

Gasconade County SWCD

July 2013



Volume 24, Issue 1

Bridge Cost-Share Loan Program

The Missouri Department of Agriculture is offering a "Bridge Cost-Share Loan" to anyone who is participating in either a Federal or State Cost-share Program. This is a great opportunity to obtain operating funds in advance for implementing conservation practices.

Purpose: The program is a voluntary financial assistance program designed to provide short term loans to those MO producers who will purchase, erect, or implement an approved NRCS and/or Soil and Water Conservation Practice.

Eligibility: Eligible applicants include individuals at least 18 years of age, legal entities located in MO, and are engaged in agricultural production. No credit checks or collateral is required. Copies of the official cost-share contracts are all that are required as proof for lending.

How it Works: A MO producer may apply for the short term loan after being approved for an Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) or SWCD Cost-share Project.

Limitations: The loan amount can be any amount less than or equal to the EQIP/SWCD reimbursement amount as stated in the contracts. Incentive payments are not eligible for consideration for this loan program.

Loan Amount and Terms: The loan interest rate shall be 5.9% fixed. The interest is due and payable on a monthly basis during the course of the loan. The terms of the loan shall be from the date the loan is made until NRCS and/or SWCD payment is received by the MO Agricultural and Small business Development Authority.

Board of Supervisors:

Dennis Berger - Chairman
Michael Haeffner - Vice-Chairman
Debra Nowack - Treasurer
Matthew Estes - Member
James Thompson - Secretary

District Staff:

Diana Mayfield - District Specialist II
Kory Hubbard - District Technician I

NRCS Staff:

Melinda Barch - District Conservationist
Megan Ordway - Soil Conservationist
Grant Phillips - Soil Conservation Technician

MDC STAFF:

Kyle Lairmore, Private Lands Conservationist
Scott Williams, Fisheries Biologist
Aaron Holsapple - Forester
Lee Hughs - Wildlife Biologist

More information on this program will be presented at our upcoming Farm Tour on September 6, 2013 (See Page 3.) You may also contact your local SWCD office to receive more information and/or an application.

Visit us on the web at www.swcd.mo.gov/gasconade

An Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer
Helping People Help the Land

Tuesday, August 6, 2013

Soil Health Meeting

Speaker:

Paul Ackley, Livestock and Crop Farmer from Bedford, Iowa Will be speaking in Southern Montgomery County

(197 Hwy P—Starkenburg, MO, for info visit <http://www.swcd.mo.gov/warren/events.htm>)



Speaker, Paul Ackley credits cover crops for protecting his soil from erosion during the heavy rains this spring.

Cost \$15.00 if paid by 7/30/13, \$20.00 after that date and at the door—cost includes a meal

2:30pm—Registration/Vendors Open.
Program to follow with speaker and rain fall simulator demonstration. Ending with dinner and a producer panel including Kaley Cobb, Harry Cope & Luke Linnenbringer

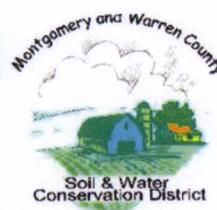
Sponsored by:

Warren, Montgomery, Osage, Maries and Gasconade County Soil & Water Districts, Farm Service Agency and the Natural Resources Conservation Service.

Please contact the field office if accessibility accommodations are required.

USDA is an equal opportunity employer and provider.

RSVP BY JULY 30, 2013



SOIL HEALTH MEETING—REGISTRATION FORM

Name(s) _____ Ph# _____

Your email address: _____

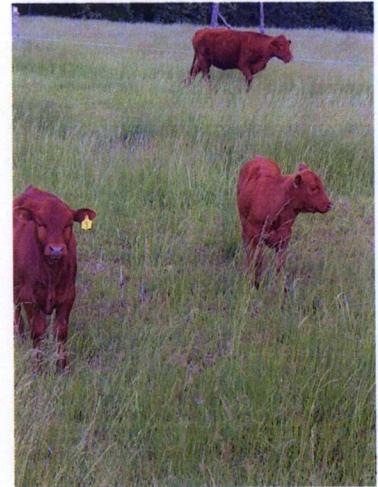
Mail Registration Form & \$15.00 Fee by 7/30/13 . After that date pay \$20.00 for each person. Make check payable to:

