Grundy County Conservation Connection

April 2015 – June 2015 Volume 7 Issue 4

http://www.swcd.mo.gov/grundy

48 Years of the Grundy County Soil & Water Conservation District

For 48 years the Grundy County SWCD Board of Supervisors and Staff have recognized the landowners, contractors and patrons with an annual appreciation day luncheon.

John Rice, Board Treasurer, gave the blessing for the great meal provided by PW Catering. Around noon Kendall Foster, Board Chair, read a short biography and presented a plaque, embroidered shirts & throw to the 2015 Cooperator of the Year, Larry & Judy Urton.

At the end of the day names were drawn for free equipment rentals and door prizes. The one day free equipment rental winners were: Nancy Walker – Cultipacker, Morgan Gittemeier – Drill, Chelsey Valentine – Mulcher, Shawn Walker – Harrow, Angelique Vandevender – Tractor, Jack Bethards – 6 Yd Scraper & Pat McGee – Box Scraper. Door prize winners were: Rebecca Urich & Derrick Davis – Pliers from Moore's Farm Supply, Albert Trump – 1066 Scale Model Tractor from Gallatin Truck & Tractor, Matt Thomson – CB Radio & Antenna from T & L Auto Supply and Rod Jermanovich – Gift Certificate from Grand River Press.

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2015 Cooperator of the Year

Photo Courtesy of Daughters of Larry & Judy Urton

Larry and Judy Urton own and operate a cow/calf, hay and row crop farm northeast of Trenton. They have farmed in the Trenton/Galt community for the past 40 years. They also rent and manage land for two other landowners. Judy has been employed by Wright Memorial for 19 years. They are the parents of four beautiful daughters and the grandparents of 8 wonderful grandchildren.

The Urton's have participated in several conservation programs throughout the years. Those practices applied were Conservation Cover, Tree Planting, Wildlife Habitat Management, Rotational Grazing, Residue Management, Crop Rotation, Pasture Hayland Seeding, and Structures.

Larry and Judy will continue to use conservation methods in their farming operations to hopefully benefit generations in the future.

The Urton's would like to thank the staffs of the Grundy County Soil and Water Conservation District, NRCS, FSA and their programs for all of the help throughout the years and for the recognition of this award.

John Rice & Scott Myers re-elected to serve on the Board of Supervisors of Grundy County SWCD

On Friday, March 13, 2015 an election of the Board of Supervisors to the Grundy County Soil & Water Conservation District was held. Results as follows:

Re-elected to serve Area I, representing townships: Washington, Harrison, Taylor, Franklin (West of Highway 65) and Lincoln (West of Highway 65) was: Scott Myers

Re-elected to serve Area IV, representing townships: Trenton (West of Highway 65), Jackson (West of Highway 65) Madison and Jefferson was: John Rice

Both Scott Myers and John Rice were elected to serve a 4-Year term. Their term will expire in the Spring of 2019. Please give a big thank you and congratulations to both of these fellas.

2014 Supervisor of the Year

John Rice was chosen as the 2014 Supervisor of the Year by the Missouri Soil & Water Conservation District Employee's Association for his dedication and proactive leadership in efforts related to conservation.

John and his wife, Margaret, moved to Trenton in 1992. They own and operate her family farm North of Hickory. John and his brother, Ed Rice, manage the Shelburne Valley Farm South of Hickory. John and Margaret have four children, six grandchildren and one great grandchild.

John is a retired Civil/Agriculture Engineer and a Korean War Veteran. He worked as a Water Management Engineer for NRCS before retirement and while working for the Midwest National Technical Center in Lincoln, NE was instrumental in bringing the Sub-Irrigation-Water Table Control technology to the Midwest states, from his previous experience in the coastal plains of North Carolina.

Missouri to host 2015 National Envirothon Competition

Missouri will host the 2015 National Envirothon Competition at the Missouri State University Campus in Springfield from July 27, 2015 – August 2, 2015.

The current topic for 2015 is Urban/Community Forestry.

2015 Learning Objectives – Urban/Community Forestry

Key Topics

1. Understand what sustainable urban & community forestry is and why it is important.

2. Understand of the numerous benefits of urban/community forests to society, often referred to as ecosystem services.

3. Understand the costs associated with urban/community forests.

4. Understand what an urban forest management plan is and why it is an essential tool.

Learning Objectives

1. Describe the economic, social, and environmental benefits of urban/community trees to local communities.

2. Comprehension of the effects of urban/community trees on air quality and water quality.

3. Knowledge of research showing that trees contribute to our health, well-being and quality of life.

4. Understanding of threats to urban/community forests such as invasive species, insect and diseases, climate change, fire, air pollution, lack of management capability and development pressures.

