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Natural Resource Conservation Service

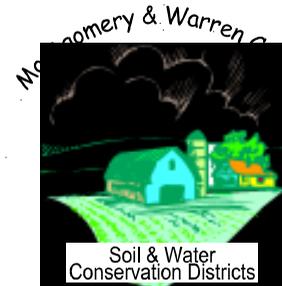


Department
Of Natural
Resources

Farm Service
Agency



Tomorrow



Soil & Water
Conservation Districts



FALL

Published by MONTGOMERY AND WARREN COUNTY SOIL & WATER
CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

Oct 2012

Upcoming Events:

- November 12—Offices closed in observance of Veterans Day
- November 22—Offices closed in observance of Thanksgiving
- December 25—Offices closed in observance of Christmas
- January 1—Offices closed in observance of New Years Day
- April 10-11, 2013—Grazing School at Warren County

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Emergency Drought Assistance Programs

MONTGOMERY COUNTY **By Karen Sinclair** **Montgomery SWCD**

Governor Jay Nixon put into place Executive Order 12-08 on July 23, 2012 establishing emergency cost share assistance for water source development and/or water distribution, at 90% of the state established cost share rate with a cap of \$20,000 per landowner. Missouri landowners actively involved in livestock or crop production adversely affected by the drought were encouraged to apply. Four questions had to be answered to determine if a landowner qualified for assistance, and in Montgomery County, assistance was

16 paid contracts and 5 submitted for payment. It is anticipated that we will have no problem meeting the November 15th deadline.

We want to thank our SWCD board for the many hours that they gave in helping to implement this program.

WARREN COUNTY **By Debbie Niederer** **Warren SWCD**

When I leave for work in the mornings now with my jacket on, I think back to earlier this summer when it was one hundred degrees every day and the evening temperatures didn't get below eighty degrees and my well that was

of a percent Soil and Parks tax. Landowners who qualified were eligible for up to 90% cost-share assistance not to exceed \$20,000.

Landowner requests for assistance in Warren County were assessed by SWCD and NRCS staff together with Soil and Water District Board Members. A total of 47 contracts were approved in Warren County; one for irrigation of crops, 24 for wells, two for well refurbishment, and 20 for livestock water distribution (running of pipeline and/or livestock water tanks). The 47 approved contracts totaled \$347,933.06. As the projects are completed and payments made, this total will be less as most wells

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in Montgomery Co., a site visit was made by a technician and board member to determine eligibility. Montgomery County has 31 qualifying contracts, for a total of \$190,175.94 in obligated funding. These contracts can be further broken down into the following categories: 13 livestock wells, 17 water distributions, and one irrigation (SPR). These practices were to be completed by September 23, 2012. Due to the overwhelming demand for well and water line installation contractors over the state of Missouri, the deadline was further extended to November 15, 2012 by Executive Order 12-09. All wells have been dug in Montgomery County. A few landowners are waiting on contractors to install the water lines. As of submission of this article, we have

degrees and rain well that was nonexistent. During this time we watched crops wither, pastures and ponds dry up, and deep wells stop producing water. Stress levels were high for producers as well as for livestock and crops, we all needed some relief. The one break landowners did get for livestock and crops came when the governor signed Executive Order 12-08 to aid farmers with the drought. This order established emergency assistance to landowners for water development and distribution for livestock and crops. Landowners who would have an immediate material benefit for the well-being of livestock and/or crop production were eligible for a water source or pipeline development through the Soil and Water Conservation Districts throughout the state. Cost-share assistance was set up through the districts and was partially funded through the districts from the 1/10

this total will be less as most wells did not exceed the estimated cost. Payment is only made on actual footage of well depth and pipe footage necessary to get water to the livestock. These drought assistance practices have kept us busy as well as our program office. As a result the completion date for the drought assistance practices has been extended until November 15th, 2012. Regular cost-share assistance with terraces, grazing systems and such was also suspended for the month of September by the State Soil and Water Districts Commission. Monies for those types of practices were temporarily frozen and should be reinstated October 1st, 2012. Thanks to everyone for your patience while we complete these practices. Turnaround time on these practices was very quick for the paperwork and designs involved. Thanks again.

