Grundy County Conservation Connection

April 2016 – June 2016 Volume 8 Issue 4

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

49 Years of the Grundy County Soil & Water Conservation District

We had a lovely day for our Annual Appreciation Luncheon at Barton Campus. John Rice, Board Treasurer gave the blessing for the great meal provided by Hy-Vee Trenton. Kelly cooked tenderloins on site.

At Noon Kendall Foster, Board Chair, presented a plaque to the 2016 Cooperator of the Year to Galen & Linda Lowrey.

Scott McClure, NRCS District Conservationist, presented a plaque to the 2016 Soil Health Steward of the Year to Brad & Amanda Wilford.

At the close of the day names were drawn for free equipment rentals and door prizes. The one day free equipment rentals were: Brad Wilford – Cultipacker, Randy Horton – Mulcher, Joe Axtell – Harrow, John Dolan – Tractor, Phillip Thomas – 6yd Scraper.

Names drawn for door prizes were: Ball Caps – Amanda Wilford, Richard Morris, John Urich & Linda Urich; Penetrating Oil – Scott Myers, Window Cleaner – Mike Johnson, Missouri Wild Flowers Book – Carol Thomas, Birds in Missouri – Jim Whorton, Ratchet & Socket Set – Ben Thomas, Hand Cleaning Shop Towels – Hank Bland and Home Décor – Angie Lowrey.

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2016 Cooperator of the Year

Photo Courtesy of Diane Lowrey, Trenton Republican Times

Galen and Linda Lowrey moved south of Laredo from Mercer County in the Spring of 1964, when they purchased their first farm. They are the parents of three sons; David, Duane and Stephen, nine grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

Using rotational grazing, they backgrounded heifers purchasing them at 350 wt and selling them around 750 wt. They row crop with corn, soybeans and wheat, using no till planting on the contour and crop rotation.

They have installed 19,900 feet of terraces with 17,928 feet of tile, including non-cost share, since 2012. The Lowrey's retired in 2014 and their sons and grandsons are carrying on the family traditions of cattle and row crop rotation, contour farming, conservation cover, pasture hayland seeding and structures.

The Lowrey's say Thank You to the staff of the Grundy County Soil and Water Conservation District, NRCS, FSA for all their help through the years and thank you for this award.

2016 Soil Health Steward of the Year

Photo Courtesy of Diane Lowrey, Trenton Republican Times

This year the Grundy Co. Soil & Water Conservation District Board decided to begin recognizing farmers who focus on improving the health of their soils, in order to ensure long-term sustainability and production.

This year's Soil Health Award goes to Brad & Amanda Wilford.

On their farm, Brad & Amanda have combined the use of cover crops, no-till, and crop rotation, to help improve soil structure and biology, and increase soil carbon content and organic matter. These methods also increase water infiltration, which decreases runoff and erosion and helps keep nutrients from leaving the fields. When combined, these practices help ensure long-term sustainability of crop production.

Because of their efforts to improve the soils, the Board is pleased to present the 2016 Grundy County Soil Health Award to Brad & Amanda Wilford.

MDC News

Pesky Pond Plants??

With summer a few short weeks away there are a few things we can always be certain of; baseball games, homemade ice cream, county fairs and an increase in pond plant vegetation. Unwanted aquatic plants are the primary pond maintenance problem in Missouri. When water temperatures increase pond plants begin to thrive and become an annoyance.

The first step is to determine if you really have a true problem. A healthy pond will have between 10 and 20 percent of the bottom or surface occupied by aquatic plants. Plants help keep the water oxygenated, provide food and cover and protect the shoreline. If good fishing is a priority in your pond then you will want to properly manage the vegetation! On the other hand, when the plants begin to interfere with uses such as swimming, boating, fishing, irrigation or livestock watering then control may be necessary.

The next step is to correctly identify the nuisance plant. This will help decide which control method will be most effective. The Missouri Department of Conservation has a publication titled Nuisance Aquatic Plants in Missouri Ponds and Lakes that identifies 12 common pond plants that are most likely to become a nuisance. But remember, just because they are present doesn't mean they are causing problems.

This publication is available free of charge at most MDC office locations or you can download a publication request form off the Department website, www.mdc.mo.gov just type the word publications in the search box.

If you need further assistance contact your local Missouri Dept. of Conservation Private Land Conservationist or Fisheries Biologist.

