

From the Ground Up



2016 NEMO Soils and Crops Conference

The **Northeast Missouri Soils and Crops Conference**, hosted by the University of Missouri Extension in Marion County, will be of great interest to area agriculture producers. Farmers and Landowners are invited to attend the conference on **February 25th at Hall's Hall in Palmyra, Mo.** Registration will begin at 8:30 a.m. with the first session starting at 9:20 a.m.

The NEMO Soils and Crops Conference is an event that gives producers the opportunity to hear the latest information and ideas from University of Missouri State specialists; allowing them to make pivotal management decisions from research-based data. Kent Shannon, University of Missouri Natural Resource Engineer, will kick off the event with a presentation on UAV's (Drones) as the next high-tech tool for agriculture and beyond. While UAV's are becoming increasingly popular, how they can be legally used in agriculture is still evolving. Kent will discuss current and future regulations and the potential uses for UAV's.

Producers are always looking for new strategies to increase production and cut cost, but figuring out which management strategies to implement can be a challenge. Peter Scharf, University of Missouri Nutrient Management Specialist, will be speaking on nitrogen management, discussing ways producers and Ag retailers can adjust their practices to succeed in wet years. While Greg Luce, University of Missouri Grain Crop Specialist, will discuss considerations for taking yields to the next level. Greg's presentation will include information on variable rate seeding and secondary and micro nutrients; as well as, information on MU's Certified Strip Trial Program.

The conference will wrap up with Dr. Kevin Bradley, University of Missouri State Weed Specialist. With the large number of prevented planting acres and weeds allowed to set seed in 2015, 2016 weed pressure may be unlike anything we've experienced before. This session will begin with an update on the latest label and chemistry changes followed by a discussion on strategies for minimizing the impact of herbicide-resistant weeds and how new-herbicide resistant traits may be integrated into weed management programs.

The conference is sponsored by Crop Production Services, Farmers Cooperative Services, MFA Agri Services, Prairieland FS, Homebank, United State Bank, Exchange Bank, and HNB Bank. A \$10 dollar fee is due at the door to help pay for unfunded costs of the conference. Lunch will be catered by Hall's Hall.

Contact the Marion County Extension Center at (573) 769-2177 to register for the conference or to make arrangements due to a disability.

Welcome New Agronomist at Marion County University Extension

The Marion County SWCD would like to welcome **Wyatt Miller, Agronomy Specialist with the University of Missouri Extension**, headquartered in Marion County. He has been with the University of Missouri Extension since December of 2011. Before coming to Marion County in 2015, he was headquartered in Barton and Ray Counties. Prior to working for MU Extension, Wyatt worked on his family's diversified row crop and livestock operation in Northeast Missouri. He received both his Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Agriculture at Missouri State University in Springfield. Currently he focuses much of his time on agronomic issues such as crop and forage production, plant pathology, entomology, soil science and water quality. Wyatt will serve as the Secretary on the Marion County SWCD Board of Supervisors and is looking forward to working with the county landowners. He can be reached for assistance at 573-769-2177.

Ralls County Area II & Area IV Supervisor Election

By: Martha Briscoe, District Manager

The Ralls County Soil and Water Conservation District will hold an election for one supervisor in Area II, Saverton, Spencer and the east part of Clay Townships; and Area IV, Salt River and the west half of Jasper Townships on Wednesday, March 23, 2016 from 12:00 p.m. until 6:00 p.m. at the NRCS/SWCD office in the USDA Service Center Building, 17623 Hwy 19, New London, MO.

Supervisors manage the administration of District policies, programs, personnel and funds. They serve four (4) year terms. Board meetings are the fourth Monday of each month at 5:00 p.m. Times and dates are subject to change. For additional information on the election, contact the District office at 573-985-8611 Ext. 3.

Any qualifying land representative not nominated by the nominating committee, but residing in an area where an office is expiring, may become a candidate for office and may have their name placed on the ballot if they meet the following qualifications:

1. Being a land representative from the District (10 CSR 70-2.020 IC)
 2. Residing in, or owning a farm in, the territory from which he/she is nominated
 3. Being a cooperator of the District, defined as, "a person who is actively engaged in farming and practices conservation activities related to agriculture"
 4. Being a resident tax-paying citizen of the county for at least two years preceding the election date.
- A. Secure petition with signatures of ten(10) land representatives in the Area where an office term is expiring, stating desire for placing this candidates name on the ballot and
- B. Petition must be submitted to the Ralls County Soil and Water Conservation Board of Supervisors at least ten(10) days before election date listed above.

