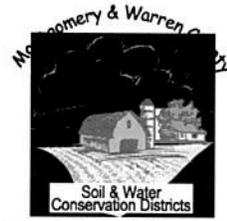
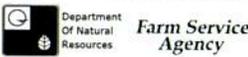


Agriculture



Tomorrow

Working together to conserve our natural resources!



AUGUST 2015

Published by MONTGOMERY AND WARREN COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICTS



Upcoming Events:

- August 28—Quail Forever 1st Annual Fall Banquet for Lincoln/Pike @ Lincoln Co. Fairgrounds. For more info and ticket prices call Skyler at 636-368-1185.
- 4/5-6/16 Grazing School held at the Warren County Extension Office

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Cover Crop Practice

Debbie Niederer
District Technician—Warren County SWCD

Hopefully you read my article in the last issue of the Ag Tomorrow Newsletter regarding the addition of the cover crop practice. The Missouri Soil and Water Districts Commission (MSWCD) did approve the cover crop practice for the state at their meeting in July. As most new practices it is still a work in progress. Below is a summary of the policy for Warren County as of today. (If you live in Montgomery County, please check with the office there and ask about their policy on cover crops as they may differ from county-to-county.)

- Reimbursement can be made to landowner or operator
- Current rotation 2 species production – (such as corn/beans)
- Cover crop can be no-till or broadcast
- Production crop after cover crop must be no-till
- If acreage was not planted to crop this spring can be planted to cover crops in the program a small tillage variance can be granted—contact the office for more information
- Payment can be issued after May 25 if the production crop is not yet planted
- Cover crop seeding must be a minimum of 25% cool season annual grass, small grain component or warm season grass component
- Spring planted cover crops must have been planted at least 60 days prior to termination
- Cover crops will not be harvested for grain, seed, or hayed
- Cover crops may be grazed once the forages reaches a minimum 6-8" tall, must stop grazing once the forage is grazed to 4"
- Tillage cannot be used to terminate cover crops
- Soil sample for the Initial Standard Soil Health Package must be taken on each field enrolled in the cover crop practice - producer will be required to complete the soil sample prior to cover crop seeding and complete the soil health information sheet
The sample will consist of four (4) 3"x3" ring samples, these four separate ring samples will be composed together to make the sample for that field, instructions for sample will be provided 75% cost-share reimbursement is authorized for the soil health test - \$85 maximum.
- Incentives for the practice - are \$30/ac/year for 1 or 2 species cover crop mix and \$40/ac/yr for 3 or more species cover crop mix with a maximum \$20,000 lifetime per operator
- Pasture and hayland is not eligible
- Follows Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Cover Crop standard
- The rings for testing will be available for check out through the Warren and Montgomery Soil and Water Conservation District offices.

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.

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

Warren County Soil & Water Conservation District

635 W. Booneslick
Warrenton, MO 63383
Phone 636-456-3434, Ext. 3
NRCS Fax 1-855-846-9249



Montgomery County Soil & Water Conservation District

1013 S. Sturgeon
Montgomery City, MO 63361
Phone 573-564-3715, Ext. 3
NRCS Fax 1-855-846-9249

IT'S TIME TO RENEW!!!!



DON'T FORGET TO RENEW YOUR SAM'S NUMBER IF YOU ARE FILING AS AN ENTITY FOR USDA-NRCS FEDERAL PROGRAM PAYMENTS. CONTRACT PAYMENTS CANNOT BE PROCESSED WITHOUT THIS RENEWAL.

QUAIL FOREVER BANQUET

FRIDAY – August 28th, 2015

Lincoln Pike Quail Forever #3203

1st Annual Fall Banquet

Doors open at 5:30pm

Lincoln County Fairgrounds
1 Fairgrounds Rd
TROY, MO 63379

Single Ticket \$45 – Includes dinner and 1 year QF membership
Couples Ticket \$60 – 2 dinner tickets and a 1 year QF membership
Multiple Sponsorship options available as well

To learn more about the banquet, ticket prices, or to
RSVP, contact us at lincolnpiquequailforever@yahoo.com
Or call Skyler at 636-368-1185

PARTICIPANTS WHO PURCHASE THEIR TICKET(S) BY
August 4th, 2015 WILL BE ENTERED TO WIN
THE EARLY BIRD DRAWING for:

\$100 in Quail Cash to spend at the banquet!

Find us on  /lincolncountyquail



FSA News...

