



# Franklin County Conservation District Newsletter



VOL. 29 NO 3

FALL 2015

## **COVER CROP** added to the list of State Cost Share Practices

At the June 2015 Missouri Soil & Water Commission meeting, the Commission made a motion to accept the Cover Crop pilot practice as a permanent practice under the State Cost Share program. This practice will provide an incentive to encourage the adoption of cover crops for reducing soil erosion, improving water quality and soil health.

The landowner/operator will be eligible for an incentive payment of \$30 per acre per year for a 1 or 2 species cover crop mix or \$40 per acre per year for 3 or more species cover crop mix and 75% of the cost for a soil health assessment test with a lifetime maximum of \$20,000 per landowner/operator.

Some of the guidelines are: Contracted acres must currently be in a minimum of a 2 species production crop rotation. Cover crop must be no-tilled or broadcast seeded with either ground equipment or aerial. Production crop following the cover crop must be planted using a no-till system. Cover crops will not be harvested for grain, seed or hayed. Cover crops may be grazed once the forages have reached a minimum height. Tillage cannot be used to terminate the cover crop. A soil health sample must be taken. Cover crops may not be seeded in a pasture or hay field. For more guidelines or information regarding the Cover Crop practice contact the office at 636-583-2303 ext 101.



*Courtesy of University of Missouri*

**SECTION  
OMITTED**



# State Cost Share Practices Available

The Franklin County Soil & Water Conservation District receives cost share funding from the 1/10<sup>th</sup> of 1% Park and Soils Tax each year beginning in July. The cost share funding is to be used on agricultural property to help solve soil erosion issues and protect water quality. Following is a list of all cost share practices available in Franklin County. Call the office at 636-583-2303 extension 101 for more information on how practices would benefit your farm in protecting our natural resources.

## SHEET AND RILL/GULLY EROSION

- DSL-1 Permanent Vegetative Cover Establishment
- DSL-2 Permanent Vegetative Cover Improvement
- DSL-4 Terrace System
- DSL-44 Terrace System with Tile
- DSL-5 Diversion
- DSL-11 Permanent Vegetative Cover Critical Area
- DSL-111 Permanent Vegetative Cover Confined Animal Feed Lot
- DSL-15 No Till System
- DWC-1 Water Impoundment Reservoir
- DWP-1 Sediment Retention, Erosion or Water Control Structure
- DWP-3 Sod Waterway
- N332 Contour Buffer Strips
- N585 Contour Stripcropping

## GRAZING MANAGEMENT

- DSP-2 Permanent Vegetative Cover Enhancement
- DSP-3.1 Grazing System Water Development
- DSP-3.2 Grazing System Water Distribution
- DSP-3.3 Grazing System Fence
- DSP-3.4 Grazing System Lime
- DSP-3.5 Grazing System Seed

## WOODLAND EROSION

- C100 Timber Harvest Plan
- DFR-4 Forest Plantation
- N472 Livestock Exclusion
- N655 Restoration of Skid Trails, Logging Roads, Stream Crossings and Log Landings

## SENSITIVE AREAS

- C650 Streambank Stabilization
- N351 Well Decommissioning
- N386 Field Border
- N391 Riparian Forest Buffer
- N393 Filter Strip
- N574 Spring Development
- N725 Sinkhole Treatment
- WQ10 Stream Protection

## ANIMAL WASTE MANAGEMENT

- N312 Beef Waste Management
- N312 Dairy Waste Management
- N312 Poultry Waste Management
- N312 Swine Waste Management
- N316 Incinerator
- N317 Composting Facility

## NUTRIENT & PEST MANAGEMENT

- N590 Nutrient Management
- N595 Pest Management

## IRRIGATION MANAGEMENT

- N430 Irrigation Water Conveyance
- N442 Irrigation System, Sprinkler
- N443 Irrigation System, Surface and Subsurface
- N447 Irrigation System, Tailwater Recovery
- N554 Drainage Water Management
- N587 Structure for Water Control