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| <p>Warren County Soil & Water Conservation District</p> <hr/> <p>635 W. Booneslick Warrenton, MO 63383 Phone 636-456-3434, Ext. 3 Fax 636-456-3712</p> |  | <p>Montgomery County Soil & Water Conservation District</p> <hr/> <p>1013 S. Sturgeon Montgomery City, MO 63361 Phone 573-564-3715, Ext. 3 Fax 573-564-3967</p> |
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**April 10th & 11th, 2013
Warren County,
MO 63383
For more information please
contact 636.456.3434 x3 or
573.564.3715 x3**

Seeking Nominees!

By Brenda VanBooven
Montgomery County SWCD

The Montgomery County Soil and Water District is seeking candidates for nominating committee and landowners to run for two positions on the Board of Supervisors that are up for election at the upcoming Open House.

Each district board consists of five members. Four of the five are elected members. The fifth member, who serves as the official board secretary, is an ex-officio member appointed by the University of Missouri Extension.

Each elected member represents one of four territories. They serve four year terms and insure that local decision makers originate conservation programs to best address the soil and water resources in the district.

The nominating committee shall consist of three (3) land representatives residing in the same territory where the candidate is to be selected. The committee has the duty to nominate not less than two (2) qualified candidates. The two territories that are up for election are:

- ◆ Territory I – Danville Townships and south half of Bear Creek Township
- ◆ Territory III – Loutre Township

If you are interested in either running for an open position or being a member of the nominating committee please stop by the Montgomery County SWCD office or call (573) 564-3715 ext. 3.

Two Good Reasons for Cover Crops...

By Tammy Tector, NRCS

Reminder of Upcoming Crop Acreage Reporting Dates for FSA for 2013 Crop Year



Please be aware that there have been changes in the Crop Acreage Reporting Dates. The revisions in reporting dates are the result of a combined effort of FSA and the Risk Management Agency (RMA – crop insurance) to make acreage reporting easier. Please note the reporting deadlines below:

- Hay and Pasture for the upcoming crop year must now be reported by November 15, 2012.
- Fall barley, wheat and other fall seeded small grains planted in the fall of 2012 have to be reported by December 15, 2012.

NOTE-Failed acreage must be reported within 15 days of the disaster event and before disposition of the crop. Prevented planting must be reported no later than 15 days after the final planting date.

FSA's GovDelivery

Farm Service Agency offices are quickly moving toward a paperless operation. County office personnel are asking producers to enroll in the new GovDelivery system which will provide notices, newsletters and electronic reminders instead of a hard copy through the mail.

FSA is trying to work smarter and be more efficient. Moving to electronic notifications via email will help conserve resources and save taxpayer dollars. Missouri has introduced FSA eAlerts—a new way to receive FSA program reminders via e-mail or text. Sign up for eAlerts at your County Office and choose whether you would like to receive information via e-mail, text or both. You can opt out of receiving FSA eAlerts at any time.

Hispanic and Women Farmer and Rancher Claims Process

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

**By Tammy Teeter, NRCS
And Bob Ridgley, Montgomery SWCD**

After a year like this, producers are asking many questions. The most frequent one I get as a NRCS employee is, "Can I work my corn ground to get rid of my volunteer corn and still be in compliance" with my farm plan?" First I ask, what programs are you in? Any type of tillage could affect your conservation plan for your farm or your CSP payment. Finding the answer is not as quick as it used to be. We usually have to check your CSP information as well as run your rotation and tillage through the soil loss equation to make sure it is still within tolerable limits.

Most of our conservation plans are set up to plant corn into soybean stubble worked one time in the spring, and the next year soybeans are no-tilled into the past year's corn stalks. So if you are adding tillage to your corn ground in the fall you may need to put a cover crop on this land immediately as you do this tillage and then no-till into it in the spring. Just a general guide, a bushel of bin-run wheat per acre is a quick cover although there are many other species you can use that will provide other benefits to the soil. We have a list of those in the office and would be glad to discuss this with you if you are interested.

