



CHRISTIAN COUNTY
SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Christian County Soil and Water Conservation SOIL AND WATER NEWS

July-September
2016

Special Points of Interest

- Forage Management Guide for July-September
- What can your Soil and Water District do for you
- What are the Causes of Septic System Failure.
- NRCS Portal Enables Farmers to Request Conservation Assistance Online
- Calendar of Events
- Christian County SWCD Board of Commissioners
- Rented and Loaned Equipment



Forage Management Guide

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 control 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. Remember: this is the best quality forage that will be produced all 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**.

What are the Causes of Septic System Failure?

Article provided by: David Casaletto, Executive Director, Ozarks Water Watch

In the last 17 years of working with septic systems, I have seen a lot of "failing" systems. Failure is when the septic system is not operating as it's designed to; sewage is backing up or surfacing, effluent is going away but not being treated properly, or the septic tank is not water-tight and is leaking.

It seems there are some common reasons that septic systems fail:

1. The homeowner is routinely using more water than the system can handle. Septic systems are designed to handle a certain amount of water and, in Missouri, that amount is 120 gallons per bedroom per day. The overuse may just be that the people living in the house use more water than the average household. But overuse can also result from leaky and unmaintained plumbing fixtures or from other outside water sources such as surface runoff or storm water drainlines around foundations that are being routed through the system. The homeowner, after system installation, may increase the load by enlarging the house to accommodate more people or by adding water-using devices the system was not designed to handle, such as garbage disposals, large showers or whirlpool tubs.

2. The system has not been properly maintained. The septic tank should be regularly checked and the solids and scum pumped before they accumulate to levels that can ruin the lateral lines or the soil treatment part of the system. Advanced treatment technologies, such as aerobic treatment units (ATUs), media filters, and drip lateral fields, require ongoing annual maintenance. This is often covered in maintenance contracts written upon installation of the septic system, but not renewed by the homeowner because there have not been problems or when new owners move in, they do not know maintenance is required. Systems with advanced technologies that are not cared for can represent more of a health and environmental risk than a failed conventional septic drainfield system.

3. Improper design or installation. This is probably the single largest cause of septic system failure. In the Ozarks, our fractured rocks, lack of soil and steep slopes make it a challenge to design and install a septic system that can properly treat wastewater. A conventional septic system installed in these conditions results in a system having little chance of working right from day one. And even in areas where proper soil is present, there can be soil compaction problems when the system was installed. In addition, the septic and pump tanks could have been improperly installed or good pipe-laying procedures not followed.

Ozarks Water Watch currently has a couple of cost sharing programs to help homeowners with their septic systems. Both of these programs are for homeowners living in Missouri in the **Upper White River Basin**. You live in the Upper White River Basin IF the rainwater from your property ultimately flows to Table Rock, Taneycomo or Bulls Shoals lakes.

Septic Pumpout Program: If you need to get your septic tank pumped out, you may be able to get a \$50 rebate as part of our education and awareness campaign to help keep septic tanks working properly. Since 2007, more than 2,000 households have benefited from this program. Through our partnership with the Missouri Department of Conservation, Taney County and James River Basin Partnership, we encourage people to regularly schedule septic tank maintenance for their home. In order to participate, you will need to contact us **BEFORE** pumping out your tank and we'll put you in touch with the program best suited to your area of the watershed.

Septic Remediation Program: Through this program, OWW improves and protects our water quality while assisting area residents to fix their failing onsite septic systems. By participating in and qualifying in this program, depending on your household income, you may be eligible to receive up to a one hundred percent (100%), but not to exceed \$30,000, grant and loan to repair or replace your failing septic tank! Requirements include that the applicant must own the property and live in the Upper White River Basin in Missouri ([map](#)). You can download the **Application** for the Septic Remediation Grant program for more details. This program is funded through a grant from the Missouri Department of Natural Resources.

Ozarks Water Watch is a non-profit organization dedicated to protecting the Upper White River watershed from excessive pollution for the benefit of everyone today and in the future. The Upper White River watershed includes 4 major lakes, three major rivers and numerous smaller lakes and streams crisscrossing over 14,000 square miles in 19 counties in southwest Missouri and northwest Arkansas. OWW has been joined by the staff and support of Beaver Lakesmart in Arkansas and Table Rock Lake Water Quality in Missouri which has allowed us to work more effectively and collaboratively within our local communities to promote water quality conservation and projects. **With your help, we will work together to make Beaver, Table Rock, Taneycomo and Bull Shoals Lakes the four cleanest man-made lakes in North America!**

The Parks, Soils, and Water Sales Tax

In November, 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.**

NRCS Portal Enables Farmers to Request Conservation Assistance Online

NRCS reminds farmers, ranchers and private forest landowners that they can do business with the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) through Conservation Client Gateway. The portal allows NRCS customers to work with conservation planners online to access Farm Bill programs, request assistance and track payments for their conservation activities. Conservation Client Gateway enables farmers, ranchers and private landowners to securely:

- Request NRCS technical and financial assistance;
- Review and sign conservation plans and practice schedules;
- Complete and sign an application for a conservation program;
- Review, sign and submit contracts and appendices for conservation programs;
- Document completed practices and request certification of completed practices;
- Request and track payments for conservation programs; and
- Store and retrieve technical and financial files, including documents and photographs.

Conservation Client Gateway is entirely voluntary, giving producers a choice between conducting business online or traveling to a USDA service center. Our goal is to make it easy and convenient for farmers and ranchers to work with NRCS. Customers can log in 24 hours a day, seven days a week, to electronically sign documents, apply for conservation programs, access conservation plans, report practice completion or track the status of conservation payments. For more information, contact a local NRCS office, or visit www.nrcs.usda.gov/clientgateway.

Calendar of Events

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

Lamar, MO

Sept 17 & 19 | Oct 1 & 4

(Evenings & Saturday Daytime)

Barton County MU Extension | Jill Scheidt | 417-682-3579 | scheidtjk@missouri.edu

Springfield, MO

October 18, 19 & 20

(Daytime)

Greene County SWCD/NRCS | 417-831-5246 Ext. 3 | 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>

SWCD Board of Commissioners

Sam Schaumann — Chairman

Joe Rozell — Treasurer

Tim Maples — Vice Chairman

Tom Humble — Board 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 \$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.