



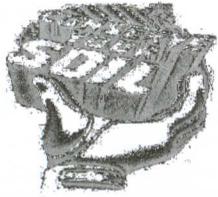
Franklin County Conservation District Newsletter



VOL. 27 NO 1

SPRING 2013

Franklin County Soil and Water Conservation District



Board of Supervisors



INVITES YOU TO ATTEND THE

69th Annual Meeting

Thursday, March 21, 2013

Dinner Will Be Served at 6:30 p.m.

Poster Contest

Outstanding Farmer
Awards

Knights of Columbus Hall
Highway 50 & Clearview Drive
Union, MO

Attendance Prizes

Entertainment

No Reservations Are Necessary!

John A. Busch, Chairman

Carl Danz, Treasurer

Daniel Brunjes, Vice-Chairman

Bernard Laune, Member

Matthew Herring, Secretary

**SECTION
OMITTED**

Where Does Your Water Shed?

By Stephen S. Sparks

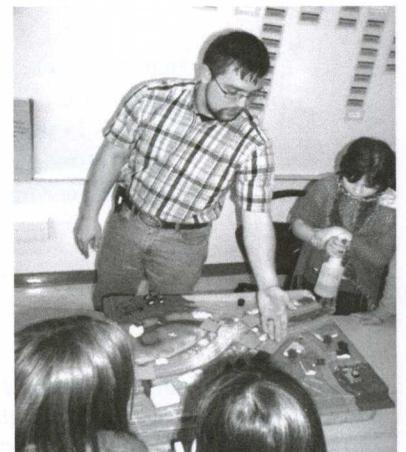
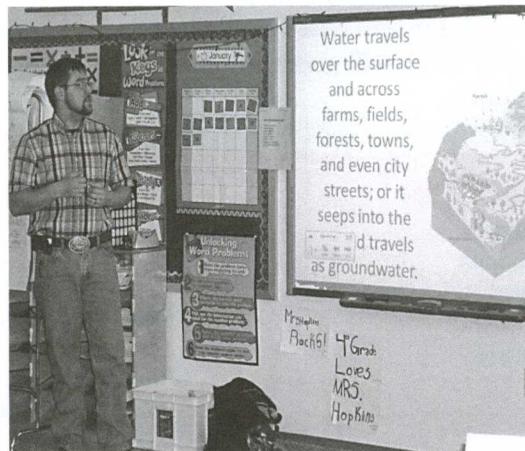
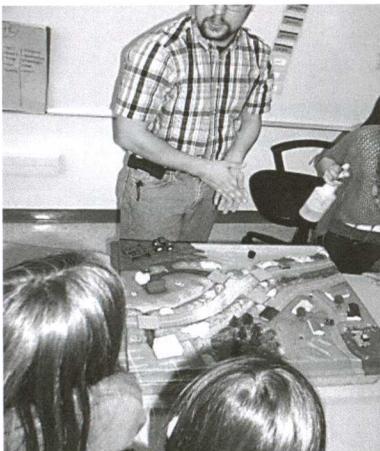
Do you know what a watershed is? Have you ever thought about where does water go after it rains? Well this year students from 4th-8th grade here in Franklin County and across the state are learning about the watershed and have the opportunity to participate in our annual poster contest. They are finding out that a watershed isn't a shed with water in, but they are learning that it's actually a movement of water and they are finding out that they all live in a watershed. There are two types of movements;

1. Water flowing across the surface farms, fields, forests, towns, and even city streets down to the lowest point such as a pond, stream, river, and lake. So how does this affect us? Students are finding out that this type of water movement causes erosion issues creating ditches that the water carries the good soil that farmers need to grow their crops and also carries trash that are along the sides of the roads to the lowest point and eventually that trash and soil would end up into our rivers and streams.

What can we do to prevent these problems from happening? For the erosion here at soil and water we help the farmers by design structural practices such as terraces and waterways or management practices such as good stand of grass, cover crops, or residue cover that help keep the soil in the field where it belongs. For the trash the first thing you think of is don't litter, but for the trash that is already on the ground it can be pick up and recycled by adopt a highway or stream team clean up.

2. Water seeps into soil and travels to our groundwater storage. But did know the soil will clean the water like a filter before it reaches our groundwater. So if you wash your dog or car in the grass so the water can run into the soil where the soil helps clean the water— instead of it running down a driveway into a storm drain – where the soap will go into the rivers before it can be cleaned

I've been traveling to the schools here in Franklin County giving power point demonstration and using our 3-D model to help them understand what a watershed is, so that they can create there poster for the theme title "Where Does Your Water Shed?"



