

Agriculture



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UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI
Extension



Tomorrow



Farm Service Agency



AUGUST 2014

Published by MONTGOMERY AND WARREN COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICTS



Upcoming Events:

- August 19—9am-3pm—Keys to Soil Health @ Vandalia MO
- September 15-17th—State Women in Ag Conference in Hannibal, MO

Inside this issue:

State-wide cover crop practice available through DNR state cost-share	2
Cost-Share for Timber Harvests through MDC	3
FSA News	
State Women In Agriculture Conference Info	4
Whetstone Youth Hunt through MDC	5
More pictures of the Grazing Field Day.	
Prescribed burning in August/September	6
CSP Renewals	
District Rental Equipment A 10' Drill Now Located in Rhineland	7
Good Luck to the summer SWCD interns, Caitlin Stanek and Kristen Toedebusch	8

Large Turn-Out for Grazing Field Day

at the Ridgley Farm!



The Montgomery/Warren Co. NRCS/SWCD held a Grazing Field Day at the Ridgley Farm in High Hill, MO, on June 26, 2014. Approximately 100 producers heard discussion on several programs and viewed practices the Ridgley's have installed on the farm.

The evening started off with a tour of the cattle feedlot facility that was recently constructed with assistance from the federal EQIP program. Shane Schechinger, representative from ACCU Steel, the building supplier, Steve Kubiak, the contractor who did the construction and Bob Ridgley, owner, discussed the construction, cover material, and layout of the building. Andrea King, Area Resource Conservationist with NRCS, discussed the federal EQIP program. Also, Kacie Ulhorn and Mike Brandt, representatives from Hermann Vet Clinic talked on the AI and cattle health program Bob uses, and Rick Robnett and Clint Elmore, MFA-Montgomery City, showed the new cattle working facility he has installed.

After a steak supper cooked by the Montgomery/Callaway Cattleman's, there was information about the Missouri Department of Ag's Bridge Loan program, and USDA Program updates from FSA and NRCS. This led to a discussion on Soil Health by Dave Skaer, NRCS Soil Scientist. Those that wanted loaded up for a wagon ride tour of one of Bob's grazing systems. At this stop he discussed the state cost share program used to put this in place and how effectively it worked for him. Ryan Diener, Quail Forever Farm Bill Biologist talked about the importance of warm season grasses in a grazing system. This stop provided hands on experience for other producers to see and to identify the different species of grasses and forbs. Also, Jamie Barton MDC-Private Lands Conservationist discussed the wildlife benefit of using a grazing system, with the producers.

We feel this was a very informative field day and heard many positive comments for the producers that attended. We would like to thank the sponsors, MFA, ACCU Steel, and SBK Farm and Ranch as well as our vendors and speakers. Most of all we would like to thank Bob and Sharon Ridgley for once again hosting us. If you have any questions on any of the state or federal programs, feel free to contact an office near you. These programs are available not just in Montgomery and Warren County but across the state. (See page 5 for more pictures)

**Warren County
Soil & Water
Conservation
District**

635 W. Booneslick
Warrenton, MO 63383
Phone 636-456-3434, Ext. 3
Fax 636-456-3712



**Montgomery County
Soil & Water
Conservation
District**

1013 S. Sturgeon
Montgomery City, MO 63361
Phone 573-564-3715, Ext. 3
Fax 573-564-3967

**By: Tammy Teeter
District Conservationist**

State-Wide Cover Crop Pilot Program Announced Through Missouri State Cost-Share

By: Debbie Niederer, District Technician II

The Missouri Soil and Water Districts Commission (MSWCD) recently approved cost-share funding for a state-wide pilot program for Cover Crops. The pilot project allows each Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) in the state to provide landowners with a \$30 per acre incentive to plant cover crops with a 20 acre maximum. Each county in the state received \$4,800 in FY15, which started July 1st, to implement cover crops.

This Cover Crop practice is being offered as research has proven that cover crops reduce soil erosion and have a significant positive impact on soil health and water quality.

