

# Grundy County Conservation Notes

September 2005

Semi-Annual

Trenton, Missouri



## Management Intensive Grazing School Scheduled

September 14-15, 2005  
University of Missouri Thompson Farm  
Spickard, MO

This two day session will feature presentations by local producers/grass managers, University Extension livestock and farm management specialists, and Natural Resources Conservation Service grassland specialists. Discussions will center on: grazing management fundamentals, economics of intensifying management of grazing animals, forages and soil fertility, grazing system design and construction and animal nutrition. This school fulfills the grazing school requirement to receive grazing management cost share.

Tuition for the two day session is \$70 per person (\$25 for second person if sharing text books). Funding is available to landowners in the Honey Creek Watershed to cover the registration fee through the AgNPS SALT project. Contact the Grundy County SWCD office at (660) 359-5685 ext. 3 to make reservations for the session.

Visit us on the web at:  
[www.grundycoswcd.com](http://www.grundycoswcd.com)!!!!



## Prescribed Fire Workshop for CRP Grassland & Wildlife Management

The Missouri Department of Conservation in cooperation with the Natural Resource Conservation Service and Grundy County Soil & Water Conservation District will present a Prescribed Fire Workshop on:

**Thursday, October 6, 2005 6 PM  
at the Grundy County USDA Office  
located at 3415 Oklahoma Ave.  
Trenton, Missouri.**

Topics to be covered include: history of fire, prescribed fire benefits and specific burn timing, fire behavior, planning a prescribed burn, prescribed fire scenarios, fire equipment and utilization, fire safety and organizing burn teams/cooperatives.

R.S.V.P. by October 3<sup>rd</sup> to Grundy County NRCS (660) 359-5685 ext. 3.

**Hope to see you there!!!**

## Hickory Creek Watershed Receives Funding to Decrease Nonpoint Source Pollution

Hickory Creek Watershed located in Grundy and Daviess Counties will receive \$165,000.00 over the next five years in order to install projects that will decrease nonpoint source pollution.

Fifteen soil and water conservation districts will receive more than nine million dollars over the next five to seven years to help decrease agricultural nonpoint source pollution in selected watersheds.

"These projects allow farmers the opportunity to install best management practices so clean water and production agriculture can exist in harmony," says AgNPS SALT Project Manager Kenny Struempf.

The Department of Natural Resources' AgNPS SALT Program provides funding and assistance for long-term watershed projects that decrease agricultural nonpoint source pollution, which include incentives for reducing erosion, nutrient management, grazing management, irrigation management and riparian buffers. Projects are administered by local soil and water conservation districts and funded by the one-tenth-of-one-cent parks-and-soils sales tax.

Grundy Counties AgNPS SALT project will include sixteen practices, in order to reduce soil erosion and reduce or prevent agricultural nonpoint source pollution in this watershed.

AgNPS SALT projects have been helping local people solve local problems since the first were approved in 1997. Seven projects have been completed and 57 are currently receiving funding and assistance. The 15 new AgNPS SALT projects began on July 1, 2005 to bring the total number of AgNPS SALT projects to 72.

Grundy County currently has an AgNPS SALT project in Honey Creek watershed as well which will end in 2009. A SALT project in Sugar Creek and a 319 project in Raccoon Creek ended in June 2005.

For more information regarding AgNPS SALT projects, please contact your local soil and water conservation district.



### Cost Share Report 2006

Grundy County has received \$240,375 in regular cost-share funds for FY 2006. We expect to receive at least one more allocation this fall of approximately \$68,000. We are well on our way to obligating all of those funds with 13

applications in progress. The technicians have been busy staking and designing many more sites as well.

We encourage you to come in and sign up at any time. We maintain an on-going list: first come, first serve. If there are any projects or conservation problems that need addressed on your land, please come and visit with us about the program. Thank you for your continuing conservation efforts in Grundy County!

### Regular Cost-Share Funds 2005 July 1, 2004-June 30, 2005

Practice	Cost-Share	Claims
Terraces	\$136,688.05	17
Structures	\$159,632.05	25
Basins	\$9,081.29	3
**Funds Claimed July 1, 2004-June 30, 2005		\$305,401.39

### Sugar Creek Cost-Share Funds July 1, 2004-June 30, 2005

Practice	Cost-share	Claims
Hayland & Pasture	\$7,428.28	1
Terraces	\$25,471.19	1
Well Plugging	\$400.00	1
Nutrient Mgmt	\$6,758.00	3
**Funds Claimed July 1, 2004-June 30, 2005		\$40,057.47

### Honey Creek Cost-Share Funds July 1, 2004-June 30, 2005

Practice	Cost-Share	Claims
Structures	\$16,947.98	3
**Funds Claimed July 1, 2004-June 30, 2005		\$16,947.98

**State Women in Ag Conference**  
September 12-14, 2005 in Joplin, MO  
Join women from across Missouri for an exciting time on the Ozark Plateau.  
Contact your local SWCD for more information.