SPRING TIME COMPOSTING



Composting turns household wastes into valuable fertilizer

All organic matter eventually decomposes. Composting speeds the process by providing an ideal environment for bacteria and other decomposing micro-organisms. The final product, humus or compost, looks and feels like fertile garden soil. This dark, crumbly, earthy-smelling stuff works wonders on all kinds of soil and provides vital nutrients to help plants grow and look better.

Decomposing micro-organisms need four key elements to thrive: nitrogen, carbon, moisture, and oxygen. For best results, mix materials high in nitrogen (such as clover and fresh grass clippings) and those high in carbon (such as dried leaves and twigs). If there is not a good supply of nitrogen-rich material, a handful of general lawn fertilizer will help the nitrogen-carbon ratio. Moisture is provided by rain, but you may need to water or cover the pile to keep it damp. Be careful not to saturate the pile. Oxygen is supplied by turning or mixing the pile. More turning yields faster decomposition.

Getting started

Many materials can be added to a compost pile, including leaves, grass clippings, straw, woody brush, vegetable and fruit scraps, coffee grounds, livestock manure, sawdust and shredded paper. Avoid using diseased plants, meat scraps that may attract animals, and dog or cat manure, which can carry disease.

Composting can be as simple or as involved as you would like, and depends on how much yard waste you have, how fast you want results, and the effort you're willing to invest.

Cold composting

With cold composting, you can just pile grass clippings and dry leaves on the ground or in a bin. This method requires no maintenance, but you'll have to wait several months to a year for the pile to decompose. Cold composting works well if you're short on time or have little yard waste. Keep weeds and diseased plants out of the mix. Add yard waste as it accumulates.

Hot composting

Hot composting requires more work, but with a few minutes a day and the right ingredients you can have finished compost in a few weeks. Hot piles must be built all at once in a 4- to 5-foot cube and turned regularly. As decomposition occurs, the pile will shrink. A 3-foot cube is needed to maintain necessary heat. Hot piles can reach 110 to 160 degrees Fahrenheit, killing most weed seeds and plant diseases. •On a level site, lay down bricks or prunings to promote air circulation. •Spread several inches of the high-carbon material, then mix high-carbon and high-nitrogen material together. Water periodically. •Punch holes in the sides of the pile for aeration. •The pile will heat up and then begin to cool. Start turning when the pile's temperature begins to drop.

Move materials from the center to the outside and vice versa. Turn every day or two and you should get compost in less than 4 weeks. Turning every other week will give compost in 1 to 3 months. Finished compost will smell sweet and be cool and crumbly to the touch.

Article taken from the Backyard Conservation.

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

John A. Busch, Chairman
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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

Spring Spraying for Cool-Season Grass Control

by Ryan Diener

Whether you are just starting your first habitat project or you are doing some maintenance on an existing stand of native grasses and forbs, spring provides an opportunity to set back those pesky non-native cool-season grasses. Tall fescue and smooth brome provide no benefits to wildlife populations on your farm. These grasses grow far too thick for small mammals and birds to move easily through it, and deer will not graze on it. They can also be quite aggressive in native plantings as well. Ideally, an application will have been completed on the same area already last fall, but even if this is going to be the first treatment for an area, there is no better time to start improving your habitat than right now!

Spring spraying of cool-season grass can be accomplished in several ways, and the method will be determined by the type of stand the fescue or brome you want dead is growing in. We will focus on three possible scenarios that you may encounter in your spring spraying activities; 1.) fescue growing in a more or less monoculture stand, 2.) in a diverse planting of native grasses and forbs, and 3.) in a stand of pollinator habitat (100% forbs).

Eradicating a monoculture stand of cool-season grasses

A spring spraying can be completed as either the initial application or as follow-up to a fall application of herbicide. Either way, the use of a glyphosate herbicide at 1-2 quarts per acre will do the trick. You will want to add a non-ionic surfactant and 17lbs of ammonium sulfate per 100 gallons of water to help the chemical absorb better into the plants. This spraying should take place when 3-4 inches of new growth has occurred (usually mid-March) after a fall spraying application. This can even be done if the acres were already seeded over the winter with native grasses and forbs. The native plants will not have sprouted yet and you will not harm them when spraying this early, but you will want to look at the field and make sure that only the cool-season grasses are actively growing. If this will be the initial treatment, you should graze or hay the area as early as possible to remove excess litter and allow 4-5 inches of new growth to occur. At this time you can apply the same mix as mentioned above to kill the stand and let the field idle over the summer. You will likely see some annual weed response in the summer after this initial burn down and will be providing some wildlife habitat even before the next fall spraying and new seeding.



