



Franklin County Conservation District Newsletter

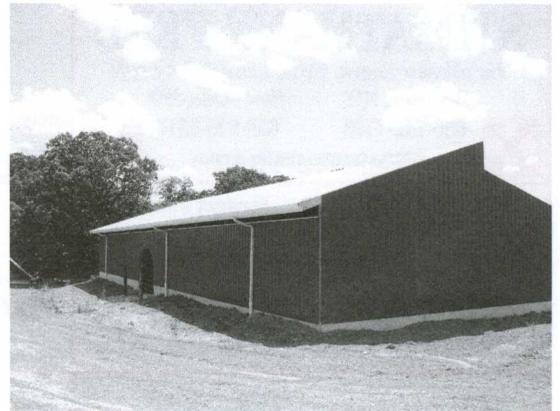


VOL. 26 NO 4

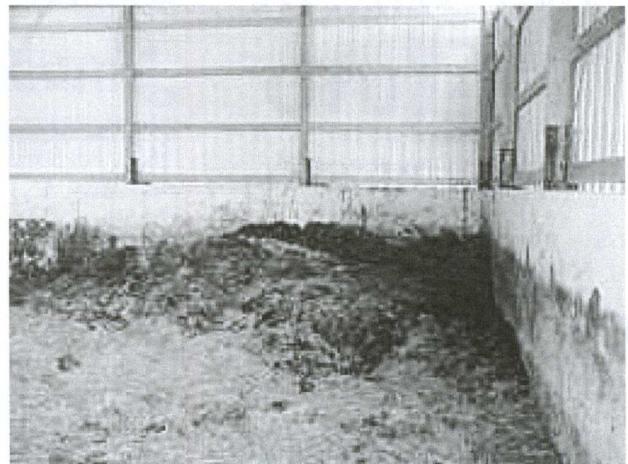
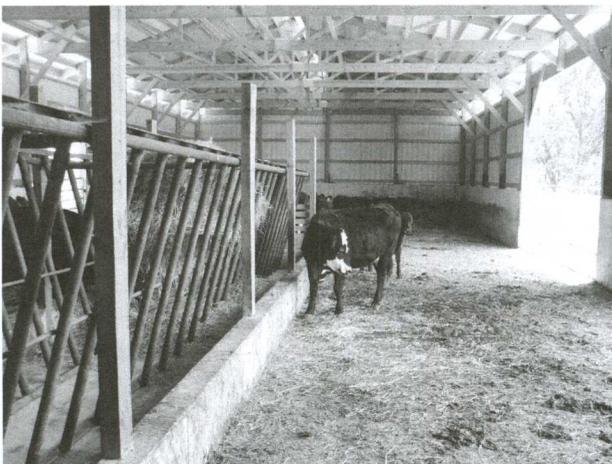
WINTER 2012

ANIMAL WASTE SYSTEM INSTALLED

In May 2012, the final touches were put on a beef animal waste system and claimed through the State Cost Share program for a N312 Animal Waste System practice. The system located in New Haven was installed with the intent to alleviate hay waste, provide a cleaner, dryer, non-eroded feeding area and collect animal waste for a controlled nutrient management application to reduce centralized runoff. The building (constructed to NRCS standards and specifications) was built to accommodate up to 100 head of cattle. After several months of usage we asked the landowner how the system is working for him, he answered “I would not change a thing. It is working great – it stays cool in there, much easier to scrap and load manure to spread in fields, it is not a muddy mess around the feeder rings, erosion around feeder rings has been completely eliminated, and most of all, the hay being wasted has been reduced tremendously.”



The purpose of the N312 Animal Waste System is to manage waste from agricultural production in a manner that prevents or minimizes degradation of soil and water resources. Such systems are planned to prevent discharge of pollutants to surface or ground water and to recycle waste through correct soil application to agricultural land. The system helps protect water quality, cut fertilizer costs, reduces nutrient losses and allows for field application when conditions are right. The cost share program can assist with beef, dairy, poultry or swine waste management systems. If you are interested in finding out about the practice and how it can help you with farming operation, please call the office.



**SECTION
OMITTED**

IS YOUR SOIL LOOKING PEAKED?

By Shawn Keller & Rhonda Davault, NRCS

If you've read any agriculture based magazines in the last couple of months you would have noticed the numerous articles about the use of cover crops in crop rotations. While the use of cover crops has been around for a long time, there has been intensive research done in the last ten years. This research has also shown us the importance of our soils' health in the bottom line on your farm.

