

Agriculture



Working together to conserve our natural resources!



Farm Service Agency



Tomorrow

AUGUST 2014

Published by MONTGOMERY AND WARREN COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICTS



| | |
|----------------------------------------|--|
| Upcoming Events: | |
| • 12/9/14 Drainage Workshop in Hermann | |

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Tuesday
December 9, 2014
9:30am - 2pm

Drainage Workshop

Location:
VFW Hall - 108 Hwy 100
Hermann, MO 65041

If you are interested in techniques/benefits to improve drainage on your farmland as well as federal programs available through NRCS to implement these plans? You may want to attend this workshop.

9:30am—Registration
 10am—Speaker, Dr. Kelly Nelson
 Research Agronomist with the Division of Plant Sciences
 University of Missouri Extension
 12 noon—Lunch
 1:30pm—Drainage Water Management Practices in EQIP

Registration is \$10 in advance to cover expenses and includes a meal. Please call by Friday, December 5th to allow for proper arrangements.

Seating is limited. See back page for registration form.

RSVP to 636-456-3434, x3 or 573-564-3715, x3

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| <p>Warren County Soil & Water Conservation District</p> <p>635 W. Booneslick Warrenton, MO 63383 Phone 636-456-3434, Ext. 3 Fax 636-456-3712</p> | <p>conserving natural resources for our future</p> | <p>Montgomery County Soil & Water Conservation District</p> <p>1013 S. Sturgeon Montgomery City, MO 63361 Phone 573-564-3715, Ext. 3 Fax 573-564-3967</p> |
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Sponsored by the Warren & Montgomery SWCD's, Natural Resources Conservation Service, University of Missouri Extension, Farm Service Agency and a NRCS Conservation Innovation Grant

Equal Opportunity Employer & Provider

If you need an accommodation, please contact the Montgomery or Warren County USDA Service Centers at 573-564-3715, x3 or 636-456-3434, x3.

Incentive for Nutrient/Pest Management

By: Debbie Niederer, District Technician

To quote Heraclitus “The Only Thing That Is Constant Is Change”- how much change has our local office seen lately? The weather, farm bill, FSA office in Warrenton going part-time, NRCS supervisor’s area of work expanded just to name a few that have affected us and the landowners and cooperators of the county lately. Well one thing that hasn’t seen much change lately is the Nutrient and Pest Management incentive practices through Missouri State cost-share.

Nutrient and pest management practices were first available in the Agricultural Nonpoint Source Special Area Land Treatment Program (AgNPS SALT) in 1999. AgNPS SALT projects allowed districts to provide technical and financial assistance with land identified problems with a strong emphasis on water quality in priority watersheds. Prior to AgNPS SALT projects the SALT/Earth projects were designed to work with landowners to reduce soil erosion in crop, pasture, and woodland also in targeted watersheds. In 2009 House Bill 250 was signed, this bill allowed water quality best management practices to be implemented statewide. Prior to the signing of this bill districts were only capable of providing funding for soil erosion practices. With this practice expansion districts have the means to provide incentives and financial aid to implement conservation practices that help prevent soil erosion and protect water resources. Along with this aid districts also help promote good farming techniques to keep soil productive and on the fields and the waters clean.

So why implement a nutrient or pest plan? To quote the hand book – “Nutrient and pest management demonstrates the environmental and economic advantages of following a nutrient management plan or pest management plan, and provides operators an incentive to encourage the adoption of new management techniques or technologies for applying commercial fertilizer, pesticide or herbicide. These practices are designed to preserve and protect water quality. If nutrients or chemicals in the soil, or the ones that are applied, are managed for the best and appropriate use, there will be less nutrient runoff and leeching into the streams and groundwater after a rainfall event.” There are both economic and land environmental benefits to following an approved nutrient and pest management plan. Improving soil fertility, crop production, reducing pressure from pests, improving crop and forage yields, and proper pesticide applications are just a few benefits from nutrient and pest plans. Contracts can be for crop/hay/forage production.

