

# Grundy County Conservation Connection

January 2016 – March 2016

Volume 8 Issue 3

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

## Date Set for 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Customer Appreciation Day

Mark your calendars for Friday, March 11<sup>th</sup> for the 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Customer Appreciation Day.

This year marks 49 years of conservation efforts put forth by the Grundy County Soil & Water Conservation District.

The District hosts an annual appreciation day every March to thank landowners for their conservation efforts, contractors for their work and the partnerships with NRCS and MDC.

As time draws near you can visit the website at

<http://swcd.mo.gov/grundy/2016CustomerAppreciationDay.htm>

## Smithfield – Milan Environmental Team Hosts Environmental Day

The 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Environmental Day was held at a local county school on Thursday, October 22. This yearly event is sponsored by the Smithfield Milan Environmental Team.

The team demonstrates testing of turbidity, dissolved oxygen, temperature and pH from local lake waters. Students are then divided into teams so every student can have hands on experience with the testing.

After completion of testing the students are treated with pizza, pop and chips.

Thank you to the Smithfield Environmental Team for providing an educational experience to these students.

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## Environmental Day Pictures



## NW Regional Envirothon Teams State Bound April 28th

We had a great event at the beautiful Squaw Creek National Wildlife Refuge on Thursday, November 5, 2015 for our NW Regional Competition. Regional Schools/Teams that participated this year was Plattsburg, Norborne A, Norborne B, Maysville, Missouri Academy A, Missouri Academy B, South Nodaway A, South Nodaway B, North Mercer and an Alternate Team. Teams competed in Wildlife, Forestry, Soils, Aquatics, Current Issue and Oral Presentation. A variety of breakfast options started the day, midway thru competition the teams were able to break for Bredeaux Pizza and chips. After the last rotation was completed tests were taken to the scoring room to be graded, components calculated to find the top team in each resource area and the top 3 teams that will advance to State Competition on Thursday, April 28th, 2016.

The top resource scores this year: Forestry – Missouri Academy A and North Mercer (we had a tie), Wildlife – North Mercer, Aquatics – Missouri Academy B, Soils – Missouri Academy A, Current Issue – South Nodaway B and Oral Presentation – Missouri Academy A. Advancing to State: 3<sup>rd</sup> place – North Mercer, 2<sup>nd</sup> place – South Nodaway A and 1<sup>st</sup> place – Missouri Academy A.

Local Soil & Water Conservation Districts that donated and supported this competition were: DeKalb, Grundy, Ray, Nodaway, Daviess, Harrison, Holt & Carroll.

Local Companies/Organizations that donated and supported this competition were: United Cooperatives Inc, Platte-Clay Electric Cooperative Inc and Pepsico – Pepsi Beverages Company.

Special thanks to the Missouri Envirothon for their support.

This year Smithfield - Hog Production Division Missouri sponsored the event with t-shirts for competition day. For this generous support we thank you!

# **Smithfield®**

*Good food. Responsibly®*

**Hog Production Division  
Missouri**

The Envirothon is an amazing program for the youth of our communities. To find out more about the Envirothon you can visit the following links:

Grundy County website <http://www.swcd.mo.gov/grundy/Envirothon.htm>

Missouri State website <http://www.moenvirothon.org>

NCF National website <http://www.envirothon.org>

## Poster Contest and Stewardship Week Theme Revealed



In 1955, the National Association of Conservation Districts began a national program to encourage Americans to focus on stewardship. Stewardship Week is officially celebrated from the last Sunday in April to the first Sunday in May. It is one of the world's largest conservation-related observances.

The program relies on locally-led conservation districts sharing and promoting stewardship and conservation activities. Districts provide conservation and stewardship field days, programs, workshops and additional outreach efforts throughout their community to educate citizens about the need to care for our resources. Many district activities extend beyond the one week observance to include an entire year of outreach.

The Stewardship concept involves personal and social responsibility, including a duty to learn about and improve natural resources as we use them wisely, leaving a rich legacy for future generations.

