

# Reporter

ST. CHARLES COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

## EDUCATION NEWS

### State Envirothon Team Places 5th at International Event

Missouri's 2009 Envirothon team traveled to Asheville, North Carolina during the first week of August and competed with 52 other teams in the Canon Envirothon. **Pembroke Hill High School** took fifth place in the week-long competition, beating out more than 250 other teenagers from across the United States and Canada.

High School students who participate in the Envirothon program compete regionally, statewide, and then at the Canon event. The students from Pembroke High, near Kansas City, was the top Missouri team and represented our state at the Canon Envirothon. All levels of the program focus on five conservation areas (wildlife, forestry, soils, aquatics, and a current issue), and involve written, hands-on and oral testing.

The five students from Pembroke High received scholarship money and Canon camera equipment.

### Commission Approves Grant for Education

Soil and Water Districts across the state have received funds designated for outreach and education. The funds were approved by a vote of the Soil and Water District Commissioners, and were determined by counting the students in each county in grades 3-6 and 9-12. The districts were allocated 25 cents per student with no district receiving less than \$250 and no district receiving more than \$10,000.

The commission approved the following theme for the information/education grant: "Farming, conserving and preserving our resources work hand in hand."

The grant will be used to further the district's outreach among all citizens including students, farmers, landowners and the general public. Workshops, school visits, farm tours, the poster contest and the annual meeting are among the events funded through this grant.

### School Is In Session

If you know a teacher or have a student, help us spread the word that the St. Charles County Soil and Water Conservation District has educational resources for the classroom and can conduct presentations related to soil and water.

## Stelzers recall lifetime of labor, love and laughter

Glennon and Ruth Stelzer, like many a farm couple, have a bushel basket full of stories just waiting to be told. Some serious, some captivating, and many humorous...the tales flow between this couple and it soon becomes evident that a healthy sense of humor can take a lot of credit for their successful relationship.

Some of the gentle teasing evolves from Ruth and Glennon's inability to sit still for long. Some whim, some interest captures them....and they're off. The teasing comes later as Glennon refers to "Ruth's Folly", or Ruth chides back with a story of "Glennon's Folly." It's all in good fun. (More on that later)

Glennon and Ruth are natives of the Matson/Augusta area. Glennon, the son of Emil and Hilda Stelzer, lived his early years in a stone house on the edge of Daniel Boone's original land claim across from the town of Matson. His father bought the property in 1925. Glen recalls that National Geographic came out to their farm years ago to take a picture of his mother and Mrs. Koening in front of the "Judgment Tree", an elm tree used by Daniel Boone to hand out swift punishment upon law-breakers. Today, a marker and young tree grace the spot where the judgment tree once stood.

Ruth was born just down the road in the town of Augusta, across from the Legion Hall. She is the daughter of Oswald and Helene Knoernschild, who farmed both the hill land and bottom ground.

Farm families who farm the bottoms know the surety of seasonal flooding, and Glennon said they experienced flooding nearly every year in the 40s. When he was unable to work his father's farm, he would travel to Oklahoma and spend the summer working on his uncle's farm.

But bottomland farmers are a tough breed and often have to put caution aside, say a few prayers, and plan for a better future. That's what Glennon and his dad were doing when all their money was put into a new tractor, seed and other necessities in the late 1940s. Then came the 1951 flood.

"The flood was devastating. We lost a lot and I didn't know what I was going to do," Glennon recalled. "and then I was drafted. It may have saved my soul."

He was away from home for two years, and when he returned, his brother was working the family farm. Glennon decided that he'd better get a job and start earning an income off the farm, so he took a job at the St. Louis Water Company. He worked there for 22 years, but never really got too farm from farming.

Meanwhile Ruth was growing into the pretty young woman that would capture Glennon's fancy. She graduated high school and went to Northeast Missouri State College while Glennon was in the service. She completed a degree in social science in just three years, and devel-



oped a goal to be a high school teacher.

"I was offered a job in northern Missouri, and that was one of the few times that I decided to call home for advice," Ruth said.

After speaking with her mother, Ruth decided to stay in school and get 10 extra hours toward her master's degree. She returned home and soon took a job teaching at Pattonville.

Finally both Ruth and Glennon found themselves back in the Augusta area. They were married in 1955 and moved to St. Charles while Ruth taught and Glennon worked at the water company.

