

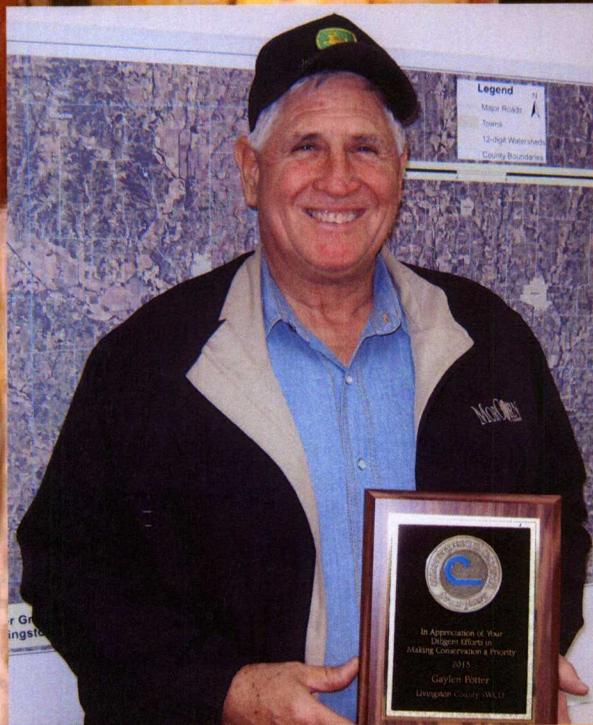
Livingston County

Soil & Water Conservation District

October—December 2013 Newsletter

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

2013 Conservationist of the Year



The 2013 Conservationist of the Year is Gaylen Potter. This award is normally presented at our Annual Meeting but this past year, the award recipient was unavailable at that time so we were not able to announce the award then. As a kid, Gaylen farmed with his dad where he learned the importance of soil conservation. He and his dad started using no-till in 1965 when they bought one of the first no-till planters sold in Chillicothe from Cooke Sales and Service. Gaylen helped his dad build terraces with a carpenter's level and wooden box. The only dirt moving equipment they had at the time was a 2 bottom plow and a small dirt scoop that

his dad built. Most of those terraces are still in use today.

Gaylen and his wife Jennifer currently farm 900 acres of corn and soybeans and use mostly no-till and some very limited tillage only where necessary. They have approximately 8.5 miles of terraces in their operation and continue to add more each year. The conservation practices in use in their operation are no-till, minimum till, terraces with underground outlets, catch basins, waterways, filter strips, cover crops, and crop rotation.

Congratulations to Gaylen and thank you for your cooperation in conserving Livingston County's soil and water!

The NW Regional Envirothon Competition

The Envirothon is a problem-solving, natural resource education program for high school students. In the field, teams of students are challenged to hone critical thinking skills and work as a team. They answer written questions and conduct hands-on investigation of environmental issues in five categories - Soils/Land Use, Aquatic Ecology, Forestry, Wildlife, and Current Environmental Issues. In addition to a written test, the teams also present an oral presentation solving a specific natural resource issue. The top 3 scoring teams of each of the 7 Regions will advance to State Competition. The Envirothon stimulates, reinforces, and enhances students' interest in the environment and our state's natural resources. The top three teams of the regional competitions advance to the state competition held in early May. The winning team represents Missouri at the Canon Envirothon.

This year's Regional Envirothon will be held November 7 at the Missouri Department of Conservation Regional Office in St. Joseph, MO. The NW Regional area encompasses the following 17 counties: Atchison, Holt, Nodaway, Andrew, Buchanan, Worth, Gentry, DeKalb, Clinton, Harrison, Daviess, Caldwell, Ray, Mercer, Grundy, Livingston and Carroll.

The Regional, State and National Envirothon events are sponsored in part by Soil and Water Conservation Districts across the nation.



Livingston County SWCD
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State Cost-Share Assistance Sign-Up

The Livingston County SWCD is currently operating in FY2014 (fiscal year 2014) which runs July 1, 2013—June 30, 2014. Most of the funds for this year are spoken for as we use a continuous sign-up list to administer the state cost-share assistance we receive for the county. ***If you are interested in receiving cost-share assistance, please stop by the office (or you can send your operator) and get your name on our list.*** A landowner may only have his/her name on the list one time for each practice. After you receive cost-share for a practice, you may sign up again. We do not have a specific sign-up period—it is continuous throughout the year.

The sign-up for ponds is also continuous; however, they are evaluated on erosion, feasibility and purpose and then ranked accordingly. Then we develop an approved list from that ranking and work down that list.

Make sure your name is on the sign-up list for the practice that you are interested in!



2014 Stewardship Theme Announced

The National Association of Conservation Districts has announced the 2014 Stewardship theme which will be used for our annual Poster Contest.



To the farmer, soil is where crops grow.

To the engineer, soil is a foundation upon which to build.

To the ecologist, soil supports communities of living things.

To the archaeologist, soil holds clues to past cultures.

To the city dweller, soil nurtures grass and gardens.

To the soil scientist, soil is all of these things.

Soil has been called "the skin of the earth" because it is the thin outermost layer of the Earth's crust.

Like our own skin, we can't live without soil.

Source: Soil Science Society of America

Details about our Poster Contest will be released in January 2014.

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Managing for soil health is one of the easiest and most effective ways for farmers to increase crop productivity and profitability while improving the environment.

Results are often realized immediately, and last well into the future. Using these four basic principles is the key to improving the health of your soil.

1. Keep the soil covered as much as possible
2. Disturb the soil as little as possible
3. Keep plants growing throughout the year to feed the soil
4. Diversify as much as possible using crop rotation and cover crops

www.nrcs.usda.gov

USDA-NRCS SOIL HEALTH INFOGRAPHIC SERIES #002



what's underneath

healthy soil has amazing water-retention capacity.



Every

1%
25,000

increase in organic matter results in as much as

gal of available soil water per acre.

Source: Kansas State Extension Agronomy e-Updates, Number 357, July 6, 2012



Want more soil secrets?
Check out www.nrcs.usda.gov

USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

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Upcoming Events

Holiday Closings

10/14/13 Columbus Day

11/11/13 Veteran's Day

11/28/13 Thanksgiving Day

12/25/13 Christmas Day

Events

11/7/13 NW Regional Envirothon

12/16/13-12/18/13 Soil & Water
Training Conference



Livingston County SWCD

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Questions or Comments?

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