Warren County SWCD
635 W. Booneslick Rd.—Warrenton, MO 63383
Contact Polly Sachs @ 636-456-3434, x3 for questions.
Fax 636-456-3712, email polly.sachs@swcd.mo.gov

2013 FARM TOUR

**Gasconade County
SWCD/NRCS Sponsored**

***September 6, 2013
beginning at 4 P.M.***



- ◆ 4 PM - Arvil Kapplemann Farm - Tour established Wildlife Habitat and CRP Ground, Speaker MDC Private Lands Conservationist Kyle Lairmore
- ◆ 4:45 PM - Harold Roethemeyer Farm - View new dry hole structure and CRP project. Speakers NRCS District Conservationist Melinda Barch and SWCD District Technician Kory Hubbard
- ◆ 5:30 PM - James Meyer Farm - Experience an actual Grazing System and Herbicide (Rotowiper) applicator demonstration.
- ◆ 6:30 PM - Dinner at the Meyer Farm with a short presentation on:
 - ◆ FSA Programs - Kate Gerlemann, County Executive Director
 - ◆ Bridge Loan Program - Shawn English, MO Department of Ag
 - ◆ NRCS/SWCD Cost-share programs

Registration

Please register for this event by calling 573-437-3478 ext 3 by August 28th.

Directions to the farms will be provided at the time of registration.

Meal is provided courtesy of the Gasconade County Soil & Water Conservation District.

Where Did My Nutrients Go?

By Kory Hubbard, District Technician

After your soil test comes back from the lab, you might be wondering; where did all that fertilizer I put on last year go? There are many factors that contribute to the availability and mobility of nutrients; some of them are soil type, PH, and rainfall. There are seventeen elements considered essential nutrients for plant growth, and plants cannot complete their vegetative or reproductive cycles, if there is a deficiency in just one. This comes from the concept of the limiting nutrient. PH also plays a major role in nutrient uptake. If the PH varies too far off of 7(which is neutral), then the ability of most plants is severely limited. The three primary nutrients are: Nitrogen, Phosphorus, and Potassium (N-P-K).

There are usually two forms of N applied to fields; nitrate and ammonium. Nitrate is very mobile because it is negatively charged and it is repelled by the negatively charged clay soil particles. So, N applied in this form is very susceptible to runoff and leaching. Ammonium is positively charged, so it is not as easily leached, but soil erosion and water runoff cause nitrogen loss. Volatilization (where ammonium is converted to gas and lost in the atmosphere) is another way N is lost.

Phosphorus and Potassium are primarily lost from soil erosion and water runoff. Keeping the soil covered and utilizing erosion preventing practices are two ways to reduce phosphorus loss.

In a pasture operation, once the nutrients are taken up by the plant, which varies from one grass species to another, it is the operator's goal to use that forage in the most beneficial way to keep from losing those nutrients. For pasture land most operators have the choice to hay or graze. According to a study done by MU, Cool-season grass hay (3 tons) removes 150lbs/acre of N, 40lbs/acre of P and 145lbs/acre of K. While a cow-calf pair only removes 10lbs/acre of N, 7lbs/acre of P and 1lb/acre of K! You can reduce the impact of nutrient loss from haying by unrolling the hay back onto the fields when needed, but the best way to keep nutrients is to stock pile and strip graze in the winter months.

Erosion and runoff are the biggest problems in our area concerning nutrients. Here at the Soil and Water Conservation District, we strive to help landowners implement a wide variety of practices to minimize soil erosion and to keep our streams and rivers clean. Keeping the nutrients on your field and out of the streams helps your yields and your pocket-book.

Cost-Share Available for Sensitive Areas

By Kory Hubbard, District Technician

Sensitive Areas is one of the four resource concern areas that the Gasconade County Soil and Water Conservation District receives funding in, to help landowners with problem areas. Funding in this concern helps with areas that have soil erosion and water quality issues. Here are the Sensitive Area practices that are available:

Well Decommissioning – This practice prevents the entry of any vermin, fertilizer, pesticides, or foreign debris from entering a well by filling the bore hole with rock and sealing it with bentonite or cement. Cisterns do not qualify. This is an incentive payment of \$400 per well.