"Whenever it rained, Glennon would be off work. He always wanted to go back to the farm," Ruth said. And deep down, Ruth too was being called back to the rich soil of the bottoms and beautiful rolling foliage of the hills.

"When we were married, I told him that I would never live in the bottoms. Flooding over and over was just too much for me."

So the couple bought the place where they currently live.....a beautiful spot atop a hill just past Augusta, with a picture post-card view. They lived in the old house that already stood on the property until they could build their own home. Doing most of the work themselves, the project took two years between 1957 and 1959.....coincidentally just in time for the birth of their first child, a son named Lyndon.

Glennon maintained his own herd of cattle through the years that he'd been in the service or away from home, and now the couple moved the cattle to the current home site. The family also raised pigs, chicken and sheep, and planted corn, wheat and hay on the

[See Stelzers, pg. 3](#)

## Application Process Begins for Conservation Stewardship Program

Missouri farmers may begin applying for benefits under the new Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP), the USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) announced.

Renee Cook, district conservationist, says that while the program is available on a continuous basis, the first cutoff for ranking purposes is September 30. Farmers who think they may be eligible for CSP benefits should begin the application process. The next ranking cutoff will be mid January 2010.

CSP is a voluntary conservation program designed to encourage agricultural and forestry producers to adopt additional conservation practices and improve, maintain and amange existing ones.

To apply for CSP, individual farm operators, legal entities and Indian tribes are asked to use a self-screening checklist to determine whether the program is suitable for them or their operations. The checklist is available online and at NRCA field offices.

### Attend a CSP Meeting

Wednesday, September 23,  
at 7:30 a.m., at the University of Missouri Extension, 260 Brown Rd., St. Peters.  
Wednesday, September 23,  
at the St. Louis County Library, Bridgeton Trails Branch, 3455 McKelvey Rd.  
Thursday, September 24 at 8:00 a.m., at University of Missouri Extension in Troy, 880 West College Street.

Applicants must meet several requirements to obtain a CSP contract, including: being listed as the operator or owner/operator in the USDA Farm Service Agency farm records management system for the operation being offered for enrollment; documenting that they control the land for

the term of the 5 year contract and include all eligible land in their entire operation in that contract; complying with highly erodible land and wetland conservation provisions; and complying with Adjusted Gross Income provisions. If there is land in an operation that farm operators do not obtain written documentation of control of the land from the owner, it can be excluded from the contract.

Eligible lands include cropland, grassland, prairie, improved pastureland, rangeland and nonindustrial private forestland. Land enrolled in the Conservation Security Program, Conservation Reserve Program, Grasslands Reserve Program and Wetlands Reserve Program is not eligible for the Conservation Stewardship Pro-

[See CSP, pg. 2](#)



## New CED Hired to Replace Mulherin

The USDA Farm Service Agency has hired Connie Gibson to fill the position vacated by Brian Mulherin (pictured at right), who recently accepted a position with the Ralls County FSA as County Executive Director for the program.

Connie Gibson served as a program technician in Lincoln County for 23 years, and has spent the last two years as a CED (county executive director) in Cooper County. She brings experience and enthusiasm with her to her new position in the St. Peters USDA/FSA office.

Brian worked at the St. Peters office for more than five years, and was in frequent contact with many St. Charles and St. Louis County farmers and landowners. He will continue to serve landowners in Ralls County.



CSP, from pg. 1

gram and may be excluded from the contract.

Informational meetings will be held Wednesday, September 23, 2009, at 7:30 a.m., at the University of Missouri Extension, 260 Brown Rd., St. Peters, Mo. 63376, and at the St. Louis County Library, Bridgeton Trails Branch, 3455 McKelvey ; and Thursday, September 24 at 8:00 a.m., at University of Missouri Extension in Troy, 880 West College Street.

For more information contact your local NRCS office in St. Peters at (636) 922-2833, ext. 3, and in Troy at (636) 528-4877, ext. 3., or visit <http://www.mo.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/CSP/csp.html>.

## Liming Reports Released

The Missouri Agricultural Liming Materials Report for January 1 to June 30, 2009, has been published by the University of Missouri Agricultural Experiment Station.

There were 687 official samples collected in this period. All samples are analyzed to determine fineness of grind, calcium carbonate equivalent (CCE), and magnesium content. Effective neutralizing material and effective magnesium are calculated from this information, as prescribed by Rule, for each dry sample which meets the minimum specifications of at least 90% passing a U.S. No. 8 sieve and minimum 65% CCE. Products not meeting the minimum specifications cannot be sold as agricultural liming materials.

