



Soil & Water Times

January 2011

Osage County SWCD

1315 East Main
Linn, MO 65051
573-897-3797 800-811-4649

District Board of Supervisors

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Megan Ordway,

Soil and Water District

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Nancy Kitchen, Clerk

Mo. Dept. of Conservation

Chris McLeland, Private Land Con.
Aaron Holsapple, Forester
Lee Hughes, Wildlife Biologist
Scott Williams, Fisheries Biologist

Calendar of Events

Jan. 26—Board meeting, 8:30 a.m.
Feb. 10—Mid-Mo Forage & Grazing Conf.,
Jefferson City
Feb. 14—Forage & Beef Conference, Cuba
Feb. 21—Holiday, office closed
March 17—Open House & Poster Awards
April 14-15—Rolla Grazing School
May 13-14—Tri County Grazing School, Maries
County, 573-422-3590
June 17-18—Advanced Grazing School,
Wurdack Farm

Office Hours

7:30 a.m.— 4:00 p.m.

FY2012 Cost-Share Allocation—\$134,911

The Soil & Water Commission approved a new allocation for FY2012. Funds are allocated to individual resource concerns based on past expenditures and an annual needs assessment. Several practices, formerly available only in AgNPS watersheds, are now available statewide to address water quality concerns. An additional \$48,000 is available to landowners in the Little Maries Creek Watershed.

Resource Concern & Practices	Allocation
Grazing Management: watering systems, fence, lime, legume overseeding	\$ 31,106
Sensitive Areas: spring development, well decommissioning, stream protection	\$ 11,909
Sheet & Rill / Gully Erosion: pond, diversion, terraces, pasture seedings, legume overseeding, critical area treatment	\$ 76,556
Woodland Erosion: livestock exclusion fencing	\$ 11,340
Nutrient & Pest Management	\$ 4,000
TOTAL REGULAR COST-SHARE	\$134,911
Little Maries Creek AgNPS	\$ 48,000
TOTAL COST-SHARE FUNDS	\$182,911

It is now time to begin planning cost-share practices to be funded during the new fiscal year beginning July 1, 2011. There are minimal waiting lists for most practices. Ponds require a preliminary site evaluation to determine eligibility.

Give us a call to schedule a farm visit. Technicians will help determine if you qualify for a particular practice or discuss which practices might best meet your needs.

Give us a call at 573-897-3797 ext. 3 or drop by the USDA Service Center at 1315 East Main in Linn.

Sign Up Now!



Congratulations, Russ!

On December 30, Russ Titus turned off his computer for the last time and ended his career with the Natural Resources Conservation Service. For the past eight years, Russ has helped landowners in Osage, Maries and Gasconade County address their conservation needs through the many federal and state programs.

He was always willing to share his knowledge and on-the-farm experiences, some successful and some not so successful, to help producers improve their operations. In the office, we knew we could count on Russ to help wherever needed—whether hosting a tour at his place, writing a grant or helping landowners put conservation on the ground.

Russ plans to spend more time with his family, especially his little granddaughter Hailey. He'll also have more time to hunt, fish and fine-tune his grazing system.

A New Face...

Megan Ordway has joined the Natural Resources Conservation Service and will be assisting landowners in Osage, Maries and Gasconade Counties.

Megan is a Cole County native and a recent graduate of Lincoln University. She holds a bachelor of science degree in Agriculture, with an emphasis in Natural Resource Management. During the past two summers, Megan completed internships with the Missouri Department of Conservation, where she worked with invasive species eradication and prairie research. She also worked with Cole County NRCS for a semester.

We look forward to working with Megan as she begins her career with NRCS.



District Landowners Claim \$303,221.39 in FY2010

<u>Regular Cost-Share Funds Installed</u>		<u>Cost-Share</u>
Exclusion Fencing	268 acres	\$ 21,937.44
Seeding Practices	218 acres	\$ 29,467.07
Grazing System	6 acres	\$ 30,724.72
Ponds & Dryholes	6	\$ 57,707.88
Sensitive Area Treatments	2	\$ 14,586.37
TOTAL		\$154,423.48

<u>Big Maries: Lower Watershed</u>		
Exclusion Fencing	70 acres	\$ 10,811.13
Seeding Practices	82 acres	\$ 7,307.18
Grazing System	481 acres	\$ 27,486.99
Sensitive Area Treatments	5	\$ 15,908.05
Nutrient Management	935 acres	\$ 26,229.00
TOTAL		\$ 87,742.35

<u>Little Maries Creek Watershed</u>		
Exclusion Fencing	22 acres	\$ 1,674.22
Seeding Practices	73 acres	\$ 7,557.92
Grazing System	565 acres	\$ 36,353.05
Sensitive Area Treatments	1	\$ 2,276.37
Nutrient Management	494 acres	\$ 13,194.00
TOTAL		\$ 61,055.56

Big Maries: Lower Watershed AgNPS Accomplishments

After seven years, the Big Maries Watershed project is complete. The steering committee, staff, and board members worked together to promote the project and new water quality practices, as well as the traditional soil conservation practices. Grazing schools and field days provided new information and illustrated new technologies and practices.