Riparian Forest Buffer – This practice reduces the excess amount of sediment and nutrients in surface runoff by planting a buffer of trees and/or shrubs along streams or natural wetlands. The trees will help to stabilize the area from further erosion. Along with cost-share payments for establishment, there is a one-time incentive payment.

Filter Strip – This practice reduces the excess amount of sediment and nutrients in surface runoff by planting a buffer down slope from tilled cropland. A one-time incentive can be paid on acres taken out of production for the filter strip.

Spring Development – This practice protects and helps utilize the ground water from a spring by piping the clean water from the source to a tank to be utilized by livestock.

Stream Protection – This practice reduces the excess amount of sediment and nutrients in the stream by excluding livestock from having access. Both sides of the stream must be fenced to qualify. A new water source may be established with this practice if no other source is available.

If you would like more information or would like to have the SWCD technician visit your farm to look at any concerns, please call Diana or Kory at 573-437-3478 ext 3.

Volunteers needed!

**Volunteers are needed for our
Annual 4th Grade Field Days
Dennis & Brenda Kurrelmeyer Farm
October 2 - 3, 2013**

8 am - 2 pm

If you are interested in working as a volunteer to teach these young people about farm life, please call 573-437-3478 ext 3 and let Diana know. We need cooks, lunch servers, and site workers. Come and share the experience of a lifetime and enrich a young person's life.

Farm Service Agency Updates

316 Olive Street, Owensville, MO 65066
PH: 573-437-4131, ext 106
EMAIL: moowensvil-fsa@one.usda.gov

CROP REPORTING DEADLINES:

All 2013 acreage must be reported no later than July 15, 2013

2014 perennial & biennial forage crops (hay and pasture) must be reported by **November 15, 2013**

2014 fall barley, wheat and other fall seeded small grains must be reported by **December 15, 2013**

FARM STORED FACILITY LOAN PROGRAM (FSFL):

Producers can obtain a low-interest loan for 7, 10 or 12 years to build or upgrade storage (hay, grain, etc) or handling facilities. Facilities include but are not limited to: hay pole barns, hay hoop structures, grain bins, flat grain storage, cold storage facilities, etc

July Interest Rate: 1.500 % (7 year term)

COC ELECTIONS:

County Committee Election nominations are ongoing and close August 1, 2013. Submit nominations at the FSA office. Election to be held November 5, 2013-December 3, 2013. Producers in LAA 1 (Richland, Roark and Boeuf townships) will be sent a ballot to participate in election.

FARM LOAN PROGRAMS:

Eligible farmers and ranchers may qualify for the low interest credit they need for annual operating expenses, for purchase or re-finance of livestock and machinery and for purchase of real estate.

Offices continue to accept applications for a loan program even when money has run out. Submitting an application sets a farmer's place in the waiting line for funds, so it is advantageous to apply for a loan even when there is no money available.

Producers are encouraged to contact the farm loan team serving their county to discuss their financing needs and possible options.

July Interest Rates:

Direct Farm Ownership-3.25%

Direct Farm Operating-1.25%

Beginning Farmer Down payment Farm Ownership-1.5%

NEW FARM BILL COMING:

Legislation containing most recent farm programs has expired. Producers are asked to be proactive in staying up to date on new information as it becomes available.

Recipe for Fall Stockpiling Tall Fescue Successfully

"A penny saved is a penny earned!" Your mother

"Fall Stockpiling" is the practice of managing the late summer and fall plant growth to provide the needed quantity and quality of forage for grazing later in the season—from late fall to spring green up. Stockpiling, more than any other forage management practice, can improve the profitability of a live-stock enterprise by substantially reducing the cost of stored feed, primarily hay. Any forage plants can be stockpiled; tall fescue is especially well suited for fall stockpiling in Missouri because:

- a. It makes a lot of its growth in the fall.
- b. The forage is of outstanding quality, often up to 20 % or more crude protein.
- c. Tall fescue resists the elements, cold and moisture, well and retains excellent quality clear up to spring. Crude protein typically declines about 2 % per month.
- d. Tall fescue tolerates relatively close grazing of the stockpiled forage; a 2" stubble is enough.

