



Franklin County Conservation District Newsletter



VOL. 27 NO 2

SUMMER 2013

69TH ANNUAL MEETING – MARCH 21, 2013



A buffet dinner was served to 142 landowners and students at the Franklin County Soil & Water Conservation District 69th annual meeting. Chairman John A. Busch introduced the staff and public officials who attended. Supervisor Bernard Laune led the pledge and gave the invocation.

Bruce Templar gave a speech on Operation Clean Stream here in Franklin County. Supervisor John Busch presented a Service Award to retiring Info Ed Specialist David Menke (picture at left).

Outstanding Farmer awards (pictures below) and county poster winning awards (pictures page 5) were presented by Supervisors Dan Brunjes, Bernard Laune, Carl Danz and Matt

Herring. Attendance prizes were drawn and handed out at the close of the meeting.

We thank everyone for attending and protecting our natural resources here in Franklin County.



Area I Winners – Oak Grove Ranch – Russell and Joyce Eaves.



Area II Winners – Rockin Horse Farm – Gene & Cheryl Atterberry.

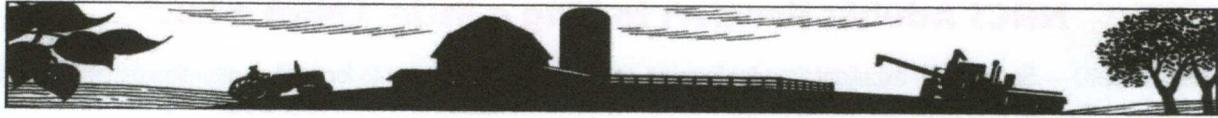


Area III Winners – Michael & Patricia Stumpe; also picture grandson, Blaine.



Area IV Winners – Carl Farms – Joy(not pictured), Wayne & Sandy Carl.

**SECTION
OMITTED**



STATE COST SHARE ASSISTANCE

The Franklin County Soil and Water Conservation District focus on six out of seven resource concerns to control soil erosion and protect water quality on agricultural land. Cost share practices are available in the following categories:

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. 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.

Sensitive Areas: is the area of agricultural land where current management has impacted erosion, surface water and ground water. 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; and exclude livestock from streams. For the protection of groundwater, you can: establish buffers or exclusion around sinkholes; create spring collection points for livestock use; and fill and seal abandoned wells.

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

Nutrient and Pest Management: The main concern in this resource concern is the runoff from improper nutrient and pest management practices can affect water quality. 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.

Animal Waste Management: The improper management of animal waste can affect both water and air quality. 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 steady use of an area by livestock can cause erosion problems and affect water quality. 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, fencing to construct paddocks, lime to manage the pH of the soil and the interseeding of legumes.

State Cost Share funds available for FY14
Franklin County Soil & Water Conservation District
FY14 Cost Share Allocation (beginning July 1, 2013)

<u>Resource Concern</u>	<u>Dollar Amount</u>
Animal Waste	\$ 25,000.00
Grazing Management	\$ 15,000.00
Nutrient & Pest	\$ 13,250.00
Sensitive Areas	\$ 22,475.00
Sheet, Rill, & Gully	\$ 73,503.00
Woodland Erosion	\$ 10,000.00
Total:	\$159,228.00

Call the office and the technical staff will help you get on your way to improving your farm through conservation practices.

NRCS Advises Farmers to “Dig a little, Learn a lot.”

COLUMBIA, MO — Spring is an excellent time for farmers, ranchers and gardeners to focus their attention on the soil below them. The USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service says a spring check-up of a soil's health gives clues to the ground's ability to feed plants, hold water, capture carbon and more.

“No fancy equipment is required. Just grab a shovel to dig a little and learn a lot”, says Doug Peterson, NRCS state soil health conservationist.

Small farmers, large farmers, organic farmers and even home gardeners can all benefit from this simple discovery project of one of their most important resources. And in the process they can reap big rewards for their crops and the environment around them, Peterson says.

Peterson suggests the following steps to investigate soil health:

LOOK—first at the soil surface which should be covered with plant residue, providing organic matter and preventing erosion. Dig into the soil and observe the color and structure. It should be dark, crumbly, and porous—rather like chocolate cake. Healthy soil is full of air holes, live roots and earthworms. Poorer soils are lighter in color, compacted or unstructured, and lack living roots and critters.

