

Linn County Soil & Water Conservation District

Conservation Resources

August 2007

*Linn County
Board Members*

- Kenny Walters
Vice Chairman
- Terrill Lane
Treasurer
- Leon McIntyre
Secretary
- Greg Williams
Member

SWCD Staff

- Trevor Stillwell- District
Technician
- Angela Burk-District Clerk

MDC Staff

- Steve Fisher-Private Lands
Conservationist

NRCS Staff

- Joel Grant-Resource
Conservationist
- Bill Siddens- Conservation
Technician

SUPERVISOR ELECTION

There will be a Supervisor Election held Thursday, October 4th, 2007 at the USDA Building (east door) from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm.

The election will be held for Area II which includes the townships of Baker, Grantsville, Enterprise and North Salem and Area IV which includes the townships of Parsons Creek, Jefferson and Brookfield.

The candidates for Area II are Ryan Montgomery and Clarke Burns.

The candidate for Area IV is Brian Brockman. Area IV position is currently held by Kenny Walters. Kenny has decided to not run for an additional term. We want to thank Kenny for the time he has put in for the District the last 8 years.

To be eligible to vote in the election, you must own land that is agriculturally taxed. You will have only 1 vote regardless of how many farms you own. If a farm is owned by a corporation, it may be represented by one vote. If a farm is owned by a partnership, or jointly by husband and wife, the farm may be represented with two votes.

If a farm owner can not personally participate in voting, a Power of Attorney may be given to a tax paying citizen of the county who may represent the owner and cast a vote. A person may only represent one farm owner. If you are representing a farm owner, please be sure to bring a copy of the Power of Attorney to present to the election judges.

CUSTOMER APPRECIATION

Office Hours

Monday-Thursday
7:00 am-4:30 pm

Friday
7:00 am-3:30 pm

Closed 12:00-12:30
daily for lunch

The Linn County Soil and Water Conservation District will be hosting a Customer Appreciation lunch on Thursday, October 4th, 2007. Stop by to cast your vote in the election and then enjoy lunch from 11:00 am to 2:00 pm.

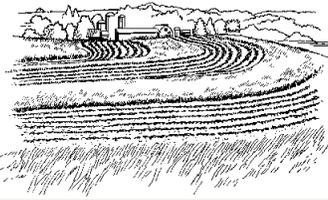
The lunch will be served outside the south side of the USDA building. We will have a tent set up with picnic tables. The menu this year includes BBQ brisket, au gratin potatoes, baked beans and mixed fruit.

This lunch is our way of letting the landowners of Linn County know that we appreciate them.



COST SHARE PROGRAM

The cost share for fiscal year 2007 came to an end in June. The District ended the year spending \$308,670.94 for 55 Linn County landowners to control erosion. There were 2 seeding practices (DSL-1), 8 terrace practices (DSL-44), 41 ponds (DWC-1) and 4 dry structures (DWP-1). We want to thank the contractors and landowners who worked hard to complete practices despite poor weather conditions.



Our 2008 cost share got underway July 1st with an initial allotment of \$279,326. Landowners drawn first in the cost share drawing have been contacted and some have begun their practices. In recent years, Linn County has received additional cost share allocations in late summer. This would enable the District to provide funding to more landowners throughout the year.

ATTENTION LANDOWNERS

Cost Share Maintenance Agreements

Please remember that State Cost Share ponds, terraces and other construction practices carry a 10 year maintenance agreement, while seeding practices have a 5 year agreement. When selling land that has utilized the State Cost Share funding, it is the sellers responsibility to attach the maintenance agreements to

the Deed or have a separate written legal document transferring the maintenance agreement to the new landowner. If this is not done and the new owner fails to properly maintain a practice, the former owner can still be held accountable and may be required to repay cost-share funds.

RENTAL EQUIPMENT

15 ft. John Deere No Till Drill-\$7.50/acre
 10ft John Deere No Till Drill-\$7.00/acre
 Truax Drill- \$7.00/acre
 2 Row No Till Planter-\$50.00/day
 ATV Spreader-\$15.00/day
 ATV Sprayer with Boom-\$15.00/day
 ATV Sprayer- \$10.00/day
 Pull Behind Spreader- \$25.00/day
 10 ft. Brillion Seeder-\$5.00/acre
 24ft Pasture Harrow-\$100.00/day
 Portable Corral-\$100.00/day

Compaction Tester- \$5.00/day
 Pull Behind Sprayer-\$30.00/day
 6ft Rotary Tiller-\$40.00/day
 Ditcher- \$50.00/day
 Blower- \$10.00/day
 Burn Equipment- \$10.00/day
 Blower & Burn Equipment-\$15.00/day
 Root Plow- \$15.00/1st day, \$5.00 each consecutive day
 Big Bale Processor-\$100.00/day in county
 \$150.00/day out of county



Prepare Now for Next Year's hunting season

Steve Fisher, Private Land Conservationist-MDC

With cooling evening temperatures and dove season just around the corner, many of us outdoorsman get excited about the upcoming hunting seasons and the hope for a successful fall. Success is spelled out in different ways according to each person, but for me, a successful hunting season doesn't necessarily mean coming home with meat for the freezer, but seeing lots of game. I like to have plenty of choices when it comes to taking quarry, but most of all I like the feeling that much of my time during the previous year has been well spent. I don't think I'm very different from most hunters.