Nutrient management is based on soil nutrient testing to ensure adequate fertility is applied without nutrient runoff. Below are some of the major criteria to be eligible for a contract:

- Applies to land where plant nutrients including commercial fertilizer and or manure have been improperly applied
- The land must be eroding at or below “T” the tolerable soil loss level
- Follow Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) standards and specifications
- Nutrient plan will follow soil test recommendations – soil tests will be no more than 2 years old
- All recommendations must be based on realistic yield goals
- Nutrient plan will be written for four years
- Nutrient applications for each year will follow the planned amount and be no more than 10 pounds per acre of the plan recommendation
- Samples can be collected on 20 acres or less blocks or grid sampling

Pest management is based on field scouting for weeds and insects. Below are some of the major criteria to be eligible for a contract:

- Applies to land where pesticides have been inappropriately managed
- The land must be eroding at or below “T” the tolerable soil level
- Follow NRCS standards and specifications
- A minimum of four scouting trips must be completed and documented
- Pest management plan will be written for four years
- Herbicide and pesticide application will be according to target pests found during scouting trips
- Mitigation practices maybe required of chemical hazard ratings are intermediate or higher

Both the nutrient and pest management plans can only be approved between January 1st and April 15th of the calendar year. Payment may not be made until the growing season is complete or October 31st of the same calendar year.

- Incentive payments for Nutrient Management shall not exceed \$20.00 per acre with a practice lifetime maximum of \$10,000
- Pest Management shall not exceed \$10.00 per acre with a practice lifetime maximum of \$500
- Your local SWCD Board has the authority to set practice maximums

Warren and Montgomery County SWCD’s both keep a list of interested cooperators and will contact them in the fall or early winter to gather their information to write the plans. Then contract approval can occur after January 1st and producers will be ready to start the practice at planting.

If you think nutrient and/or pest management is a practice you would like to try please contact your local SWCD office for more details and to sign up. Warren County SWCD – 636-456-3434 x3, Montgomery County SWCD 573-564-3715 x3.

Upcoming Changes With NRCS

Tammy Teeter, District Conservationist-NRCS

In the upcoming months there will be some changes in the NRCS offices in the state. Many of you are used to working with our Field Office Service Area consisting of Montgomery and Warren County for the last 18 years. After the first of the year our counties will be working together Montgomery, Warren, Lincoln and Pike County as a Field Office Service Area.

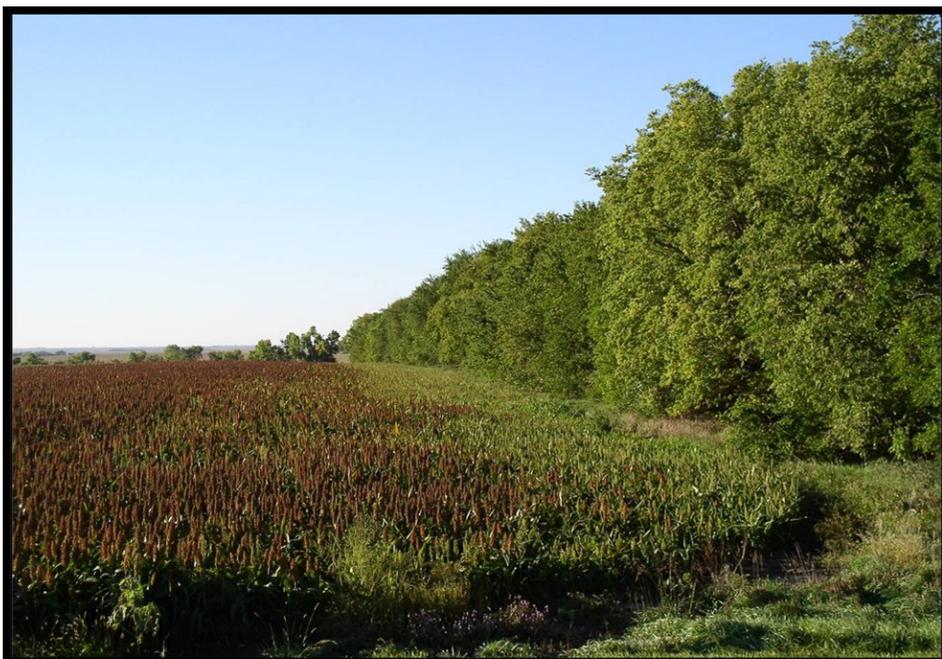
I feel this is a good opportunity for the landowners as well as the staff. There will be more staff available to work across county lines to assist landowners in getting conservation on the land.