A report can be viewed in the St. Peters USDA center offices at 160 St. Peters Centre Blvd, St. Peters Mo., or online at <http://aes.missouri.edu/pfcs/aglime/index.stm>.

Many fertilizer dealers have pelletized lime available, but the cost is greater than bulk agricultural lime. Pelletized lime meets NRCS standards and specifications, but state cost-share policy will only allow reimbursement at the lower bulk rate.

Lime must be tested and meet the standards of the Agricultural Experiment Station to be eligible for cost-share or sold in Missouri as Agricultural Liming Materials. Planned Seeding worksheets, also known as Agronomy 25 worksheets, specify pounds of ENM (effective neutralizing material) to be applied to vegetative plantings. The worksheet at right will help you calculate ENM to be applied to a field or critical area.

To Find Out How Much Lime You Need to Purchase	
	<b>Total lbs. ENM Required</b> (from JS-Agron-25 or current soil test recommendations)
	<b>ENM Rating</b> (available from limestone supplier)
	Total lbs. ENM Required divided by ENM Rating equals total tons need to purchase
To Find Out If You Purchased Enough for Your Cost-Share Requirements	
	<b>Total Tons Purchased</b>
	<b>ENM Rating</b> (available from limestone supplier)
	Total Tons Purchased multiplied by ENM Rating equals total lbs. ENM purchased
<b>ENM (Effective Neutralizing Material)</b>	

## St. Charles County has Detention Basin Inspection Program

As new residents move into homes in St. Charles County, there are a few things that they may experience that they haven't had to deal with before. They may notice a piece of the property in their neighborhood has no homes and looks "undeveloped", with some sort of hole or structure in place. They have discovered their subdivision's detention basin.

A detention basin is basically a holding tank for the stormwater that falls during a rain or the melt of a snowfall. It primarily performs two tasks. The first and most important task is to slow the amount of stormwater runoff from the entire development or a specific drainage area. The second is to collect trash and debris that accumulates in the storm sewer system within the subdivision.

When the subdivision was proposed to be built, a detailed set of plans had to be designed by a licensed professional engineer. These plans were then submitted to the Division of Plan Review of St. Charles County, and then reviewed by staff engineers specifically trained in the area regarding land development. A specific area of their review involves a study of the stormwater runoff from the site. When a developer submits plans for a subdivision or a commercial development, he is required to do a drainage study for the site and create a method to capture the stormwater, and make sure more water is not running off the site after the development is complete.

For example, if the lot is wooded and 3 buckets of water leave the site after a heavy rain, then after the development is completed with houses, roads and streets, there can be no more than the 3 buckets of water leaving the site. Common sense will tell you that all the concrete and rooftops that come with the new development will cause more water to leave the site. This is where the basin comes into the picture. The designers look at the volume of water that the site will handle and create a basin that will hold the water, after a specific size rain event, to the predevelopment quantities and velocities. So in a nutshell the basin is going to help prevent a large amount of water from inundating the downstream properties. Instead the water is slowly released through the basin structure.

Maintenance of the basin is critical to proper operation. St. Charles County adopted an ordinance which requires that the basins be maintained to the standard that were set when they were constructed. An inspection program was instituted by the county through the Division of Development Review. This division has two inspectors that are designated to investigate stormwater issues throughout the county.

The county requires that every basin within unincorporated boundaries be inspected once every three years. The inspection date is posted at the site of the basin at least seven days before the inspection, and a written notice is sent to the basin owners, usually the subdivision association. The inspector looks at many criteria including length of grass and amount of vegetation, condition of pipes, presence of trash, signs of erosion, and much more.

If the basin passes, a letter of acceptance is sent to the owner. If it fails, the owner will have 20 days to contact the Division of Development Review with a plan of action to correct the problems. Major problems are allowed more time.

Recently, stormwater laws have been drawing more attention due to the desire to make sure creeks, streams and rivers have acceptable water quality. The county encourages low impact development (LID) strategies on new developments. Some LID practices allow water to infiltrate the ground and treat the water as it is soaked through the soil, eliminating much runoff. The county currently has two Bio-swailes installed and are monitoring those to measure the benefits over traditional stormwater control methods. As time goes by, the county plans to develop better design criteria to help protect water quality in St. Charles County

## MASWCD Celebrates 65 Years Will Recognize Past Leaders

Gene Ehlmann and B. H. Feldewert are among more than 30 past presidents of the Missouri Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts who will be recognized at the association's annual meeting banquet in November 2009, at Tan-Tar-A, Lake of the Ozarks.