5. Understand what a tree inventory is and what it is used for.

6. Understand the components of an urban/community forest management plan.

7. Basic knowledge of models and tools used to calculate the value of tree canopy functions.

The learning objectives can be viewed at http://www.envirothon.org/current-competition.html as well as registration cost, a link to 2015 Resources and Study Material – Urban/Community Forestry and additional information on Urban and Community Forestry.

FSA News

CRP Mid-Contract Management Reminder

If you enrolled land in CRP that became effective October 1, 2003 or after, certain contracts are required to complete a series of mid-contract management practices on the acreage. These practices include: strip disking, prescribed burning or chemical applications.

There is a certain time period during each year that the management practice must be performed depending on the established cover. These practices were contained in your conservation plan that you completed with NRCS at the time your acreage was enrolled in CRP. Cost-share is available for all three practices and you must report completion of the practice to your FSA office by 09/30/2015. There should be absolutely **no disturbance** between May 1st and July 15th, due to primary nesting season.

Food plots should also be completed by 09/30/2015.

If you have any questions concerning these management practices contact your local FSA office. Penalties for non-compliance will be applied.

Below are the Mid Contract Management (MCM) dates.

Cool Season Grass - Burning	March 15-April 30
Cool Season Grass - Spraying	Oct 1 - Dec 1 OR March 15 - April 30
Warm Season Grass - Burning	Oct 1-Mar 15 OR July 16 - Sept 30
Warm Season Grass - Spraying	July 16 - September 15
Disc- Cool Season or Warm Season	Oct 1- Mar 30 OR July 16-Sept 30

CRP Acreage Eligibility Requirements

If you are considering enrolling or re-enrolling acreage into the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) General Sign-up, the acreage **MUST** be free of trees, ditches, and gullies. It must be capable of being farmed with conventional equipment prior to making a bid into the program. Producers are encouraged to take time now to prepare for future CRP sign-ups.

Producers wanting to clear existing trees and brush from CRP contract acreage should request permission from their local COC **prior** to beginning the process. Spot treatment of CRP acreage is allowed. There should be no disturbance during the primary nesting period of May 1 to July 15.
Note: There is not a scheduled General CRP sign-up at this time.

Missouri NRCS Reorganizes

Effective February 22, 2015 the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) in Missouri has implemented a reorganization plan to improve field office efficiencies and availability of staff.

Missouri had previously grouped counties into 2 and 3 county combinations called FOSA's (Field Office Service Areas). Under the new plan implemented in February 2015 these FOSA boundaries have changed to encompass 3 or 4 county combinations.

Previously Grundy and Mercer County made up a FOSA. These two counties have now been combined with the Harrison and Gentry County FOSA to make the Harrison/Gentry/Grundy/Mercer Field Office Service Area.

The administration of this new FOSA will be under the direction of a District Conservationist stationed in the Bethany Field Office. Scott McClure has been selected for the District Conservationist position.

McClure is a native of Harrison County and has worked in several different counties throughout north Missouri. Most recently, McClure was the District Conservationist for Grundy and Mercer FOSA. McClure states, "I look forward to working with the staff and producers in this new 4 county FOSA".

NRCS customers probably won't notice any sweeping changes immediately however as NRCS experiences vacancies and personnel changes customers may see staff from within these FOSA boundaries shift to accommodate workload demands.

For more information about this new FOSA system and how it effects you contact the USDA-NRCS office near you.

Composting 101

Welcome to COMPOSTING 101, **Planet Natural's** go-to guide for making nature's most rewarding soil amendment. Time or money invested in your garden's soil always brings the best returns: healthy, vigorous plants and great harvests. And when you keep yard waste and kitchen scraps from the landfill you're doubly rewarded. You can buy ready-made, organic compost to get a jump start. But it's easy and inexpensive to make your own with the right materials and good equipment.

Here you'll find all you need to know about getting started as well as maintaining the process no matter which composting method you've chosen. There's basic techniques and time-tested wisdom as well as guides to compost tumblers and the various compost aides — the best starters, the most functional and efficient containers, and practical, useful tools like compost thermometers — that will make your composting efforts efficient and rewarding.

Want to learn even more about composting? COMPOSTERconnection is our detailed, comprehensive guide that discusses all the various types of composting methods as well as offering inside tips from successful composters. You can also learn a lot by going through **Planet Natural**'s complete line of composting bins, tumblers and equipment.

3 Essential Elements for Perfect Compost

It's time to let you in on a little secret: soil building done like this is the perfect lazy person's gardening project. Unlike weeding or double-digging, which take lots of time and physical effort, a compost pile pretty much takes care of itself. Build it right, and it will transform your growing expectations.

1. Start with a container. We're dealing with decomposing organic material, folks, so the structure doesn't need to be fancy. You just need some sort of way to hold all of the ingredients together so the beneficial bacteria that break down the plant matter can heat up and work effectively.