I work with landowners throughout the year as they strive to improve their hunting experiences in the fall. Year in, year out, the most predominant activity I do (aside from paperwork!) is to assist hunter/landowners who would love to see more game when they are hunting, or see higher quality (bigger) animals. It doesn't matter the species... deer, turkey, quail, fish, the request is the same. And many times, the prescription is the same – plan ahead, prepare equipment and supplies early, be ready for fieldwork when the weather/season is right, and finally, your work is never done!

Just as in farm management for production agriculture, growing wildlife on your farm takes planning, resources, and commitment. To optimize food and habitat for selected game species, certain practices should take place each season or each year, and those things take time. Beneficial management doesn't always involve extra expenses, but maybe a few days in the tractor seat or on an ATV with a sprayer tank. Just before and during fall hunting seasons should be the time of year that you are evaluating this year's management activities, not just starting them! As an example...there isn't much you can do right now to increase the winter survival of your favorite covey of quail (if it wasn't already done last fall and throughout the summer). Wildlife food sources and habitat conditions during the hunting season are shaped by activities which take place several months to many years in advance.

During your hunting trips, keep in mind where animals were seen, what cover types they were using, what food sources they preferred, etc. Take a look at the condition of grasslands, food plots, timber, and shrubby cover....is the grass too thick?...is there any grain on the stems or bare ground in the food plots?...are the shrubs thick enough to discourage a predator but open enough for movement? This will help to shape next years plan, maximize usable habitat for your desired quarry, and ultimately provide the opportunity for you to see more game. Below are some activities to complete this fall in preparation for next year's season.

- Plan next years food plot locations and prescribed burns/fire lines
- Prescribed Burn thick grass stands to increase forbs and open up the stand
- Install fire lines around spring burn fields (or other permanent fire lines)
- Disc strips in grasslands and CRP from October 1-December 1 to provide more broadleaved forbs than spring or summer disking.
- Strip spray grasslands or CRP from October 1-December 1 for similar results as disking
- Spray CSG fields which are going to be converted to NWSG, cropland, or food plots
- Spray and/or disc up field perimeters and edge feather trees into the strip to encourage lower growing shrubby cover
- Perform Timber Stand Improvement during cooler weather – favor lumber quality and wildlife food producing trees

Plan Ahead For CRP Required Management

Joel Grant-Resource Conservationist

If you entered into a CRP contract during Signup 26 (May 2003) or later you are required to complete Mid-Contract Management Practices. The only exceptions to this are contracts that are solely tree practices, grassed waterway practices or CP-21 (grassed filter strips); CP-29 (marginal pasture wildlife habitat buffer); CP-30 (marginal pasture wetland buffer) that are less than 5 acres for the whole contract.

If you want to stay in compliance and not be penalized, you need to plan ahead for the type of management practice you will be doing. You have a choice of three practices: strip disking, prescribed grazing, and chemical application. You need to remember that if the weather doesn't cooperate with your first practice choice, it will be necessary to switch to a second practice with a different application window.

Here are the practices and their application times:

Strip disking –	July 16 th through December 31 st
Prescribed burning –	Cool season grasses / March 15 th through April 30 th Warm season grasses/ July 16 th through March 15 th
Chemical application –	Cool season grasses/ March 15 th through April 30 th Or October 1 st through December 1 st Warm season grasses/ July 16 th through September 15 th

Remember that you are eligible for cost-share on required management practices. Contact FSA prior to starting these practices to apply for this cost-share.

Please Note:

- The only time mowing is allowed under a required management contract is when it is done immediately ahead of the disking or spraying. This means only on the third (1/3) that you are preparing to do in that year. There is no cost-share assistance for this mowing.
- Interseeding legumes after applying the management practice is permitted. Cost-share is available for these seedings. Birdsfoot trefoil, sericia lespedeza, sweet clover, and crown vetch are not permitted legume seedings.

If you have questions about your CRP plan and what is required please contact NRCS at (660)-258-5732.

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To file a complaint of discrimination write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 14th and Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call 202-720-5964 (voice or TDD). USDA is an

East Yellow Creek Watershed District

Jeff Harper-Chairman
Ronald Phillips-Vice Chairman
Bob Rulon-Secretary/Treasurer

Gary Lane-Member
Mike Lauhoff-Member
Sandy Gladbach-Clerk

The East Yellow Creek Watershed District had five sites built in Sullivan County in 2006. In 2007, there are four sites total; three in Sullivan County and one on the Linn and Sullivan County line. We are currently working on sites for the upcoming year.

Are You Being Invaded By Sericea Lespedeza?

Sericea lespedeza is an introduced perennial legume (from Asia). It is common all over Linn County. It has noticeably increased in density on CRP ground. It is very aggressive and will crowd out other forages. *Sericea* is not on the Missouri noxious weed list but it is being considered.

More and more producers are coming in asking about control. Prescribed burning in the spring will not control *Sericea* and may possibly increase it. Mowing will not control *Sericea* but may keep it in check until other control measures are applied. Mowing before it flowers in late June is the preferred method. Chemical control seems to be the most effective method of control. Once again, the best time to spray is in late June before it flowers. Chemical control is expensive and there are only a few choices in herbicides unless you are willing to use a non-selective herbicide and kill all vegetation in the spot where the *Sericea* grows. The problem with using a non-selective herbicide is that it opens the ground up for the *Sericea* seed bank to germinate and you will be spraying it again.



For information on identification and control of *Sericea* contact NRCS at 121 Pershing Road, Brookfield, MO. For information on specific herbicides and rates contact your local Ag chemical dealer.



Linn County Soil & Water Conservation District
121 Pershing Road
Brookfield, MO 64628