Purpose for cover crops:

- Reduce erosion from wind and water
- Increase soil organic matter
- Capture and recycle or redistribute nutrients in the soil profile
- Promote biological nitrogen fixation
- Increase biodiversity
- Suppress weeds
- Manage soil moisture
- Reduce particulate emission into the atmosphere
- Minimize and reduce soil compaction

To qualify for the incentive the contracted acres must:

- Currently be in a minimum of a two species primary crop rotation
- Have no-tilled the primary crop preceding the cover crop
- Be fall seeded cover crops
- Follow Natural Resources Conservation Services (NRCS) Cover Crop (340) standard
- Include at least 25% cool-season annual grass or small grain component
- Be left undisturbed until just prior to planting of the primary crop
- Will not be grazed or mechanically harvested
- Be terminated by; frost, prior to production of viable seed, no more than two weeks prior to primary crop seeding by chemical application, properly timed roller/crimper operations or flail mowers
- Cannot be terminated by tillage

Operators applying for the cover crop incentive will be prioritized by the district using a ranking sheet which will include such questions as:

- How many years have the acres to be enrolled been in continuous no-till
- How many plant species are currently used in your cropping rotation

- Are the enrolled acres considered highly erodible
- Is soil loss being controlled to "T"
- Are buffer practices adjacent to the acres
- Will you plant short season crop varieties to allow for cover crop implementation
- Have you attended field day or workshops for soil health and or cover crops
- How many years of experience do you have implementing cover crops
- How many plant species will you have in the cover crop mix
- Do you have current soil test recommendations

Payment can be issued after no-till planting of the primary crop into the terminated cover crop or after May 25th if the primary crop has not been planted.

Pilot projects are approved for the purpose of creating a trail period for testing, development and im-



plementation of new cost-share practices appropriate for future soil and water conservation district resource needs. As we have seen in the past if the pilot is considered a success the cover crop practice could be offered as a state wide cost-share practice.

More information on soil health and cover crops can be found on the NRCS website www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/mo/soils/health/. The NRCS 340 cover crop standard can be found at http://efotg.sc.egov.usda.gov/references/public/MO/340_std_812.pdf.

If you are interested in signing up for the cover crop incentives please contact your local SWCD as soon as possible. Timing is a big factor in successful cover crops implementation and the time for fall planted cover crops is nearing. Warren County SWCD 636-456-3434 x3, Montgomery County SWCD 573-564-3715 x3.

COST-SHARE FOR TIMBER HARVESTS

By Angela Belden-MDC

Loggers and landowners can both benefit from a Missouri Department of Conservation cost-share program to implement Best Management Practices (BMPs) to protect soil and water on timber sales. These BMPs were developed as a guide for loggers and landowners to combine safe logging practices with steps that avoid soil erosion and damage to water quality associated with timber harvesting. The program requires that the logger has completed the Professional Timber Harvester course offered by the Missouri Forest Products Association.

Loggers are paid \$10 per acre to implement BMPs, and landowners can receive up to \$10 per acre. The concept behind splitting the incentive is that the logger has the equipment and responsibility for establishing erosion prevention measures on timber sales, and the landowner owns the property and is responsible for maintenance of the BMPs for a reasonable period of time. By taking steps to learn the BMPs and implement them, this cost-share program encourages loggers and landowners to work together in maintaining the best possible forest health and productivity.

For more information or to participate in the program, loggers and landowners can contact their local MDC forester.

Angela Belden, Montgomery County—573-592-1400 x4

Jeff Bakameyer, Warren County—636-456-3368 x1880



FSA News...

By Priscilla Eggering, CED for Montgomery & Warren FSA



Eligible livestock producers can sign-up for the following livestock disaster assistance programs. Please call your FSA office to setup an appointment:

Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP) (2012)

LFP signup is underway. Eligible livestock producers in Montgomery and Warren counties are eligible for 2012, due to the drought creating grazing losses. Applications need to be made by **Jan. 30, 2015**.

Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP) (Oct. 1 2011 – Dec 31, 2014)

LIP provides compensation to eligible livestock producers that have suffered livestock death losses in excess of normal mortality due to adverse weather. Eligible producers need to submit a notice of loss with documentation and application for payment to their local FSA office by **Jan. 30, 2015**.

Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees and Farm-Raised Fish Program (ELAP) (2014)

ELAP provides emergency assistance to eligible producers of livestock, honeybees and farm-raised fish that have losses due to disease, adverse weather, or other conditions, such as blizzards and wildfires. ELAP assistance is provided for losses not covered by LFP and LIP. Producers who suffered eligible livestock, honeybee or farm-raised fish losses during 2014 program years must submit a notice of loss and application for payment to their local FSA office must be submitted by **November 1, 2014**.