Landowners received a total of **\$322,584.38** in cost-share funds from the AgNPS SALT program, while additional funding was provided through regular cost-share, the Missouri Department of Conservation, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Conservation Reserve Program and Environmental Quality Incentives Program.

Practice or Activity	Progress
Grassland Establishment: pasture establishment, legume interseeding, critical area	1415.4 ac.
Cropland Conservation: no-till incentive	154.5 ac.
Information/Education: newsletters, workshops, brochures, grazing schools	49 events
Grazing Management: grazing systems	3131.7 ac.
Streambank Stabilization	3,425 ft.
Stream Exclusion/Buffers	89.3 ac.
Meetings/Farm Visits/CNMP's	408
Waste Management: composting facility, waste storage facility	3
Ground Water Quality: spring developments	16
Gully Erosion Control: ponds, dry holes, diversions	16
Nutrient Management	1,931.2 ac.
Waste Hauling	275
Woodlands Exclusion: exclusion fence	78,172 ft.

Tri-County Grazing School

May 12-13, 2011

Maries County

- Required for producers implementing an Intensive Grazing System using district cost-share funds.
- Fees have not yet been determined, but will include materials, snacks and lunch on both days.
- For details and registration information, contact Sandy, Maries SWCD, at 573-422-3342 or Cindy, Osage County SWCD, at 573-897-3797 ext. 3.

On-Farm Energy Audit / Implementation Initiative

The On-Farm Energy Initiative will be extended for producers who are interested in developing and implementing Agricultural Energy Management Plans (EMP). Financial assistance will be provided through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) for on-farm energy audits and to help implement recommendations provided in the audit.

Details were not available at printing. Please contact NRCS at 573-897-3797 ext. 3 for additional information.

Hay Feeding Considerations

Soon, beef producers will begin the winter task of hauling and feeding hay to the cow herd. How and where you feed hay has a dramatic influence on the re-distribution of nutrients around the farm. Viewing hay bales as a source of fertilizer is not normally thought of, but with the price increases in fertilizer the past few years it is a topic worth discussing.

A 1,000 pound bale of hay contains approximately 25 pounds of nitrogen, 7.5 pounds of phosphorus and 22.5 pounds of potassium. At current fertilizer prices, this bale of hay contains a total of \$26.30 worth of N, P and K. Naturally, some of these nutrients will be used by the animal and some of the nitrogen will volatilize and be lost, but approximately \$16.45 worth of fertilizer will be deposited back on the ground by the animal in the form of manure.



There is an age old debate on whether to feed hay in hay rings or to unroll bales in the pasture. There are positives and negatives to both hay feeding methods. Feeding in hay rings does reduce hay waste. Estimates are 8 to 10 percent hay waste with rings versus 15 to 20 percent hay waste by unrolling. So, feeding in hay rings saves about 9 percent of the hay being offered to the animals. If hay costs \$35 per ton, feeding in hay rings saves \$3.15 worth of hay.

Unrolling hay has the advantage of spreading the nutrients contained in the manure more evenly around the farm. It has the disadvantage of more wasted hay and it is not always possible or advisable to drive feeding equipment on pastures or hay fields. For a moment, though, think about the economics of wasted hay versus the fertilizer value of the manure. Is it worth your time and effort to more evenly distribute of \$16.45 worth of fertilizer in the form of manure around your farm compared to losing \$3.15 worth of hay and concentrating those nutrients in small areas on the farm?

If hay is constantly fed in hay rings in one location on the farm, all of the nutrients contained in the hay are transferred from the hay fields to the hay feeding area. This can be avoided by either moving the hay rings around to various locations on the farm or by unrolling hay.

There isn't a definite answer to the debate of feeding in rings vs. unrolling hay. However, consider the fertilizer value contained in hay and ask yourself if you are taking full advantage of that resource. Also consider if a different way of feeding hay is possible on your farm. Being open to alternatives is becoming more and more important to beef cattle producers.
Gene Schmitz, MU Extension Livestock Specialist

Pond Management Workshop

March 29, 2011

6:30p.m.—9:00 p.m.

