

Agriculture



Tomorrow

Working together to conserve our natural resources!



October 2011

Published by MONTGOMERY AND WARREN COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICTS



Upcoming Events:

- November 11—Offices Closed—Veterans Day Observed
- November 24—Offices Closed—Thanksgiving Day
- December 26—Offices Closed—Christmas Day Observed

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17th Annual State Women In Agriculture Conference



**By Brenda VanBooven
Montgomery SWCD**

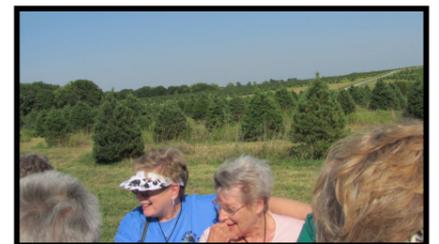
This was an amazing conference. Several vendor displays were set up ranging from Thirty-One (purse/totes), soaps and lotions, MDC, Mizzou, handmade baskets and so much more. Monday kicked off with the opening session with a welcome by Booneville Mayor Julie Thacher, comments by Drenda Williams, NRCS and Session speaker Charlie Hopper, Marketing Specialist for Agribusiness, Missouri Department of Agriculture (MDA). Following Opening Session the ladies had workshops that ranged from Basic Beekeeping by Steve Moeller, Boone Regional Beekeepers; Pesti-

cide Safety by Darryl Slade, MDA; How to Prepare your Child for the Future by Roberta Carson, Counselor at Booneville High School and Forest Management & Your Economic Returns with Kristen Goodrich & Ann Koenig, Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC). The Monday evening entertainment was a very enlightening talk with Senator Jean Carnahan.

Tuesday was Warm Springs Ranch, Home of the World-Famous Budweiser Clydesdales! Words can NOT describe the beautiful and scenic venue! Staff was impeccable and you could tell they take pride and love what they do. We learned when a Clydesdale is born, their birth weight ranges from 150-200 lbs. Our tour guide reminded us that momma weighs around 2000 lbs! The tour took us throughout the beautiful barn/stable, viewed their awesome mode of transportation across the world and ended with the best part...standing beside and petting a Clydesdale. Next was J. Huston Tavern in Arrow Rock for lunch. We were allowed to visit Arrow Rock and see some of their historic sites. Next stop Starr Pines Christmas Tree Farm. Wayne and Ann Harmon opened Starr Pines to the public on Thanksgiving 1990.

Left—These ladies attended the conference in Booneville September 12-14, 2011. Front—Brenda VanBooven, Priscilla Eggering, Gloria Leverett, Tammy Teeter, Peggy Richardson. Back—Ann Whitehead, Muriel Kaiser, Bev Bader, Judy Hillebrand, Pam Callaway, Luella Fischer.

Wayne gave tours on his John Deere and wagons. We enjoyed a beautiful variety of trees, and were able to view the bee hives. At the same time Ann, who has been an Aromatherapist for over 20 yrs. explained the process to use fresh grown herbs, berries and leaves to create natural and safe aromatherapies.



Wednesday morning was workshops and ended with a closing luncheon and guest speaker Teresa Snow, KRCG TV News Anchor. Yet another awesome conference for WIA and all of us ladies look forward to next year!

The conference is hosted in various locations in Missouri every year. The torch was passed to Northwest MO for the 2012 Conference. (location will be revealed soon!)



Teresa Snow and Brenda VanBooven meet at the state WIA conference. Theresa and her husband Ben raise cattle on their farm in Boone county.

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Conservation Compliance and

Tammy Teeter
District Conservationist, NRCS

It has been several years since we had the big push to develop conservation farm plans so you could be in compliance with the Farm Bill to receive Federal payments through FSA and NRCS. I wanted to remind you that you must still have a conservation plan on any land you farm, whether you are the owner or operator, and you also must be in compliance with that plan, or following it, to be eligible for federal payments or programs.

What this means is if you are not sure what your conservation plan has in it for your rotation or tillage, or know you have varied from it, you will need to contact our office so we can review your plan and make or document these changes.

This year when doing our conservation plan reviews we noticed a lot of gully erosion in fields. These are low concentrated flow areas that start out as a small ditch then just keep getting larger mainly due to excessive rainfall. Most all of these gullies had been worked in several times with heavy tillage equipment so they could be planted across and in all cases there was not adequate residue in the field to meet the requirements of the conservation plan so it required the plan to be revised. If you have gully erosion on your farm there is technical assistance available to help you address this problem.