Ralls SWCD Board of Supervisors meetings are held at 5:00 p.m. the fourth Monday of every month at the USDA office at 17623 Hwy. 19 Suite 3, New London, Missouri. For more information about upcoming meetings and events, call the office at 573-985-8611, Ext 3.

Marion SWCD Board of Supervisors meetings are held at 7:00 p.m. on the first Thursday of every month at the USDA Service Center at 6465 Highway 168 Suite B, Palmyra, Missouri. For more information call 573-769-2235 Ext. 3.

RALLS COUNTY SWCD EQUIPMENT RENTAL RATES

***10 ft Great Plains No-Till Drill**

\$9 acre—\$150 deposit

***7 ft Great Plains No-Till Drill**

\$8 acre—\$150 deposit

\$50 Minimum Charge on Drills

***Vermeer (Big Bale) Straw Mulcher**

\$100 Residential per day

\$175 Commercial— \$200 deposit

***Aer Way- \$2.50 acre- \$150 deposit-**

\$50 Minimum Charge

***Root Plow—\$20 per day—\$75 deposit**

***Burn Equipment \$10 per day- \$50 deposit**

***Seeder \$25 per day—\$50 deposit**

***Tree Planting Bar—No Charge**

One must sign a Rental Agreement and show proof of insurance prior to using the equipment. No delivery or Pick-up service available.

To Schedule call: 573-985-8611 Ext 3.

Do You Have a Current Conservation Plan on Your Land?

Conservation plans are required on all (HEL) Highly Erodible Lands if the landowner wishes to participate in Federal programs. Most farms do have conservation plans but is very important to follow these plans to stay in compliance. Remaining in compliance is necessary in order to be eligible to receive your FSA program benefits as well as maintaining eligibility for crop insurance.

As Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) contracts end and those acreage are not re-enrolled under a new contract, the plans will need to be revised. This will need to be done after the landowner and operator have decided whether the fields will go into pasture or be planted to crops. At this time you will also need to decide which crop rotations and tillable systems you will be planning to use.

During the winter months is a good time to review your conservation plans. Reviewing these plans now would allow adequate time for any necessary changes to be made at the NRCS office before planting season arrives.

MARION SWCD RENTAL EQUIPMENT

***10 ft John Deere No-Till Drill**

- \$9 acre -\$100.00 deposit

***Finn Straw Mulcher**

- \$75 residential per day

- \$100 commercial

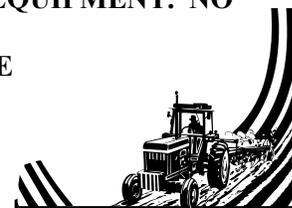
***Root Plow - \$10.00 per day**

*** Burn equipment and Tree Planting Bar**

**YOU MUST SIGN A RENTAL AGREEMENT
PRIOR TO USING THE EQUIPMENT. NO
DELIVERY OR PICKUP
SERVICE IS AVAILABLE**

To Schedule call:

573-769-2235 EXT 3



2016 Mid Mo Soil Health Seminar

March 1st & 2nd, 2016 9:00– 4:00 p.m.

100 Isle of Capri Blvd, Boonville, MO

Day 1: How to improve soil health on row crop operations with a combination of techniques. Jamie Scott, Kosciusko County Indiana farmer will discuss how to use innovative cover crop seeding techniques including aerial seeding to ensure every acre is covered. Gail Fuller, Emporia, Kansas farmer will discuss how to use cover crops, annual forages, and a diverse rotation to build biomass and improve soil health and profit margin. Local farmers will provide information on soil health building techniques that are working in Mid-Missouri area. Presenters include: Pat Oswald, Isaac Christy, Tim Kueckelhan, and Linus Rothermich.

Day 2: How to improve soil health on livestock operations with a combination of techniques. Harry Cope, Truxton Missouri farmer, will discuss how to take boost soil health and the bottom line by taking the feedlot to the field thru grazing grain crops. Jeremia Markway, Miller County Missouri farmer will discuss how to improve soil health and other natural resource by using good grazing management practices. Mark Brownlee, St Clair County Missouri rancher will discuss how to improve your soil and regenerate your farm with intensive grazing management.

