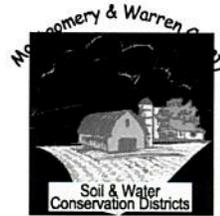
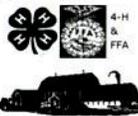


# Agriculture



Working together to conserve our natural resources!



# Tomorrow

JUNE 2015

Published by MONTGOMERY AND WARREN COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

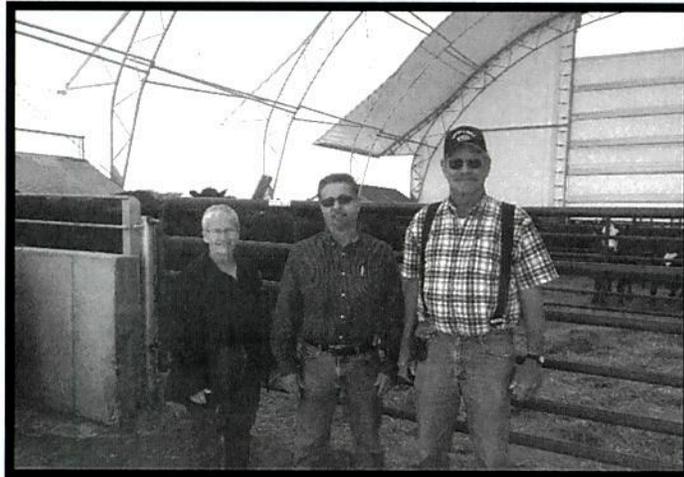


### Upcoming Events:

- 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.

### Inside this issue:

FSA Articles Bear Sightings—MDC	
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Sericia Lespedeza Jason Bolte—New Job! Trees—MDC	
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Summer Intern- Montgomery County	



**(Left) STATE AND AREA CONSERVATIONISTS TOUR LOCAL FARM.** In June the Montgomery/Warren/Lincoln/Pike FOSA hosted JR Flores, our State Conservationist, and Karen Brinkman, Area Conservationist on a tour of Montgomery County where they toured Bob Ridgley's farm. Bob has utilized various state and federal cost share programs to implement grazing systems and terraces on his farm and recently built an animal feeding barn with EQIP assistance. They also toured Malinmor Hunt Club with Rick Merritt in Pike County. Pictured s Tammy Teeter-DC, JR Flores and Bob Ridgley.

## COVER CROPS

*By Debbie Niederer, District Technician*

Last year the Missouri Soil and Water Districts Commission (MSWCD) approved state cost-share funding for a pilot program for Cover Crops. The pilot project allowed 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. The MSWCD Commission will be reviewing the cover crop practice at their June 17<sup>th</sup>, 2015 meeting. Hopefully they will decide to offer payment for the practice again this year. If it's going to be offered we should be receiving guidelines and payments, for this fiscal year, shortly after the meeting.

The 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:

- 1) Reduce erosion and water runoff from agricultural fields and increase infiltration;
- 2) Increase soil organic matter;
- 3) Capture and recycle or redistribute nutrients in the soil profile;
- 4) Increase biodiversity;
- 5) Suppress weeds;
- 6) Manage soil moisture; and
- 7) Minimize /reduce soil compaction

Timing is a big factor in successful cover crops implementation. If you are interested in cover crops and possible payment for seeding them please contact the district after the 17<sup>th</sup> for more specifics.

Warren SWCD 636-456-3434 x3,  
Montgomery SWCD 573-564-3715 x3.

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/](http://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\\_215](http://efotg.sc.egov.usda.gov/references/public/MO/340_std_215)

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.



(Right) Pictured is corn no-till into terminated cover crop from last years pilot program.

**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

## FSA News...Priscilla Eggering, Warren & Montgomery FSA

### CROP REPORTING-DEADLINE JULY 15TH

In order to remain eligible for all current and future programs you need to make a complete crop report. The deadline to make this crop report for the 2015 crop year is July 15th. A late file fee would apply, if reported after this date.



### FSA County Committee Nomination Period Begins June 15th

To be eligible to serve on a FSA county committee, a person must participate or cooperate in an agency administered program, be eligible to vote in a county committee election and reside in the local administrative area where they are nominated.

Farmers and ranchers may nominate themselves or others. Organizations representing minorities and women also may nominate candidates. To become a candidate, an eligible individual must sign an FSA-669A nomination form. The form and other information about FSA county committee elections are available at [www.fsa.usda.gov/elections](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/elections). Nomination forms for the 2015 election must be postmarked or received in the local USDA Service Center by close of business on Aug. 3, 2015.

