



Christian County SWCD
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Christian County Soil and Water Conservation SOIL AND WATER NEWS

May - June 2014

Special points of interest:

- Welcome to your Soil & Water Conservation District
- Grazing Schools
- Incentive to Go Native
- Rental Equipment
- 2015 Cost Share Allotment

Forage Management Guide for May - July

Here are some things you need to keep in mind as summer begins in the Ozarks.

May: Cut high quality, cool season grass 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 growth and high quality forage.

Plant warm season annuals.

June: Cut warm season grasses for hay or graze as needed to fill the forage gap.

June (continued): 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.

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 seedings.

Christian County Equipment Rental

- **No-Till Drill:** 3-10 ft. Haybuster drills; \$10.00 per acre with a 10 acre minimum charge
*All equipment listed above is delivered and picked up.
 Contact our Equipment Manager for scheduling; Larry Moore @ 417-880-8112*
- **Ground Rod Driver:** \$100 refundable deposit
- **Broadcast Seeder for ATV:** Electric motor; \$100 refundable deposit
- **Soil Auger:** \$70 refundable deposit
- **Burn Equipment:** \$100 refundable deposit, requires an approved burn plan
- **Spinning Jenny:** \$75 refundable deposit
- **"T" Post Driver:** \$100 per day paid in advance

NOTICE: Christian Co. SWCD will receive its 2015 fiscal year cost-share allotment in July. The following cost-share practices are available. Be ready with a current soil test if you are interested in applying.

- Permanent vegetative cover establishment
- Permanent vegetative cover improvement
- No-Till interseeding of legumes
- Woodland & stream protection through livestock exclusion (fencing)
- Planned Grazing Systems

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Welcome to Your Soil & Water Conservation District

1786 S. 16th Ave. Suite 102, Ozark, MO 65721

We have updated our mailing list and many of you are receiving our newsletter for the first time. Below is a brief introduction and what we offer. **Also, to continue receiving periodic information from our office it is critical that you read the top of the next page and provide us with the information required.**

STATE COST-SHARE PRACTICES

PERMANENT VEGETATIVE COVER ESTABLISHMENT – Complete re-establishment of forage on fields experiencing excessive erosion. Includes cost-share for lime & fertilizer. State average cost is \$122.66 per acre for seeding.

PERMANENT VEGETATIVE COVER IMPROVEMENT – Interseeding legumes to improve vegetative cover on fields experiencing excessive erosion. Includes cost-share for lime & fertilizer. State average is \$47.71 per acre.

RESOURCE PROTECTION THROUGH LIVESTOCK EXCLUSION – To protect existing woodlands and riparian corridors from existing erosion due to livestock grazing. State average cost is \$2.01 per foot for installing barbed wire fence and \$1.18 for 2 strand electric fence.

PLANNED GRAZING SYSTEM:

Water development: Provides 75% cost – share for components needed for a well to service a planned grazing system to a maximum of \$95 per acre served by the water source.

Water Distribution: Provides 75% cost-share to distribute water to a maximum of \$85 per acre served. Components include pipe, trenching, tanks, hydrants and labor

Fence: Provides 75% cost-share for interior cross-fencing needed for the installation of intensive grazing system. Maximum of \$60 per acre for fencing cost.

WATER QUALITY – Programs to install permanent fence along streams to exclude livestock from access reducing sediment, organic material and chemicals from entering streams. Cost-share for fence, charger, labor, etc. Up to \$3,500 for cost of well if needed to replace livestock water.

PEST MANAGEMENT – Incentive for proper application of pesticides. Following a management plan. Eligibility requires rotational grazing of livestock.

OTHER AVAILABLE RESOURCES

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE WITH THE FOLLOWING – Soil Testing Assistance, Nutrient & Pest, Grazing Management, Conservation Plans, and Seeding and Fertilizer.

Attention: Read to Receive Future Newsletters

To receive future Christian County Soil and Water Conservation Newsletters which will keep you informed about new and existing programs, we are asking you to do the following: Please call our office at 417-581-2718 ext. 101 or 112 and provide us with your name, telephone number, e-mail address and preference for delivery of information, either US Postal Service or e-mail. If we are not available, please leave the detailed information on our voice mail.

Management Intensive Grazing Schools

Mt. Vernon

May 21, 22, 23 (Daytime)
Contact: Lawrence County SWCD
417-466-7682, Ext. 3

Neosho

June 3, 4, 5 (Daytime)
Contact: Nathan Witt
417-451-1007, Ext. 3

Forsyth

September 23, 24, 25 (Daytime)
Contact: Aaron Hoefler
417-581-2719, Ext. 3

Bois D'Arc

October 7, 8, 9 (Daytime)
Contact: Green County SWCD
417-831-5246, Ext. 3

Topics include: Inventorying Farm Resources, Soil and Topography, Plant Growth and Species, Grazing Basics, Livestock Water, Extending the Grazing System, Fencing, Forage Quality, Layout and Design of a MIG system, Nutritional Needs of Livestock with Pasture, Pasture Fertility, Forage Estimates, Grazing Heights, Matching Livestock with Forage, and Farm Visits.

WHY SHOULD YOU ATTEND ONE OF THESE SCHOOLS?

The single most important management factor in determining the profitability of a livestock operation is keeping feed cost low. So why buy if you can grow high quality feed yourself through a Management-Intensive Grazing (MIG) System?

Cost control, not the amount of production, separates profitable from unprofitable operations. Through a MIG system you can keep your cost down and production in most cases will increase, all while helping out the environment.

In addition to the profits to your pocketbook and the environment, you may be eligible to receive cost-share to help establish your MIG system. Attendance at a grazing school is one requirement to be eligible for state cost-share programs.

So come to a Management Intensive/Grazing School where you can learn about the fundamentals of a MIG system so you can improve your profitability and the environment.

Know Your Neighbors

While compiling this mailing list we found the following to be of interest:

Christian County has over 4,000 landowners who own at least 20 acres. We have omitted what we consider to be commercial development or land owned by potential developers. Of the remaining 1,768 having Christian County mailing addresses, 4 landowners own in excess of 1,000 acres, 29 landowners own between 400 and 957 acres, 120 landowners own between 200 and 399 acres, 298 landowners own between 100 to 199 acres and 1,317 landowners own between 20 to 99 acres. Also, there are landowners living in 32 states other than Missouri having at least one person owning land in Christian County.

Incentive to Go Native

The Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) has teamed up with the Soil and Water Conservation Program (SWCP) to provide an extra incentive to plant native warm-season grasses (NWSG) and forbs on your farm.

There are many different ways that NWSG can be a benefit to your farm as well as a benefit to wildlife. However, they can be more expensive to establish than most cool-season grasses. That's why MDC has decided to "up the ante" and offer a one-time incentive payment for individuals signed up with SWCP's reseeded program to establish NWSG. The incentives are as follows:

- \$50/acre for a 1-3 species planting of native grasses per applicable NRCS Standards and Specifications.
- \$80/acre for a 3 species mix of native grasses, with 2 pounds of alfalfa per applicable NRCS Standard and Specifications.
- \$125/acre for a 3 species mix of native grasses and 2 pounds of native forbs per applicable NRCS Standards and Specifications.
- \$150/acre for MO source identified native grass or forbs seed when used adjacent to a natural community.

There is no minimum planting acreage size, but the minimum payment amount will be \$50.00. The incentive will be restricted to the available funds per county.

The SWCP's reseeded program is for pasture and hay fields that are eroding above the tolerable amount of soil loss. Please see your local Soil and Water Conservation District to see if you qualify.



Cattle Grazing Native Grass in Mid Summer