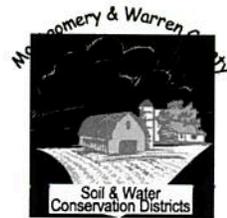


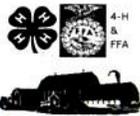
# Agriculture



Working together to conserve our natural resources!



UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI  
**Extension**



# Tomorrow

FEBRUARY 2015

Published by MONTGOMERY AND WARREN COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICTS



### Upcoming Events:

- March 5, Pond Workshop at Big Spring at 6:30pm, call Montgomery Office for details
- March 7-Ag Café
- March 14-Burn Workshop in Montgomery County
- March 18-Evening with Wildlife in Pike County
- March 24-Warren USDA Open House
- April 1-2, Grazing School in Warren County
- April 14—Montgomery USDA Open House & SWCD Board Election
- April 18—Forest Management Workshop

## Montgomery County Soils & Crops Conference

*By Bob Ridgley*  
**Montgomery SWCD Technician**

The 88th Montgomery County Soils and Crops Conference was held January 29, 2015, at the Montgomery County RII High School. Seventy-one registered at the door and had choices to attend workshops on row crops and wheat, soil health and cover crops, cattle feeding, insect pest management for crops and stored grains, electronic tools for crop systems, MDC enhancement programs, and reports from NRCS, FSA, and SWCD. Two computer labs for pre-registered attendees were also held to help producers with decisions on the new farm bill. A delicious meal catered by Trail Side Bar and Grill was enjoyed by all. This was a very informative conference, so plan to attend the 89th conference next year.

### Inside this issue:

Montgomery SWCD Board Election Info Grazing School	
New FOOSA, New DC Ag Café- Resume at Warren County Extension Office	
Montgomery Open House	
Warren Open House	
Young Farmers Meeting Sarah Szachnieski Receives Award Pike Co. Evening With Wildlife	
Continuous CRP—New Options for an Old Programs Jamie Barton Receives Award	
Prescribed Fire Workshop	

## Forest Management Workshop for Private Landowners

*By Jamie Barton—MDC*

Do you own forestland and have an interest in improving it for wildlife? Did you know that this can be done while simultaneously increasing timber value and forest health at little to no cost to you? Whether your goal is to create wildlife habitat for grouse, deer and turkey, generate income, or maintain aesthetics, forests require active management. Our forests evolved over time with frequent disturbance, mostly wildfire. Now that fire has been eliminated from our woods, trees have grown too crowded, fire intolerant species are starting to take over the oaks and our woods are in poorer shape because of it. In many cases, it is no longer practical to allow fires to burn in our woods. However, there are other forest practices which can emulate these disturbances and create habitat which many wildlife species thrive upon.

The Missouri Grouse Chapter of Quail and Upland Wildlife Federation and the Missouri Department of Conservation are sponsoring a Forest Management Workshop for Private Landowners. The workshop will be held on Saturday, April 18<sup>th</sup> on the Bill Haag property, near Portland. The workshop will begin at 9 am. We will spend 2-3 hours with MDC foresters and biologists discussing tree identification, forest management, cost share opportunities, wildlife management, and timber harvesting. Landowners will have the opportunity to tour approximately 700 acres of actively managed forests, woodlands and glades. This is an opportunity to see various forest and wildlife management practices and ask questions. To get more information and to register, please call MDC Private Land Conservationist Jamie Barton at 573-564-3715 ext. 3, by April 13<sup>th</sup>. Lunch will be provided by the Missouri Grouse Chapter of QUWF.