## Warren County SWCD Farm Essay Contest

By: Caitlin Stanek, Warren County SWCD Intern

**Every year the Warren County SWCD is excited to read the essays that each student who attends a farm tour writes. A winner from each class is chosen and presented an award, then an overall winner is chosen from each farm tour and you can read their essays in this newsletter.**

**Unfortunately this year the students who attended the Reckamp tour were not able to write an essay because school was released just one week after the tour.**

**Thank you to all the students who wrote great essays about what they learned about conservation and farming. Thank you to the teachers for allowing the students to take the time to write the essays and participate in the contest.**

## New NRCS Technician: Jason Bolte

By Jason Bolte

Recently NRCS decided to fill their technician vacancy at the Montgomery County Field Office left by John James. I applied for the position, and was chosen to be the new NRCS technician our FOSA which includes Montgomery, Lincoln, Pike and Warren Counties; and will assume my duties with NRCS in mid-June. I am looking forward to being able to continue assisting land-owners in our FOSA implementing conservation practices on their land.

## Black Bears in Missouri



By: Jeff Bakameyer, MDC

He's a heavyweight from Northern Arkansas. He's dark and mysterious. He'll eat just about anything, and he's being seen more and more around the Show-Me State.

His name is *Ursus americanus*, but you probably know him better as the black bear. One of the state's largest wild mammals, black bears have been seen in more than half of Missouri's counties, though most are south of the Missouri River. According to the Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC), black-bear sightings and numbers are growing in Missouri. Black bears are native to Missouri, but the species was nearly eliminated from the state by 1940 due to unregulated hunting and habitat changes. Recent data indicates that a few of Missouri's native bears might have survived. However, the growth of Missouri's black bear population in recent years probably is largely a result of a successful black-bear restoration effort by the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission in the 1960s. The great majority of Missouri's black bears live south of I-44 and most are found between Poplar Bluff and Springfield. Male bears, especially young males, disperse in the spring of the year to search out their own home range. This journey can occasionally take them hundreds of miles from their starting point. During this time, they are in unfamiliar territory and they may not know local natural food sources. This can sometimes lead to problems for the bear and people if they come across "easy" food sources such as garbage cans, pet food, and livestock food.

With recent sightings of a bear(s) in the area, this is important to keep in mind. While it is a great experience to see a bear in the wild, problems arise if the bear starts to associate humans with food. You have likely heard of the saying "A fed bear is a dead bear." Sadly, if bears lose their natural fear of humans because of associating humans with food, often-times the only solution to the problem ends up being euthanasia of the animal. This can be avoided by not intentionally feeding the animals and also making sure to keep any potential food sources such as garbage, pet food, livestock food, bird and squirrel feeders, bee hives, etc. secured so the animals can't get to them. Using bear/animal resistant trash cans can be helpful and also waiting until the morning of your trash pick-up to set out garbage will reduce the amount of time that a bear has to find this tasty treat. Also remember that lots of fallen fruit in orchards and vineyards can be very aromatic and tempting.

If you encounter a bear in the wild, you should slowly back away while speaking in a normal voice. If you are with a group of people, stay together and make a lot of noise by yelling, banging objects on trees, etc. Bears are naturally inquisitive and may stand up or move around to get a better view or smell to assess the situation. We want this experience with humans to be a negative one for the bear so it keeps its natural fear of people. As stated earlier, if bears start to associate humans with food, problems can arise.

Bear numbers will likely continue to increase in the future as they continue to expand their range into suitable habitats. A cooperative study started in the fall of 2010 by the Missouri Department of Conservation, the University of Missouri, and the University of Mississippi involved trapping and radio collaring bears while also collecting DNA samples. Information gathered during this study allowed researchers to determine such things as population size, sex ratio, genetic diversity, daily and seasonal movement patterns, reproduction and survival rates, etc. The population for the state is currently thought to be around 300 animals.

So enjoy the possibility of seeing a great native animal to our state! Just remember to follow the above-mentioned advice to keep this experience a positive one for you and a long-term positive one for the bear!