There has also been a lot of corn harvested for silage this year as well, and this land being bare all winter could erode. Your soil loss would definitely be over the tolerable limits if you do not put a cover crop on it, so once again, the bushel of wheat is a good quick cover.

This year with the drought conditions so widespread we have seen a large decrease in yields. The amount of residue on a field after harvest of a 20 bushel corn crop is a lot less than the 120 bushel or more we have set up in our soil-loss equations. This is

compensation. Please contact the Warren County USDA Service Center at (636) 456-3433 for more information.

Drought Meeting Held



Large crowd attends drought meeting at Hermann Mill on August 21, 2012. Over 120 landowners from Gasconade and Montgomery County listen to several speakers on Drought Assistance. Speakers included; University of Missouri Extension, Farm Service Agency, Soil and Water Conservation District, Natural Resource Conservation Service.

another reason to check before doing fall tillage.

Our main goal is to help you keep in compliance for the upcoming crop year and keep our soil on the land where it belongs. We have been getting several calls about these issues and if you would want to schedule a time to review your conservation plan, we would be glad to work with you.

Puetz Farm Tour for Warrenton Elementary Schools—

By Polly Sachs, Warren SWCD

The tour was originally scheduled for September 26th and 27th but had to be changed because of the wet weather. This year the 4th grade students came from three elementary schools, Rebecca Boone , Warrior Ridge, and Daniel Boone. There were 11 classes and approximately 230 students. The stops at the tour this year included Farm Safety, Electricity, Animals, Fire Department, Rocks & Minerals, Soils & Terraces, Healthy Foods, Trees & Wildlife and of course Fishing! The Warren County Pork Association volunteered their time to prepare a great lunch of brats and pork burgers for the students, teachers, parents, and resource personnel. A big



thanks to them and all the volunteers that helped make the tour possible!

Electricity Stop (Above) led by Stan Varner of Central Electric Coop. teaches the dangers of electricity.



Farm Safety Stop (Right) Life Schweissguth-MDC teaches students dangers farm equipment and look-a-likes which are chemicals that look like food and are not stored in their original containers.



Animals Stop (Left and Below) led by FFA students from Warrenton High School.



(Above) FFA student Alexis Ulett holds a duck for one of the students to pet. She also had a rooster for students to see.





Rocks & Minerals Stop (above) led by Brenda VanBooven talks about the many products we use everyday that come from rocks and minerals.

Healthy Foods Stop (Above) Chris Merritt, Univ. Extension, teaches students about what is in our food and how to eat healthy. Fire Dept. Stop (Right) shows students equipment used to fight fires.



(Above) FFA student Nathan Hummert holds a goat for one group of students at the Puetz Farm Tour so they could get a closer look!.

(Above) This student got to meet "Eli" the turkey. Eli belongs to Alexis Ulett and also came to the farm tour last year.



(Right) FFA student Bailey Ressegger brought rabbits for students to hold at the stop.

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, audiotope, 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.

Held October 2nd and 3rd, 2012!



(Above) Ryan Diener-Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist helping student with fishing line.



(Above) Dennis Puetz helps a student with his fish.



(Above) This student caught a big catfish.



(Above) Sometimes we catch...

Fishing Stop!
(Left) Several volunteers helped students learn how to fish and about the importance of water quality.



Soils & Terraces Stop!
(Above) John James-NRCS and Karen Sinclair-SWCD teach students about the soil. (Left) A student tries out a measuring tool used by technicians.

Trees & Wildlife Stop! (Right) Justin Janes-MDC and Josie Erfling-Volunteer display several examples of items you can find in a forest.



(Above) This student caught a big catfish on the first day! (Below) Ann Whitehead-SWCD helps bait a hook.



(Above) Sometimes we catch frogs by mistake! (Below) Jeff Bakameyer-MDC helps with the casting.



THANKS TO THE PUETZ FAMILY FOR AGAIN LETTING US TO USE THEIR FARM! (Left to Right) Karl Puetz, Ronny Smith, Dennis Puetz, Audrey Swoboda and Gary Puetz.

In the News...