Priscilla Eggering, Warren & Montgomery
FSA



Farm Service
Agency

IMPORTANT REMINDERS

Deadline Sept. 30th 2014 & 2015 ARC/PLC Signup

Contact the office ASAP to complete your contract signup for 2014 & 2015. All signatures will need to be received in the office by Sept. 30th 2015 in order to be eligible for payments for both years. The contract software was not available until late June; most producers have not completed this process yet. You may feel free to contact our office, if in doubt.

ARC, PLC Acreage Maintenance

Producers enrolled in Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC) & Price Loss Coverage (PLC) must protect all cropland and non-cropland acres on the farm from wind and water erosion and noxious weeds. Producers who sign ARC county or individual contracts and PLC contracts agree to effectively control noxious weeds on the farm according to sound agricultural practices. If a producer fails to take necessary actions to correct a maintenance problem on a farm that is enrolled in ARC/PLC the County Committee may elect to access a penalty or terminate the contract for the program year.

Beginning Farmer Loans

FSA assists beginning farmers to finance agricultural enterprises. Under these designated farm loan programs, FSA can provide financing to eligible applicants through either direct or guaranteed loans. FSA defines a beginning farmer as a person who:

- Has operated a farm for not more than 10 years
- Will materially and substantially participate in the operation of the farm
- Agrees to participate in a loan assessment, borrower training and financial management program sponsored by FSA
- Does not own a farm in excess of 30 percent of the county's average size farm.

Additional program information, loan applications, and other materials are available at your local USDA Service Center. You may also visit www.fsa.usda.gov.

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CRP Remains Dependable Despite Summer Rains

By Ryan Diener
Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist

If you farm in Missouri, you've had a tumultuous spring and summer. Just in the last week, my rain gauge recorded nearly 5 inches of rain, and as of July 29th, another week of rain in the forecast. The rainfall we've received may have you re-evaluating your farming operation, and considering ways to keep up profitability even when crops can't be put in. Diversification of incomes on your farm can help insulate your operation from disastrous years, like the one we are experiencing right now.

Improving profitability on your farm doesn't have to mean pushing out every fence line, draining every wet spot, and pushing out trees wherever you could plant a crop. Farming efficiency can have a large impact on your bottom line, and there is always room for more efficiency in an operation. Are you wasting time and resources planting crops on acres that aren't yielding more than it cost to put in? Do you have a field that you roll the dice on stream height to even reach each year? Have you been frustrated with unusual edges that are difficult to plant? Most important to me, are you concerned by failing bird populations, and wary of the prospect that your grandchildren will never have the chance to hunt wild quail, rabbits, or see a monarch butterfly? If you answered yes to any of these, I feel it is worth your time to consider the Conservation Reserve Program.

Let's start at the beginning; the Conservation Reserve Program is a federal program that, generally speaking, retires environmentally sensitive land from agricultural production, and provides cost-share to participants to plant species that will improve environmental quality. It then even provides annual payments for the acres that are in the program that are competitive with crop rental rates. To be eligible, your field must

have been farmed at least 4 of the 6 years between 2008 and 2013. Whatever your soil rental payment is, (soil rental rate average is \$110 and \$97 in Montgomery and Warren County respectively this year) that payment will be the same, year after year until your contract expires after 10 or 15 years.

If you want more quail and other wildlife, habitat is the most important factor to improve, and the one that you can actually impact. One CRP program does this better than most others. CP38E Bobwhite Quail SAFE is available for enrollment right now through Continuous CRP. This CRP program has it all – 90% practice payment for the establishment of a diverse native grass stand, establishment of shrubby covers by creating brush piles or planting native shrub thickets, and the ability to plant up to 20% of your contract acres to food plots! There is one more kicker; if you enroll a crop field that has not previously been in CRP, you are eligible for a \$150/ac signup incentive payment, making this all the more sweet. When receiving this incentive, I have yet to enroll somebody who didn't end up having their entire planting paid for, and more. Hurry up, though – CP38E Bobwhite SAFE was recently authorized for only 5,000 acres available statewide, and it will certainly run out of acres within a few months.

If enrolling an entire field isn't in the cards, but you're concerned with water quality, soil erosion, and wildlife habitat, CP38E can be done on partial fields as well, or you could consider CP33 Habitat Buffers for Upland Birds. The CP33 practice creates habitat and travel corridors along the edge of your fields, enabling producers to stop using precious time and fuel when planting odd angles along field edges, while providing all the benefits of CRP. CRP buffers also improve water infiltration along field margins, and can prevent significant erosion from creeping into your more productive acres. This practice is also eligible for a \$150/ac signup incentive payment if enrolling previously cropped acreage.