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, and 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.) Persons 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 to USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410 or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Whetstone Youth Hunt

August 30th—Saturday 1pm-5pm
&
September 1st—Monday Sunrise-noon

Whetstone Creek Conservation Area
3215 County Road 1003
Williamsburg MO 63388



To register call Nicole Walker at 573-254-3330 or Nicole.Walker@mdc.mo.gov Ages 8-15 with a parent. This program will consist of two sessions: a dove clinic and a hunt. At the

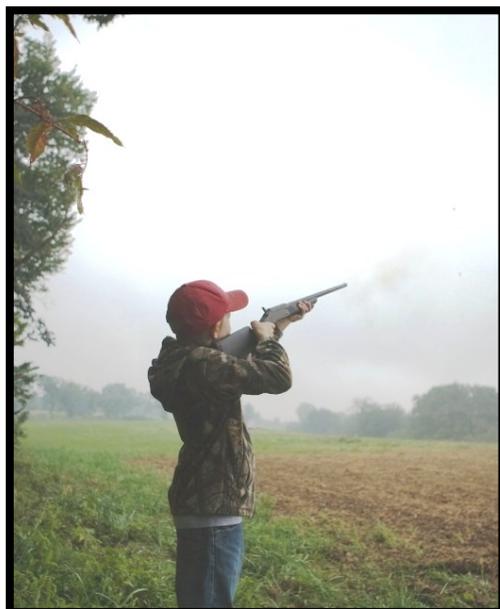
dove clinic on August 30th, participants will learn the basics of dove hunting, safety, firearm safety, and shooting skills.



Then, September 1st, participants will be taken on a dove hunt at Whetstone Creek Conservation Area. Any youth age 8-15 is eligible to apply for this hunt.

Youth must be hunter education certified for accompanied by a properly licensed mentor.

If a mentor is not available one will be provided.



More Grazing Field Day Pictures...

Right—Landowners stop at the feed lot as part of the walking tour.



Left—Dave Skaer, NRCS talks about soil health.

Right—A steak dinner was served to those that attended the field day.



Thanks!
To our Warrenton Walmart for making a donation to help support the district information/education activities in Warren County!

Let's Make Summer a Little Hotter!

By Ryan Diener, Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist

In Missouri, we are usually blessed with ample rainfall. This is great for providing water when we want to fish in our lakes and streams, grow crops, or even just keep the dust down... but it also means that we grow grass extremely well. Rainfall can severely impact quail in a few ways. It has a direct impact on the spring when rain events can actually be the direct cause of mortality to chicks, but it also has the indirect effect of giving grasses the competitive advantage on the landscape. Thick stands of grass have little value to quail. A field that could have held several coveys of quail a few years may be devoid of them now, and my first thought is usually "well, what did you do to set back the grass or otherwise manage the field in the past few years?" The answer to that question is usually "nothing" or sometimes "I burn that field every other spring." Both of those actions will result in a field that will see dwindling wildflowers and thickening grass over time.

A rank stand of native grasses can seem like a difficult obstacle to overcome, and getting quail back even more unrealistic. Conducting prescribed burns on these fields in the summer months of August and September can completely remedy the problem of thick grass, and is a huge step forward in the process of solving the second one! Our native warm season grasses are actively growing at high rates during the summer months. Burning at this time will actually kill some of the clumps of grass in the field and encourage a strong response from wildflowers next growing season. Most of our native grass CRP fields and habitat plantings across the state could really use a summer burn to help set the stand back. It has almost become routine to conduct prescribed burns in the spring, however. Although burning in the spring isn't a bad thing, more often than not it isn't really achieving the management goals. A spring burn will actually stimulate earlier grass growth and make the stand even thicker than it was the year before. This practice has its place, but it is often the wrong thing when trying to manage for quail.

Burning in the summer can be very hot for the people that are helping, but is actually cooler on the land itself than a spring burn. Because of the high moisture content of the plants at this time of year, the fire actually burns slower, and cooler than a winter or spring burn. This can help make summer burns much easier to control, with reduced flame lengths and a slower rate of spread. One negative about the high moisture content is that summer burns will produce more smoke. A burn during the growing season is also the best method for controlling woody sprouts in fields, as well. If you have a field of thick grasses and were considering a winter or spring burn this year, try to get your fire breaks in and see if you can get it done yet this summer. I would encourage you to try it if you have always done spring burns, I am sure you will be happy with the results.

Missouri Women In Agriculture State Conference

Hotel Accommodations

QUALITY INN & SUITES

120 Lindsey Drive Hwy 36
Hannibal, MO. 63401
Ph: 573-221-4001
Fax: 573-248-0395

The Quality Inn & Suites has been exclusively reserved for this event from Monday, September 15 through checkout on September 17, 2014.

Quality Inn & Suites

Various rooms will be available
Call early to get the best deal

Double queen beds \$94.95
King beds \$84.95
Suites \$109.95



Rooms are being held at a reduced price until August 18th, after that date the rooms will go back to the hotel's normal rate. Please be sure and register by August 18th!!

Quality Inn & Suites is located on Hwy 36, 2 miles west of the intersection of Hwy 36 & Hwy 61.