Compost bins are of two types, stationary and rotating. Both types must have their contents turned periodically to provide oxygen and combine the decaying materials. Stationary bins can be as simple as well-ventilated cage made from wire fence sections or wooden crates assembled from a kit. A well-designed bin will retain heat and moisture, allowing for quicker results. Then there's compost tumblers, easy to turn bins that speed up the process — compost in weeks, not months or years — by frequent oxygen infusions and heat retention. Select one based on how much plant matter (grass, leaves, weeds, stalks and stems from last year's garden) you have at your disposal, how large your yard is, and how quickly you need to use the finished product.

When using the stationary bin method, locate the pile in a sunny location so that it has as much heat as possible. If it's in the shade all day, decomposition will still happen, but it will be much slower, especially when freezing temps arrive in the fall. Compost tumblers can also take heat advantage of being placed in direct sunlight.

2. Get the ingredient mix right. A low-maintenance pile has a combination of brown and green plant matter, plus some moisture to keep the good bacteria humming. Shredded newspaper, wood chips and dry leaves are ideal for the brown elements; kitchen waste and grass clippings are perfect for the green add-ins.

Skip meat, fish and dairy for outdoor bins because they tend to attract pests like mice, raccoons and dogs. If you can't bear the thought of sending your leftovers to the landfill, there are clever systems that turn them into superfood for your plants.

If you're using a simple container, it's best to start heaping the ingredients right on the ground, starting with chunky material like small branches or woody stems on the bottom for good airflow. Every time you add green material, add some brown as well to keep a good moisture balance and create air pockets.

It's a good idea to give your new pile a jump-start to get the process started. There are several great activators that are ready to go right out of the box. No need to mix it in well. Fold in a couple shovelfuls of garden soil rich in organic matter and let the natural process begin.

3. Remember a few simple chores. Taking care of a compost pile is extremely basic, but a wee bit of care makes a huge difference. Add material regularly to give the happy bacteria some fresh food to consume and enough insulation to keep the process warm.

Turn the pile with a pitchfork or compost aerator every week or two to make sure that all of the materials are blended in and working together. After you've mixed things up, grab a handful to see if it's slightly damp. Too little moisture will slow the decomposition process and too much will leave you with a slimy mess.In a few months, your finished product should be a dark, crumbly soil that smells like fresh earth. Excerpt found at: http://www.planetnatural.com/composting-101/

2015 Women In Ag State Conference

2015 State Women In Ag Conference

September 21-23

The Elms Hotel & Spa
Excelsior Springs, Mo

Mention Missouri Women In Ag for room rates of $106 plus tax/per night.
Call 800-843-3567

From destructive fires to healing mineral waters, crime figures and prohibition to a presidential visit, The Elms Hotel & Spa has a very rich & interesting history.

Ladies and Gentlemen will enjoy a session with Carolyn Miller on the Wedding Dress thru the decades and tentative workshops may include topics on ag law, GMO, women's health, cover crops, land-lease agreements to rain simulators.

The committee is still working on a tour venue that may showcase innovative renewable energy, woolen mill, buffalos to high tunnels and hayrides to finding your way thru a corn maze.

After the exciting tours, guests can grab a hand and take a ghost tour of The Elms, belly dancing to line dancing and salsa on the lawn. Travel downtown to visit shops at your leisure and there will be limited space for a painting session with local artist Molly Roberts. Don't forget the Hospitality Room & Silent Auction.

We are looking at The Great Gatsby theme so be prepared to dress to the hilt and have your cameras and smiles ready!!

Keep up with current details and like Women In Agriculture on Facebook
http://www.facebook.com/WomenInAgriculture

As time nears information will be posted on the Grundy County SWCD website at http://www.swcd.mo.gov/grundy/WomenInAgriculture.htm (select the 2015 link).

www.facebook.com/WomenInAgriculture

USDA Grants Help Cut Energy Costs for Farmers and Rural Small Businesses

USDA is offering grants and loan guarantees to help rural businesses and agricultural producers reduce their energy costs and consumption.

The funding is being provided through USDA Rural Development's Rural Energy for America Program (REAP). Loans and grants are available to purchase and install renewable energy systems or make energy efficiency improvements to a farm or business.

Renewable energy systems include solar, wind, geothermal, anaerobic digesters, and renewable biomass.

Energy efficiency improvements include grain drying and handling, lighting, refrigeration, facility improvements (such as adding insulation or replacing windows), heating and cooling upgrades, motor replacements and automated control upgrades.

Grants of up to 25% of a project's total costs are available. The maximum grants are $250,000 for energy efficiency improvements and $500,000 for renewable energy systems. The REAP program also provides for the guarantee of loans for up to 75% of the cost of a renewable energy or energy efficiency project.

Grant application deadlines are April 30, 2015 and June 30, 2015. Guaranteed loan applications will be reviewed on a monthly basis. Grants are awarded on a competitive basis. Residential projects are not eligible for the REAP program.