NBC Nightly News Correspondent, Thanh Truong, interviewed local landowners Michelle Christopherson (left) and Peggy Ebbsmeyer about drought conditions in Missouri during the month of August.



NRCS Chief White Visits Missouri
On August 22, Chief White visited the farm of Harry Cope and talked to several landowners and board members about the affect the drought has had on their crops and livestock. Several landowners, and staff were interviewed by news organizations present were Warren County Record, MO Ruralist, Hermann Advocate and Brownfield Network.
(Left) Pictured with Harry and Chief White are Luke Stevens, Bill Cope, Ed Cope, Alan Cope and Roy Cope.



Drought Impact On Trees

Angela Belden
MDC Resource Forester

You don't have to be a professional forester to know that Missouri's trees are stressed by this year's extreme drought and record-breaking heat. Many look dead, but looks can be deceiving. Many of these trees will recover next year.

Leaves make the important sugars that nourish the tree, but they also allow water evaporation. Trees adapt to extreme dry conditions by dropping their leaves, which reduces a tree's risk of deadly dehydration. Many of the trees that are brown or leafless now will remain dormant through the winter and leaf out again next spring. You can check whether a tree is dead or simply dormant by breaking open a bud at the end of a twig by rubbing it between your fingers. If it is moist and green the tree may still be alive. But the only way to be sure a tree will survive this drought is to wait until next spring and see if it leafs out.

You can improve trees' chances of survival by slowly soaking the ground under the entire canopy of the tree. Trees need about 2 inches of water per week when

Youth Dove Hunt

Jamie Barton
MDC Private Land Conservationist-Montgomery County

On August 31st the Missouri Dept. of Conservation administered a youth dove hunt at Prairie Fork Conservation Area. Much needed rain and overcast skies had no effect on the thirteen energetic youth hunters that took part in the event. Spirits were high as MDC biologist and conservation agents spoke to the group about dove biology, management, hunting regulations and what to expect while hunting in the field. Participants were also able to shoot at clay targets to get a feel for what it would be like when shooting at doves flying through the air. A pulled pork and hotdog meal was provided by Loutre Valley QUWF.

The next day hunters had an exciting dove hunt on Whetstone Creek CA. Not everyone harvested their limit of doves, but there was plenty of shooting opportunity. Everyone, including staff, had a great time. For information about next year's event, you can contact the Whetstone Creek CA at (573) 254-3330.

Below are the participants!

Local Landowner Receives Habitat Improvement Award!

On Saturday, September 29th, Montgomery Co. landowner John Groeteke received a Habitat Improvement Award from the Loutre Valley Chapter of Quail and Upland Wildlife Federation. QUWF's Chief Biologist, Nick Prough, presented the award to John 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



Pictured above is John Groeteke receiving his award from Nick Prough of QUWF

property to receive this award.

John owns and manages a 120 acre farm in northeast Montgomery County. Creating quality wildlife habitat on his property has long been an objective for John. Shortly after acquiring the property John sought the help of MDC Wildlife Biologist, Scott

there is no rain. When using a sprinkler, place several small containers under the canopy of your trees. When the average depth in the containers is about 2 inches, you are done with that tree. Yes, watering can be expensive, but the reduced air conditioning costs a shade tree provides is usually a better deal.

While you can't provide water to your woods, you can influence the amount of water each tree gets. If your woods are overstocked, meaning too many trees trying to grow in a given space, then all of the trees will be fighting for sunlight and water, and all trees suffer. Thinning the low quality trees allows the desirable trees to remain healthy and vigorous by reducing their competition for light and water. The result for you is a tree that provides more food for wildlife and more potential wood value.

For more information on tree care, visit mdc.mo.gov or contact your local MDC office.



Vance. Scott developed a wildlife management plan, 16 years ago, that John still utilizes. To date John has completed over 75 acres of Timber Stand Improvement, several acres of edge feathering, fescue conversion, native warm season grass establishment, native tree and shrub establishment, invasive species control and food plot establishment. John has managed every inch of his property with one management practice or another.

Congratulations on receiving the habitat award John!