MDC News

Getting Geared Up for Food Plot Planting

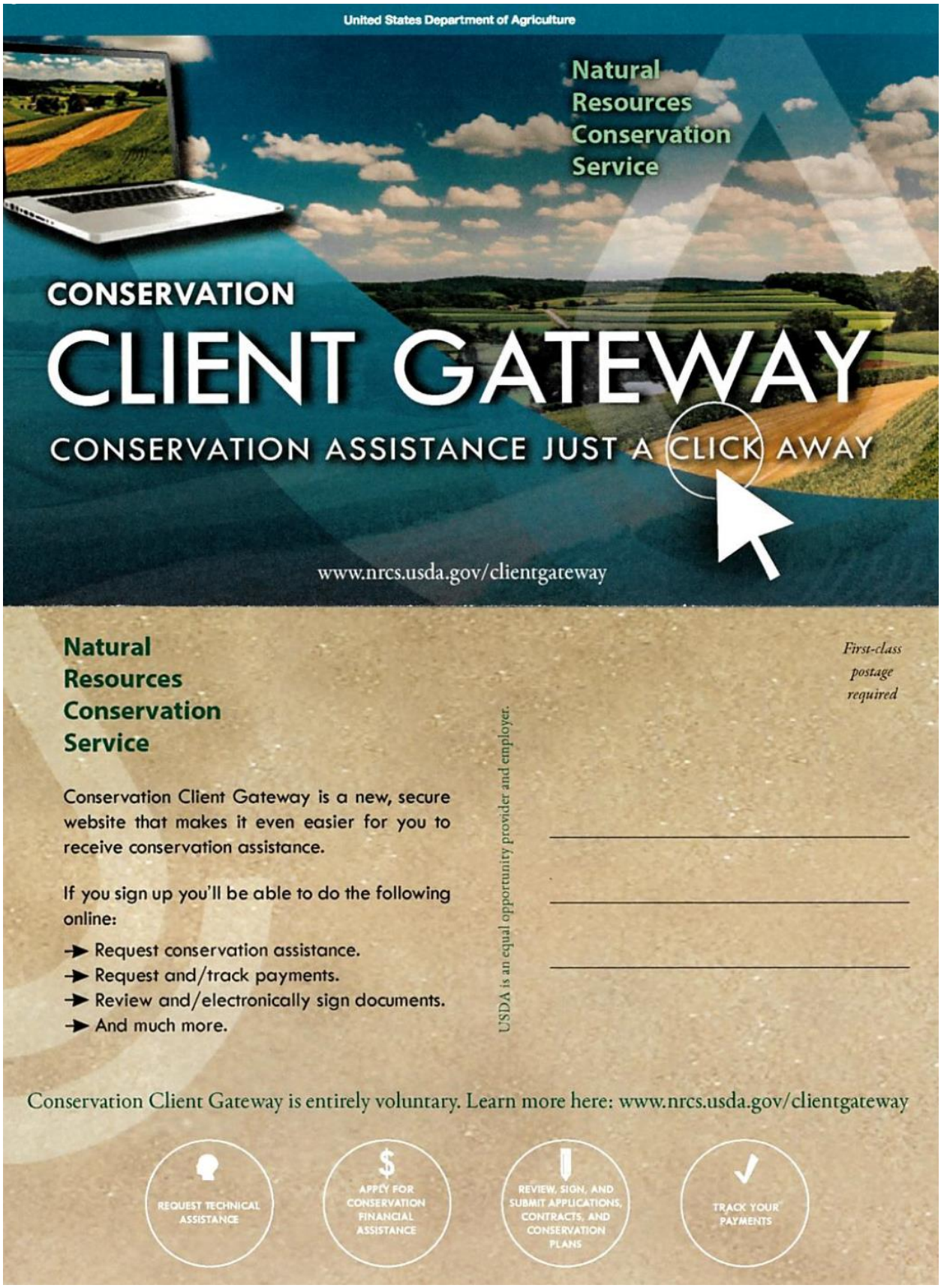
With the promise of spring just around the corner many farmers are making preparations to plant their crops. Likewise, landowners who plant food plots for wildlife on their farms need to be making preparations. There are several things to consider before planting a food plot. These include location, size and program guidelines if the food plot will be located in a CRP field.

When selecting a site for your food plot try to locate it in close proximity to cover and away from roads or high traffic areas so animals will feel secure coming and going to feed. Ideal locations are next to draws or timbered ditches, along the edge of wooded areas or tucked back in the corners or coves found within many fields. If you are planting a food plot on a hillside be sure to do so on the contour in order to keep erosion to a minimum.

