

Pike/Ralls Conservation News

February 2013

Ralls Co. SWCD Staff

Martha Briscoe,
District Manager
Wayne Pickett,
District Technician
Paul Allgood,
District Clerk

NRCS Staff

Gary Noel,
District Conservationist
Tim Zedialis
Soil Cons. Technician
Lucas Brass
Resource Conservationist

MDC Staff

Tim Brooks,
Private Lands
Conservationist



Pike Co. SWCD Staff

Debbie Scherder,
Info/Ed., Dist. Clerk
Zachary Rasche,
District Technician
Liz Harrelson,
District Bookkeeper

NRCS Staff

Gary Noel,
District Conservationist
Mike Pugh,
Soil Cons. Technician
Keith Jackson,
Resource Conservationist

MDC Staff

Tim Brooks,
Private Lands
Conservationist

Pike County SWCD Holds Cost Share Sign-up

The Pike County Soil & Water Conservation District will be conducting a sign-up for state cost-share funds **March 1 - March 31, 2013.**

State cost-share funds are made available to local landowners to address erosion and water quality issues on land being used for agricultural purposes. According to the MO Soil & Water Districts Commission rules for cost-share eligibility (10 CSR70.4.010 (J), a farm is defined as a tract of land 3 acres or more in size, on which agricultural activities are normally performed, or a tract of land of any size from which \$1000 or more of agricultural products are sold in a year.

Each application will be ranked to determine whether it meets state cost-share guidelines, and according to conservation benefits and cost effectiveness. Priority will be given to applications for practices in fields that are planted in wheat or no crop at all. Fields that can be worked in at the beginning of the fiscal year (July 1) will receive higher ranking than those not available until after fall harvest. Funds will be appropriated during the fiscal year 2014 (beginning July 1, 2013), based on the above criteria. The number of ap-

plications approved will be determined by the amount of state funds we receive.

Pike County will be offering cost-share on all of the practices that we have cost-shared on in the past, such as Permanent Vegetative Establishment, Permanent Vegetative Cover Improvement, Terrace Systems, No-Till Systems, Water Impoundment Reservoirs, Sediment Retention Structures, Waterways, Diversions, and Grazing Systems. In addition to these practices, our district will be offering practices that are new to our county. They include Timber Harvest Plans, Restoration of Skid Trails, Field Borders, Nutrient Management, Spring Development, and Well Decommissioning.

Participants in the Cost-Share Program will receive a reimbursement from DNR that amounts to 75% of the state average cost for that particular practice. DNR has a maximum payment allowed for some of the practices. Pike County has a limit of \$15,000 per landowner, per fiscal year for cost-share funding. This policy allows the district to serve more landowners with the annual allocation we receive.

Any practice applied for, but not funded during the next fiscal year, because of low ranking practice or lack of funds, will receive notification of non-approval, and can sign up again the following year.

Funding for the State Cost-Share Program is provided by the one tenth of 1% State Parks and Soils tax.

For a detailed list of district board approved practices, contact the Pike county field office at (573)324-3201 ext. 3. Our hours are 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Mon. through Fri.

RALLS COUNTY COST SHARE DATES

The Ralls County SWCD is offering State Cost Share for conservation practices. Eligible practices are Terraces, Waterways, Diversions, Grazing Systems, No-till Systems, Grass Establishments, Water Impoundment Reservoirs, Water and Erosion Control Structures, Forest Plantation, Use-Exclusion for Livestock. **Sign-up for these practices is November 1, 2013 through November 30, 2013**, at the Ralls USDA Service Center. Priority will be given to ground in wheat or left fallow. Order of allocation is decided by the Ralls SWCD Board of Supervisors. For additional information, call 573-985-8611, ext. 3.

Hunters donating venison to feed hungry people

Share the Harvest WE NEED YOUR HELP!

