



SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT OF PERRY COUNTY

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

AREA 1

Jeff Haertling, Perryville

AREA 2

Steve Huber, Perryville

AREA 3

Willis Koenig, Perryville

AREA 4

Ralph Reisenbichler, Perryville

SECRETARY

Frank Wideman

**Meetings the First
Monday Night
of Each Month**

1003 North Main

547-4077

Extension 3



OUR SOIL★ OUR STRENGTH

NEWSLETTER

Perryville, MO 63775

JANUARY 2011

Vol. 42, No. 4

DISTRICT STAFF

Karen Lukefahr,
District Manager
Lavern Taylor,
District Technician

NRCS STAFF

James Hunt,
District Conservationist
Dana Seibel,
Resource Conservationist

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal or because all or a part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Person with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD). To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410 or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-8382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

ATTENTION: CHANGES TO THE COST-SHARE SIGN-UP

The Perry County Soil and Water Conservation District is announcing some major changes to their sign-up period. In order to better serve the landowners/ operators of Perry County the board has decided to change the sign-up period from June to February 1 – 28, 2011. This SIGN-UP will be for practices that landowners wish to complete after July 1, 2011.

Landowners can come into the office anytime during business hours (7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.) during the month of February. At this time they will draw a number at random for the hat. Whatever that number is will be the number you are on the list. For example, if you draw number "30" then you will listed as that. If you draw "1" then you will be the first to get your practices completed. We will work our way down the list until all funds have been exhausted. You must be an owner or operator to draw a number.

Landowners are still not eligible to receive cost-share in any 2 consecutive years. For example, landowners that received a cost-share payment this fiscal year (July 1, 2010 to June 30, 2011) will not be eligible to receive cost share in fiscal year 2012. These landowners will be eligible again in fiscal 2013. The board decided that with price increases on many components, each landowner will be able to receive up to \$8500.00 for fiscal year 2012.

Be sure to mark your calendar to sign-up anytime between February 1 – 28. If you have the need for an erosion control practice, this year may be the year to get it completed. Remember, erosion control does not cost – it pays. If you have any questions, just call 547-4077 (ext 3) or come by the office at 1003 North Main in Perryville.

Mark your calendar now for the Annual Meeting on March 29, 2011

Best Wishes Dan!

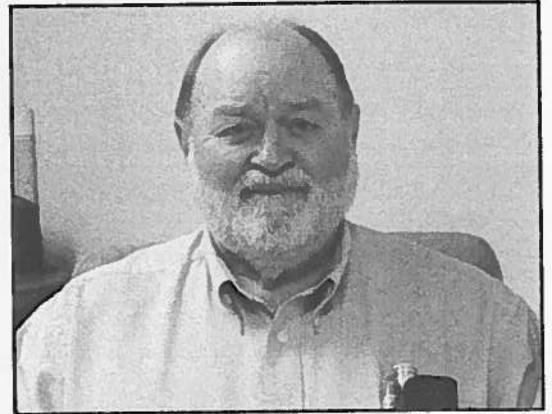
Perry Soil and Water Conservation District Technician, Dan Reed, has decided that 43 years of surveying is enough! Dan has announced that he is going to retire and his last official day of work will be January 7.

Dan started with the Soil Conservation Service (SCS) in December 1967 in Kennett, MO. In September 1970, he transferred to the Perryville Office. After retiring from the Natural Resources Conservation Service (formerly SCS) in April 1994, he returned the next week to work for the Perry Soil and Water Conservation District.

During Dan's 40 years here in Perry County, he has made a tremendous impact on the land. You can see evidence of Dan's work in the fields along most every highway and back road in the county! Most of the farmers in Perry County know Dan and have relied on his advice to help them solve their erosion problems.

Dan has been an advisor to farmers, a mentor and trainer to many co-workers and a cherished member of the Perryville USDA Service Center family. He has graciously agreed to help train his replacement, LaVern Taylor, a day a week after January 7, as needed, or at most until spring!

Although we will miss seeing Dan on a daily basis, we still expect frequent visits. We wish Dan below par golf outings, a not too long honey-do list, and most of all - much health and happiness in his retirement!



New District Technician

The Board of Supervisors has hired Lavern Taylor for the position of District Technician. Lavern was raised on a farm in Nevada, Missouri which is located in Vernon County on the west side of the State. Lavern and her husband Mike own a 113 acre farm in Bollinger County north of Marble Hill. Lavern has been working for the District as the 319 Grant Project Coordinator since 2007. She has a BS in Biology from Central Missouri State and Auburn University and is currently finishing a second MS in Natural Resource Management and Soils from SEMO.



Attention! CSP Deadline – Friday, January 7, 2011

What is CSP? Authorized in the 2008 Farm Bill, CSP is a voluntary program that offers payments (**\$\$\$ per acre**) to producers who exercise good land stewardship and want to improve their conservation performance on their **crop, pasture and/or forest land**. With CSP, producers get credit (**\$\$\$ per acre**) for conservation measures they have already implemented and for new measures they agree to add.