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 an accommodation is needed call Montgomery USDA Office at 573-564-3715, x3 or Warren USDA Office at 636-456-3434, x3

# Puetz's Farm Tour—05/07/2015

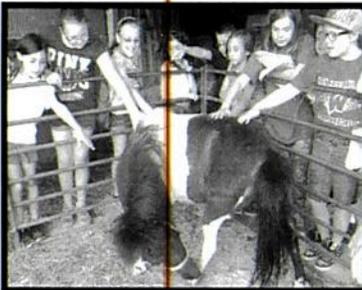
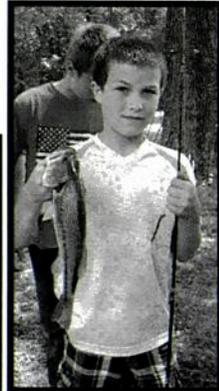
**By: Polly Sachs, District Clerk and Caitlin Stanek, Warren County SWCD Intern**

*This May Daniel Boone Elementary, Warrior Ridge Elementary, and Rebecca Boone Elementary visited the Puetz's farm to have a day filled with learning and fun. Students were able to learn about a variety of conservation and farming practices throughout the day.*

*Thank you to the Puetz Family for allowing us to use their farm for the tour and the workers, volunteers, and Warren County Pork Association for preparing lunch for everyone.*



Debbie Niederer-SWCD and Kevin Krause-MDC Talked about the importance of water quality, then the students enjoyed some fishing! (left, below and right)



Gary Noel talked about the importance of soil with the students and took samples for them to see and ask questions. (Above)

The students loved interacting with the animals around the farm (Left)



Ryan Diener talks to the student about wildlife and shows them furs of different animals for them to observe. (Left and Above)



Lafe Schweissguth talked to students about how to be safe when on the farm. (Above)



The Warrenton Fire Department had a stop for the kids to learn and have some fun in the water too. (Above)

## **Caitlin Stanek** ♦ **Warren County Summer Intern**



Hello, my name is Caitlin Stanek and I am returning again this summer to serve as the Warren County Soil and Water Conservation District Intern. I am currently a junior at the University of Missouri- Columbia studying Agricultural Education. Go Tigers! I am excited to build upon what I learned last summer through the SWCD, NRCS and landowners throughout the county. Making connections with landowners and operators was one of my favorite aspects of the internship last summer and I look forward to meeting clients again and learning about practices that are being implemented. I am also very eager to have the opportunity to work on information/education opportunities throughout the county this summer.

*-Caitlin Stanek*

# Glosemeyer's Farm Tour—4/22/15

The Glosemeyers hosted the farm tour for the Marthasville Elementary, Holy Rosary, St. Ignatius, St. Vincent's, and Liberty Christian Academy schools this Spring. Students had the chance to participate in many activities throughout the day at various stations.



Students giggle as they hold the worms after learning how they are important to the soil. (Upper Right)



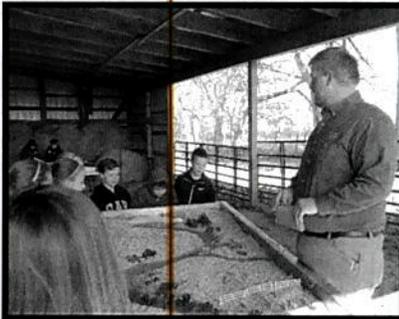
Gary Noel and Theresa Dunlap show students the layers of soil with a soil prob at the Soils & Terraces Stop. (Right )



Bob Ridgley and Alicia Muhm display an array of arrowheads, rocks, and minerals. (Above)



Yale Muhm let's the student see and feel a pig's live heart as he explains how important pig's hearts can be through their many uses. (Right)



# Reckamp's Farm Tour—5/13/15

The Reckamps hosted the farm tour for the Wright City Elementary school this May. The numerous stops allowed the young students to have a fun filled day full of learning.



A big thanks to these students from Wright City FFA who helped with the hogs stop and also assisted the Reckamps in setting up and cleaning up after the tour!! (Left)

Lunch time!



Below, Keith Mueller talks to the students about electricity. He explains how electricity works and how to stay safe when around it.



Lauren Richardson speaks to students about healthy foods and soybean uses. (Below)

Jeff Bakameyer and Lafe Schweissguth teaches students about trees and wildlife. (Right)



During the farm animal station students learned about all the products animals made and how to properly care for them. (Right)



### Overall Essay Winner—Glosemeyer Farm Tour

*What I learned at the Conservation Tour*

By: Maddie Hellebusch—St. Ignatius School

On Wednesday, April 22, I went to the Glosemeyer Farm for the Warren County Soil and Water Conservation Tour. I learned many interesting facts about farms, natural resources, and animals.

At Healthy Foods, I learned that a whole grain flour is healthier than white flour. An active 10 year old girl needs 6 servings of grain every day. Cake has vitamins for us to grow. Vitamins and minerals heal ourselves.