We Need Sponsors to:

1. Help Raise Money for the Share the Harvest Program
2. Promote Your Organization
3. Tax deductible Sponsorship Panels for the 2013 program are only \$250.00

In 1992, archers in MO began a program to share the deer they harvested with those less fortunate. From that beginning developed a statewide program run by the Conservation Department and the Conservation Federation of MO, called Share The Harvest, providing an easy way for hunters to donate venison to Missourians in need of red meat.

Share The Harvest is a WIN WIN WIN program. Hunters win by helping people in need; cooperating processing plants win by getting positive feedback for their involvement and donations of locker space; and participating organizations win by having a readymade service project for a good cause. The Department of Conservation has yet another tool to use in management of Missouri's valuable deer resource.

The **2012** season was another HUGE SUCCESS. A total of 219 whole deer were donated to the program which resulted in 10,004 pounds of venison that was distributed to food pantries. A **HUGE THANKS** goes to our 3 processors (**Woods Smoked Meats**,

L&M Processing, and Hilty's Custom Butchering) in Pike County. Another **BIG THANK YOU** goes out to all of our **SPONSORS** (most of whom wish to remain anonymous) who donate each year to make this program the BIGGEST and BEST in the State of Missouri.

Ads for the 2013 deer season are being sold on the trailer for **\$250.00** each. This includes the graphics for a sign for each sponsor. The height of each panel is the same – the width may vary a little. Sponsors will be positioned according to which size panel best fits their logo. For more information on donating deer or becoming a sponsor, contact Tim Brooks at 573-470-1258.

USDA is once again assisting Lincoln University with a Minority and Limited Resource Farmer (MLRF) Conference to be held March 14-16, 2013 in Jefferson City. Contact your local USDA Office for information.

GARY NOEL ANNOUNCES RETIREMENT



My career has spanned 34 years of federal service, which includes 4 years in the USAF. I also worked 3 years with the state of Missouri as a soil scientist on the soil surveys for Marion, Ralls and Lewis counties before being employed by USDA NRCS. The NRCS agency motto is "Working with people to help the Land" and I have had a great time doing that and working with so many super people along the way.

I am now looking forward to retirement. My last day on the job will be May 31, 2013. My wife and I plan to take a month and head west to visit our daughters on the west coast and camp along the way in the national parks. After that I am planning on doing some soil consulting work and look into some other opportunities that might arise.

Martha Briscoe Recognized for Length of Service

Martha Briscoe, Manager for the Ralls County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD), received her Length-of-Service-Award for fifteen years of service at Tan-Tar-A Resort.

Briscoe began work as a clerk in September 1997. While being the SWCD clerk, Martha was selected as the state SWCD Clerk-of-the-Year for Area 3, by her peers in 2006 at the state meeting at Tan-Tar-A Resort at the Lake of the Ozark. Martha was selected manager for the SWCD in 2009. She and husband, Jerry, reside in rural New London and have three adult daughters.



Knocking on Wood



Pictured left to right are: Zach Rasche, SWCD; Keith Jackson, NRCS; Izelle Burns, Landowner; Bobby Burns IV; Robert Burns III; and Rick Merritt, President of the Missouri Tree Farm Association

Ever had a hankering to learn about how to improve the odds of seeing a nice deer or turkey in the woods on your farm? Or, have you wondered if there was a way to improve the odds of making some money on the trees on your farm? While some landowners look at the trees on their place as just really tall (and very hard) weeds, proper management of your timber can provide a variety of benefits!

The Pike and Ralls County Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs), Missouri Tree Farm Association, Missouri Department of Conservation and the Natural Resources Conservation Service are sponsoring an all day workshop on woodland management March 16th, beginning at 8:00 am at the Bowling Green high school.

The morning session will feature a number of workshops, with subjects including: managing woodland for wildlife; controlling invasive species; trees and taxes; chainsaw maintenance; timber stand improvement; and woodland hobby crops. Participants will be able to attend up to five

different workshops, and will also have the chance to meet resource professionals that will be on hand for the event.