### Warren County Soil & Water Conservation District

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



### Montgomery County Soil & Water Conservation District

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

*Right—At the Soils & Crops Conference, Priscilla Eggering-FSA assisting Sam Cobb in the computer lab.*



## Montgomery County Soil & Water Conservation District Board Election

### Bob Ridgley—District Technician



Running in Area 4 is Harry Cope. Harry lives between Bellflower and Jonesburg, MO. Harry has been involved in agriculture his whole life and started his own operation about 30 years ago. He raises corn, grain sorghum and hogs, but his main crop is forage for his cattle and sheep operations in both Montgomery and Warren counties. Harry uses conservation practices such as terraces, waterways, no-till, minimum tillage, pest and nutrient management, grasses and legume plantings, and management intensive grazing to conserve soil and enhance his farming operation. He has also participated in the EQIP and CSP programs. Harry is a member of the Forage Research Council at Linneus, MO. He is married and has a son and a daughter. Harry currently serves on the SWCD board as chairman and is seeking reelection.



Running in Area 4 is Stacey Begeman. Stacey resides near the Montgomery/Lincoln Co. line west of Truxton, MO. He farms and has his own construction company. He started farming at age 15 and has grown corn, soybeans, wheat, and grain sorghum for 30+ years on farms in Montgomery, Lincoln, and Warren Counties. Stacey uses conservation practices such as terraces, waterways, diversions, no-till, conservation tillage, and pest and nutrient management to conserve soil and enhance his farming operation. He has also participated in the EQIP and CSP programs. Stacey has a son and a daughter.



Running in Area 2 is Luke Stevens. Luke lives west of Montgomery City, where he farms. Luke has a row crop operation of corn, wheat and soybeans. Luke has used conservation practices such as terraces, cover crops, nutrient management he also utilizes EQIP and CSP programs thru NRCS. Luke graduated University of Missouri in 2011. He is currently on the Montgomery County Fair Board and University of Missouri Soils and Crops Committee.



Running in Area 2 is Jason Todd. Jason resides near Wellsville. His farming operation consists of rented crop ground and a leased cattle herd. He raises corn, soybeans, wheat, and grain sorghum. He also helps his father, Randy, with his farming operation. Jason uses conservation practices such as terraces, waterways, no-till, conservation tillage, variable rate, and cover crops to conserve soil and enhance his farming operation. He is married and has a son and daughter and another child on the way. He is a member of the Wellsville Young Farmers and on the Advisory Board for the Wellsville FFA Chapter.

**The election is April 14, 2015 from 11am till 6pm during the open house—come by, have some lunch and vote!**

### Sarah Szachnieski Receives Award

Sarah Szachnieski was recently recognized for Superior Service to the NRCS agency for FY2014. Sarah assisted landowners in the Warren County field office with technical guidance as well as administering Farm Bill Programs for EQIP (Environmental Quality Incentive Program) and CSP (Conservation Stewardship Program). This included guiding more than 50 operators through the 2015 renewal process for the CSP program. In addition to her regular duties at the NRCS office Sarah is the Federal Women's Program Manager for Missouri and assists in promoting the advancement of women in the agency and recruitment of new employees. Sarah and her husband have two children, Emma and Logan and live on a small farm in St. Peters where they are active in 4H activities including poultry.



**April 1st & 2nd, 2015**  
**Warren County,**  
**MO 63383**  
**For more information please**  
**contact 636.456.3434 x3 or**  
**573.564.3715 x3**

### GRAZING SCHOOL TO BE HELD IN WARREN COUNTY APRIL 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>

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 Wednesday and Thursday, April 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> at the Warren County Extension Center, 107 W. Walton St., Warrenton, MO.

The cost of the two day school is \$50 per person. This fee includes cover the cost of a speaker, other speakers, materials and lunch both days are provided through a NRCS grant. Please register by March 27<sup>th</sup>. 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. 3.

### District Hosts Young Farmers Meeting on 2/9/15



On February 9th several landowners attended the Young Farmers Meeting at Wellsville to hear about the Farm Bill Programs, updates on CSP, EQIP and State Cost Share.

## District Conservationist Chosen for New FOSA for Montgomery, Warren, Pike and Lincoln Counties

Recently NRCS announced they are going through a reorganization of the County Offices. The Pike, Lincoln, Montgomery and Warren County offices will be a Field Office Service Area (FOSA). Recently the job as District Conservationist for the 4-county FOSA was announced and Tammy Teeter was selected for this job.