These are just two of the dozens of CRP practices that are available. The rain we've received has given many producers reason to re-evaluate their operation, and it is my hope that you consider enrolling in CRP. "Farm the best, and conserve the rest" is a mantra we live by at Quail Forever. There is room for conservation on every farm, and luckily, with CRP, that can even help improve your bottom line. Please give me, your MDC Private Lands Conservationist, or your local FSA office a call if you'd like to talk about how to make your operation better for wildlife, and better for your farming efficiency today!



What is the NRCS Conservation Client Gateway (CCG)?

CCG is a secure online portal that lets individual landowners and land managers track their payments, request assistance, sign documents and request conservation assistance anytime, anywhere. CCG provides users the flexibility to determine when they want to engage with NRCS online and when they prefer in-person conservation planning assistance.

<http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/cgate/>

Summer Interns at Montgomery and Warren Counties

**By Polly Sachs
Warren SWCD**

For the past two summers both of the districts have had an opportunity to hire interns. This benefits the districts and gives the students valuable work experience and hands-on learning. The internships were made available to all counties in the state through the Department of Natural Resources, Soil & Water Conservation Program. In the past, applicants must have already attended a college, university, technical school, etc. with any degree major. If this program is available next year and you are interested, or know of someone that may be interested, you can contact either of the soils and water offices for more information.

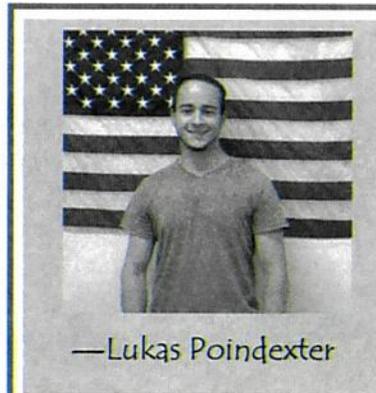


Above—Caitlin Stanek (left) and Savanna Magee (right), Warren and Pike County SWCD Interns teach students about the importance of soil and it's conservation by making edible soil with the young students. These two interns have spent much time this summer working on SWCD's information/education goals by going into classrooms with students in summer programs. Some topics that they have been able to discuss with students include pollinators, trees, soil health, water pollution, wildlife, plants in nature, and soil composition.



Blast from the past!

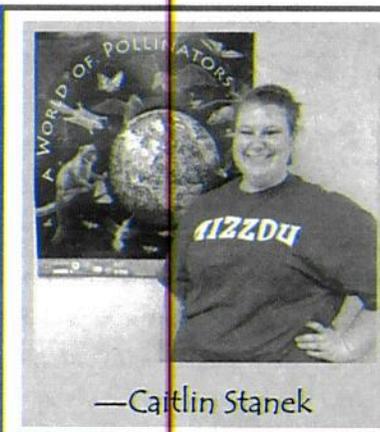
Caitlin Stanek won the poster contest back in 2008 when she was a 4th grade student in Mrs. Huffman's class at Holy Rosary. Little did she know she would be working for the soil and water district someday!



—Lukas Poindexter

I greatly enjoyed my time working at the NRCS/SWCD office this summer. It was a good experience that I will take with me everywhere I go

for the rest of my life. I will miss the people I worked with and wish them all the best.



—Caitlin Stanek

My summer internship for the Warren County SWCD has again come to an end. It was a pleasure to return as an intern this summer and work with the staff on conservation practices and office management. I thoroughly enjoyed working with neighboring counties on info/ed material which included teaching young students in summer school programs about soil and water health and conservation, wildlife, native plants, soil composition, along with many other topics. I am excited to announce that I will be turning this winter to present and facilitate the annual conservation poster contest that all 4th grade students in Warren and 4th & 5th grade students in Montgomery County participate in. I would like to thank the board for allowing me to participate in this internship and welcome me back this winter for the poster contest. I would also like to thank the SWCD and NRCS staff for their willingness and patience to teach me.