With all the different programs our landowners/operators are involved in we cannot emphasize enough the importance of knowing what you have agreed to in your conservation plan and if you don't know to ask. If you are found out of compliance with your plan you would not be eligible for these program dollars and this process involves a lot of time and paperwork on you and our part.

Upcoming 2012 Grazing Meeting Dates

February 9th
Mid Missouri Grazing Conference
Jefferson City, MO

February 10th
Winter Grazing Workshop
Focus is Stockpiling/Strip Grazing
Wurdack Farm

February 13th
Forage & Beef Conference
Cuba, MO

February 28th
Spring Forage Conference
Springfield, MO

Managing CSP Pollinator Enhancements

Tammy Teeter/Karen Sinclair, NRCS

This last year many producers in our county were accepted into the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) and many of them decided to do the enhancement of establishing pollinators, forbes/wildflowers, in field edges or establish a wildlife corridor, connecting wildlife habitat, by seeding it to warm season grasses.

We have been out to look at some of these areas and have found some that were managed very well and have a great stand of cover and others that had been seeded but had no management to it at all meaning we could find very little forbes or grass in the established area.

It is a good time now, if you do not know what your planting looks like, to go look at it. You will need to contact us if you have questions on what you see out there, if you need to do management, or if your contract was one that didn't get mowed this year and you need technical assistance on what to do now to try to save your seeding.

We stressed that management of these practices needed to happen especially the first year for them to be successful and to be in compliance with your CSP contract. If it is determined the seeding has failed you will have to reseed the planting. **Below is a successful pollinator planting.**



Cost-Share for Lower Loutre

Ann Whitehead
Montgomery SWCD

The Montgomery County Soil and Water Conservation District has money allocated for erosion/water quality practices in the Lower Loutre SALT Watershed. These cost-share funds can be used for:

Grassland
Pastureland
Nutrient and Pest Management
Buffers
Use Exclusion
Spring Development
Well Decommissioning

These are some of the conservation practices for which the money can be used. If you would like to know more about qualifying for these erosion/water quality practices, please call our office at 573-564-3715. As of today we have about \$21,000.00 out of \$75,000.00 left to install these practices. The Lower Loutre SALT will obtain another \$75,000.00 next July, 1, 2012 for cost-share practices. These funds are provided through the parks and soils sale tax.

Beautiful Weather for Puetz Tour



Left—4th gr. students from Rebecca Boone visited the back of the Puetz Farm via hayride! Below—Fire Dept. shows the tools they use to fight fires.



Left & Below—After lunch, served by the Warren Co. Pork Association, the kids got to see the Fire Dept. use the dry hydrant at the Puetz pond.



ANIMALS STOP!



Warrenton FFA students brought rabbits, turkeys, ducks, pigs and a calf for students to visit with.

Below—Jane Eggering, FSA teaches students about look-a-likes at the Farm Safety Stop.



Below—Lafe Schweissguth, Warren SWCD teaches safety around farm equipment.



Below—Ralph Tucker, NRCS talks to students about the many uses of rocks and minerals.



Left—This turkey seems to be checking out where he is on the "Farm Animals Give us Food" chart!



Below—Keith Mueller from Central Electric Cooperative demonstrates the dangers of electricity.



Farm Storage Facility Loans

Priscilla Eggering & Ryan Eddy, FSA

Do you need more storage capability for your farming operation this fall? Low interest loans for storage facilities are available. Producers can use the loan to build or remodel farm storage facilities for a variety of commodities including hay. Many bin companies offer special end of year pricing. See your county FSA office to make your application.

2012 DCP/ACRE Signup

The 2012 DCP/ACRE signup at the FSA office will not start until January 23, 2012. There will not be any advance payments for 2012. The total payment will be issued in October, 2012.

New District Employee at Montgomery SWCD

Hi, I'm Eric Niemeyer, I grew up on a small farm a few miles north of Montgomery City. I graduated from Montgomery Co R-II in 2006. After high school I attended college at Northwest Missouri State University in Maryville, MO, where I graduated in the spring of 2010 with a degree in Agronomy and a minor in Biology. I am proud to be a new member of the SWCD at the Montgomery County office where I am a new District Technician. I will be working with the different types of cost-share programs and helping with rental equipment for landowner use. I am looking forward to meeting with landowners and assisting them in implementing a wide variety of conservation practices.



- September 28th & 29th, 2011



Left—Alicia Muhm, volunteer, helps a student with her catch! Above—Ben Avis, volunteer, puts bait the hook for this young man.

**FISHING
STOP!**



Above—Dennis Puetz helps this student take his fish off the hook.