At trees and wildlife, I learned trees give off oxygen, shade, food, and heat. The Dogwood is the Missouri state flower. You can identify a tree by looking at its rings. A meat eater is a carnivore. A plant eater is a herbivore. A plant and meat eater is a omnivore.

At Soil and Terraces, I learned that soil is very important. Soil is everywhere. 3 things soil gives plants is nutrients, water, and minerals. Terraces slow down water on hills so it doesn't wash away the dirt. Roots feed off the top soil.

At Rocks and Minerals, I learned Igneous rock is made when lava hardens. Metamorphic is a heat crystal. Sedimentary rock piles up during time. Indians used chert for Indian rocks.

At Stream table and Worms, I learned that erosion takes away from its place. Trees and roots stabilize the land. Water running off landscape makes erosion. There are over 27,000 worms in the world. Deep dwellers dig 16 feet underground. Shallow dwellers dig 2 feet underground. Surface dwellers dig on the top soil.

At Farm Safety, I learned an auger goes through the top of the grain bin. I learned to ride in a tractor with a seat belt. I learned how to tell the difference between candy and medicine. At animals and heart, I learned at the left part of the heart is thicker than the right part of the heart. Pigs and human's organs are almost the same. You can use pigs for sausage, bacon, pork chops, and ham.

My favorite part was electricity, I learned that solar energy comes from the sun. You can use coal for electricity. You can't see electricity. Electricity is very hot. Electricity is trying to get to the ground and stay 10 feet away from electricity lines.

### Weather and Your CStP Contract

By Sarah Szachnieski

**NRCS Resource Conservationist**

Delayed planting, preventive planting and re-planting unfortunately are on the radar this year in Montgomery and Warren Counties, and for some operators it's as simple as a change in rotation and making sure that the new rotation meets conservation compliance with your farm plan. However if you have a CStP (Conservation Stewardship Program) contract, your rotation plays into how your application was ranked and scored and compliance with this determines whether or not you have a valid contract.

If you have acres that are currently enrolled in a CStP contract and you have had a change in tillage, or type of crop planted due to delayed planting, prevented planting or re-planting, please contact the office to discuss options to include requesting to modify your contract. This should be done soon to allow for processing of modifications as to not delay CStP payments in the fall. If you have questions please contact David Korman in Montgomery County; 573.564.3715 ext 3 or Sarah Szachnieski in Warren County; 636.456.3434 ext 3.

### Now's the time to think about Sericea Lespedeza control

By Ryan Diener

**Quail Forever Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist**

June is the perfect time to scout out Sericea Lespedeza. Knowing what it looks like, where it is and how much is present will help you decide how to control. The reason Sericea is so successful or aggressive, is that each

### Overall Essay Winner—Puetz Farm Tour

*What I learned at the Puetz Farm Field Trip*

By: Mackenzie Hurst—Warrior Ridge Elementary

Introduction—While on the Puetz Farm field trip, I learned many things. I learned about soil. I learned about trees and leaves. I also learned how to fish. My favorite station was the soil station. My classmates and I thought that the soil station was super cool, though some students may think that the soil station was boring.

The Soil Station—While at the soil station, I learned the three of soil. The first layer is called the top soil. The second layer is called sub-soil, which included clay. The third layer is called bedrock. I enjoyed the station because Gary, the soil presenter showed us how to go into the soil and observe the layers. I thought the tool that Gary used was awesome!

The Fishing Station—While at the fishing station I learned about water qualities and how to become a better fisherman. First, I learned about water qualities. The three water qualities are fresh water, lake water, and dirty water. The second thing I learned about was how to fish. First, I learned that you must unhook the hook before casting the fishing line. Next, you have to press the button or pull back the trigger. Then, you pull the fishing pole back, behind you and cast forward while releasing the trigger or button. After that, you wait until a fish bites onto your fishing hook. Then, you reel the fishing line in slowly and take the fish off of the hook.

Tree Station—While at the tree station I learned that you can tell how old a tree is by counting the rings on the stump. I also learned which leaves are from which tree. Another thing I learned at the tree station was how to tell trees apart by looking at their bark. Also I learned about the tallest, wildest, and oldest trees in the country and in the world. Those results were amazing!

Conclusion—In conclusion, I learned a lot about science topics, new vocabulary words, fun facts. Also I realized that trees and soil can be very interesting! I'd also like to thank the Soil and Water Conservation District for planning the field trip to Puetz Farm!

stem may produce up to 1500 seeds. Sericea should not be confused with two of our native, beneficial lespedezas that also have creamy white to yellow flowers with pinky-purple streaks. Roundhead bush clover has a more similar leaflet structure to Sericea, both are slender and narrow. The key difference (when flower heads are not present) is that Roundhead has fine white hairs on single stems. Stems of Sericea will branch off, whereas Roundhead only branches on the very top with the flowers. The other native lespedeza that may be confused is Hairy Bush clover. The flower structure is more similar to Sericea's flower structure. The easy identifier for hairy bush clover is that the leaflets are much rounder, like a typical clover leaf you would see on St. Patrick's Day decorations.