Quality Inn & Suites has the following amenities:
- A Full Breakfast
- An Indoor Pool with Whirlpool
- Free Wireless High Speed Internet Access

This hotel is minutes from area attractions:

Mark Twain Boyhood Home & Museum
Becky Thatcher House
Molly Brown Birthplace and Museum
Mark Twain Cave
Mark Twain Lake
Sawyer's Creek
Norwoods Golf Club
Movie Theater, variety of restaurants & cocktail lounges located in the area surrounding the Quality Inn & Suites

Other hotels in the area

Best Western 573-248-1150
Holiday Inn Express 573-406-3000

Conservation Stewardship Program Renewals

By Sarah Szachnieski, NRCS

If you have a 2010 CSP (Conservation Stewardship Program) contract you should have recently received by mail a letter about renewing your 2010 contract. These renewals are for an additional 5-year contract period for applicants that can demonstrate compliance with their original contracts, agree to continue to implement agreed to enhancements, and by the end of the new contract period will address one additional resource concern by implementing at least one additional enhancement.

If you have a 2010 contract for either the first or the second 2010 sign up and have received one of these letters it is important that you contact our office before August 15, 2014. Many of the 2010 contracts expire on September 30, 2014 and after they expire they are no longer eligible for re-enrollment.

If you would like more information about re-enrollment and your options to re-enroll your contract please contact your local NRCS office at 636.456.3434 ext. 3 or 573.564.3715 ext. 3.

TOUR INFORMATION

Tuesday Tours 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

URSA Farmers Cooperative
Canton



BASF
The Chemical Company

BASF - Palmyra

Rockcliffe Mansion - Hannibal



Lunch - Old Stone House Inn - Palmyra

Not all tours are handicap accessible, please contact us if you have any concerns.



Celebrating 20 Years

"River Style"

Have questions or concerns?

Call Beth Stiefel at 573-633-2211 ext. 2 or
Carol Hubbard and Nona Myers at 573-633-2211 ext. 3

CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

Monday, September 15, 2014

Registration	10:30 - 1:00
Vendor	10:30 - 6:30
Opening Session	1:00 - 1:30
Workshops Session 1	1:45 - 2:30
Workshops Session 2	2:40 - 3:25
Workshops Session 3	3:35 - 4:20

Workshop Titles:

Identifying & Managing Vegetable Diseases
Financial Statements Fundamentals
Who Gets Grandma's Yellow Pie Plate?
Do You Have Clutter?
Raised Bed Gardening
Laughter "Just For The Health Of It"
Using Apps To Manage The Farm
(bring your own device, smartphone, iPad, etc.
for the Apps workshop)

Missouri Wine & Cheese	5:00 - 6:30
Banquet - Dr. Jerry Crownover	6:30 - 8:30
Hospitality Room	8:30 - ??
Silent Auction	8:30 - 10:00

Tuesday, September 16, 2014

Free Full Breakfast (hotel guests only)	6:00 - 8:00
Tours & Luncheon	8:00 - 4:00

Dinner on your own

Hospitality Room Open After Tours
Silent Auction End: at 9:30 p.m.

Wednesday, September 17, 2014

Free Full Breakfast (hotel guests only)	6:00 - 8:30
Women, Food & Agriculture Network	8:30 - 9:45
Visiting with Supporters	9:45 - 10:15
Break	10:15 - 10:25
Chris Chinn "Putting a Face on Agriculture"	10:25 - 11:10
Conference Wrap Up & Passing of the Torch	11:10 - 11:30

An Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer

Good Luck Caitlin & Kristen!



Farewell---

It was a pleasure working for the Warren County SWCD office as an intern this summer. I really enjoyed going out in the field to assist with design and the many services that the SWCD and NRCS have available to landowners in the county. Also, I gained a large amount of knowledge about the many programs and information/education events that the SWCD and NRCS makes available to the county by working inside the office. I would like to thank both Warren and Montgomery staff and the Boards for giving me the opportunity to work with a friendly group of people this summer who were more than willing to teach me all about the practices. Thanks again, ~ Caitlin Stanek

My time as the Montgomery County Soil and Water Conservation District has come to an end. I have had the opportunity to meet many different producers this summer and learn about the many different programs that SWCD and NRCS offer. I would like to thank the Montgomery County Board as well as the Montgomery office staff you all have taught me many things that I will use in the future. I have enjoyed having the opportunity to work with each and every one of you. ~ Thank you again, Kristen Toedebusch