One definition of Stewardship is "the individual's responsibility to manage his life and property with proper regard to the rights of others." E. William Anderson suggests stewardship "is essentially a synonym for conservation."

Stewardship Week helps to remind us all of the power each person has to conserve natural resources and improve the world. When everyone works together with their local conservation district, that power continuously grows. We have seen these good deeds multiply across the nation's network of conservation districts and the results are spectacular!

*When the land does well for its owner, and the owner does well by his land—when both end up better by reason of their partnership—then we have conservation. - Aldo Leopold*

Stewardship week each year is always the last Sunday in April to the first Sunday in May.

This excerpt found at: <http://www.nacdnet.org/stewardship>

## Welcome Sarah Wheeler, NRCS Staff

Sarah Wheeler joined the NRCS staff October 19, 2015 as a Contract Specialist. Sarah received her bachelor's degree in Biology from Trevecca Nazarene University. She is a former high school science teacher. Sarah resides in Princeton with her husband, Dusty. She is excited to begin working out of the Trenton office for the FOSA area.

## Client Gateway



### Natural Resources Conservation Service

*First-class postage required*

Conservation Client Gateway is a new, secure website that makes it even easier for you to receive conservation assistance.

If you sign up you'll be able to do the following online:

- ➔ Request conservation assistance.
- ➔ Request and/track payments.
- ➔ Review and/electronically sign documents.
- ➔ And much more.

USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

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Conservation Client Gateway is entirely voluntary. Learn more here: [www.nrcs.usda.gov/clientgateway](http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/clientgateway)



## Prescribed Fire Workshop – Mercer County

# Prescribed Fire Workshop

for CRP Grassland & Wildlife Management  
presented by: **the Missouri Department of Conservation**

**Saturday March 26, 2016 9:00 AM**

Lake Paho Conservation Area 15643 Fathom Street, Princeton, MO

**Directions:** From Princeton go 4 miles west on Hwy 136, turn north on Fathom and go 1/8 mile to the Lake Paho Headquarters. From Bethany go 25 miles east on Hwy 136 to Fathom.

### WHAT YOU WILL LEARN

#### Achieving Land Use Objectives with Prescribed Fire

- History of Fire
- Prescribed Fire Benefits and Specific Burn Timing
- Fire Behavior
- Planning a Prescribed Burn

#### Considerations

- Prescribed Fire Scenarios
- Fire Equipment and Utilization
- Fire Safety
- Organizing Burn Teams/Cooperatives

#### Resources

- Equipment
- Burn Plan Assistance

We will begin at 9 AM with a classroom session, a **hands-on** demo burn to follow - weather permitting. Landowners should bring leather gloves and leather boots.

**Pre-registration is required by Monday March 21<sup>st</sup>.**

Contact Scott Roy @ 660/359-5685 ext 114.

Materials, refreshments & lunch will be provided.



## Prescribed Fire Workshop – Livingston County

# Prescribed Fire Workshop

for CRP Grassland & Wildlife Management  
presented by: **MDC Private Land Service**

**Saturday April 2, 2016 9:00 AM**

Carlton House Poosey CA

**Directions:** From Chillicothe travel west on 190 for 9.5 miles; turn north on U hwy. Travel north 4.5 miles; turn east onto county road 510 (LIV 510). Go 1 mile east and turn into driveway on north side. If you make it to the lake you've gone too far.

### WHAT YOU WILL LEARN

#### Achieving Land Use Objectives with Prescribed Fire

- History of Fire
- Prescribed Fire Benefits and Specific Burn Timing
- Fire Behavior
- Planning a Prescribed Burn

#### Considerations

- Prescribed Fire Scenarios
- Fire Equipment and Utilization
- Fire Safety
- Organizing Burn Teams/Cooperatives

#### Resources

- Equipment
- Burn Plan Assistance

We will begin at 9 AM with a classroom session, a **hands-on** demo burn to follow - weather permitting. Landowners should bring leather gloves and leather boots.