Controlling cool-season grasses in a diverse native warm-season grass and forb planting

The presence of both native grasses and forbs in the stand limits the herbicide choices in this type of application. Again, you will want to use the same mix as above, and spray the stand in the early spring when there is around 3 inches of new growth on the non-native cool-season grasses. This will be early enough to avoid any native plant activity. In most cases there is no need to mow before this application since the target grasses will likely be growing in the more open areas of these stands where the chemical will get to them. Mowing will just eliminate all the nesting cover in the field and is unnecessary.

Controlling cool-season grasses in pollinator habitat

When spraying pollinator habitat that has been planted to 100% forbs and is to be maintained relatively grass free, the use of a different chemical is the easiest answer. A grass selective herbicide should be used to kill the non-native cool-season grasses. Ally, Poast, and Select are three common grass selective chemicals that would work well in this situation. Whichever one you choose should be mixed at label rates for killing cool-season grasses. These chemicals will also set back native-warm season grasses if a few are present, but should not kill most of them. This spraying should occur after 4-6 inches of new grass growth in the spring and will be a later application than the methods listed above, usually happening in April or possibly even May. Again there is no need to mow existing cover before this application, standing dead forb stems and the little amount of new forb growth will not hinder chemical contact with the target grasses.

All of these applications could also occur after a late winter/early spring burn February or March to encourage the existing cool-season grasses to grow. This would make applications easier and is a great way to double up on management practices to further improve the habitat.

**FARM SERVICE AGENCY EALERTS- SIGN UP NOW
GET INFORMATION INSTANTLY**

Missouri FSA is using **FSA eAlerts**—a paperless way to receive FSA instant reminders by e-mail or text. Offices use electronic reminders and newsletters instead of sending letters and postcards in an effort to be more cost-effective. Sign up for eAlerts at the Franklin County Office or by emailing us at mounion-fsa@one.usda.gov and choose whether you would like to receive information via e-mail, text or both. Standard text messaging rates may apply.

A benefit of this new delivery system is the speed at which you receive information. No more waiting for a letter in the mail, notification is immediately delivered to your phone or computer. Utilizing email and text will help conserve resources and save taxpayer dollars. You can discontinue receiving FSA eAlerts by notifying our office at any time.

FSA is trying to work smarter to be more efficient. You can always use the website www.fsa.usda.gov/mo for more detailed program information and deadlines.

St. Patrick's Day



The Missouri Department of 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

Area IV Outstanding Farmer - Marvin & Mary Sprick



Our Area IV Outstanding Farmer award goes to Marvin and Mary Sprick of New Haven. In 1848, Marvin's great-great-grandparents purchased this 200 acre farm. When the great-great-grandparents passed away, they were buried in the farm's family cemetery.

Marvin's great-grandparents operated a dairy cattle operation with approximately 60 head. Marvin's parents continued with the dairy cow operation but increased to approximately 100 head of cattle. And with 8 children, there were always plenty of hands to help with the daily chore of milking. They also raised soybeans in the crop fields.

Marvin incorporated rotation of crops and added the practice of no-till on half of the remaining acres of the farm. As far as the dairy cattle operation, well it was changed to a registered Simmental cow/calf operation that was managed for beef production. Currently the pasture fields are providing grazing for another individuals cattle operation.

Many practices were installed throughout the years such as - terraces, diversions and waterways in an effort to protect the family farm from soil and water erosion.



Congratulations
to Marvin and
Mary Sprick!



FRANKLIN COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT
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COMING EVENTS

Tuesday, March 12, 2013 SWCD Regular Board Meeting 8:00 a.m., USDA Service Center	Thursday, March 21, 2013 SWCD Annual Meeting 6:30 p.m., Union KC Hall
Tuesday, April 9, 2013 SWCD Regular Board Meeting 8:00 a.m., USDA Service Center	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

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



Quarterly Quote

“The small watershed program merits vast expansion.”

John F. Kennedy

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. 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.