- It has been found that cover crops reduce weed pressure significantly so that there is less need for herbicide applications all year long.
- By adding a continual growing root system in the soil, the necessary microbes are getting fed and in return they can help the cash crop use the fertilizers that are applied to the field.
- The microbes and plant roots all produce a substance that holds the soil structure together and thus guarantees that those nutrients are available when the plants need them.
- Fertilizer costs are reduced and pest cycles are broken by having a cover crop introduced into the crop rotation. This allows for a decrease in pesticide applications and reduces the chance for weed resistance also.
- Cover crops can also keep the sun and wind off the soil surface to reduce evaporation, both as growing vegetation and by providing additional residue after terminating the cover crop. Many producers report that properly managed cover crops use less water than is lost through evaporation from unprotected soil surfaces, particularly following low residue crops.
- The biological diversity of properly selected cover crops can reduce pest problems in the production crops and improve the soil environment for beneficial organisms.
- Some cover crops even offer nitrogen fixation and grazing potential as well.
- A cover crop could be used to scavenge unused nutrients to reduce nutrient losses during the off season.

Look out at your fields, are they as healthy as you would like them to be? Are your input costs going up? Come in to your local USDA Service Center and we can help you make cover crop decisions that can help your farm be the best it can be.

*Mark your calendar:
Annual Meeting
March 21, 2013*

NRCS PROGRAM SIGN-UPS

Now is the time to sign-up for the NRCS programs of EQIP (Environmental Quality Incentives Program) and WHIP (Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program). Other initiatives are available. Call the office at 636-583-2303 extension 3 for information regarding these programs.

GRAZING SCHOOL HELD



In September 2012, the Franklin County Soil and Water Conservation District held a management intensive grazing school in which 27 people were certified. These landowners can now apply for cost share assistance through the State Cost Share Program to help ease the cost of installing water wells, waterline, fence, fence chargers/solar chargers, livestock waterers, lime and legume seeding. These systems will allow the livestock to be rotated on a routine schedule which will in time pay off with less hay to be fed in the winter months or in a drought situation (as we seen this past summer). If you would like more information on cost share assistance on a rotational grazing system, contact the office.



Happy Holidays!
Lori, Stephen,
Rhonda, Kervin, Jerry, Deb,
Lia, Ryan

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

John A. Busch, Chairman
Daniel Brunjes, Vice Chairman
Bernard Laune, Member
Carl Danz, Treasurer
Matthew Herring, Secretary

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.

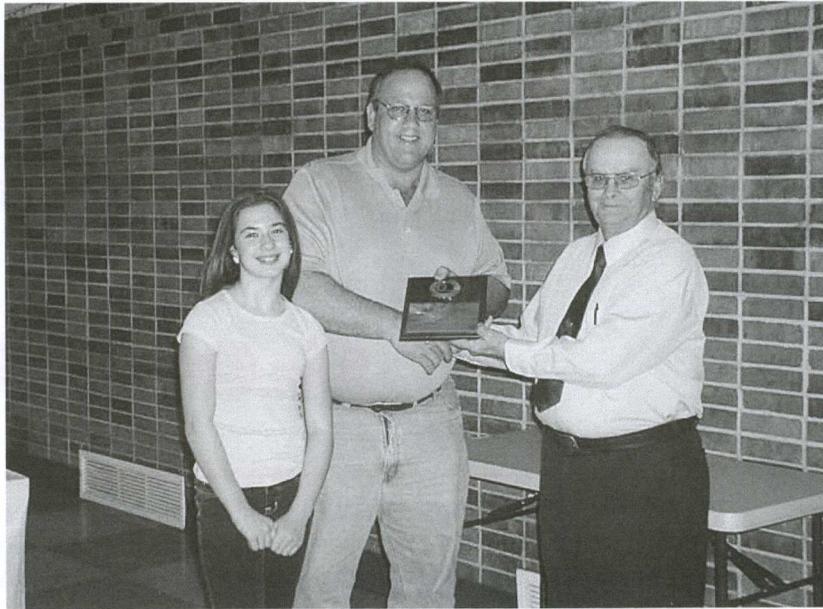
OFFICE STAFF PERSONNEL

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
Deb Frazier, ACES enrollee, NRCS

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

Area II Outstanding Farmer – Aholt Family Farm



Our Area II Outstanding Farmer award goes to Aholt Family Farm in Washington. In 1901, this 100 plus acre farm was purchased by the Aholt's great-grandfather and has been passed down through four generations.