In today's society we easily fall victim to the "bigger is better" philosophy. Many landowners have great aspirations of planting acres of food plots, but the reality is that's a lot of work with small equipment and you don't need to put every deer, turkey, quail and squirrel on your farm on full feed. The idea is to provide a supplemental food source when things get lean. Instead of planting one big acre food plot, plant 4 quarter acre food plots in long narrow strips 50 ft. by 220 ft. in 4 different locations on your farm.

If you will be planting your food plots on land that is in the CRP program and food plots were not part of your original plan you will need to visit your local NRCS office to have a plan developed. There are certain guidelines and regulations that must be followed when planting a food plot in CRP fields. If you are unclear on these visit the Farm Service Agency for details or contact your local MDC Private Land Conservationist.

Client Gateway



The Parks, Soils and Water Sales Tax

The Parks, Soils and Water Sales Tax

BEFORE THE PARKS, SOILS AND WATER SALES TAX

• In the 1930s, Americans realized how devastating soil erosion could be as the Dust Bowl swept across the nation, relocating an estimated 300 million tons of soil. Missouri had the highest rate of erosion in the nation, which led to the creation of the Missouri Soil and Water Conservation Districts in 1943.

• In 1982, Missouri was losing soil at a rate of 10.8 tons per acre each year on cultivated cropland.

SOIL EROSION IN MISSOURI

• Due to the efforts of the Missouri Soil and Water Conservation Program, Missouri has saved more than 177 million tons of soil over the past 30 years.

• Of Missouri's 44.6 million acres of land, 14.8 million are considered cropland. With almost half of Missouri's cropland soil classified as highly erodible, controlling and minimizing erosion is a significant challenge for Missouri's farmers.

• Erosion can cause problems by washing away the productive topsoil, which adversely affects local and national food supplies and economies.

• Soil erosion caused by stormwater runoff carries fertilizers away from the fields and into the waterways. The soil entering the waterway can cause water quality problems that continue far downstream.

• Eroded soil settling along the shores and beds of streams, lakes and rivers can lead to the destruction of valuable aquatic habitat such as fish spawning areas.

• Soil and contaminated water entering drinking water supply systems each year can increase water treatment costs, which raises utility bills for Missouri households.

• Revenues from the Parks, Soils and Water Sales Tax have resulted in Missouri having the greatest soil erosion reduction rate of any other state with more than 10 million acres of cultivated cropland.

HOW WE HELP

• The Department of Natural Resources has provided over $660 million to Missouri agricultural landowners to implement more than 220,000 conservation practices using revenues from the Parks, Soils and Water Sales Tax.

• **Grants to Districts:** Each of the 114 soil and water conservation districts in Missouri receive district grants. These grants are used by local district boards to fund technical assistance for landowners and provide information and educational programs.

• **Cost-Share Program:** This program shares the cost of implementing conservation practices between the state and landowners. It provides partial reimbursement of the cost for the installation of soil and water conservation practices that prevent or control excessive erosion and improve water quality. These practices include buffers, grazing systems, cover crops and sediment basins.

• **Research and Monitoring:** The program provides funding for research and water quality monitoring. These efforts identify new methods for soil and water conservation practices that produce the best results for preventing erosion and protecting water quality.

PUBLIC INPUT

• The Soil and Water Districts Commission holds meetings, usually six times a year, that are open to the public. The commission develops statewide policies in accordance with their Soil and Water District's input and helps local landowners with their soil and water conservation efforts.

• County Soil and Water District Boards usually hold monthly meetings that are open to the public.

Find out more about The Parks, Soils and Water Sales Tax at http://dnr.mo.gov/env/swcp/ or http://swcd.mo.gov/grundy/assistance.htm

Videos can be viewed at:

The Parks, Soils and Water Sales Tax
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Cv5aLxTzqTM&annotation_id=55ffc06e-0000-2a72-b5b3-94eb2c085910&a

Working For You: The Parks, Soils and Water Sales Tax
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J0cm_XzpulA

2016 Northwest Missouri MIG School

Sessions

Cost: $110.00 per person (second person with paid full registration will be an additional $60.00).