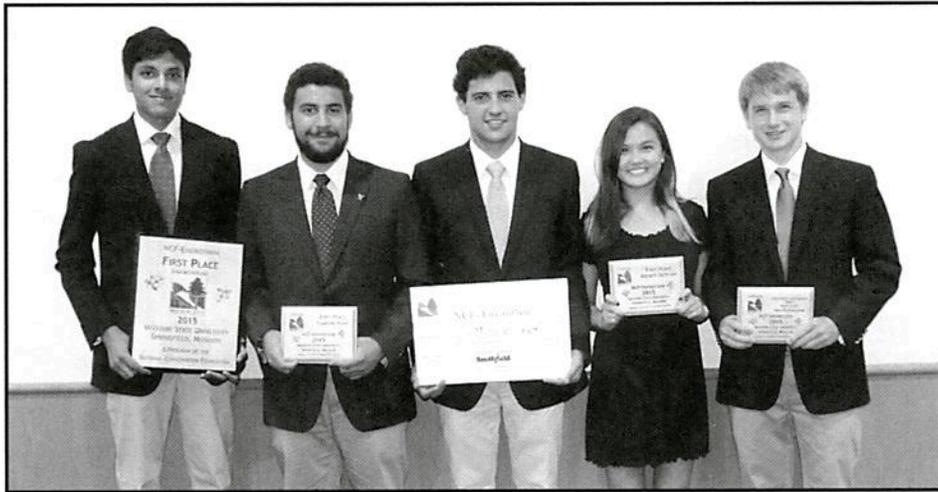


## 2016 POSTER CONTEST

The National Association of Conservation Districts announces the 2016 Poster Theme “We All Need Trees.” From a conservation standpoint, trees are natural superheroes. They do all of the following (and more!)

- Tree roots stabilize the soil and prevent erosion.
- Trees improve water quality by slowing and filtering rain water as well as protect aquifers and watersheds.
- Trees provide food
- Trees filter our air supply and keep it fresh.
- Trees provide shelter.
- Trees also provide clothing for us.

# Missouri Wins North America's Largest Environmental Education Competition!



The National Conservation Foundation(NCF) Envirothon was held in Springfield, MO July 29 through August 2. The competition brought together more than 50 five-member teams of high school students – majority from the US states and several Canadian provinces. The five-member team competed regionally to earn the right to represent their state or province at this event.

The Envirothon is a problem-solving, natural resource education program for high school students. In the field, teams of students are challenged to hone critical thinking skills and work as a team. They answer written questions and conduct hands-on investigation of environmental issues in five categories - Soils/Land Use, Aquatic Ecology, Forestry, Wildlife, and Current Environmental Issues. This year's current environmental issue was Urban and Community Forestry. In addition to a written test, the teams also present an oral presentation solving a specific natural resource issue.

The Envirothon stimulates, reinforces, and enhances students' interest in the environment and our state's natural resources. The concept was created by the Pennsylvania Association of Conservation Districts as an outdoor hands-on competition. From "Environmental Olympics," the concept expanded to other states; and when the national competition was added in 1988, the name was changed to Envirothon. Envirothon affords a unique approach to teaching environmental education, and it's fun!

The top 3 three teams were awarded scholarships. Third place was awarded to Pennsylvania. Second place was awarded to Texas. Pembroke High School from Kansas City, Missouri won first place. Each student received a \$3,000 scholarship and the school received \$2,000. The continuing support of the program reflects the participation and support of the county conservation districts, clubs, agencies, and private corporations. Congratulations to the Missouri team!