The MASWCD was formed in 1944 as a non-profit organization following the approval of the State Soil Conservation Act and the organizing of the first soil and water conservation districts in Missouri.

The Dust Bowl was the catalyst behind soil conservation. The biggest of all dust storms arrived on "Black Sunday", April 14, 1935, and stayed for about 50 seconds. This may have been a good thing, for some of the dust blew clear to Washington, D.C. dimming the sun, and helping Hugh Hammond Bennett of the Soil Erosion Service convince President Franklin Roosevelt and Congress that something had to be done on a national scale, and at once.

While the Soil Conservation Act was being debated before a Senate Committee in 1934, Bennett delayed the hearing a day because he was tracking a dust storm moving east from the Southern Plains. When the dust storm arrived, during the hearing, they moved from the great mahogany table to the windows of the Senate Office building for a look. Bennett remarked: "Gentlemen, that is Kansas blowing by". The rest is history.

(Thanks to Peggy Lemons for the history in this piece)

## New Director Appointed to Soil and Water Program

Bryan Hopkins will serve as director of the Department's Soil and Water Conservation Program. Hopkins has a bachelor's degree in ecology and a master's degree in microbiology and has been with the Department of Natural Resources since 2001. He spent 12 years managing environmental studies for industry and served as a college professor on environmental sciences before joining the department. Most recently, he has served as the department's wetland and watershed coordinator and led involvement on Gulf of Mexico hypoxia issues.

## NRCS has New Missouri State Conservationist

J.R. Flores has been selected to serve as the new Missouri State Conservationist for the Natural Resources Conservation Service.

Since March of 2004, he served as the State Conservationist in North Dakota, where he provided leadership to approximately 300 employees and managed an annual budget of \$100 million. In Missouri, he will provide leadership to 400 employees and manage a budget of \$110 million.

As State Conservationist, Flores directs statewide efforts in helping people help the land through locally-led, cooperative conservation programs. He is a strong supporter of partnership efforts, and has said that he looks forward to working with other agencies to further common goals.

"There is too little public recognition of how much we all depend upon farmers as stewards of our soil, water, and wildlife resources..."

**John F. Kennedy**

"A nation deprived of its liberty may win it; a nation divided may reunite, but a nation whose natural resources are destroyed must inevitably pay the penalty of poverty, degradation and decay."

**Gifford Pinchot**

**News**

## Updates to Planned Grazing System Cost-Share Practice

The Soil and Water District Commission recently approved an updated version of the Planned Grazing System Practice DSP-3. The cost-share program for this practice includes five items:

**DSP-3.1 Water Development:** this practice will provide 75% cost-share for components needed to develop a water source with a maximum of \$95 per acre.

**DSP-3.2 Water Distribution:** this practice will provide 75% cost-share for components needed to distribute water throughout a grazing system up to a maximum of \$85 per acre.

**DSP-3.3 Fence:** this practice will provide 75% cost-share for interior fencing components needed to install or intensify a grazing system up to a maximum of \$60 per acre. (Property line perimeter fence and fence along roads or lanes used to travel to a residence are not eligible.)

**DSP-3.4 Lime:** this practice will provide 75% cost-share for a one-time application of limestone according to soil test recommendations up to a maximum of \$50 per acre limed.

**DSP-3.5 Seed:** this practice will provide 75% cost-share for a one-time interseeding of legumes in paddocks within a qualified grazing system up to \$40 per acre seeded.

The purpose of the DSP-3 is to develop rotational grazing on existing pastureland to improve the environment and make the best use of soil and water resources. The landowner must follow an approved grazing system plan based on the NRCS Standard for Prescribed Grazing, Code 528.

Landowners must have an approved grazing plan prior to contract application for DSP-3. In addition, the system manager must have attended an approved grazing school provided by the University of Missouri in conjunction with NRCS, prior to the district submitting the contract for approval.

For more information, contact Charlie Perkins at 636-922-2833, ext. 3.

