



Newsletter

Summer 2010

The existence of man depends on six inches of topsoil & the water that falls on it.....Save them

Forage Focus: Make Plans Now For Fall & Winter Pastures



By Melissa White

Although we are still in the middle of summer, now is the time to start planning for those winter feeding months. Economically, the later hay feeding season begins, the better. Fescue can be stockpiled for grazing from December through February. Stockpiled fescue can be over 20% crude protein in Dec. Quality will continue to drop, but even in Feb, will usually still be good enough for a cow in good condition. Plans need to be made by first of Aug to get the pastures in the right condition and practices in place to help ensure good fall forage growth. For fescue, clip or graze the pasture to a 3-4 inch height by Aug 15th, and apply 40-60 lbs actual Nitrogen (N) per acre by first of Sept. Waiting too late, as in Oct, to fertilize for stockpiled fescue can dramatically reduce yield potential. The amount of N applied may be determined by your ability to divide out the pastures for more intensive use. If you have a thinner stand of fescue, you may want to stay on the lower end of N application as to not increase weed pressures. A heavier stand of grass can allow for a higher application of N. If clovers are in the stand, then the N may not be needed or as much. Applying fertilizer in hot weather is not as risky as many may believe. Ammonium nitrate fertilizer is more stable, does not volatilize like the urea nitrate, so there are no losses when applied under most conditions of the late summer. Brush-hogging is okay if the grass is mowed short enough. Typically, the stubble after clipping is left 6-8 in. tall and much of the old summer forage residue is left standing. New stockpiled growth comes up around this old stubble, and in many cases, cattle will refuse the stockpiled forage below the top of the old forage. Let the forage grow until Dec. at least before grazing. By deferring grazing until Jan, the entophyte toxicity will decrease over time. If forage is needed in Dec., you may want to utilize some hay. Allocate enough stockpiled fescue for a 2-3 day grazing period, then rotate. Strip grazing is highly recommended. When cows and calves are constantly being moved, this decreases the time they may otherwise spend in wet or muddy areas as well. Stockpiling fescue makes good practical sense. Add some nitrogen fertilizer; invest in some electric fence to provide a great source of nutritional winter feed for your cattle. Why not feed less hay. When your demand for hay is less, you can bale it earlier, so it will be higher quality and cows will not need supplemental feed. Also, consider your watering sources. Water is frequently the most overlooked and neglected nutrient of the farm. The key to animal health, grazing distribution, and forage management, is a readily available supply of quality water. Livestock should not have to travel more than 600-800 ft to water. Installing grazing systems and managing your forages can stretch limited resources. If you are interested in grazing systems for better management, you may reach us at the Soil & Water office. We can help you build a plan that works for you.

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more information on the disease or you suspect your walnut tree to have the disease, collect a branch 2-4 inches in diameter and 6-12 in long with visible symptoms and contact the local field forester, Robert DeMoss at 417 581-2719 ext 126.

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In the Spotlight



The landowner spotlight this quarter falls on Gary Chastain and his son Bo Chastain. They have just completed an intensive grazing system on a farm west of Crane.

The system included a water well, water distribution to 9 permanent water tanks and electric cross fence further intensifying pasture to 15 paddocks. Part of the overall project included the installation of a two wire hi-tinsel containment fence on both sides of a one mile section of Dry Crane Creek—which is not always “dry” (just ask Gary). This stream carries water from a 16 square mile watershed causing flooding and soil erosion during rain events. Future soil loss on the Chastain farm will be significantly slowed by the implementation of the new buffer. The established area will naturally regenerate in grass, trees and shrubs creating a “buffer” filtering nutrient, and herbicide run off from the fields.

The installed lanes and cross fence has created paddocks for the purpose of better management. Gary is now able to manage pasture grazing and manure distribution. The single electric wire system has proven adequate for the management and control of livestock making farm management a little easier.

Gary has a history of applying conservation practices on his farms in an earnest effort to control pests, soil erosion and improve water quality. Also, he has pulled soil tests from many fields and applied the recommended commercial or organic fertility prescriptions in order to protect local streams from excessive nutrient runoff. Gary realizes the importance of these types of conservation practices and is diligent in his efforts to apply them to the land.

The Stone County Soil & Water District wishes to recognize Gary Chastain for his diligence in protecting the local streams and slowing soil loss on his farm land. Gary’s implementation of District programs have been a successful demonstration to the community of how landowners and District programs can team up to make a footprint of good conservation right here in Stone county, Missouri. Thank you Gary.

SCHOOL NEWS



The upcoming school year is quickly approaching and so is the 2010 poster contest. Last year we had a winner from our district that went on to win at the national level. Randy Higgins from Galena was a winner in the 2nd– 3rd grade division. Congratulations Randy!

The theme this year is “Conservation Habits=Healthy Habitats”. The theme encourages children to think about the habitat around them and what they can do to protect natural resources to provide healthy habitats starting in our own backyard and community.

The completed posters will be judged on Oct 14th. The selected winners will be sent to the state office by Nov 1. The state winners will be announced the first week of December.. The first place winner will take home \$100 and \$75 for the 2nd place winner..



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- It takes 1,851 gallons of water to refine 1 barrel of crude oil.
- 66% of your body is water and human blood is 83% water.



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Six times a year Xplor Magazine brings you eye-popping art, photos and stories about Missouri's coolest critters, niftiest natural places, liveliest outdoor activities and people who make a living from the wild. Together, Xplor's website and magazine get you outside and exploring!

Visit www.XplorMo.org to sign up.

Cost Share Assistance

At Stone Co SWCD, our new fiscal year started July 2010. We have received our fiscal year 2011 cost share allocation for the following practices: Grazing Management: water development and distribution, fence, lime, seed; Sensitive Areas: stream protection – applicable to where livestock have uncontrolled access for watering purposes, riparian buffer, well decommissioning, sinkhole treatment; Erosion / Water Quality: permanent vegetative cover establishment or improvement, seeding of more critical areas; Woodland Erosion: livestock exclusion from woods.

Land eligible for conservation practices must have a Farm Services Agency (FSA) farm number assigned. A cooperator must have agricultural activity on 3 acres or more, or may own land of any size if \$1,000 or more of agriculture products are normally produced and sold in a year. When a farm changes ownership during the construction or implementation of a practice, the new landowner must become a cooperator and have a conservation plan approved to receive payment and/or follow through on maintenance agreement.

If you foresee any seeding practices, enhanced grazing systems, or other conservation planning needs, please call us to assist in your planning. We provide technical and financial assistance and all programs are voluntary.

STONE COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

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PHONE: 417-723-8389

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Needs Assessment

The function of the Soil and Water Conservation District is to take available technical, financial, and educational resources, whatever their source, and focus or coordinate them so that they meet the needs of the local land user for the conservation of soil, water, and related sources.

We would like to ask the local landowner to complete a brief survey to help us help you in applying conservation to the land. This is a tool that supports us in assessing the local needs. You can access this survey tool online at our website: www.swcd.mo.gov/stone/needs.htm. You may also mail in your responses or give us a call. Anyway that works best for you, and it will certainly help us in the future with planning.

Thank you,
The District and Board

1. What do you feel are the most important conservation practices offered or services you feel Stone Co. SWCD should focus on in the next 3-5 years that would benefit you?
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