As you come in the office and see new faces we just wanted to let you know of this change coming. Feel free to call your local office if you have any questions.

What to do with those unproductive field edges...

**By Ryan Diener, Wildlife Biologist
Quail Forever**

Every acre of every field is not created equally! Some areas of every field carry the weight of the production, and others consistently drag it down. For those that have the equipment to track their yields as they combine, you know this happens, and you can usually see a pattern year after year of certain areas that have consistently low yields. In this part of the world, the biggest culprit of these low yield areas is often our field edges; to be more specific, the wooded field edges. Where crop fields meet trees, whether it is a forested area or even just a tree line, there is a dramatic drop in production. This reduction in yield can extend as far as 150 feet into the field, with the most dramatic losses in the first 75-100 feet. Tree roots readily uptake water and nutrients from the soil, making it unavailable for the crops near that edge. The shade factor from the trees also has an impact on those areas nearest the edge of the field as well. These areas are actually costing you money to work, plant, and spray every year. The yield is not even enough to pay back the input costs on those acres. They also reduce the average yield over the entire field when lumped in with the rest of it.



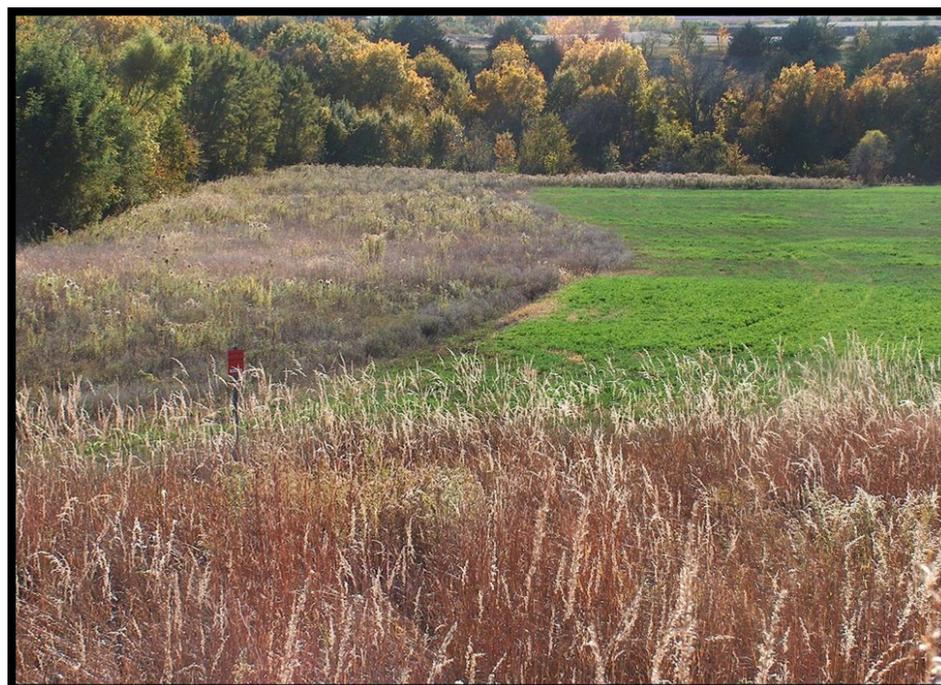
Wooded edges are not the only culprits however; streams, ditches, road edges, and even perennially wet spots will reduce yields of the acres around them. These areas are also known for having some very high rates of erosion, and as entry points of agricultural run-off in our surface water. Sedimentation and nutrient loading in our streams effects all of us locally that use those sources for drinking water, and is having a large impact on aquatic systems all the way down to the Gulf of Mexico.