SMELL—Healthy soils have a sweet earthy smell, indicating the presence of *geosmin*, a byproduct of soil microbes called *actinomycetes*. These microbes decompose the tough plant and animal residues in and on the soil and bring nitrogen from the air into the soil to feed plants. An unhealthy, out-of-balance soil smells sour or metallic, or like kitchen cleanser.

TOUCH—Soil should be loose and it should crumble easily, indicating a porous texture. This holds water better, making it available for plants and stemming flooding and runoff. In healthy soils, roots can grow straight and deep, allowing plants to reach nutrients and water they need to produce food.

“We are blessed with productive soils in Missouri,” says Peterson. “We want to keep them that way and even build them where possible.”

In addition to the vital production values of soil health to individual farmers and gardeners, Peterson explains that healthy soils have clear impacts on many of the larger agricultural and environmental issues of our day from sustainable food production to water quality to mitigating climate change. Healthy soils hold, filter and regulate water, mitigate drought and flooding, reduce runoff and erosion, cycle nutrients, sequester carbon and suppress weeds and pests naturally. For all these reasons NRCS has recently launched a nationwide effort to “Unlock the Secrets in the Soil.”

For more information about soil health, contact the Franklin County NRCS Office at 636-583-2303 extension 3 or visit <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov>.



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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Bernard Laune, Member
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1004 Vondera Ave. • Union, MO 63084
636-583-2303 • 1-800-583-3584

The Franklin County Conservation District was organized in 1944 with a primary objective to solve soil and water conservation problems. The District, upon request, aids in planning and applying appropriate land use and conservation treatment measures.

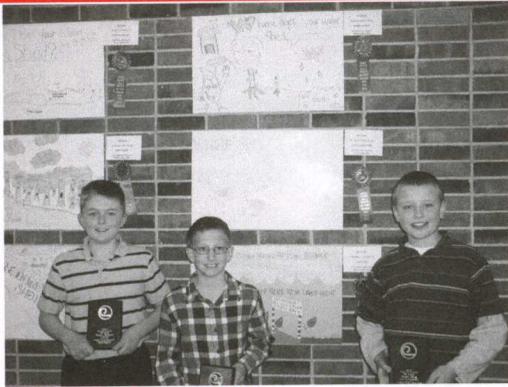
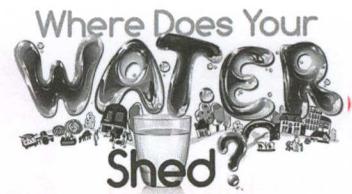
OFFICE STAFF PERSONNEL

Lori Nowak, District Clerk, FCSWCD
Stephen Sparks, District Technician, FCSWCD

Rhonda Davault, District Conservationist, NRCS
Kervin Bryant, Soil Conservationist, NRCS
Jerry Busch, Area Soil Technician, NRCS

Lia Heppermann, Private Land Conservationist, MDC
Ryan Diener, Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist

2013 POSTER CONTEST WINNERS



Fourth-Grade Winners -From left, are Grant Eckert, St. Gertrude, first in county; Caleb Kleekamp, St. John the Baptist, second in county; and Todd Bieg, Clearview Elementary, third in county.



Fifth-Grade Winners -From left, are Cree Marquart, St. Gertrude, first in county; Ava Kemper, St. Gertrude, second in county; and Cara Lause, St. Gertrude, third in county.



Sixth-Grade Winners -From left, are Zariah Richards, Strain-Japan, first in county; Braun Lebish, St. Gertrude, second in county; and Elizabeth Busch, St. John the Baptist, third in county.



Seventh-Grade Winners - From left, are Caleb Ley, St. John the Baptist, first in county; Andrew Simily, St. John the Baptist, second in county; and Joey Filla, St. Gertrude, third in county.

Eleven schools participated in the 2013 Poster Contest, with the theme being "Where Does my Water Shed?" There were 449 posters entered from grades four to eight. Each participant received a ribbon or rosette and 15 county winners received plaques at the annual meeting. Thank you schools and students for participating.



Eighth-Grade Winners - From left, are Alyssa Hercules, St. Anthony, first in county; Randi Brueggemann, St. John the Baptist, second in county; and Katie Bargaen, St. John the Baptist, third in county.



Watch for information in the next newsletter regarding a Cover Crop seminar to be held in Union in November



DO YOU KNOW ALL THE PROGRAMS AVAILABLE AT THE OFFICE?