## **BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

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**1004 Vondera Ave. • Union, MO 63084**  
**636-583-2303 • 855-535-5203**

*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**

**Renee Cook, District Conservationist, NRCS**  
**Rhonda Davault, Lead Resource Conservationist, NRCS**  
**Kervin Bryant, Soil Conservationist, NRCS**  
**Teresa Morris, Soil Conservationist, NRCS**  
**Jerry Busch, Area Soil Technician, NRCS**

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

# CRP Remains Dependable Despite Summer Rains

*By Ryan Diener, Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist*

If you farm in Missouri, you've had a tumultuous spring and summer. Just in the last week, my rain gauge recorded nearly 5 inches of rain, and as of Thursday the 29th, another week of rain in the forecast. The rainfall we've received has you may have you re-evaluating your farming operation, and considering ways to keep up profitability even when crops can't be put in. Diversification of incomes on your farm can help insulate your operation from disastrous years, like the one we are experiencing right now.

Improving profitability on your farm doesn't have to mean pushing out every fence line, draining every wet spot, and pushing out trees wherever you could plant a crop. Farming efficiency can have a large impact on your bottom line, and there is always room for more efficiency in an operation. Are you wasting time and resources planting crops on acres that aren't yielding more than it cost to put in? Do you have a field that you roll the dice on stream height to even reach each year? Have you been frustrated with unusual edges that are difficult to plant? Most important to me, are you concerned by failing bird populations, and wary of the prospect that your grandchildren will never have the chance to hunt wild quail, rabbits, or see a monarch butterfly? If you answered yes to any of these, I feel it is worth your time to consider the Conservation Reserve Program.

Let's start at the beginning; the Conservation Reserve Program is a federal program that, generally speaking, retires environmentally sensitive land from agricultural production, and provides cost-share to participants to plant species that will improve environmental quality. It then even provides annual payments for the acres that are in the program that are competitive with crop rental rates. To be eligible, your field must have been farmed at least 4 of the 6 years between 2008 and 2013. Whatever your soil rental payment is, (soil rental rate average is \$96.05 in Franklin County this year) that payment will be the same, year after year until your contract expires after 10 or 15 years.

If you want more quail and other wildlife, habitat is the most important factor to improve, and the one that you can actually impact. One CRP program does this better than most others. CP38E Bobwhite Quail SAFE is available for enrollment right now through Continuous CRP. This CRP program has it all – 90% practice payment for the establishment of a diverse native grass stand, establishment of shrubby covers by creating brush piles or planting native shrub thickets, and the ability to plant up to 20% of your contract acres to food plots! There is one more kicker; if you enroll a crop field that has not previously been in CRP, you are eligible for a \$150/ac *signup incentive payment*, making this all the more sweet. When receiving this incentive, I have yet to enroll somebody who didn't end up having their entire planting paid for, and more. Hurry up, though – CP38E Bobwhite SAFE was recently authorized for only 5,000 acres available statewide, and it will *certainly* run out of acres within a few months.

If enrolling an entire field isn't in the cards, but you're concerned with water quality, soil erosion, and wildlife habitat, CP38E can be done on partial fields as well, or you could consider CP33 Habitat Buffers for Upland Birds. The CP33 practice creates habitat and travel corridors along the edge of your fields, enabling producers to stop using precious time and fuel when planting odd angles along field edges, while providing all the benefits of CRP. CRP buffers also improve water infiltration along field margins, and can prevent significant erosion from creeping into your more productive acres. This practice is also eligible for a \$150/ac *signup incentive payment* if enrolling previously cropped acreage.

These are just two of the dozens of CRP practices that are available. The rain we've received has given many producers reason to re-evaluate their operation, and it is my hope that you consider enrolling in CRP. "Farm the best, and conserve the rest" is a mantra we live by at Quail Forever. There is room for conservation on every farm, and luckily, with CRP, that can even help improve your bottom line. Please give me, your MDC Private Lands Conservationist, or your local FSA office a call if you'd like to talk about how to make your operation better for wildlife, and improve your farming efficiency today!