Tammy has served as the District Conservationist for Montgomery and Warren County FOSA since 1996 and has been Acting DC in Pike County since September 2014. She was recently recognized for her 30 years of service with the agency. Tammy was raised on a farm and she resides Montgomery County with her husband David and daughters Katie (junior at Lindenwood University) and Sophie (sophomore at State Fair Community College). Tammy feels this is a great opportunity for the counties to utilize staff from all offices and hopes to see more interest and participation in the State and Federal Farm Bill Programs so we can continue to put conservation on the land.

### Ag Café

#### MU EXTENSION

#### Breakfast & Info TO GO!

**3/7/15 (Saturday) - Crop Scouting for Wheat**  
Everything you need to know to grow quality wheat.

**4/4/15 (Saturday) - Crop Scouting for Corn**  
Scouting your corn up to Z7 stage of growth.

To register, call the Warren County Extension Center at 636-456-3434, x3. The cost is \$5 per person. For more information, contact Rich Hoormann, Extension Agronomist, 573-564-3733.

## FSA News...



By Priscilla Eggering, CED for Montgomery & Warren FSA

Farm Service Agency

### Agricultural Risk Coverage (ARC) and Price Loss Coverage (PLC) Program Signup Call ASAP to Schedule an Appointment

#### 1st Deadline is February 27th

If you want to reallocate your bases or update your yields this will need to be done by February 27th. It takes one current owner to sign the Base Reallocation and Yield update Decision Form. If you miss this deadline your farm's current counter-cyclical yields and base acres will be used for the ARC/PLC program.

#### 2nd Deadline is March 31st

The ARC/PLC Election Process of selecting which option you want to participate in PLC, ARC-CO or ARC-IC deadline is March 31st. All producers sharing in the crop will need to sign the election form. If you miss this deadline your farm will not be eligible for 2014 crop year ARC or PLC payments. Only option is for farm to be enrolled in PLC for the 2015-2018 crop years.

Reminder to Warren County Producers that have their records in the Warren County office we are taking appointments for the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of the month.

**Warren County  
USDA Service Center  
Open House**

**Wednesday, March 24, 2015 - 11am-2pm  
635 W. Booneslick Rd.  
USDA Service Center in Warrenton**

**Please take this opportunity  
to visit and meet with staff about the many programs  
available through the service center and our partners.**

Landowners and operators are invited as well as those who  
work in the community.

Come and see what we have to offer!

At noon we will also be announcing awards.

There will also be information available from our partner agencies (Farm  
Service Agency, MO Dept of Conservation, MO University of Extension, and  
Quail Forever). A lunch of pork loin and sides will be served.

The NACD Poster Contest Theme this year for  
4th Grade Students in Warren County is

**"Local Heroes: Your Hardworking Pollinators"**

USDA is an Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer

If you need an accommodation, please contact the office at 636-456-3434, x3.

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. If you need an accommodation, please contact the USDA office you will be attending.

**The Montgomery and Warren County Soil & Water Conservation Districts do not endorse nor recommend any of the vendors/contractors advertised in this newsletter. All interested vendors/contractors are eligible to place an ad or be added to the contractor list.**



## Continuous CRP: New Options for an Old Program

By Ryan Diener, Quail Forever Farm Bill  
Wildlife Biologist

*CRP can improve your bottom line, reduce soil loss, and improve water quality*

It seems strange to think of the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) as an old program. Though it has its roots in the Soil Bank Program of the 1950's, it was really established in 1985. Still, a lot can change in 30 years. The original goals of the CRP program were to assist landowners in conserving soil and water resources by providing annual payments for temporarily retiring these acres from production. With the addition of wildlife conservation, these are still the goals of the program; however, there are many new options that can make today's CRP a better fit for many operations. There is still have a competitive, General CRP signup where landowner's offers are ranked and the best offers are accepted and seeded down for the contract period and General CRP is still what most people think of when they think of CRP. However, the newer Continuous CRP program may be a better fit depending on your farm size and location, management approach, and interests. In Continuous CRP, landowners can sign-up lands that are a high priority for enrollment at any time. Acres are allocated periodically. If acres are available and your land meets the basic requirements, you can participate. What incentives and payments would I receive? This depends, but annual CRP rental payments in Northeast Missouri average between \$120 and \$160/acre. Cost-share for establishment on many Continuous CRP contracts is as high as 90% with one-time signup incentives of 100 - \$150/acre and, provided funding is available, the Missouri Department of Conservation is offering up to an additional \$150/acre one-time, signup incentive payments in Lewis County and other priority counties.