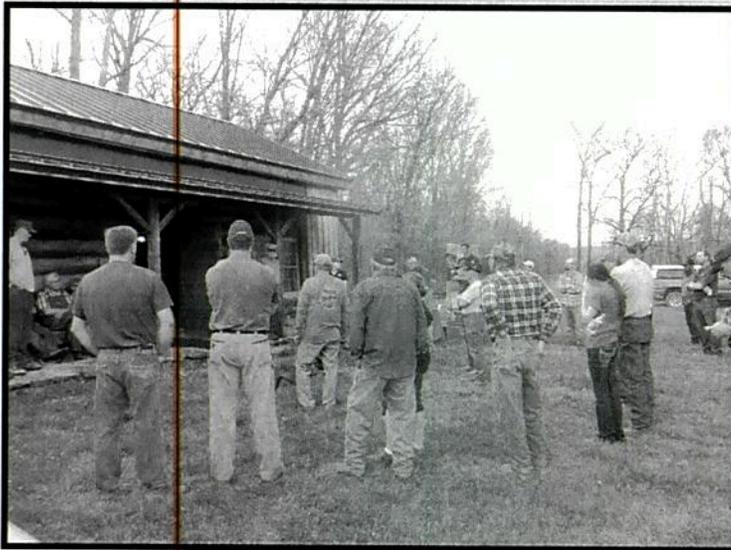
Forest & Wildlife Management Workshop Held at Bill Haag's

**Jamie Barton-MDC
Private Land Conservationist**

Forty five (45) people attended this workshop. The purpose of the workshop was to educate landowners about how they could better manage the forest and woodlands on their property. Harvesting trees, grouse management, cost-share opportunities and other wildlife management practices were discussed throughout the morning. The Gore Case Community Club provided a bratwurst lunch along with their popular homemade pies.



Left & Above—Pictured are several landowners attending the workshop held at Bill Haag's place on April 18th, 2015.



The 2016 NACD Stewardship and Education Committee's educational and poster contest theme is:

"We All Need Trees" National Association of Conservation Districts



For more information about the poster contest due dates and rules, please contact the Warren or Montgomery SWCD offices!

Name some things we get from trees and benefit of trees

Inside a Baseball

- Red Yarn Windings
- Cork Center
- Black Rubber
- Red Rubber
- Cotton String Windings

www.transform.com
© NACD 2015 stewardship@neednet.org www.nacdnet.org



Planting Cover Crops

**By Bob Ridgley
District Technician II**

"2015" - What a year! With all the excess rain we have gotten across most of the state there are numerous acres that did not get planted to a crop. If trying cover crops has been in the back of your mind, there could be an opportunity on these idle acres to try some. There is a cover crop cost-share program available this year in all the counties across the state. For details, you will need to contact the district in your county to see what the requirements are as they vary from county to county. There are several ways to plant cover crops, they can be broadcasted or seeded with a no-till drill. If you don't have a drill, you can contact area equipment dealers, rental agencies, etc. to see what the rates are and if it is something you are interested in. Montgomery and Warren Counties also each have no-till drills with the capability to plant different mixtures through the three seed boxes on them. If you have interest in renting one of the drills, there is more information on the back page of this newsletter. If you have questions, feel free to contact the offices for more information.

If you are interested in obtaining food plot seed, please contact...

Arvil Kappelmann
33 Durham Dr.
Washington, MO 63090
Home: 636-239-4127—Cell: 314-603-6731
Email: boeuf39@sbcglobal.net
Website: www.boeufcreeknature.com



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



GRAZING SCHOOL TO BE HELD IN WARREN COUNTY APRIL 5th and 6th

Are you interested in increasing the plant diversity and quality of your pasture, and possibly increasing the number of cows per acre that you can graze? Rotational grazing could be the answer that you have been looking for! The Montgomery and Warren County SWCD's and NRCS in cooperation with University of Missouri Extension are holding grazing school Tuesday and Wednesday, April 5th and 6th at the Warren County Extension Center, 107 W. Walton St., Warrenton, MO. There is a speaker fee, please contact the office for more information. Other speakers, materials and lunch both days are provided through a NRCS grant. Please register by March 25th. This event is sponsored by the NRCS, Montgomery/Warren SWCDs, and Missouri University Extension. This school is limited to the first 25 paid participants and is an approved school for the DSP-3 cost share practice. If you are interested in receiving more information contact either the Montgomery SWCD or Warren County SWCD office at 573-564-3715 ext.3 or 636-456-3434 ext.

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

Two to 10 ft. Great Plains No-Till Drills 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 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

Additional rental rates charged for out-of-county landowners