Please make checks out to:
Buchanan County SWCD and mail along with this form to:

Buchanan Co SWCD
3915 Oakland Ave, Suite 102
St Joseph, MO 64506

Please confirm:

☐ **June 28-30, 2016**
MU Hundley Whaley Ext Center
1109 S. Birch St
Albany, Missouri 64402

Please identify the type of livestock you currently manage or intend to manage:

_____

_____

Number of people attending :_____

Name(s):

_____

_____

Mailing Address:

_____

_____

_____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

Amount Paid $_____

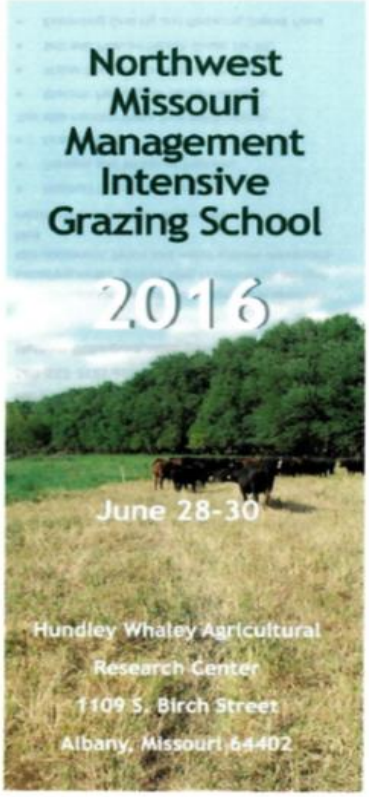
Management Intensive Grazing Schools are presented by:

NRCS Natural Resources Conservation Service
United States Department of Agriculture

UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI Extension

Missouri Forage and Grassland Council

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is *An Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer*



What is a Management Intensive Grazing System?

Management intensive grazing (also known as rotational grazing management) is a system where grazing is managed for both the benefit of the livestock and forage. Livestock graze in each pasture long enough to harvest the forage, but are removed before too much leaf area is consumed. A basic system may have 4 or 5 pastures while a more management intensive system will have 8 to 10 pastures.

Why should I attend this school?

The single most important management factor in determining the profitability of a livestock operation is keeping feed cost low. So why buy it when you can grow high quality feed yourself through a management intensive grazing (MIG) system?

Cost control, not the amount of production, separates profitable from unprofitable operations. Through a MIG system you can keep your cost down and production in most cases will increase, all while helping out the environment.

In addition to profits to your pocket book and the environment you may be eligible to receive costs share to help establish your MIG system. Check with your local SWCD or NRCS office for further information on assistance.

The Northwest Missouri Grazing school will feature information on these topics:

- Inventorying Farm Resources
- Soils and Topology
- Plant Growth and Species
- Grazing Basics
- Livestock Water
- Extending the Grazing Season
- Fencing
- Forage Quality Discussion
- Economics of Grazing
- Layout and Design of a MIG System
- Meeting Nutritional needs of Livestock with Pasture
- Pasture Fertility
- Forage Estimates
- Grazing Heights
- Matching Livestock with Forage Resources
- Farm Visits (onsite functioning MIG systems)

Northwest Missouri Grazing School 2016

The grazing school will be held at the following times:

June 28-30

8:30 am start time ending approximately at 4:00 pm on all 3 days

A receipt for the cost of the school, an agenda, and directions to the school location will be emailed or sent by USPS upon registration.

If you have questions, please contact Nathan Bilke at the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service in Maryville, Missouri. You can reach him at 660-582-7125 ext.3 or you can email at **Nathan.Bilke@mo.usda.gov**

The registration fee covers the costs the seminars including meals, speaker fees, refreshments, on-farm tour equipment, fence and water system demonstration materials and the following references:

- Missouri Grazing Manual
- Forages and Weeds of Pastures
- Grazing stick

You also receive these free publications:

- Electric Fencing for Serious Grazers
- Water Systems for Serious Grazers
- Soil and Pasture Health Guide for MO
- Extending Grazing and Reducing Stored Feed

NRCS Program Focuses on Improving Monarch Butterfly

News

United States Department of Agriculture: Natural Resources Conservation Service
Contact: Curt McDaniel, Assistant State Conservationist for Programs
Phone: 573-876-0909
Date: March 21, 2016

For Immediate Release

NRCS Program Focuses on Improving Monarch Butterfly Habitat

Initial Funding Deadline is May 20 in Missouri

(COLUMBIA, MO) March 21, 2016 -- The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is providing funds across 10 states, including Missouri, for financial and technical assistance through the Monarch Butterfly Habitat Development Project. Missouri farmers, ranchers and landowners can apply for funding for monarch habitat establishment and restoration at local NRCS offices. Applications for the initial round of funding must be submitted by May 20.