The \$15 daily registration fee will cover your lunch, which will be served by the Isle of Capri Hotel. Registration will end when 300 seats are filled for each day or on February 15th, whichever comes first. Your registration will not be secured until payment is received. Participants can register for one day or both. Register at www.midmosoilhealth.com, OR by calling (660)882-5647 Ext 3. A block of rooms will be held at the Isle of Capri Hotel until February 15th. Hotel rooms can be reserved by calling 660-882-

Cover Crop plots at Mark Twain High School

By Lucas Brass, Resource Conservationists\Ralls County

Four different cover crop plots were planted this past fall at Mark Twain High School in Center on September 14th. The plots were discussed at our informational meeting that was held in November at the High School.

The goal of the plots even now is to educate and allow producers to come and look at the different species in the plots as they go through their growth and how they react to the winter weather. Folks can stop by anytime and see or walk through the plots. They are located east of the Baseball Field. Species planted include Cereal Rye, Triticale, Oats, Radish, Turnip, Rape, Col-lards, Winter Peas, Crimson Clover, and Hairy Vetch.



Species were planted to show benefits such as grazing value, residue cover, rooting depth, and winter hardiness. This spring we will try to see if weed pressure is reduced and see if legumes produce nodulation. We look forward to working with Mark Twain High School in the future to try and continue the plots and let area farmers see how cover crops can impact different aspects of row crop farming. NRCS & SWCD personnel hope that these plots can continue to educate producers and create more interest in the county, leading to more cover crops being planted.

For those interested in Cover Crops, the NRCS and SWCD have cost assistance opportunities available. There are both Federal and State funds that operators can stop in and inquire about in order to increase water quality and reduce erosion on their farms. Please call 573-985-8611 ext. 3, or stop by the office to discuss cover crops on your farm.





Soil Health Matters—Waste Not Want Not

As children we are taught not to waste food on our plates. Our mothers told us that there are starving children around the world and our father told us that food was expensive. Our crops are no different.

Across the unplanted acres from 2015 there lies a major input need, FERTILIZER. With the loss in revenue from those acres we find ourselves trying to pinch pennies and recoup our losses through programs like preventive planting insurance. What if there was a way to not only recover some of our input cost but also recover our inputs themselves. With all of the unplanted acres it is a perfect time for cover crops to be added into our rotations.

Now many of you are saying to yourselves that planting a crop that I will not haul to town does not make financial sense and if I plant a cover crop it will use up the fertilizer and it

will be gone anyway. When cover crops are planted there is a return on your investment. Cover crops harvest the nutrients that are leaving the soil and bring them back to the surface. As the cover crop plants decay the nutrients will be released and used by a future crop.

Not only does it help with erosion control and nutrient scavenging, it also improves soil structure, water infiltration, and organic matter in our clay pan soils. Another benefit that is seen by those individuals that plant cover crops is that of weed suppression. If the soil is left bare Mother Nature is going to try and cover it and that will be with weeds.

So you may want to consider cover crops that provide weed suppression. With a cover crop growing on our fields we don't have to worry as much about weeds taking over our fields. Rye is by far the most common but other cover crops would work extremely well when planted in the summer such as oats, millets, sorghum sudan, cowpeas, sunn hemp, crimson clover, oil seed radishes, and forage turnips. Really with open ground in the summer the sky is the limit.

Along with the fertilizer saving and weed suppression we have to look at our challenging spring as a new opportunity; especially for those producers who are already diversified. The cover crops can make for excellent grazing potential through the forage that is produced and then recycled to the soil through livestock. So as we go through another challenging year in agriculture let us look for opportunities to improve the health of our soil for future generations.

2012-2013 Seedling Order Forms Available

George O. White State Forest Nursery, near Licking, offers Missouri residents a variety of seedlings for reforestation, windbreaks, erosion control, as well as wildlife food and cover. For more information or to order trees online, look at the website: www.mdc.mo.gov

April 15, 2016 is the last date for accepting orders for shipment. Orders can be submitted by mail, internet or fax. No phone orders will be accepted. Orders are filled on a first-come, first-served basis until supplies are depleted, and each year many species sell out quickly. To get the plants you want, please send your order as soon as possible.

The Ralls and Marion County NRCS/SWCD office have a limited number of order forms on hand or use the website to place your order.



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Marion County SWCD

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Ralls County SWCD

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