This is the third time this program has been offered in Perry County. Other producers have applied for this program in Perry County and are receiving annual payments per acre on their cropland, pasture and/or woods. Applicants must be listed as “operator” on FSA records. CSP would be a five-year contract. By signing an application, you are not obligated to do anything. **Your only way to see what payment may be available to you is to apply!**

If you are interested in learning more about CSP, please call the NRCS office (547-4077 Ext 3) to schedule an appointment! Again, the deadline to apply is **Friday, January 7, 2011**. Please do not wait until the last minute!



Farming Smart for a Sustainable Future

Increasing profits by improving soil conditions
Part 1 of 4-part Series

With input costs soaring and returns declining, problems on the farm seem to be getting out of hand. The business of farming is very complex and confusing at best. There are ways to reduce your input costs and increase your profits, while at the same time improving your soil conditions, plant and livestock health. It focuses on soil health and is called *biological farming*. It utilizes resources of both science and nature in a superior farming system. It works with natural laws, not against them, which is how things were designed to work. Biological farming improves the environment, reduces erosion, reduces disease and insect pressure, and alters weed pressure, and it accomplishes this while working in harmony with nature.

Let's share some ideas and suggestions for making farming more fun and profitable. Biological farming is a different type of farming – working with nature, feeding soil life, balancing soil minerals and tilling soils with a purpose. One can't credit any one thing for making biological farming successful – it is a whole-farm management system. There is no one right way; this is not an exact science.

No question about it, you can get high yields with lots of commercial fertilizers and synthetic chemicals for weed, insect and disease control. There are, however, some concerns and problems. Is this food production system *safe* and *sustainable*? At best we can only hope we are not creating more problems for the future. We do need to keep production up to help feed the people, however we can do that by working toward elimination of limiting factors to production. Once the soil's chemical (nutrients), physical and biological properties are in balance, you can expect optimum production, even in bad years.

The main objectives are to provide a soil which is well drained, loose and crumbly, with lots of soil life, and mineralized with lots of essential elements. Select the proper sources of materials and manage the excesses as well as the deficiencies. That is what it takes to grow high-yielding, healthy crops/plants of any kind on all soils.

Building healthy mineralized soils takes time. The speed of correction has to do with soil types and present soil conditions.

For most farms, it takes three to five years, which really is a short time considering how long it has taken to get the land in the shape it is now. Observation can clue you in along the way during transformation to healthy soils. Feed quality and insect pressure usually change first.

The six main principles to achieving a balanced soil are:

1. Keep the soil covered by having a plant growing the year round (plant cover crops in the "off-season")
2. Grow as many different species of plants as practical (diversify the crop rotation and cover crops)
3. Manage plant residues (avoid burning)
4. Manage for active biological functions below the soil (earthworms)
5. Disturb the soil as little as possible (avoid excessive tillage)
6. Limit physical, chemical and biological disturbances (tillage, fertilizer, pesticides, overgrazing)

By altering cropping, grazing or pasture maintenance practices, soil health can be restored. By altering management practices and restoring soil health, the use of pesticides, herbicides and fertilizers can be greatly reduced and production yields will maintain if not increase due to a vital nutrient supply from the practice of continually building organic matter. A healthy soil will produce long term consistent yields at a lower cost. The two most powerful things you can do for your soil is to provide a living root the year round and manage for earthworm activity. By diversifying the species of plants growing you can better provide what the soil needs. Alternative practices such as cover crops, interseeding, compost, diverse crop rotation, manure application and reduced or no-tillage farming will all create additional organic matter and stabilize the soil structure for better drainage and improve water holding capacity.

Follow the four-part series for more tips and techniques for managing for improved soil health. NRCS will soon be offering financial assistance directed toward improving soil health. For more information, please contact your local NRCS office at 1003 N Main, Perryville, MO 63775 (Phone: 573-547-4077 Ext 3) or visit us online www.mo.usda.gov.

Helping People Help the Land

An Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer

2 - GREAT PLAINS NO-TILL DRILL

10 ft. - 7 1/2 inch spacing

(will do soybeans, milo, wheat, alfalfa, clover, fescue, orchard grass)

\$8.50 AN ACRE

(\$100.00 Minimum Charge)

or

7 FT. GREAT PLAINS NO-TILL DRILL

with warm-season grass box

\$8.50 AN ACRE

(\$35.00 Minimum Charge)

FINN MULCHER

NEW - TAILGATE MULCHER

Trailer mounted, ideal for yards, conservation practices
and road cuts.

\$75.00 - 1/2 Day • \$100.00 - 1 Day

To schedule call Karen at
Perry County Soil & Water Conservation District
547-4077



from the Perry SWCD and the NRCS Office

PERRY COUNTY
SOIL AND WATER
CONSERVATION DISTRICT
1003 North Main St.
Perryville, MO 63775
(RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED)



NONPROFIT
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERRYVILLE, MO
PERMIT NO. 21