## Commission Discontinues Loan Interest Share Program

The Soil and Water Conservation Districts Commission decided at the July 29 meeting to discontinue the Loan Interest Share Program due to a steady decrease in landowner participation and a decrease in the interest rates offered. The commission will honor all eligible applicants who have purchased the equipment, secured a loan, and have completed a loan interest share contract prior to October 31, 2009. Payments will be made on a yearly basis for all existing contracts.

## Landowner Assessments help SWCD Plan Programs

The Soil and Water Conservation District has many cost-share practices to offer landowners and farmers in St. Charles County. Last year, a "Needs Assessment" was mailed to farmers in the area, asking for information about the farm and conservation needs on the land. A great response was received, and the SWCD technician is contacting those who expressed a specific cost-share need.

This year, the SWCD will not be mailing a needs assessment, but would like to encourage landowners and farmers to contact the office if they believe there is a practice that will be of benefit to them. Practices include, but are not limited to, grazing systems, waterways, ponds, and terraces.

For more information on available practices, contact Charlie Perkins at 636-922-2833, ext. 3

Stelzers, from pg. 1

hillsides. Glennon put the rest of the land in pasture for the cattle.

When asked about conservation practices, Ruth laughs and says Glennon "ruined it for me", referring to the fact that Glennon's plans for the farm eliminated the traditional "farmer's trash pile" that often filled the eroded ditches. "He patched up all the ditches and left no place for me to dispose of cardboard and old rags."

Other conservation practices employed by the Stelzers over the years include small ponds, a waterway and diversion.

"In the early 70s, I participated in the soil and water practices to help slow the runoff heading to the streams," he said.

But he also managed the land for erosion himself without assistance from the government. "I built a lot of homemade terraces to solve some of my own erosion problems."

And Ruth served a term as a supervisor on the St. Charles County Soil & Water Conservation District. She jokes that she has also helped topromote wildlife diversity on the land by attempting to release pheasants.

"I raised pheasants, and when I decided to stop, I released two males and two females up at the Centralia farm, hoping to help populate the area," she explained. "But I set them down by each other and the males ran off one way and the females ran off the other. I never saw any of them again"

While the couple continued their jobs, he at the water co., and she at this time at Francis Howell, they both put their backs into the farm.

"I never did get her to drive a tractor though," Glennon revealed. "She wouldn't take her hand off her straw hat and you can't handle a tractor very well one-handed."

The couple soon had another child, a daughter named Glenda, who is married to Robert Drier and lives in a home they built on the family's property on Duke Rd., near Matson. Ruth and Glennon's grandchildren are Justin, 21; Geoffrey, 17; and Helena, 14.

Life was good, yet seldom easy. Ruth made an annual salary of about \$2,800 those first years of teaching. And the skyrocketing gas prices of the 70s made life hard for everyone. Glennon was glad to have the water company job. However when Ruth's father passed away in 1976, Glennon decided it was time to leave the water company and put more hours into the farm properties. "Our cattle operation suddenly got a lot bigger," he said.

Glennon and Ruth built their farming career around several pieces of land and as Glennon said, he "always followed the cattle around." Whether it was on his parent's farm, the property on Duke Rd. they inherited from Ruth's parents, or their own piece of land near Augusta, the Stelzers followed the cattle. They expanded their land ownership by being smart and working hard.

"We would save \$5,000 or so, and buy land at around \$300 an acre," he explained. "Then we would farm it or lease it out and use the income to pay off the land. Then we would buy another piece and do it all over again. One place would pay for another."

They currently have 75 acres at their home site, 150 acres of hill ground, some land on Highway T, and more land near Centralia, Mo.

After 1976, the properties and the cattle operation took most of Glennon's time. Then in 1991, he had to have a hip replacement and found himself in a hospital bed with his lovely wife by his side. Somewhat in passing, Glennon remarked that it would be fine with him if the cattle were gone. Ruth seemed to jump through the window Glennon had opened. They knew that their neighbors, the Struckhoffs, were considering closing up a dairy operation and may be interested in buying the Stelzer's cattle.

"OI' faithful Ruth took the guys right in amongst the cattle," Glennon said. "while I was laid up here in the house. Suddenly she came in and said 'I sold the cows'. I just couldn't believe she done it, and I was proud of her."

Today all the land owned by the Stelzers is either farmed by them or leased out.