Tall fescue sod holds up well to the heavy traffic associated with winter grazing the stockpile, and it tolerates some pugging during muddy times better than most.

Growing the stockpile is the "easy part." For stockpiling to be profitable it must be fed, or rationed, properly—that is the animals must have their access to the stockpile controlled in such a way that a high percentage of the forage is actually eaten by the animals. Strip grazing, using temporary electric fencing, affords the grazer the means to limit the animals' access to the forage; each individual must decide how often they want to move the fence. Many graziers see benefits to moving the fence every day or every other day; unless your time is very valuable this is a profitable strategy. At the most animals should be given access to no more than a 3-day supply of feed; the percentage of the forage that is wasted becomes intolerably high if animals are given access to a 4-day supply or more.

Follow these steps for growing and feeding quality tall fescue stockpile:

- ◆ Select pastures or hay fields that are predominantly tall fescue and that have been grazed or clipped leaving a 3 - 6 inches stubble the first week of August. If you start stockpiling prior to the first week of August the yield will not be much greater but the quality can be significantly lower. Delaying the start of stockpiling will give higher quality forage but a lower yield.
- ◆ Apply 40 - 60 pounds per acre of nitrogen mid to late August. MU recommends 80 lb. N if the stand is vigorous and soil moisture is good. Stands with a lot of legumes, mostly red clover, will produce a lot of forage without applying commercial N; a stand that is 40% legume (by weight) will produce as much as a pure stand of fescue with 60-80 lb. of N.
- ◆ Defer grazing until early December if possible or until all other pastures or sources of grazing have been utilized. Delaying grazing until February 1 will allow endophyte level to decline.
- ◆ Try to stockpile 1-1.5 acres per cow; if you are stockpiling for the first time use 1 acre per cow as a starting place. Under normal conditions this should provide around a 90 day feed supply if rationed properly.
- ◆ Feed stockpile during December and early January. Feed hay (if needed) in January and February when ground is frozen or when you have lots of snow/ice. Finish feeding the remainder of your stockpile from late February through green up in April. This should allow you to avoid hauling hay in the mud.

Calculations for grazing stockpiled fescue

It is recommended that around December 1 you "measure" your total stockpile and "estimate" the carrying capacity—how many days worth of feed you have for your animals. Walk over the field with a yardstick, or your grazing stick you received at grazing school, measuring the height of the grass at several places; average your measurements. Using the figures and procedure below estimate the total pounds of forage on the field(s) and the total number of days you can feed your herd.

Now let's go through it for a daily (or 2 or 3 day) allocation:

1. **Estimate forage yield** – pounds of total above ground dry matter on a per acre basis. Use a yardstick to measure the height of the grass where the herd will graze next. Yield estimates vary based on the height and density of the stand. In general one inch of forage over 1 acre equals:
 - a. Low density 150 – 250 lbs.
 - b. Medium density 250 – 350 lbs.
 - c. High density 350 – 450 lbs.
- d. **Determine harvest efficiency** – how much of the stockpiled fescue will be utilized by the livestock and how much will be wasted. The more often the fence is moved the higher the efficiency will be:
 - e. Continuous grazing 30 – 35% harvest efficiency
 - f. Weekly rotation 40 – 50% harvest efficiency
 - g. Strip grazing < 3 days 65 – 70% harvest efficiency
- h. **Determine desired intake rate for livestock** – amount of daily forage intake as a percent of body weight.
 - i. Dry cows 2.0%
 - j. Lactating beef cows 2.5 – 3.5%
 - k. Growing animals 3.0 – 3.5%
- l. **Determine daily herd needs** – number of cows x average weight x intake rate
Determine acres needed – herd needs ÷ available forage x days between moves