Fatima High School

TOPICS

Pond site selection Pond construction
Pond stocking Fisheries management
Aquatic vegetation management
Pond watershed management Wildlife

Refreshments Provided

Sponsored by: Mo Department of Conservation, Natural Resources Conservation Service and Osage & Maries Soil & Water Conservation Districts,

RSVP Requested—573-897-3797 ext. 3



MID- MISSOURI GRAZING CONFERENCE

Thursday, February 10, 2011

Capital Plaza Hotel—415 W. McCarty - Jefferson City , MO

8:30 a.m.—Registration and vendor time

9:30 a.m.—Morning break-out sessions begin

12:00 p.m.—Lunch and Keynote Speakers

3:30 p.m.—Adjourn

Breaks and vendor time scheduled throughout the day

Nationally recognized speakers!

Terry Gompert - Grazing & Alternative Forage Systems for Beef Cattle

Dr. Tom Lenz - Impact of Animal Welfare Issues on Livestock Production

Dr. Scott Poock - Handling Calving Difficulties in Beef Cattle

- Value Added Marketing Options for Livestock
- Mob Grazing
- What Beef Producers Can Learn From Grazing Dairy Forage Systems
- Weed & Brush Control w/ Sheep & Goats
- Grazing Wedge Use in Beef Cattle Operations
- Understanding & Using Electric Fencing Materials

Come see the Trade Show beginning at 8:30 a.m.

Advanced registration due by Feb. 4th, 2011: \$40.00 individual or \$60 couple

Late/Door Registration: \$50 individual or \$70 couple

Includes: Meal, Refreshments & Proceedings

To Register, send check to: Cole County SWCD, 1911 Boggs Creek Rd, Jefferson City, MO 65101;

For more information: Call Ed Gillmore or Peggy Lemons at 573-893-5188 ext. 3

USDA Offers Conservation Funding to Organic Producers

Organic Initiative funding is available through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) to assist with planning and implementing conservation practices that address natural resource concerns in ways that are consistent with organic production. Eligible producers include those certified through USDA's National Organic Program, those transitioning to certified organic production and those who meet organic standards but are exempt because their annual organic sales are less than \$5,000.

Interested producers must submit applications through their local NRCS office by March 4, 2011. For more information, contact the Linn USDA office at 573-897-3797 ext. 3 or 800-811-4649.

Forage & Beef Conference

February 14, 2011

1:00 p.m.—8:00 p.m.

Cuba, MO

Knights of Columbus

I-44 East—Hwy. UU Exit

- Genetic Decision for Improved Beef Profits
- Weed & Brush Control
- Producer Panel
- Southern Missouri Forages
- Dinner (included in registration fee)
- Factors that Affect the Profitability of Cow-Calf Operations

\$10 charge per person, payable at door

RSVP by January 31, 2011, to Crawford Co.

SWCD at 800-364-8732 ext. 3 or 573-364-6202 ext. 3

“SPRING”...INTO ACTION!!!!

BEGIN IMPROVING WILDLIFE HABITAT ON YOUR FARM BY CONVERTING FESCUE

Spring has to be my favorite time of year. Migrant song birds are on the return flight north, wildflowers are beginning to show their color, crappie are biting, turkeys are gobbling and... quail are nesting. There are a lot of fun and exciting things we can do to enjoy the outdoors during this time, however we tend to seldom think about bobwhite quail when we are knee deep in the turkey woods.

Tall fescue is a very vigorous, non-native plant that is very common across the state. Fescue provides very little benefit for wildlife. Once established, tall fescue forms a thick sod and shades out other native, wildlife friendly plants. In most cases, fescue is either heavily grazed or hayed, preventing other beneficial plants from becoming established.

Spring is a great time to begin converting your fescue fields into more wildlife-friendly plants such as native warm season grasses and forbs. These plant species provide excellent year-round habitat for quail and many other species of wildlife, including popular game species like wild turkeys and deer. The most common method for converting fescue to other wildlife-friendly plants begins with an initial application of a glyphosate-based herbicide at 2.5qt/acre. Roundup is a common brand name, but there are others available. Make this herbicide application in early April when the temperatures are warm and fescue is actively growing. After the initial treatment and the fescue has turned brown, utilize prescribed fire to remove the dead duff from the field. Within two to four weeks, apply a second treatment of Roundup to the site to remove any residual fescue. At this time, you may seed the site with a wildlife-friendly mix of native warm season grasses or forbs of your choice.