The farm was originally a hog and dairy farm operation which switched to a beef operation in the 80's. In the late thirties and forties, fertilizers and lime were applied to crop fields to boost crop productivity.

Currently the farm has an Angus/Gelbvieh cow/calf operation on approximately 1/4 of the property. The Aholts are enrolled in the EQIP - Environmental Quality Incentive Program to help install waterlines, tanks and cross fencing to provide a rotational grazing system for the cattle.

The Aholt's have improved their cropping practice throught the years by adopting a 100% no-till corn/soybean rotation on 1/2 of the property. They are now experimenting with cover crops to keep a live root in the soil and to create cover for the ground over the winter.

Pipe terraces, waterways and a couple of ponds have been installed to help protect the farm's natural resources. All prevention measures are still in use today.



Keep up the
good
conservation
work and
congratulations
to Aholt Family
Farm!



HAPPY HOLIDAYS!



John, Dan, Carl, Matt, Bernard!

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

Area III Outstanding Farmer – Richard & Shelba Holmes



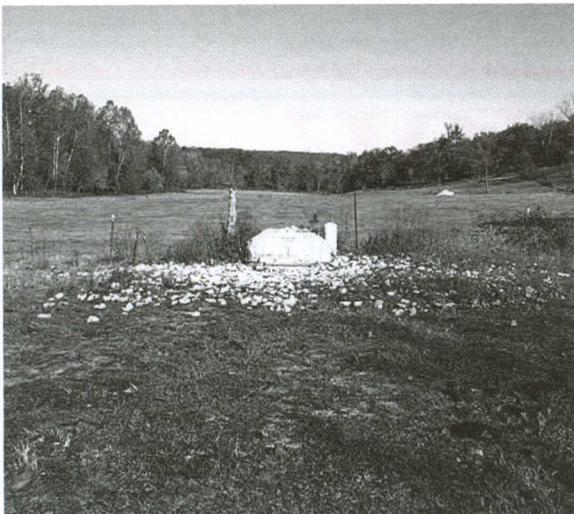
Our Area III Outstanding Farmer award goes to Richard & Shelba Holmes of Sullivan. In 1990, the Holmes' purchased this approximate 200 acre farm and about 2/3 of the property is in pasture fields for the rotational grazing of the Charolais cow/calf operation

Cost share assistance has been provided by the USDA office through the CRP and EQIP programs. With CRP assistance, Richard planted over 1,500 trees along the creek to protect the streambank from further erosion. Through EQIP cost share assistance, Richard installed a grazing system with 7 paddocks, 4 ponds, 6 waterers and even installed fence to exclude livestock from the wooded acres.

Since the farm is in the hill country, terraces have been installed on the steep slopes to help slow the water down and prevent erosion. In the bottom ground, a warm season grass of Bermuda was sown to provide adequate grazing fields for the hot summer months.

The Holmes' children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren enjoy coming out to go fishing in the ponds. Richard loves to work on the farm with the cattle and putting up hay and Shelba enjoys her bingo, Red Hat Mamas and feeding the humming birds.

Congratulations
to Richard &
Shelba Holmes!



FRANKLIN COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT
1004 Vondera Avenue
Union, Missouri 63084-3132
636-583-2303 • 1-800-583-3584
RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

NON-PROFIT ORG.

U.S. Postage

PAID

Permit No. 4

Union, MO 63084



COMING EVENTS

Monday, November 12, 2012
USDA Service Center closed
Veterans Day Holiday

Tuesday, November 13, 2012
SWCD Regular Board Meeting
8:00 a.m., USDA Service Center

Thursday, November 22, 2012
USDA Service Center closed
Veterans Day Holiday

Sun-Wed, Nov 25-28, 2012
Training Conference
SWCD Staff will not be in office

Tuesday, December 25, 2012
USDA Service Center closed
Christmas Day Holiday

Tuesday, January 1, 2013
USDA Service Center closed
New Year's Day Holiday

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



Quarterly Quote

“People may forget the soil for as long as a hundred years, but Mother Nature’s memory is long and she will not let them forget indefinitely.”

Henry Wallace

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, and the county newspapers and radio stations. Assistance from the Soil and Water Conservation District is available to all county residents regardless of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs and marital or familial status. USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer. State Cost-share funds are available for agriculture landowners that have active erosion and are approved to complete practices that solve the problem.