"We're excited to be one of the 10 states nationally where funding is available to improve monarch butterfly habitat," NRCS State Conservationist J.R. Flores said. "Monarch butterfly numbers have decreased significantly over the past few years. One of the reasons is a decline in milkweed, the primary plant used by monarchs to lay their eggs. It's our hope that this targeted funding will increase habitat in the monarch migration path and increase the population of this beautiful butterfly."

NRCS and its partners have staff located in NRCS field offices throughout the state who are willing to assist landowners interested in providing habitat for monarchs. NRCS will target Environmental Quality Incentives Program funds to farmers willing to establish monarch-friendly plantings in strategically positioned areas. Practices also include managing those areas by installing fence and by controlling brush and weeds.

For more information, visit the NRCS Missouri website at www.mo.nrcs.usda.gov or contact your local NRCS office.

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Kids Corner – The Monarch Butterfly

"How long does a monarch live?" **"Why do monarchs migrate south?"**

The answers to these two questions go hand-in-hand. Children ask them all the time. Most monarchs live from two to six weeks as an adult butterfly, but the Monarch's migration is the KEY to its yearly life cycle.

The total time frame for one butterfly's life cycle (one generation) is about 6-8 weeks . . . egg, caterpillar, chrysalis, butterfly. It grows inside the egg for about 4 days. It then munches milkweed and grows as a monarch caterpillar (larvae) for about 2 more weeks. The caterpillar's life inside the chrysalis (pupa) lasts about 10 days and its wonderful life as an adult butterfly lasts from 2 - 6 weeks.

February/March - hibernating monarchs in Mexico and southern California reawaken, become active, find a mate, begin the flight northward and lay their eggs. Finally they die. These special monarchs have lived about 4-5 months through the long winter.

March/April -the 1st generation monarchs are born -egg, caterpillar, chrysalis, adult butterfly;

May/June - the 2nd generation is born - egg, caterpillar, chrysalis, adult butterfly;

July/August - the 3rd generation is born - egg, caterpillar, chrysalis, adult butterfly;

Sept/Oct - the 4th generation is born - egg, caterpillar, chrysalis, adult butterfly . . . but THIS generation does not die. It MIGRATES south and lives 6-8 months in Mexico or Southern California. They begin awakening and mating in February/March of the NEXT SPRING, and then lay their eggs! Withered and tattered from their migration and hibernation . . . they finally die.

The cycles goes on as the new baby caterpillars are born each spring and the cycle continues throughout the year into the next spring. MAGICAL and AMAZING!

This excerpt found at: http://www.monarchbutterflyusa.com/Cycle.htm

Kids Corner – Recipe Creamy Strawberry Crepes

Ingredients

- 3 eggs
- ½ cup milk
- ½ cup water
- 3 Tbsp butter, melted
- ¾ cup all-purpose flour
- ½ tsp salt
- 1 (8oz) cream cheese softened
- 1 ¼ cups confectioners' sugar
- 1 Tbsp lemon juice
- 1 tsp lemon zest
- ½ tsp vanilla extract
- 1 cup heavy cream, whipped
- 4 cups sliced strawberries

Directions

- Place the eggs, milk, water, melted butter, flour & salt in the pitcher of a blender; blend until smooth.
- Blend cream cheese, confectioners' sugar, lemon juice, lemon zest & vanilla with mixer until smooth. Gently fold in whipped cream.
- Heat a lightly oiled griddle or non-stick skillet over medium heat. Pour batter (appx 2 tablespoons each crepe), tip and rotate pan to spread batter as thin as possible. Cook until edges set and lightly browned. Do same for other side. Stack crepes on plate & cover with damp towel.
- To serve, fill each crepe wih ¼ cup sliced strawberries & 1/3 cup of the cream cheese filling, roll up & top with small dollop of filling and strawberries.

This recipe was found at http://allrecipes.com/recipe/143886/creamy-strawberry-crepes/print/?recipeType=Recipe&servings=6

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)."

2016 Upcoming Events

Holiday Closings

May

30th – Memorial Day

EVENTS

April 22nd
Mercer County
Open House
First Baptist Church
Princeton

April 28th
Missouri State Envirothon
Location Site released
April 14th

SWCD Board Meetings

April 18th – 9:00am
May 16th – 9:00am
June 20th – 1:00pm

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!

Grundy County SWCD
3415 Oklahoma Avenue
Trenton, Mo 64683

Phone 660-359-2006 x3 E-mail: Heather.Keith@swcd.mo.gov