Missouri has nearly $2 million in grant funding available for renewable energy and energy efficiency projects. For information on REAP contact (573) 876-9321 or email nathan.tutt@mo.usda.gov

4-County FOSA Technician - Matt Miller

He's Back!

Matt Miller began working for the District as the SWAT Technician in September 2011. In August 2012 Matt had the opportunity to work for NRCS as the MRBI Technician. As the MRBI position ended in August 2014 the District was fortunate enough to get Matt back to working for the District.

Several FOSA's in the State of Missouri were granted a position for a FOSA Technician. This position will serve all counties in the FOSA. Matt was hired as the 4-County FOSA Technician in March. Matt will be splitting his time working in Grundy, Mercer, Harrison and Gentry Counties.

Please welcome Matt back to the District family.

State Envirothon May 1st

Please send good luck wishes to 2 teams of Missouri Academy and our Norborne Team as they travel to Jefferson City to compete in the State Envirothon Competition.

Kids Corner – Aluminum Recycling: Yes You Can

Aluminum recycling and can recycling are among the environmental movement's great success stories. In many places, well over 95% of all aluminum is recycled. An aluminum can that's recycled can be back on store shelves as a new can in just 60 days.

Aluminum recycling has grown immensely since the widespread introduction of aluminum cans in the 1960s. In 1972, about 24,000 metric tons of aluminum cans were recycled -- by 1998, that amount had skyrocketed to over 879,000 metric tons.

Benefits of Aluminum Recycling

Aluminum, steel and other metals must be refined from metal ore before they can be used. Mining, extracting, shipping and refining these metal ores are very energy-intensive and polluting processes.

Recycling aluminum, steel and other metals is a much greener process that requires far less energy and creates much less pollution. By some estimates, recycling aluminum cans requires just 5% of the energy needed to make a new aluminum can. Unlike recycled plastics and other recycled items, there's no limit to the number of times aluminum can be recycled.

And because millions of tons of aluminum are recycled each year, this means millions of tons of space in landfills are saved.

This excerpt was found at http://greenliving.about.com/od/recyclingwaste/a/Aluminum-Recycling-Can-Recycling.htm

Kids Corner – Recipe-Eat Green for Earth Day – Spinach & Strawberry Salad

Ingredients

- 1 lb. strawberries
- 3 tbsp. lime juice
- 2 tsp. honey
- 1 tsp. olive oil
- Salt and pepper
- 1 container baby spinach
- 10 oz. chicken breast meat
- 0.75 c. walnuts

Directions

- In blender, puree 3/4 cup strawberries with lime juice, honey, oil, 1/4 teaspoon salt, and 1/8 teaspoon freshly ground black pepper. Transfer dressing to large serving bowl.
- To bowl with dressing, add spinach, chicken, and remaining strawberries; toss to coat. Sprinkle salad with walnuts to serve.

This recipe was found at http://www.delish.com/cooking/recipe-ideas/recipes/a30197/spinach-strawberry-salad-recipe/

Mission Statement

The purpose of the Grundy County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) is to construct and carry out a complete soil and water conservation program on all lands within Grundy County, Missouri. The district supervisors will work with all individuals, organizations and agencies interested in saving, maintaining and improving soil and water resources within the district.

Non-Discrimination Statement

"The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination against its customers. If you believe you experienced discrimination when obtaining services from USDA, participating in a USDA program, or participating in a program that receives financial assistance from USDA, you may file a complaint with USDA. Information about how to file a discrimination complaint is available from the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights. USDA prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex (including gender identity and expression), marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, political beliefs, genetic information, reprisal, or because all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) To file a complaint of discrimination, complete, sign and mail a program discrimination complaint form, available at any USDA office location or online at www.ascr.usda.gov, or write to USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410 or call toll free (866) 632-9992 (voice) to obtain additional information, the appropriate office or to request documents. Individuals who are dear, hard of hearing, or have speech disabilities may contact USDA through the Federal Relay service at (800) 877-8339 or (800) 845-6136 (in Spanish). USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD)."

2015 Upcoming Events

Holiday Closings

May

25th – Memorial Day

EVENTS

April 2nd
Mid-Mo WIA Conference
California, Mo

April 9th
Water Festival Barton Campus Trenton, Mo

April 17th
Mercer County Open House Princeton, Mo

April 20th
Poster Contest Entry deadline

May 1st
State Envirothon Competition

June 30th
End of fiscal year

SWCD Board Meetings

April 20th – 9:00am
May 18th – 9:00am
June 15th – 9:00am

Board Meetings are held at the USDA Service Center
3415 Oklahoma Avenue

All meetings are open to the public with the exception of executive sessions. If you wish to be on the agenda please notify the District

conserving natural resources
for our future

Happy Holidays to you from the Staff!

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