Ever wonder where to get advice for erosion sites, what is a good plant species, would a grazing system work, how to protect water quality, what habitat enhancements would benefit native wildlife species, how can the natural resources be improved, how to improve crop production and what cost share assistance is available?

Come learn about all the programs/practices available through the Franklin County Soil & Water Conservation District (FCSWCD), USDA – Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS), Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) and Quail Forever at one of the following meeting dates and locations:

- Sullivan Firehouse (1230 N. Church St), July 29, 2013 7–9 pm
- New Haven Firehouse (102 Miller St), July 30, 2013 7–9 pm
- Union Firehouse (1401 W. Springfield Ave), July 31, 2013 7–9 pm

Franklin County Soil & Water Conservation District does not endorse nor recommend any of the vendors/contractors advertised in this newsletter. Any Contractor/vendor that requests to be added to the District's Contractor List can do so.

**SECTION
OMITTED**

Background contains faded advertisements for various services including:

- UNION RENTAL TOOLS & EQUIPMENT
- NEW HAVEN FARM & FEED
- BOLZEMUS TIRE, LLC
- TOYOTA HARTMANN TOYOTA, INC.
- VEDDER EXCAVATING
- KEEVEN HEATING & COOLING
- ORSCHELN

Area I - Oak Grove Ranch



Our Area I Outstanding Farmer award goes to Oak Grove Ranch in Lonedell. Russell and Joyce Eaves bought this farm in 1998. The farm has pasture, hayland and wooded acreage on two parcels.

In 2006, Russell and Joyce wanted to make use of pasture land available so they applied for Federal cost share assistance through the EQIP – Environmental Quality Incentive Program to help them install a rotational grazing system. Over 18,300 feet of fence was installed to provide 14 grazing paddocks and exclude livestock out of the wooded areas. A well and 4,000 feet of waterline were installed to provide a water source in each paddock for the grazing system. Also, several fields were fertilized, limed, and interseeded with legumes to improve the plant quality by using cost share funds through both the EQIP program and the State Cost Share program. At two different property locations, Black Angus cow/calf pairs and horses are rotated through the grazing system.

Russell and Joyce and their four children have been involved in rodeos. Team roping and barrel racing are the biggest events. Corriente cattle are used to practice roping in their own outdoor arena. In fact, one son has qualified to be in the Las Vegas Professional Rodeo. The Eaves' hobbies are attending rodeos, hunting and reading.

Keep up the good conservation work and congratulations to Oak Grove Ranch!



FRANKLIN COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT
1004 Vondera Avenue
Union, Missouri 63084-3132
636-583-2303 • 1-800-583-3584
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U.S. Postage

PAID

Permit No. 4

Union, MO 63084



COMING EVENTS

Tuesday, May 14, 2013
SWCD Regular Board Meeting
8:00 a.m., USDA Service Center

Monday, May 27, 2013
USDA Service Center closed
Memorial Day Holiday

Tuesday, June 11, 2013
SWCD Regular Board Meeting
8:00 a.m., USDA Service Center

Thursday, July 4, 2013
USDA Service Center closed
Independence Day Holiday

Tuesday, July 9, 2013
SWCD Regular Board Meeting
8:00 a.m., USDA Service Center

Tuesday, August 13, 2013
SWCD Regular Board Meeting
8:00 a.m., USDA Service Center

Call to confirm meeting date and times. All regular meetings are open to the public.



Quarterly Quote

“Soil erosion is as old as agriculture. It began when the first heavy rain struck the first furrow turned by a crude implement of tillage in the hands of prehistoric man. It has been going on ever since, wherever man’s culture of the earth has bared the soil to rain and wind.”

Hugh H. Bennett and W.C. Lowdermilk, circa 1930s

THANK YOU

The District Board appreciates the cooperation of the businesses that advertise in our newsletter and hope that our readers patronize these advertisers. The Board especially appreciates the financial assistance of the Franklin County Commission. Thanks also to our partners in conservation: NRCS, FSA, DNR, University Extension, MDC, Quail Forever. Assistance from the Soil and Water Conservation District is available to all county residents regardless of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, gender identity, reprisal, political beliefs, marital status, familial or parental status, sexual orientation or individual’s income. State Cost-Share funds are available for agriculture landowners that have active erosion and are approved to complete practices that solve the erosion problem and for practices that protect our water quality.