How to do the math

1. Let's say you determined that the average height of the forage was 10 inches tall and the stand had a medium density. 10 inches x 300#/inch average = 3000 lb. total above ground dry matter.
2. Next, you decided you will move the fence every other day. This should give about a 70% harvest efficiency, so 3000 lbs. total x 70% = 2100 lb. per acre available for intake.
3. Now you need to determine cow intake rate and herd needs. A 1200 lb. dry cow needs about 2% of her bodyweight in forage every day.
4. If you have 50 cows the math would be: 50 cows x 1200 lbs x .02 bodyweight = 1200 lbs. forage per day for the herd.
5. We had 2100 lbs. forage available per acre and the herd needs 1200 lbs. per day. So, 2100÷1200 = .57 acres per day need to be allocated. If we are going to move the fence every 2 days then we would need to allocate .57 x 2 = 1.14 acres every two days.

To figure how large the strip needs to be you need to know the length of the field in the direction the temporary fence will run. Let's say we stockpiled a 20 acre field that is 660 feet across. There are 43,560 square feet in one acre. The math goes like this:
1.14 (acres needed) x 43,560 ÷ 660 ft. (ft across our 20 acres) = 75 foot strip for two days.



Congratulations, Mark Brandt!

Mark Brandt was recently promoted to the position of District Conservationist for Cole and Montieau Counties! This SADLY means that we will be losing his services here in Gasconade County as well as in Osage and Maries Counties.

Mark began working as the Osage County District Technician in 1997 and moved to NRCS in 1999 serving the Gasconade, Maries, and Osage County Field Office Service Area (FOSA) ever since.

Mark's last day with us was June 27th and we held a dinner in his honor as well as gave him a "roast" to remember us by! Good Luck Mark, we will miss you!

Dates to Remember 2013

July 11	Board of Supervisor Mtg, USDA Service Center, 5:30 p.m.
August 5	Board of Supervisor Mtg, USDA Service Center, 6:30 p.m.
August 6	Soil Health Seminar, Starkenburg, MO 2:30 - ?
September 2	Labor Day Holiday, Office Closed
September 3	Board of Supervisor Mtg, USDA Service Center, 6:30 p.m.
September 6	Farm Tour, 4 p.m. - Kapplemann, Roethemeyer, Meyer Farms
October 1	Board of Supervisor Mtg, USDA Service Center, 6:30 p.m.
October 2-3	4th Grade Field Days, Kurrelmeyer Farm
October 14	Columbus Day Holiday, Office Closed
November 5	Board of Supervisor Mtg, USDA Service Center, 6:30 p.m.
November 11	Veterans Day Holiday, Office Closed
November 28	Thanksgiving Day Holiday, Office Closed
December 3	Board of Supervisor Mtg, USDA Service Center, 6:00 p.m.
December 16-18	Annual Training Conference, Tan-Tar-A. District Staff out of office.
December 25	Christmas Day Holiday, Office Closed

Gasconade County SWCD Equipment

LEASE AGREEMENT MUST BE ON FILE AT THE SWCD OFFICE BEFORE EQUIPMENT CAN BE RENTED.

Drill charge: Minimum charge of \$100.00 for less than 10 acres usage. An additional \$10.00 will be charged for each additional acre under 50 acres. There will be an \$9.00 per acre charge for 50 acres or more.

For Scheduling of equipment, please call the SWCD office at 573-437-3478 ext 3, unless other wise indicated.

- ◇ John Deere 10 ft no-till drill is located at James Miller, Second Creek Farms, 2828 Hwy 19 Owensville. Call 573-690-9065 or 314-609-7905 to schedule.
- ◇ Great Plains 7 ft no-till drill with warm season box is located at the SWCD office.

Located at the SWCD Office:

- ◇ Rotowiper - \$25 a day
- ◇ Burn Equipment - \$50 deposit, \$10 use charge
- ◇ ATV Equipment (Seeder, Sprayer, Disk) - \$100 deposit, \$20 a day each piece or \$50 for all three
- ◇ ATV Warm Season Grass Seeder—no charge—Donated by Quail Unlimited
- ◇ Soil Probe - no charge