A Huge THANKS to the Puetz Family and their volunteers! Gary Puetz, Doc, Mary Ann Puetz, Audrey Swoboda, Dennis Puetz, Ronnie Smith and Karl Puetz. This was the 13th year for the tour at the Puetz Farm started by their parents, Karl & Ralline



Right—Chris Merritt, University Extension shows students how to choose healthy foods.



Left—Bob Ridgley & Eric Niemeyer, Montgomery SWCD, teach students about the tools they use to lay out terraces and waterways.



Hispanic and Women Farmers

**Priscilla Eggering & Ryan Eddy, CEDs
FSA-Montgomery/Warren Counties**

A process to resolve the claims of Hispanic and women farmers and ranchers who believe they were discriminated against when seeking USDA farm loans has been established.

If you believe that the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) improperly denied farm loan benefits to you between 1981 and 2000 because you are Hispanic, or because you are female, you may be eligible to apply for compensation.

For additional information on this settlement issue contact: **Hispanic and Women Farmer Claims Process at www.farmerclaims.gov or call 1-888-508-4429**

Commodity Loans

Farmers can borrow money through FSA's Marketing Assistance Loans (MAL) Program using their stored grain as collateral. The grain can either be stored on the farm or in a government approved warehouse facility. The term of the loan is nine months, and is offered at low interest rates (September is 1.125%). A commodity loan provides producers with interim financing at harvest time to meet cash flow needs without immediately having to sell their grain. Contact your county office for details.

Extra Help at the NRCS Offices

Newest member of the Warren County NRCS/SWCD office, Katie Owens is assisting in the Conservation Stewardship Program. She is gathering documentation, reviewing and organizing the files of the participants. Some of her other duties include working with EQIP, WHIP and WRP. Katie Owens graduated from Truman State University and currently lives in Hawk Point, MO with her husband and two children. Their family recently finished building their "forever" home.

Hi, I'm Karen Sinclair, temporary employee with NRCS in Montgomery working with the Conservation Stewardship Program. Montgomery County has been my lifelong home. I've been involved with farming all my life and worked as a temporary employee in the Warren and Audrain County FSA offices. I enjoy working with beef cattle and have shown Brangus cattle for 29 years. My daughter Ahna keeps life busy and interesting.

Local Landowners Receive Habitat Improvement Award

**Jamie Barton, MDC
Private Land Conservationist**

On Saturday, September 17th, Montgomery County landowners Dr. William and Gail Wright received a Habitat Improvement Award from the Loutre Valley Chapter of Quail and Upland Wildlife Federation. QUWF Chairman Scott Mistler presented the award to the Wrights at the organization's annual wildlife banquet.

Each year the Loutre Valley QUWF recognizes a landowner in the community who has made significant wildlife habitat improvements to their property. Timber stand improvement, edge feathering, fescue conversion, native warm season grass establishment and food plot establishment are just some of the wildlife management practices that landowners implement on their property to receive this award.

The Wrights own and manage a 680 acre farm in Montgomery and Lincoln Counties. Creating quality quail habitat on their property has long been an objective for the farm. Shortly after acquiring the first piece of property they began converting fescue fields to diverse warm season grass fields. Prescribed fire was also used to set back plant succession and encourage native plant diversity. They are probably best known for their intensive woodland management activities. Thinning their woodlands and using prescribed fire to set back succession created more usable space for quail and other wildlife throughout their property. Incidentally, this management technique also created a more diverse plant community that all wildlife could benefit from.

The Wrights were also recognized for their habitat work in the July issue of Missouri Conservationist. This article tells the entire story of how they transformed their property into a diverse wildlife paradise.

Dr. William and Gail Wright accepting their award from QUWF Chairman Scott Mistler.



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Food Plot Seed

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



Heavy Rain Damage

**Robert Ridgley
Montgomery SWCD**

It's hard to imagine after going through the hot, dry, summer we have just endured that there is a possibility of damage to some of the conservation practices on your farm from several rain events that we had last spring.

With a lot of the crop still in the field, some of the damage has yet to be seen, but as the combines start to roll and the crops come out, be on the lookout for problems. If the cost-share practice is still within its life span timeframe, and the cost to repair is over \$100.00, funds could be available to help with these repairs. Report damage to your local SWCD office, a technician will do an evaluation and present the findings to the SWCD board for their consideration.

