

Pettis County

Soil & Water Conservation District

P E T T I S C O U N T Y S O I L & W A T E R C O N S E R V A T I O N
D I S T R I C T

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**D A T E S T O
R E M E M B E R**

- Office Closed
- Christmas Dec. 24
- New Years Dec. 31
- Martin Luther King Jr.
 Jan. 17
- Washington's Birthday
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Petitions bearing the signatures of 25 persons in each of the remaining 12 townships in support of a public hearing would be necessary. At this public hearing it was decided to send it before the people again in June 1975. The Missouri Soil District Commission then approved the county's decision for a referendum and later the election results. A simple ma-

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Finally, after a lot of work in June of 1975 the voters in the remaining 12 districts, with a vote of 85 to 30, agreed to a county-wide soil conservation district. Thus, encompassing all 17 districts in the county.



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This provision reflected the anxiety of the established agricultural hierarchy that might have been a threat to their power, and was quite understandable. The University had a long and distinguished record of achievement in agriculture -- the oldest experimental plot in the country west of the Mississippi was Sanborn field. So it is not surprising that the College viewed with real alarm the prospect of an influx of "experts" from Washington telling Missourians how to farm.

MISSOURI EROSION

Missouri once held one of the highest rates of erosion in the nation, next only to Tennessee. Missouri was losing an average of an inch off every acre every fifteen years to erosion and in some places an inch every three years. It has been estimated to take 300-500 yrs to replenish an inch of soil per acre under normal conditions. A valuable resource was being depleted that is the foundation of our very existence.

Since that time Missouri has started spending tax dollars to improve the massive erosion problems. In 1984 voters passed a one-tenth of one percent sales tax that has started protecting this valuable resource. A renewal of the tax in 1988, and again in 2006 has brought

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Whatever the causes, the honeymoon was soon over and every weapon in a powerful arsenal was used to prevent the formation of any more Soil Conservation Districts. A few did manage to organize in Missouri, while Districts were sweeping the rest of the farming-ranching nation, but it was pitifully slow progress. The majority of the soil and water conservation districts in Missouri were organized in the 1960's.

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tion somewhat easier, the main improvement is one of attitudes. The make-up of the State Commission by law remains the same, and Extension Directors are still required to serve as secretaries to Boards of Supervisors. Districts are satisfied to have their input.

However, the Executive Secretaries of the State Commission, WERE the Commission as far as the first Missouri supervisors were concerned. They visited each District at least once a year and kept them on the way they should go. They planned and engineered State Annual Meetings and Training Schools and any other statewide functions such as Plowing Matches and Soil Conservation Field Days. They would pinch-hit at a moment's notice as speakers at District Cooperators Meetings.

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Vermeer Bale Processor (Mulcher)
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Root Plow
\$10/day

Burn Equipment
\$25/day

Call Shannon at 660-826-3339 (ext. 3)

*Customer must bring \$100 deposit for all equipment, copy of their vehicle insurance card used for transporting the equipment, and a hitch pin.

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C O S T - S H A R E 2 0 1 1

Pettis County, having obligated 100% of the funding for grazing and over 75% of our allocation to area landowner in gully/sheet & rill erosion were eligible for additional funding. Pettis SWCD received an extra allocation of \$35,000 in Sheet & Rill, and \$15,000 in Grazing from our original allocations of \$287,136.69 in Sheet & Rill and \$6465 in Grazing Mgt. The district has utilized its monies for waterways/terraces but there is still cost share available for grazing systems and well decommissionings. Call the office @ 826-3339.

Heath Creek AgNPS SALT is 20.48% of the total goal. As of Jan. 1, 2010 we are 15.48% ahead of schedule. In 2011 an area of focus that will be highlighted is **pasture management**. These practices include planned grazing systems, use exclusion, and permanent vegetative cover establishment and improvement. If interested contact Shannon @826-3339 ext.3

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Conservation Loan Program

The Farm Service Agency has launched a Conservation loan program that will provide farm operators access to credit to implement conservation techniques that will conserve natural resources. Conservation loan funds can be used to implement conservation practices approved by the NRCS, such as the installation of conservation structures; establishment of forest cover; installation of water conservation measures; establishment of permanent pastures' implementation of manure management' and the adaption of other emerging or existing conservation practices, techniques or technologies. Conservation loans may be obtained as direct loans for a maximum of up to \$300,000. Guaranteed loans can reach a maximum indebtedness of \$1,112,000. Producers are encouraged to apply early so that a loan can be processed and funded in a timely manner. To find out more about FSA loan programs, contact the county office staff. @ (660)826-3339 ext. 2

WELCOME

The Pettis County Service Center would like to welcome David Niebruegge. Dave originates from Illinois, but he's not entirely new to Pettis County. He has worked with Missouri Department of Conservation Forestry Division in the region for the past 11 years. He and his wife Liz live near Clifton City. They are proud parents of a beautiful baby girl, Codee. Dave has taken over the duties of Private Land Conservationist for Pettis and Benton counties. Congratulations & Good Luck! Help us in welcoming Dave by stopping by to say hello.

Take care of the earth and she will take care of you. ~ Author Unknown

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S T R E A M B A N K S T A B I L I Z A T I O N

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Having a good corridor, a buffer of trees along your stream, will slow erosion, provide wildlife habitat, and remove pollutants. A corridor should reflect a variety of species and age structure in both tree and plant life. Many stream stabilizations can be solved simply by planting vegetation along the stream bank to establish a corridor. When planning to plant vegetation it is essential to look at the existing plant community to fit what will be suitable to your specific site. You don't want to bring in any invasives or anything that will not flourish. So take note of what kind of trees are around and try to plant

There are also several options for stabilization of a stream bank that focus on slowing a streams velocity. A cedar tree revetment is one option that involves anchoring large cedar trees in an overlapping matrix. A corridor must be established or already in place for this technique to be effective. The cedar trees will protect the stream while a corridor of trees can be established.

Another option, often used on larger streams, is rock stabilization. Several techniques may be used from creating rock jetties upstream, redirecting the flow, to armoring the bank itself. Although effective these practices our often costly.

All stream bank stabilization projects, except planting trees and vegetation, must be permitted by the US Army Corps of Engineers. For further information feel free to contact our office @ (660)826-3339.



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Sedalia, MO 65301
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Look for us @ www.swcd.mo.gov/pettis

**MERRY CHRISTMAS
&
HAPPY NEW YEAR!**



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