Good Time to Look at Grass Stands and Seedings

By John James
Soil Conservation Technician-NRCS

Now that the heat of the summer is gone and we are getting a little rain would be a good time to look at any grass stands or seedings. The heat and dry conditions of the summer may have caused new seedings to fail or set back existing stands. We have gotten a little rain and that has some stands heading in the right direction but it would be a good idea to check out any stands or seedings to see how they are now. If there are bare spots or thin stands it might be a good idea to overseed the areas this winter. Waterways should be looked at for the simple reason that if the grass is thin and we get a hard rain it could cause a ditch in the waterway. It would be easier to overseed the waterway to thicken the stand than to get a ditch and fix it and reseed then. Any conservation practices that have a grass component should be looked at to see how the stand is now and prepare to make any needed fixes.

If you would like more information or would like to visit with someone from our office feel free to give us a call.

2012 State Women in Ag Conference

By Brenda VanBooven, Montg. SWCD

The annual conference was held September 10-12, 2012, in Chillcothe. Women from all over the state gathered to enjoy educational workshops, entertainment and farm tours. Cheese making, weaving, marketing produce, as well as baking tips and internet safety were among the workshop topics.

Attendees toured the famous Amish communities of Jamesport, visiting furniture shops, general stores, quilting shops and bakeries. A delicious home cooked meal was enjoyed by everyone at the Dutch Pantry, an Amish operated restaurant. Tour groups had the opportunity to go inside an Amish family's home and learn about their way of life. The Amish explained their values and views of in-materialistic living that positively impacts family and community involvement.

Attendees also toured the Litton Foundation Fairgrounds and learned about Jerry Litton's role in agriculture before his tragic death in the 1970's. Buildings on site serve as a valuable use for national shows, ag education events for elementary students, FFA and 4-H events. The day ended with an "Elvis" concert and and nostalgia fashion program with Carolyn Miller.

Ann Whitehead, Montgomery County Soil & Water District Technician and landowner was recognized as the 2012 Lady Landowner. Each year, women are nominated all across the state by their local Soil & Water Conservation office, based on their involvement on the farm and in their community. Ann was selected for her role in agriculture, by maintaining grazing systems on her farm and for her active leadership in her community.



Ann Whitehead of Montgomery City was awarded the 2012 Outstanding Woman in Agriculture Award!

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| <p>Montgomery Co. SWCD 1013 S. Sturgeon Montgomery City, MO 63361 Phone 573-564-3715, Ext. 3</p> <p>Warren Co. SWCD 635 W. Booneslick Warrenton, MO 63383 Phone 636-456-3434, Ext. 3</p> | <p>NONPROFIT ORG. U.S. POSTAGE PAID MONTGOMERY CITY, MO 63361 PERMIT NO. 10</p> |
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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 Perry, near Marthasville, 636-933-4035

farm and for her active leadership in her community.

Those attending were Brenda VanBooven, Luella Fischer, Ann Whitehead, Sarah Szachnieski and Tammy Teeter.

MONTGOMERY COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
1013 S. Sturgeon • Montgomery City, MO 63361

Board of Supervisors
Tom Kremer, Chairman • Harry Cope, Vice-Chairman • Rich Hoormann, Secretary
Jim Kleinsorge, Treasurer • Gene Eldringhoff, Member

District Personnel
Brenda Van Booven, District Manager
Robert J. Ridgley, District Technician
Ann Whitehead, District Technician

WARREN COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
635 W. Booneslick • Warrenton, MO 63383

Board of Supervisors
Ralph Glosemeyer, Chairman • Steve Tomschin, Vice-Chairman
Richard Eggering, Treasurer •
Shelley Rowe, Secretary • Harold Gloe, Member

District Personnel
Debbie Niederer, District Technician
Polly Sachs, District Manager

Assisted by NRCS Personnel
Tammy Teeter, District Conservationist
Sarah Szachnieski, Resource Conservationist
John James, Soil Conservation Technician • David Korman, Soil Conservationist
Kim Frier, Office Automation Clerk
Katie Owens & Karen Sinclair, WAE's

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

Available through Matt Berry, near Martinsville, 636-932-4033

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