HAVE A SAFE HARVEST

Sericea Lespedeza

**Tony Peper
MDC-Forestry, Warren County**

Sericea Lespedeza [*Lespedeza cuneata*] is a perennial invasive exotic species from eastern Asia. It has an herbaceous to somewhat woody stem and stands 3 to 5 feet tall. It may be un-branched to many branched. The compound leaves are made of three leaflets, with each leaflet being up to 1 inch in length. The leaflets are longer than wide, wider above the middle, and narrow abruptly to a small sharp tip. Flowers are in clusters of 2-3 in upper leaf axils and appear from August through September. The flowers are small and pale creamy in color with purple or pink markings. The seeds are up to 1/8 wide and oval in shape. Sericea will grow almost anywhere, from roadsides to pond dams and fields. While sericea can be found in wooded areas, it is very sparse to absent in densely shaded areas. It often forms dense monoculture stands in non-forested areas. Sericea is a very prolific seed producer, whose seed can remain viable for twenty or more years.

Control

In pastureland, intensive grazing for many repeated years has not shown much reduction in vigor or amount of plants. Mechanical control (brush hogging) has shown only limited success, and only if the sericea is mowed at the flower bud stage for several years in a row.

Chemical applications have proven effective at eradicating sericea lespedeza. Treatments containing Glyphosate (e.g. Roundup) are effective at control but are non-selective herbicides; therefore they will kill anything they come in contact with. If control is needed in a CRP planting, or anywhere where grasses are desired, treatments containing triclopyr (e.g. Pasture Guard, Garlon 4) or metsulfuron (e.g. Ally, Escort) will control sericea and leave grasses unharmed. Spraying should occur after all plants have sprouted, which is typically mid May through flower stage in September.

Due to the viability of its seed, simply spraying the sericea can be a long battle. As you kill the plants, some of the seed bank germinates. These new plants get killed, and some more of the seed bank germinates, and this process can go on for many years. (Remember the 20 year seed viability.) The best way to combat this is with a prescribed burn. After a fire burns through an area, most, if not all of the seed bank will break dormancy and germinate. During this first year after fire, a chemical application should control all plants and most of the seed bank. After the first year, a quick annual walk through should suffice to find any new plants brought in by the two main dispersers of seed, birds and haying equipment.

Below are various photos of sericea lespedeza that are found on the MDC website at mdc.mo.gov, search "sericea lespedeza".



Building Habitats for Birds

Tammy Teeter
District Conservationist

Many of you are involved in our Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) and one of the enhancements you can do for this program is to provide wildlife structures such as birdhouses for certain species of birds. This year I was put into contact with a young man, Joe Hurley of Warrenton, that needed a Supervised Agriculture Experience (SAE) project for FFA by Diane Miederhoff, Warren Co. High School Vo-Ag Instructor, and I have been working with him on building birdhouses for landowners needing them for the program or just for use at their home because they enjoy having birds around and are interested in providing habitat for them.

Joe has been a member of the Warrenton FFA Chapter for the past three years. He may not have acreage to produce crops on or exhibit animals at the local or state fairs, but Joe has the talent to transform finished lumber into homes for wildlife. He has built 15 different styles of birdhouses to date and is working on constructing bat houses to make his SAE project more diverse. If Joe isn't busy building bird houses then he is busy documenting the receipts and expenditures in his SAE record book at school. This recordkeeping process allows him to be organized and stay knowledgeable about the cash-flow of his SAE. Joe's future goals are to continue building wildlife homes and offer them to citizens of Warren County. If you are interested in purchasing one of his wildlife homes, please contact Joe Hurley at 636-359-6225. Joe's SAE project would not have been possible without the great relationship between the local school and conservation office; plus it benefits wildlife in our area.

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

Warren Co. SWCD
 635 W. Booneslick
 Warrenton, MO 63383
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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
- Warm Season Grass Burn Equipment \$10 per day
- ATV Seeder \$20 per day
- ATV Disc Harrow w/trailer \$20 per day
- ATV Plotmaster w/trailer \$50 per day
- ATV Tank Spray Unit..... \$10 per day
- ATV Harrow FREE

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

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
- Tree Planter.....\$50/day • Maximum charge of \$100
- Tree Root Pruner..... FREE
- Truax "Seed Slinger" - Hand Grass Seeder..... FREE
- Truax Electric ATV Mounted Seeder..... FREE
- 10' ATV Mounted Sprayer FREE
- 18" Hay Probes (with \$50 deposit) FREE

Available through Darrell Reinhardt, near Hermann, 573-486-2469

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

Additional rental rates charged for out-of-county landowners

MONTGOMERY COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

1013 S. Sturgeon • Montgomery City, MO 63361

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 Sarah Szachnieski, Resource Conservationist
 John James, Soil Conservation Technician • David Korman, Soil Conservationist

Assisted by Missouri Department of Conservation

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