitive areas are areas of agricultural land where current management has impacted erosion, surface water and ground water.

The solution: For the protection of water quality in streams, you can: plant grass buffers or woody species along the edges of crop fields or below cropland to trap runoff; plant trees or shrubs to reduce wind erosion; exclude livestock from streams; and place large stones or anchored cedar trees to eroding streambanks. To protect groundwater, you can: establish buffers or exclusion around sinkholes; create spring collection points for livestock use; and fill and seal abandoned wells.

Sheet, Rill and Gully Erosion

The concern: Sheet, rill and gully erosion is the unwanted removal of soil from the land surface or through incised channels by the action of rainfall and runoff.

The solution: If you see problems like this on your farm, you could: establish a good vegetative cover to stabilize the soil; build terraces to reduce the erosive force of water; use a no-till system; plant trees and shrubs at the edge of fields to help with wind erosion; build a pond to catch sediment; develop diversions to direct rainwater; and plant sod-forming grasses to efficiently transport rainfall.

Irrigation Management

The concern: Some irrigation systems do not distribute water evenly causing excessive runoff and use of water.

The solution: The cost-share practices in this concern will assist you in efficiently and uniformly applying water, applying the appropriate amount of nutrients and chemicals, and conserving water with: upgrades to your existing sprinklers and nozzles; the efficient conveyance of water from a source to the point of application; the collection and reuse of irrigated runoff; creating a closed system of water transport; the retention of irrigation water on the field; and underground piping and water control structures to manage excess water.

Nutrient and Pest Management

The concern: The runoff from improper nutrient and pest management practices can affect water quality.

The solution: To prevent excessive chemical runoff, you can: adopt new management techniques and/or technologies for applying commercial fertilizer, pesticide or herbicide; properly use manure as a plant nutrient source; and move excess manure from areas saturated with nutrients to land where they are needed.

Woodland Erosion

The concern: Woodland erosion is caused by the removal of soil or vegetation through livestock trampling or improper tree harvesting.

The solution: To protect woodlands and water from the impacts of livestock or recover an already damaged area, you can: plant trees and shrubs; install fence to exclude livestock; ensure that timber harvest operations use proper construction of logging roads and stream crossings; and correct and control gully erosion through proper timber harvest practices.

Animal Waste Management

The concern: The improper management of animal waste can affect both water and air quality.

The solution: To protect the quality of water and air on your land, you can collect, control and manage your agricultural waste, manure and litter; safely dispose of livestock and poultry carcasses; and construct a composting facility to break down animal waste to be used to improve soil fertility and crop production.

Grazing Management

The concern: The steady use of an area by livestock can cause erosion problems and affect water quality.

The solution: You can make the best use of soil and water resources by: improving the vegetative cover on pastures; and developing a planned grazing system that may include developing water sources and water distribution, fencing to construct paddocks, lime to manage the pH of the soil and the interseeding of legumes.

How to Get Started

A call or visit to your local soil and water conservation district office will get you on your way to improving your farm through conservation practices.

Calendar of Events — News Release

32nd Annual Spring Forage Conference set for March 1st in Springfield

The 32nd annual Southwest Missouri Spring Forage Conference will be held Tuesday, March 1st 2016, at the University Plaza Hotel in Springfield, Missouri. Each year this conference attracts an increasing number of people interested in learning more about management strategies for forages and livestock.

This year's keynote speaker will be Trent Loos. Trent was raised on a diversified farm near Quincy, Illinois, but now owns and operates a ranch in central Nebraska where he and his family raise beef cattle, horses, and hogs. He is a strong advocate and activist for promoting production agriculture in America. Trent travels the globe to unearth stories about the people involved in the many different facets of production agriculture and to spread the good word about food producers. In 2013, Trent traveled to 22 different states, Ireland, and Canada to share his passion for an industry he truly believes in. His radio show "Loos Tales" is aired on nearly 100 radio stations in 19 states as well as numerous columns printed weekly in the High Plains Journal and other publications. Trent will be sharing his thoughts and advice with the conference audience about how each farmer can tell their own story and be an advocate for agriculture. More information about Trent can be found at www.loostales.com.

The conference will also feature several breakout sessions throughout the day. Topics will include: understanding forage tests, forage quality versus quantity, how to graze 300 days a year, using annual forages, the new antibiotic rules, how to get started with livestock grazing, ranching tips for making a profit, preparing the next generation to farm, retaining versus buying heifers, the benefits of trees in a grazing system, and tips for managing a successful grazing system.

There will be a large trade show in conjunction with the conference. Agricultural businesses and organizations will have exhibits and representatives available to discuss their products and services. If interested in becoming an exhibitor or sponsor, contact Nathan Witt at 417-451-1007 ext.3.

Conference registration begins at 8 a.m., with sessions running from 8:45 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. A banquet luncheon is included with the registration. The cost is \$35 per person in advance or \$45 at the door. To pre-register (by February 18th) or to get more information, contact the Laclede County USDA Office at (417) 532-6305, ext.3. Participants can find more information about the conference and register online at www.springforageconference.com.

The conference is co-sponsored by several southwest Missouri Soil and Water Conservation Districts, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, Missouri State University Darr School of Agriculture, University of Missouri Extension, Missouri Department of Conservation, Lincoln University Cooperative Extension, and the USDA Farm Service Agency.

SWCD Board of Supervisors

Sam Schaumann - Billings
Tim Maples - Spokane
Joe Rozell - Garrison
Vacant- UMC Extension
Tom Humble - 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

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

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.