How can we increase our on the farm profits and reduce erosion, sedimentation, and nutrient run-off all at the same time? The key is that can accomplish all of this is field buffers. Buffers, or borders, of native grasses and forbs do an excellent job of catching sediment and nutrients that are trying to leave the field. Erosion reduction can be dramatic by taking away the un-obstructed path

(above) In conjunction with the WAA meeting a "plant swap" was held, where participants brought their plants to share. Also Mr. Wallace brought perennials for everyone to take one home!



that water once had to the edge of the field. This is true for both conventional till and no-till systems. The best part is, these buffers can be planted through the Continuous Conservation Reserve Program (CCRP). CCRP provides an annual payment for those acres under the program just like the traditional whole field CRP program. There are many options for practices under CCRP, but the main buffer practices include CP-21 Filterstrips, CP-22 Riparian Buffers, and CP-33 Habitat Buffers for Upland Birds. (There are also buffer programs for pastureland along a creek as well for those who may be interested.) All of these practices can be established to wildlife friendly native warm season grasses and forbs. These native grasses stand up much better to water flow, and will slow run-off very well. These can all be great practices for increasing wildlife habitat as well.



CP-33 is a program that really works well for the land and the landowner. Instead of having all the input costs of trying to produce a crop on these buffer acres every year, you get paid to leave it sit idle in grass. These acres that were once costing you money every year to plant and spray, are now producing you a profit. On top of the cost share for the seeding of these acres and the annual payments, you also get a practice incentive payment to cover up to 80% of the establishment and a sign-up incentive payment of \$150/ac for the first year. So even in the year of establishment for these programs, these acres are making you money.

As weird as it seems, farming every available acre is not necessarily the most profitable. Let these programs work for you, to increase your bottom line on your farm. Your pocketbook will thank you, and so will the wildlife.

For more information about how these programs can work for you, visit your local USDA Service center. You can also contact Ryan Diener directly at 636-399-8733 for more information.

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EFT—What is it?

By Jason Bolte, SWCD Technician

As most of you know, we have started using a new design program for our terraces and water ways. The program is called EFT which stands for Engineering Field Tools. It is a National program, intended to get all the States that build terraces and water ways on the same page by using the same software to design these practices. Over all terrace berm heights and tile sizes are very similar to the old Mo Terrace program that Missouri had been using for the last 20 plus years. The biggest change that has come about from this new program is that we are not allowed to pressurize tile UGO's, (underground outlets), since corrugated field tile is not certified for pressurized applications. The solution to this is that we will no longer be using the Type II style inlets, 1.5'-2' tall with a cage. Instead we will be using Type I inlets that are 3' tall with no cage. An orifice plate is also installed 6 inches below the channel surface to regulate the water flow and keep the tile from being pressurized.

Many producers do not like the idea of the flow of water into their tile be regulated with the orifice plate. Most are fearful of crop damage due to standing water from reduced draw down times. This is not the case. We are still designing our terraces to have a draw down time of 12 hours or less, which is how we have been doing for years. With the required use of orifices all the terraces will be releasing their water at about the same time. This means that if you have multiple terraces on one UGO, they will all drain in about the same time. Another plus is that we will be able to put more terraces on a tile run since we can better manage the flow of water into the UGO.

As with anything new, there are always a few drawbacks. The biggest one being that more information is needed to make this program function and it takes time to gather it. We have been informing producers that after the practice is staked, it may be 6-8 weeks before we are able to give them a set of construction plans. The turnaround time is a lot longer than it used to be, but the end product is essentially the same.

If you have any questions please contact your local NRCS field office.



(above) Tammy Teeter speaks to a group of 70 women and men at WAA about programs available through the USDA office and introduces the speaker, Mervin Wallace - MO Wildflowers.

Site Needed for a Seed Mix Study Plot

By Ryan Diener,
Wildlife Biologist, Quail Forever

We are looking to for a site to do a 3 year study plot to look at seed mix rates for native warm-season grasses and wildflowers. The site would need to be 1 acre in size, or very near 1 acre. We are also needing the site to have been in soybeans this past crop season. This will help us ensure that all sites across the state are as similar as possible. If you have an odd area of a field that is hard to farm, or a small slope that you would like to put back in grass, please consider this as an option.

