



# Christian County Soil and Water Conservation SOIL AND WATER NEWS

July - September 2015

## *Special Points of Interest*

- Forage Management Guide for July - September
- What can your Soil and Water District do for you
- Board of Supervisor's Election
- If Soil Health is your Goal
- Calendar of Events
- Christian County Rented and Loaned Equipment

## Forage Management Guide for July - September

With the help of adequate rain and good management, your fields can stay healthy throughout the year. Here are some tips to keep in mind for the next few months.

**July:** Monitor the weather. Look for critical heat index days and provide some paddocks with shade. Watch grazing heights as longer rest periods are needed to feed the herd. Grazing height and rest periods are critical for legume survival. Evaluate fields for brush and weed needs. Make notes on invader species. Take soil samples for fall seeding.

**August:** At mid-month, apply nitrogen fertilizer to fescue for stockpiled forage. Complete fall seeding as planned or needed in order to improve the forage base.

**September:** Start winter annual planting for maximum forage production. Inventory winter feed supplies to avoid deficiencies. It may be necessary to purchase hay, plant additional annuals, stockpile more fescue, or sell some livestock to reduce forage needs. Rest fescue that will be used for stockpiled winter feed.

## 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 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](http://www.swcd.mo.gov/christian) to see how **we** can help **you**.

## 2015 Christian County Board of Supervisor's Election & Open House

**Thursday, August 20, 2015, USDA Offices, 1786 S. 16th Ave, Ozark, MO 65721**

Polls will be open from 8:00 am until 2:00 pm  
and lunch will be served from 11:00 am until 1:00 pm.

Territory 1: Includes West Polk, East Polk, Lincoln, Union Chapel, North View, Rosedale, and Garden Grove townships. Sam Schaumann is running unopposed.

Territory 3: Includes Linden, McCracken, West Benton, East Benton, Sparta, and Bruner townships. Tom Humble is running unopposed.

# 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-till/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 to help “Unlock the Secrets in the Soil.”

# Calendar of Events

## **Thursday, August 20, 2015**

Board of Supervisor's Election  
USDA Offices  
1786 S. 16th Ave  
Ozark, MO 65721

Polls will be open from 8:00 am until 2:00 pm  
and lunch will be served from 11:00 am until 1:00 pm.

## **Thursday, August 20, 2015**

Regularly Scheduled Board Meeting  
1:00 pm

## **2015 Southwest Missouri Regional Grazing Schools Schedule:**

### **Greenfield, MO**

**September 15, 17, 22, 24 (evenings)**  
**September 19, 2015 (Saturday - all day)**

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

### **Crane, MO**

**September 16, 17, 18 (daytime)**

Contact: Stone County SWCD  
417-723-8389

### **Marshfield, MO**

**September 22, 23, 24 (daytime)**

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

### **Springfield, MO**

**October 20, 21, 22 (daytime)**

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

For information about other schools around the state, visit the Missouri Forage and Grassland Council website at: <http://mofgc.org/index.html>



Christian County SWCD  
1786 S. 16th Ave., Ste 102  
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417-581-3863 fax  
[www.swcd.mo.gov/christian](http://www.swcd.mo.gov/christian)

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

### 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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