### **Do I Qualify?**

Provided that you fall under income limits and are in compliance with your current conservation plan, the answer is YES. Every farm has cropped areas that are High Priority and qualify for Continuous CRP.

### **What are High Priority areas?**

High Priority areas include, but are not limited to: field edges, Highly Erodible Land, even whole geogra-

phies where wildlife species of concern are declining, qualify as priority areas.

### **What would I seed?**

This depends on the practice that you select, but seedings are typically warm season grasses and wildflowers. Some seedings, designed to benefit pollinating insects, are entirely composed of wildflowers. Some practices include tree or shrub plantings and some can have up to 20% of the enrolled acreage in wildlife food plots.

### **Are there other benefits of having land in CRP?**

In addition to reducing soil loss and improving water quality, CRP can make your farm more profitable. A 2007 University of Missouri Study found that in less productive areas, like the first 30 feet of a field bordering timber, CRP often increased farm profits by providing income on areas that typically lose money. New CRP seedings can also benefit pollinating insects, many of which are declining rapidly. CRP also provides valuable habitat for grassland birds, rabbits, and other small animals. Without CRP very few grassland areas would remain in a landscape once dominated by prairie.

### **I am interested, but have more questions. Where can I find answers?**

If you would like more information, contact your local USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) office, a Missouri Department of Conservation Private Lands Conservationist, or call Ryan Diener, East-central Missouri's Quail Forever Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist at (636) 399-8733.



Jamie Barton-Private Land Conservationist received the 2014 PLS Achievement Award  
**Congratulations Jamie!**

**Advertise in the Ag Tomorrow Newsletter!**  
If you are interested in placing an ad in the district's newsletter, please contact Polly Sachs at 573-564-3715, x3 for the Montgomery area or 636-456-3434, x3 for the Warrenton area. Income from the newsletter helps fund information/education activities locally within the districts.

## Prescribed Fire Workshop

By Jamie Barton—MDC

Do you have questions about prescribed fire or improving wildlife habitat on your property? The Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) will be hosting a Prescribed Fire Workshop on Saturday, March 14<sup>th</sup>, 2015 from 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. The workshop will be held at the Dale and Sue Deeker Property, south of New Florence.

The workshop will cover a wide variety of topics including, proper methods and techniques used for implementing control burns, burn equipment availability and developing burn plans. Professionals from MDC will give presentations and will be available to answer questions.

If you are interested in attending this free workshop, please call and register with the Montgomery County Soil and Water District by March 12<sup>th</sup>, at (573) 564-3715, ext. 3.



*Thou shalt inherit the Holy Earth as a faithful steward, conserving its resources and productivity from generation to generation.*

*Thou shalt safeguard thy fields from soil erosion, thy living waters from drying up, thy forests from desolation, and protect thy hills from overgrazing by thy herds, that thy descendants may have abundance forever.*

*If any shall fail in this stewardship of the land thy fruitful fields shall become sterile stony ground and wasting gullies, and thy descendants shall decrease and live in poverty or perish from off the face of the earth.*

**SOIL HEALTH MATTERS**

### 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 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

#### 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 Clerk

##### Assisted by NRCS Personnel

Tammy Teeter, District Conservationist  
Sarah Szachnieski, Resource Conservationist  
David Korman, Soil Conservationist  
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, Lafe Schweissguth, Justin Janes, Kevin Krause  
and Angela Belden-MDC Forestry  
Scott Voney & Sarah Peper-MDC Fisheries Biologists  
Matt Spurgeon & Jim Kuenzie-MDC Wildlife Conservationists