There will be no cost to you for the seeding or any maintenance for 3 years. The Missouri River Valley Chapter of Quail Forever will cover the entire cost of the seed. The planting will be completed by Ryan Diener, our local Quail Forever Farm Bill Biologist. Ryan will also be surveying the plots a couple times each year for 3 years to determine the performance of the stands. After the 3 year study period, the landowner can decide what to do with the stand, but there would be assistance available if the stand is kept in place and managed for wildlife cover.

We are looking to see if reduced seed mix rates can perform as well as our current standards. The outcome could help justify adjusting current seed rate practices, and see a dramatic decrease in the cost of native grass and wildflower seedings in the future.

If you are interested in having this plot on your property, please contact Ryan Diener at 636-399-8733 or inquire at the NRCS field office in Warrenton or Montgomery City.



The Lower Loutre SALT

By Ann Whitehead
Montgomery SWCD

The Lower Loutre SALT Project came to an end on June 30, 2014. This SALT Project was a seven year grant to increase landowner awareness of Soil Erosion and Water Quality Resource Concerns.

The SALT project partnered with Missouri Department of Natural Resources, the Natural Resources Conservation Service, and Farm Service Agency, Missouri Department of Conservation, Quail Unlimited and River Hills Forest Habitat Project. These partners provided assistance with cost share monies to apply conservation practices and water quality incentives. Information and technical assist was available to landowners in the Lower Loutre SALT project.

In the last seven years some of the Best Management Practices that have been installed are No-till, Streambank, Terraces, Waterways, Grazing Systems (water lines), Nutrient and Pest Management; TSI for Woodland. There have also been information/ education tours and workshops.

I would like to thank the steering committee for their time and input on the Lower Loutre SALT Project.

Field Borders for Wildlife

By Jamie Barton, MDC Private Land Conservationist

As a Private Land Conservationist, it's my job to meet with landowners and make suggestions on how they can improve the wildlife habitat on their property. One of the most common recommendations I make to a landowner, is to establish field borders around crop fields.

Field borders are a cost effective way to reduce erosion, filter nutrients, ensure water quality and improve wildlife habitat. They can be established to any vegetation; however, warm-season grass functions the best, due to its strong erect stem and deep root structure. Field borders greater than 30 feet in width offer the greatest benefit to wildlife.

Field borders can be established with very little effort. Early successional weeds can be established by simply leaving field borders idle. The seeds and vertical structure, that early successional weeds provide, are very attractive to quail. Clover plots can be established by broadcasting seed over the field border in January or early February. Deer prefer clover for browsing, while turkeys and quail forage on the insects that exist in clover plots.

Establishing native warm-season grass takes a little more effort and patience. Native grass can be drilled or broadcasted anytime from December thru April. If you choose to seed wildflowers or forbs, seeding should take place in the winter months of December thru early February. Native grass seed is light and fluffy; therefore, equipment made specifically for seeding native grass is required. One characteristic of native grass is that it spends most of its energy in the early years growing a deep root system. Often times, growth above ground is not noticed until years three or four, therefore patience is needed when trying to seed native grass for the first time. The vertical structure that native grass provides is ideal for wildlife to hide or nest in. Prescribed fire can be used to maintain native grass stands as they age.

The Montgomery County SWCD Office has warm-season grass seeding equipment available for landowners to use, for a nominal fee. They can be reached at (573) 564-3715, ext. 3.