After lunch, the fun and learning moves down the road to Malinmor Hunt Club near Eolia, for a look in the field at how to implement some of the practices that were discussed in the morning. Among other things, participants can see completed wildlife management practices; learn how to implement timber stand improvement methods; guess the value of different saw logs; see proper tree felling; learn more about chainsaw safety; and watch tree pruning of fruit trees.

The cost of the workshop is free, but registration is required. This workshop was completely full last year, so RSVP quickly to reserve your seat. Because of demand, we ask that only adults that have an interest in woodland management sign up to attend. To register, contact Debbie Scherder, Pike County SWCD office, at 573/324-3201, extension 3; or you can email her at Debbie.scherder@swcd.mo.gov.

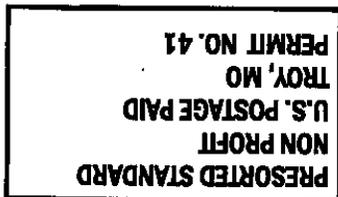
Helping Your Soil Take Cover!

Farmers have a keen appreciation for the value of the soil in their fields. If you'd like to learn more about how to keep it from washing away and in the fields, you may wish to consider attending an upcoming workshop on soil health.

The workshop is being sponsored by the Cooper County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD), and will be held March 7th, at the Isle of Capri Hotel Flamingo Bay Ballroom, 100 Capri Blvd; Boonville, MO. Speakers include Gabe Brown, a nationally known no-tiller who uses cover crops extensively on his North Dakota farmland. David Brandt and Bill Lehmkuhl will also be present to provide practical insights on the use of no-till, the use of cover crops, and other soil health issues.

There is a \$5 registration fee, and you will need to register by February 25th. To register, or to get additional information, contact the Cooper County SWCD office at 660/882-5467, extension 3. Or, you can email Monique.frazier@swcd.mo.gov. Lunch will be provided.





RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED
Troy, MO 63379
116 Frenchman Bluff Road
% Lincoln County SWCD
Pike/Ralls County SWCD

2012-2013 Seedling Order Forms Available

George O. White State Forest Nursery offers Missouri residents a variety of seedling for reforestation, windbreaks, erosion control, as well as wildlife food and cover. For more information or to order trees online, go to the website: www.mdc.mo.gov. April 30, 2013 is the last date for accepting orders. 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 NRCS/SWCD offices have a limited number of order forms on hand, or you can use the website to place your order.

EQUALITY for PEOPLE and PROGRAMS

Title VI and Title VII

Titles VI and VII are part of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and specifically deal with prohibited discrimination practices.

Title VI addresses Program Complaints. A **Program Complaint** is a civil rights complaint about the delivery of US Department of Agriculture (USDA) programs and/or services. The Program Complaint Process is managed and administered by the USDA Office of Civil Rights. All Program Complaints must be filed with the USDA Office of Civil Rights.

Title VII addresses laws prohibiting discrimination in federal employment on the basis of an individual's race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, or disability. Details about the complaint procedure are explained in this document.

NRCS Civil Rights Division

Mission Statement

Ensure compliance with Agency policies for equal employment and programs.

USDA-NRCS Civil Rights Division George Washington Carver Center 5601
Sunnyside Avenue, Rm 1-2130
Beltsville, Maryland 20705-5472
Phone: 301-504-2181
Fax: 301-504-2175
Toll Free: 1-866-NRCS395
(1-866-672-7395)

ATTENTION HISPANIC and WOMEN FARMERS AND RANCHERS

If you, or someone you know, believe the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) has improperly denied you farm loan benefits between 1981 and 2000 because you are Hispanic or female, you may be eligible to apply for compensation.

Claims must be filed between September 24, 2012 and March 25, 2013 to be considered for cash payment or loan forgiveness.

If you think you might be eligible to file a claim, please access the Farmer and Rancher Call Center or Website:

1-888-508-4429 or
www.farmerclaims.gov