Now back to Ruth and Glennon's Follies (from second paragraph). You would think that after years of hard work the two would be satisfied managing the acreage they currently have, and living out their years gazing across the beautiful rolling hills that are their neighbors. But no....the bug bit them and Ruth was off on another project — Ruth's Folly as Glennon lovingly teases. In 2003 Ruth decided that she would build another house — this one on the Centralia property. While they hired builders for most of the construction, the strong-willed couple took on the painting and staining themselves.

"I think we smeared on 80 gallons of paint," Ruth revealed. "After staining all the trim, Glennon put it on the walls and around the doors. Not bad for two people in their 60s."

When asked if they get a chance to go out there and enjoy it much, Glennon laughed.

"Oh we go frequently....but mostly we mow. We each have a mower. Oh, and Ruth has some friends. The house is so attractive that we can't keep her friends away," he laughed.

The "friends" he refers to are a hive of honeybees that have set up house under the porch. Seeking advice from the conservation department, Ruth was told to plug up any holes and the bees would die. Glennon suggested using a vacuum and plastic bags....but Ruth has decided to wait until winter and see if she can find and destroy the hive. Anyway....all of that, according to Glennon, is "Ruth's Folly".

Not to be outdone, Ruth chimed in with "Glennon's Folly". "We have a small vegetable garden, and Glennon grew some corn and decided to leave a few plants out to turn to seed. Well, the deer wouldn't leave them alone. He even tried putting jars over the ears, but the jars were too heavy. I finally had to ask him to pull the plants so the deer would stop tramping through my garden."

As the couple reminisced, Glennon reflected on the big picture. "We've come a long ways. You could say we've been lucky, I guess, but we've done a lot of hard work. While we never farmed full-time, we were always working and thinking of ways to buy property and lease it out. It's a lot tougher on young farmers today. Land prices are too expensive, and so is leasing equipment. It's a rough way to make a living."

One more interesting story was told before our interview came to an end. Remember Daniel Boone's judgement tree? Well one of the most fascinating facts about history is that generations of men....century after century....are attracted to build their homes in certain places. The area across from Matson, where Glennon's ancestors made their home, sat atop some of the same stomping grounds of Daniel Boone....but was also the home of much earlier inhabitants. Sometime around 900 AD, another family chose that location for their home. On a sandy ridge bank that must have sat on a sluice of the Missouri River, a native American woman lived, with her dog and possibly many members of her family. The evidence was revealed following the 1993 flood when water scoured the ground and revealed the sandy ridge. Glennon was walking the fields inspecting the damage and the 3-4 feet of sand that had washed across his fields when he came upon a cultivated furrow that had been scoured deeper by the flood. Just under the soil, he saw bone which he soon discovered was a skull. He contacted a close friend, Van Reidhead who was part of the Archeology school at UMSL, who in turn contacted Joe Harl, an area archeologist also from UMSL. A painstakingly detailed dig revealed that the skull and complete skeleton belonged to a woman who had lived there around 900 AD. Glennon said the experts could tell that she was in her 30s when she died and that she had given birth during her lifetime. Further excavation revealed an Indian camp with fire basins, homesites, and even the skeleton of a dog. The site was given the name, The Stelzer Site, and archeology students continue to learn valuable information from the dig.

So whether it was native Americans, early explorers, German immigrants or second and third generation modern farmers like the Stelzers, the beautiful rolling hills and fertile lowlands of southwestern St. Charles County have always attracted the wanderer to put down roots.



# Reporter

ST. CHARLES COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

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## Grazing Tour Held at Kamphoefners

The St. Charles County Soil and Water Conservation District, the St. Louis County Soil and Water Conservation District and the Natural Resources Conservation Service hosted a Prescribed Grazing System Tour at the farm of Paul and Joe Kamphoefner near Defiance. Attendees learned about cost-share opportunities and then walked through the sys-

tem observing fencing techniques, pasture management, water distribution, and forage. Approximately 30 people attended. The Kamphoefners were on hand to answer questions.

Our thanks go out to the Kamphoefners, Wayne Shannon, University of Missouri Extension, and Brad Mueller, contractor and farmer, for presenting at the event.



**St. Charles County  
Soil & Water Conservation District**  
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**Missouri Department of Conservation Personnel**  
Perry Eckhardt, Community Conservationist

The mission of the Soil & Water Conservation District is to conserve the soil and water resources of the county; promote the wise use of these resources through education; protect residents from undue hardship caused by erosion, sedimentation and flooding; protect the agricultural soil base to ensure continued productivity; and preserve the quality of water and water courses within the county.