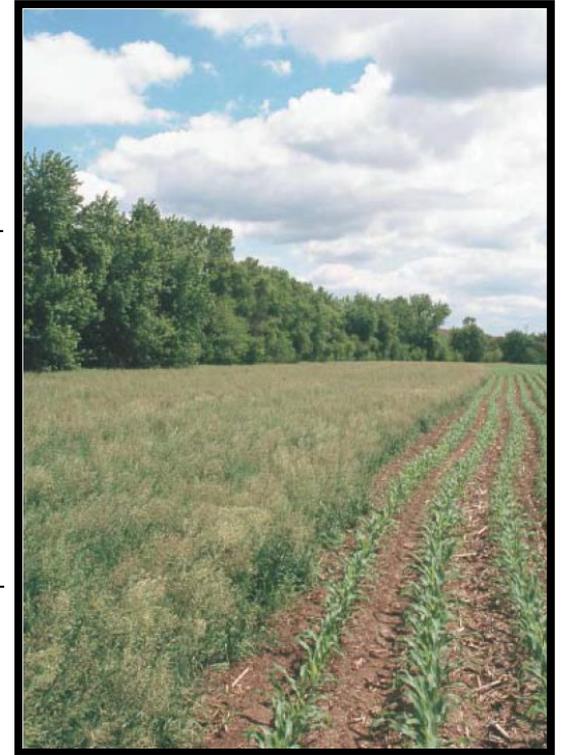
Like most things in life, there is a cost to establishing field borders in native grass. Often times, there are cost share programs available to help landowners off-set the cost of seeding field borders.

The Continuous Conservation Reserve Program (CCRP), Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) and Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) are three of the most popular federal programs that provide assistance to landowners wanting to establish field borders. Some of these programs provide annual rental payments and some provide one-time payments for establishing native grass field borders. All of these programs have different eligibility requirements.

Montgomery Hosts Women's Ag Awareness Meeting 10/16/14

(Right) Our speaker, Merv Wallace, has owned Missouri Wildflowers for 30 years. He is located in Brazito, MO (just south of Jefferson City). Merv is pictured with the many plants he brought to share. MO Wildflowers sells everything from WSG, trees, shrubs to the many different kinds of wildflowers. For more information, you can email mowldflrs@socket.net

Anyone interested in native grass field borders should contact their local USDA Service Center for more information regarding these programs. The Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) also provides cost share for establishing field borders, when funds are available. Projects funded by MDC are one-time payments. For more information about field borders funded through MDC, landowners should contact their local Private Land Conservationist (PLC). I can be reached at 573-564-3715, x110.



FSA News...

By Priscilla Eggering, CED for Montgomery & Warren FSA

FSA Important Reminders

Warren County FSA Office is open the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of the month. For an appointment call 573-564-2262 ext. 2. Also those who have not requested a transfer of their FSA records to another county may still do so if they wish.

2015 perennial and biennial forage acres, such as pasture acreage intended for haying or grazing, must be reported to FSA by the Nov. 15 deadline. Since Nov. 15 falls on a weekend, reports will be accepted through Monday, Nov. 17.

All fall-seeded small grain acreage, such as winter wheat and barley, must be reported by Dec. 15.

To make an appointment to report your crop and forage acreage, contact your FSA County Office. For Montgomery/Warren FSA Office call 573 564-2262 ext.2



DRAINAGE WORKSHOP 12/9/14

REGISTRATION FORM

Name(s) _____

Ph# _____

Your email address: _____

**Mail Registration Form
and \$10.00 Fee
by 12/5/14.**

Make checks payable to:

**Warren County SWCD
635 W. Booneslick Rd.
Warrenton, MO 63383**

*Contact Polly Sachs @ 636-456-3434, x3
email polly.sachs@swcd.mo.gov
for questions or to register.*



**Muriel Kaiser Received Lady Landowner of the Year Award at the State Women in Agriculture Conference in Hannibal, MO
Congratulations Muriel!**

Approximately 175 women from all over the state of Missouri attended the Women in Ag Conference in September. In this picture, half the group is pictured at the BASF Plant. They also toured URSA and the Rockcliffe Mansion as well as several workshops. Speakers were Connie Chin and WFAN. Debbie Niederer, Polly Sachs, Brenda VanBooven, Muriel Kaiser, Luella Fischer, Sarah Szachnieski, and Tammy Teeter all attended from Montgomery & Warren Counties.

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 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 Manager

Assisted by NRCS Personnel

Tammy Teeter, District Conservationist
Sarah Szachnieski, Resource Conservationist
David Korman, Soil Conservationist
Denise Tillman-Office Automation Clerk
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, 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

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