## **FY2016 State Cost Share For Franklin County**

Animal Waste Management	\$25,000
Grazing Management	\$14,250
Nutrient & Pest Management	\$ 6,250
Sensitive Areas	\$74,189
Sheet and Rill/Gully Erosion	\$66,337
Woodland Erosion	<u>\$15,750</u>
<b>Total FY16 Allocation</b>	<b>\$201,776</b>

At the beginning of each month, each Missouri county may receive additional cost share funding in an above category if they have obligated at least 90% to agricultural landowners. So if you would like to see if any practices would work for you to increase your farm's potential, please contact the office at 636-583-2303 ext 101.

### **Make Plans to Attend the State Women in Ag Conference**

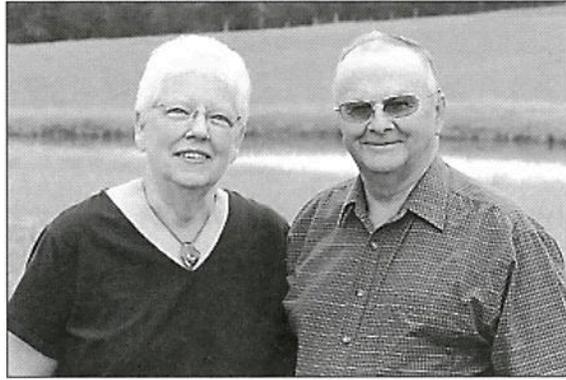
Start making plans to attend the 21<sup>st</sup> annual Missouri Women in Agriculture Conference, to be held at The Elms in Excelsior Springs September 21-23.

The theme for this year's event is "The Great Gatsby-Roaring Into Our Twenties". Registration includes workshops, meals and a 'roaring twenties' dance. An agricultural tour is planned for Tuesday, with visits to Watkins Mill State Park, Platte-Clay Solar, Mule Barn U-Pick Berries, and Buffalo Intensive Grazing. Workshop topics include Backyard Chickens, Feisty Farm Wife, Crop Insurance, Rain Simulator/Cover Crops, Financial Planning and more! Pre-register for a painting party or dance classes.

To register or to learn more about this fun and educational conference, contact the Northwest Missouri Women in Ag representative, Wendy Bowen at 816-586-2711 ext 101.

# SECTION OMITTED

## Area II - JOHN A. & MARIE BUSCH



Our Area II Outstanding Farmer award goes to John A. & Marie Busch. John acquired the family farm from his mother in 1994 and has roughly 400 acres.

This farm is located in the Washington area and has woodland, cropland and pastureland. A quarter of the farm is cropland where a corn/soybean/wheat rotation is used. The farm is home to mix breed hogs -farrows to finish- and Gelbvieh/Angus cow/calf pair. Crops and cattle have been present for most of the life of the farm.

John has installed terraces with underground outlet, multiple water impoundment reservoirs and filter strips to protect their farm from soil erosion under State cost-share. John also participated in EQIP and built multiple Waste Storage Facilities for the livestock.

In the mid-1930s John's father participated in the Dubois Watershed Project by installing erosion control structures that are still functioning today.

John has 10 children and 15 grandchildren that are close by and come out and spend time at the farm.

John donated time for over 30 years as a supervisor to help us, the Franklin County Soil & Water, protect, educate & conserve our Natural Resources here in Franklin County.

Keep up the great conservation work and Congratulations to John & Marie!



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## COMING EVENTS

Monday, September 7, 2015  
USDA Service Center closed  
Labor Day Holiday

Tuesday, September 8, 2015  
SWCD Regular Board Meeting  
8:00 a.m., USDA Service Center

Monday, October 12, 2015  
USDA Service Center closed  
Columbus Day Holiday

Tuesday, October 13, 2015  
SWCD Regular Board Meeting  
8:00 a.m., USDA Service Center

Tuesday, November 10, 2015  
SWCD Regular Board Meeting  
8:00 a.m., USDA Service Center

Wednesday, November 11, 2015  
USDA Service Center closed  
Veteran's Day Holiday

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



## Quarterly Quote

*“Man has only a thin layer of soil  
between himself and starvation.”*

*—attributed to Bard of Cincinnati*

# 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.