**Pre-registration is required by Monday March 28<sup>th</sup>.**

Contact Scott Roy @ 660/359-5685 ext. 114

Materials, refreshments & lunch will be provided.



## 2016 State WIA – Paradise In The Ozarks



**Save the date:  
Paradise In The Ozarks  
Ramada Plaza Hotel – Oasis  
Springfield, MO  
August 29-31**

## 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://swcd.mo.gov/grundy/assistance.htm>

## Cost-Share Report

Cost-Share Report as of 1-21-16

REGULAR COST-SHARE ALLOCATIONS/PRACTICES FY2016			
PRACTICE TYPE	# OF PRACTICES	\$'S OBLIGATED TO DATE	
VEGETATIVE COVER			
TERRACE SYSTEMS	18	\$	206,442.04
PONDS	6	\$	51,060.94
BASINS	2	\$	22,712.24
DIVERSION	1	\$	10,186.65
COVER CROP	12	\$	25,670.00
SPRING DEVELOPMENT	1	\$	981.81
GRAZING MANAGEMENT			
TOTAL \$'S OBLIGATED TO DATE		\$	317,053.68
Report Obligated		\$	317,053.68
MoSWIMS			
Allocation		\$	411,526.34
<b>Unobligated Funds</b>		<b>\$</b>	<b>94,472.66</b>

### FY 2017 Monies to be allocated for Grundy County

Grazing Management	\$ 13,538.00
Sensitive Areas	\$ 1,805.00
Sheet/Rill & Gully Erosion	\$257,645.00

**Total Allocation                      \$272,988.00**

## Kids Corner – Recipe

## Easter Cookies

### Ingredients

- 1 ½ cups butter, softened
- 1 cup powdered sugar
- ¼ teaspoon salt
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 2 ¾ cups all-purpose flour, sifted
- Simple Icing
  - 6 cups powdered sugar
  - 2 tablespoon meringue powder
  - ½ teaspoon lemon juice
  - Food coloring or paste

### Directions

- Beat butter, sugar & salt on medium speed until creamy. Add vanilla; beat until well blended. Gradually add flour, beating on low speed (dough will be soft).
- Divide dough into 2 equal portions, wrap each portion with plastic wrap and flatten into a disc. Chill 2 to 24 hours.
- Preheat oven to 350°. Unwrap 1 dough disc on well-floured surface. Cover with a large piece of plastic wrap and roll to ¼ inch thickness; cut into desired shapes with cookie cutters. Place 1 inch apart on ungreased baking sheet. Chill 15 minutes. Repeat procedure with remaining dough disc.
- Combine strawberry juice, 6 cups water, 1 cup sugar and lemon juice in a large pitcher; still until blended. Chill before serving.
- Bake at 350° for 14 to 17 minutes or until edges are lightly browned. Cook 5 minutes on baking sheet, transfer to wire racks and let cool completely (30 minutes). Decorate cookies with Simple Icing. Let stand 1 hour or until icing is firm.

### Simple Icing Directions:

- Whisk powdered sugar, meringue powder, lemon juice and 6-8 tablespoons water until smooth. Divide mixture into 5-6 small bowls; tint icing in each bowl with desired food coloring. Stir until blended.

**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**

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**2016 Upcoming Events**

**Holiday Closings**

**January**

1<sup>st</sup> – New Year's Day

18<sup>th</sup> – MLK Birthday

**February**

15<sup>th</sup> – President's Day

**EVENTS**

**March 11<sup>th</sup>**

Annual Customer  
Appreciation Day  
Luncheon  
Barton Campus, Trenton

**March 24<sup>th</sup>**

Mid-Mo WIA  
California, Mo

**SWCD Board Meetings**

January 5<sup>th</sup> – 11:00am

February 16<sup>th</sup> – 9:00am

March 11<sup>th</sup> – 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

**Happy Holidays to you  
from the Staff!**



**Happy St. Patrick's Day !**



**Grundy County SWCD**  
3415 Oklahoma Avenue  
Trenton, Mo 64683