1) Consider how much Sericea is on your property. Is it isolated or has it taken over all of your fields, has it spread into wooded areas? A combination of control methods works best. Herbicide application, prescribed burning, mowing, and grazing can all be used together to control the spread of Sericea. 2) Herbicide: Choosing the right chemical for the right time of year is very important. Triclopyr (Remedy) or Fluroxypr (PastureGard) should be used from July to September, prior to seed production. Glyphosate (Roundup) may be used to treat small pockets before seed comes on. Remember these herbicides will impact other plants, so be sure to read the label for proper rates. 3) Prescribed Burning: It can be difficult to carry a fire. Having treated plants with herbicide first will create drier materials that are more likely to burn. Burning in June may be hard to accomplish and should be avoided if birds are nesting in the field containing Sericea. A combination of spraying in July and burning September before the plants go to seed will secure a year without seed production. 4) Mowing & Grazing will help control the spread. Repeated years of mowing while the flowers are still buds, will slow down Sericea. Goats and sheep will utilize Sericea, whereas mature cows will only eat newly germinated plants before they become too woody. A spring burn of the pasture will ensure new plants that will be more palatable to cattle.

It is important to get started at reducing growth and/or maintaining the spread of this invasive plant on your property. Check with your Farm Bill Biologist, Private Lands Conservationist, or USDA office to see if cost-share is available to help get you started on control.

## Trees Work!



**By Jeff Bakameyer, MDC**

*Trees Work. Trees work for your health. Trees work for your family. Trees work for your wallet. Trees work.* Did you know that being around trees lowers your blood pressure and pulse rate? Guess what else. Kids perform better on tests and have reduced symptoms on ADHD after being in nature. And, trees along streets raise home values by \$8000 on average. Trees work. At the same time that they provide habitat for wildlife, wood products and shade for our homes, trees work in other incredibly important and surprising ways we are only beginning to understand.

The Missouri Department of Conservation has a new educational campaign called Trees Work to increase awareness of the benefits our trees and forests provide. Many of us appreciate the beauty of an oak releasing its tender spring leaves or a maple shading our deck without being aware of the real and valuable benefits those trees are providing for our health, our families, our wallets and our environment. The Trees Work campaign strikes a one, two punch by letting Missourians know all the ways trees and forests are working for you in your everyday life *and* providing information on what you can do about it-how you can promote good forestry management no matter how much land you own.

Now, let's get Missouri's trees back on our radar screen. After all, Trees Work! Be watching for Trees Work activities and information in your area. Visit [www.treeswork.org](http://www.treeswork.org) to learn more and get involved. And, help us spread the message that our trees and forests are more than pretty, static things . . . Trees Work!!



### Lukas Poindexter

#### ◇ Montgomery County Summer Intern

Hello, my name is Lukas Poindexter and I am the intern for the Soil and Water Department in Montgomery for the summer. I am currently a sophomore at Missouri S&T and I am majoring in Engineering Management. I was born and raised in the countryside of Montgomery City. I am excited to have an internship with the Soil and Water Department and hope to gain valuable engineering experience for the future. I am also interested in learning more about the area I was raised in, and look forward to meeting and helping new people.

-Lukas Poindexter

#### MONTGOMERY COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

1013 S. Sturgeon • Montgomery City, MO 63361

##### Board of Supervisors

Adam Uthlaut, Chairman • Derrick Cope, Vice-Chairman • Rich Hoormann, Secretary • Luke Stevens, Treasurer • Alan Bufka, Member

##### District Personnel

Robert Ridgley, District Technician, Ann Whitehead, District Technician,

#### WARREN COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

635 W. Booneslick • Warrenton, MO 63383

##### Board of Supervisors

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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 Szachniewski, Resource Conservationist  
David Korman, Soil Conservationist  
Jason Bolte, Soil Conservation Technician  
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, Lafe Schweissguth, Kevin Krause  
and Angela Belden-MDC Forestry  
Scott Voney & Sarah Peper-MDC Fisheries Biologists  
Matt Spurgeon & Jim Kuenzle-MDC Wildlife Conservationists

### 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

Two 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**