District Rental Equipment

The Montgomery County SWCD has decided to move the 10' Great Plains no-till drill that was stationed in the southern part of the county, and moved to the district office, back to the area. Rhineland MFA has agreed to house and maintain this drill at their location. This drill is capable of sowing a variety of seeds and cool or warm season grasses. They will be taking care of the scheduling and billing. For more information or to rent this drill stop by or give them a call at 573-236-4315. The SWCD office in Montgomery City has a 10' Great Plains no-till and a 7' Great Plains no-till drill that are all capable of sowing a variety of seeds and cool or warm season grasses. We also have a Vermeer big bale processor (mulcher), root plow, tree planter, ATV seeders and sprayer, hay probes, and a variety of burn equipment for controlled burns. All of this equipment can be seen at and rented from this location. The Warren County SWCD also has three drills for rent, a 7' Great Plains no-till at the office in Warrenton, and a 7' Great Plains no-till at Ralph Glosemeyer's in Concord Hill. These drills are capable of sowing a variety of seeds and cool or warm season grasses. Also, there is a 10' John Deere no-till at Matt Berry's near Marthasville which can sow more conventional crop seeds. They also have a Vermeer big bale processor (mulcher) and a variety of burn equipment, available at the Warrenton office. For contact information to look at or rent any of this equipment at either the Montgomery/Warren County office or MFA in Rhineland, see the equipment rental rates and contact information ad on the last page of this newsletter.

Warren County Equipment Rental Rates

(Montgomery County landowners are charged the same as in-county)

Available through the Warren SWCD Office 636-456-3434, x3

7 ft. Great Plains No-Till Drill with Native Grass Box \$8 acre
\$25.00 minimum charge

Vermeer Mulcher.. \$50 per day/1st hr free • \$25/each additional hour

Available through Matt Berry, near Marthasville, 636-932-4035

10' John Deere No-Till Drill \$8 acre
\$25.00 minimum charge

**Available through Ralph Glosemeyer, in Concord Hill,
636-932-4897**

7' Great Plains No-Till Drill with Native Grass Box..... \$8 acre
\$25.00 minimum charge

Warm Season Grass Burn Equipment\$20 per day

Additional rental rates charged for out-of-county landowners

MONTGOMERY COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

1013 S. Sturgeon • Montgomery City, MO 63361

Board of Supervisors

Harry Cope, Chairman • Adam Uthlaut, Vice-Chairman • Rich Hoormann, Secretary
Jim Kleinsorge, Treasurer • Alan Bufka, Member

District Personnel

Robert Ridgley, District Technician, Ann Whitehead, District Technician,
Jason Bolte, District Technician

.....

WARREN COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

635 W. Booneslick • Warrenton, MO 63383

Board of Supervisors

Ralph Glosemeyer, Chairman • Steve Tomschin, Vice-Chairman
Harold Gloe, Treasurer • Rich Hoormann, Secretary • Lynn Bade, Member

District Personnel

Debbie Niederer, District Technician
Polly Sachs, District Manager

Assisted by NRCS Personnel

Tammy Teeter, District Conservationist
Sarah Szachnieski, Resource Conservationist
David Korman, Soil Conservationist
Denise Tillman-Office Automation Clerk
Katie Owens & Karen Sinclair, WAE's
Ryan Diener, QF Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist

Assisted by Missouri Department of Conservation

Jamie Barton & Lia Heppermann-MDC Private Land Conservationists
Jeff Bakameyer, Tony Peper, Justin Janes, Lafe Schweissguth,
and Angela Belden-MDC Forestry
Scott Voney & Sarah Peper-MDC Fisheries Biologists
Matt Spurgeon & Jim Kuenzle-MDC Wildlife Conservationists

Montgomery County Equipment Rental Rates

(Warren County landowners are charged the same as in-county)

Available through the Montgomery SWCD Office

573-564-3715, x3

7 ft. Great Plains No-Till Drill with Native Grass Box \$7 acre
\$25.00 minimum charge

10 ft. Great Plains No-Till Drill with Native Grass Box..... \$8 acre
\$25.00 minimum charge

Vermeer Mulcher..... \$50/1st hour use • \$25/each additional hour

Warm Season Grass Burn Equipment\$10 per day
wBlowers\$20 per day

Tree Planter \$50/day • Maximum charge of \$100

Tree Root Pruner..... \$25/day

Truax "Seed Slinger" - Hand Grass Seeder \$10/day

Truax Electric ATV Mounted Seeder \$10/day

10' ATV Mounted Sprayer..... \$10/day

18" Hay Probes (with \$50 deposit) FREE

Available through Rhineland MFA 573-236-4315

10 ft. Great Plains No-Till Drill with Native Grass Box..... \$8 acre
\$25.00 minimum charge