If you follow these simple steps, you will be well on your way to improving the wildlife habitat on your farm. I recommend that you contact your local Missouri Department of Conservation Private Land Conservationist (PLC) before you begin your fescue conversions. A PLC can give technical advice specific to your property and based on your goals and may be able to provide financial assistance to aid you in improving Fish, Forest and Wildlife resources. For more information on converting fescue to wildlife-friendly species or other wildlife habitat or management questions, please contact Chris McLeland, Private Land Conservationist, at 573 897 3797 ext. 116 or email to chris.mcleland@mdc.mo.gov.

Forest Management Opportunities

February 28 & March 7

6:30 p.m.—8:30 p.m.

Linn USDA Service Center

For landowners interested in improving forest health and increasing the productivity of their woodlands for wildlife benefit

Presented by Missouri Department of Conservation

February 28

- Tree species ID
- Site productivity & rate of growth
- Developing a management plan

March 7

- Woodland management vs. forest management
- Achieving the goals of your stewardship plan

To observe the effects of implemented forest management practices, a tour of applied practices will be conducted at Painted Rock Conservation Area at a later date.

RSVP Requested—Call 573-897-3797 Ext. 3

Prescribed Burn Workshops

The Missouri Department of Conservation will conduct prescribed burn workshops during February and March. Contact Chris McLeland at 573-897-3797 ext. 3 for further details.

Funding Available for Nutrient & Pest Management Incentives

The district has received a \$4,000 allocation for nutrient and pest management incentives. The incentives are provided to encourage operators to adopt new management techniques or technologies that will minimize entry of contaminants to ground and surface water. Sign up now as contracts must be approved April 15.

Nutrient Management

The practice may be utilized on pasture or crop ground. Land must be eroding at or below tolerable soils loss level. Nutrient management plans, which are based on soil test recommendations, will be developed for the targeted fields. Nutrients (fertilizer or manure) must then be applied at the recommended rates, at the operator's expense.

Contracts must be approved between January 1-April 15. Payments can be issued after October 31 or after the crop is harvested, whichever date is later.

The incentive payment is \$20 per acre, with a lifetime maximum of \$10,000. An operator may participate, but the landowner must complete a "Landowner Signature Authorization form.

Items needed for contract payment:

- Soil test from approved lab, less that two years old
- Receipts for fertilizers (N, P, & K) and lime indicating quantity and blend, with corresponding field numbers
- Records showing harvest date, yields and nutrient credits, if applicable

Pest Management

A pest management plan will be developed to address weeds, insects or fungus on cropland or grassland. A pesticide application must be planned on the crop/ forage to qualify for the incentive. All acres of the field are eligible when spot treatments are applied to at least 75% of the field.

Contracts must be approved between January 1-April 15, prior to application of any treatments. Payments can be issued after October 31.

The incentive payment is \$10.00 per acre, with a lifetime maximum of \$5,000. An operator may participate, but the landowner must complete a "Landowner Signature Authorization form.

Items needed for contract payment:

- Record of scouting dates and times, treatment application rates, dates and times for each field under contract.
- On cropland, a trained individual must perform the field visits and complete written reports during critical periods. All crop fields must be scouted a minimum of four times
- On grassland, a pest inventory from the previous crop should be available and a pest inventory must be done before and after chemical application
- Receipts for the pesticide applied, with corresponding field numbers listed on the receipt



INTERNATIONAL YEAR
OF FORESTS • 2011

2011 Poster Contest Theme

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Open House

Thursday, March 17, 2011

11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Linn USDA Center

☞ Join us for burgers and drinks ☞

☞ Visit with staff about your conservation needs ☞

Osage County Soil and Water Conservation District

Natural Resources Conservation Service

Farm Service Agency

Missouri Department of Conservation

Join Us!

New Rates for Rental Equipment

>Effective January 1, 2011<

Great Plains No-Till Drills—7 ft.

3 seed boxes: regular, small & warm season grass

Minimum charge—\$90 for 10 acres or less

Each acre over 10 acres @ \$9/ac.

Lagoon pumping equipment

\$300 minimum, up to 8 hrs. use

\$30/hr for hours 9 thru 14

\$20/hr for hours 15 and up

Pit and/or Lagoon Agitator

\$100 minimum for up to 8 hrs. use

Each hour over 8 hours @ \$10/ac.

Signed lease agreement & proof of vehicle insurance must be on file at SWCD before equipment can be rented.

Return Service Requested

Linn, MO 65051

1315 East Main

USDA Service Center

Osage County Soil & Water Conservation District

Non-Profit Org. U.S.
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