## Quail Emphasis Areas Identified in Northwest Region Landowner Cooperatives to be Formed

In my early childhood, I can remember my dad and grandpa never missing an opportunity to grab their shotguns, favorite pointers and set out in pursuit of fast flushing bobwhites during the fall and winter. There were very few times when they both came back without “limiting out”; unless of course it was due to poor shooting, which did happen occasionally. That era was the heyday of quail hunting with a liberal bag limit of 15 birds daily.

I was allowed to begin quail hunting when I was about 10. Birds were still plentiful then, or so it seemed to a young boy who was learning the finer points of wing shooting through trial and error. Even though we always found birds, dad would shake his head and remark that things weren’t like they used to be. Filling the bag limit was getting tougher, even with the reduced limit of 8 birds. A new decade had begun, the signs were evident, and quail were on the decline! The heyday of quail hunting in northwest Missouri had come to an end.

Like other regions of the state, bobwhite populations, as well as many other grassland bird species, have experienced a significant decline in the northwest region over several decades. This reduction is primarily linked to landscape-scale changes adversely impacting early successional habitat. These include large and small scale urbanization, farming technological advances (equipment, herbicides, introduced forages), changing demographics (fewer and larger farms), and narrowing profit margins (large-scale, “big field” farming) have resulted in a landscape lacking the diversity to support populations of early successional wildlife (large crop fields, pastures and hay fields dominated by introduced cool season grasses (tall fescue and smooth brome), grazed woodlots, and lack of shrubby habitat).

Realizing the declining populations of quail the Missouri Department of Conservation began exploring strategies for recovery efforts in the 1980’s, in 2005, staff developed the Northwest Region Quail and Grassland Bird Recovery Plan. The plan identified 5 additional Quail Emphasis Areas (QEA’s) and Landowner Cooperative Areas (LCA’s) totaling more than 781,000 acres in the Northwest Region.

Each QEA serves as a core area with adjacent LCA’s ranging from roughly 10,000 acres to 16,000 acres in size. Conservation area managers will be taking the lead in contacting landowners within the QEA LCA’s to recruit early successional habitat cooperators. QEA’s in the Northwest Region are as follows: **Seat CA** (Worth Co.) 3,339 acres, **Happy Holler Lake CA** (Andrew Co.) 2,207 acres, **Bonanza CA** (Caldwell Co.) 1,773 acres, **Poosey CA** (Livingston Co.) 2,000 of 5,000 acres and **Bunch Hollow CA** (Carroll Co.) 3,294 acres.

What this means to landowners in the given cooperative areas is an outstanding opportunity to implement quail management practices on the farm. In the near future landowners will be contacted by Missouri Department of Conservation staff notifying them of upcoming meetings, workshops and opportunities. Landowners in these selected areas will be eligible for **90% cost-share** on select quail management practices.

These practices are intended to reverse the habitat loss and degradation that have been so detrimental to our quail populations and many other grassland bird species for the last 30 years. Strategies include:

- Increase suitable roosting/ nesting cover by converting cool-season grass dominated open lands to warm-season grass/ forb/ legume mixes.
- Improve/ increase brood rearing habitats on field edges, woodland borders, fence rows and “covey headquarters” (hard woody cover)

- Reduce litter coverage and grass dominance through strip disking, prescribed burning, herbicide applications, farming and food plot efforts
- Enhance/ create desirable shrub dominated woody cover and restore savanna/ woodland habitats on suitable sites by tree shearing, chain-sawing, firewood cutting , TSI, timber harvest, shrub plantings and prescribed burning.

Although the Department has target focus areas with this effort, any landowner, regardless of their location, can participate in quail-friendly conservation management practices with cost-share available at 75%. Perhaps you have neighbors who share the same interest as you and you can develop your own quail management area. Interested individuals should contact their local Private Land Conservationist for details.

### Fall Seeding Date Reminder!

Just a reminder that the cool season Fall seeding date for cost-share projects ends **September 30, 2005**. If seeding does not occur before or on this date, certification will not be granted. Certification will resume December 1<sup>st</sup> when cool season grasses can once again be seeded.



- How many honeybees does it take to produce a tablespoon of honey? 12.
- Missouri is the black walnut capital of the world. The meat is used for cooking and the shell is used in ceramics, cleaners, paint and plastic.
- Honey was once so valuable in Missouri that Missouri and Iowa entered into a seven day Honey War. Last year Missouri produced 954,000 pounds of honey.



## Kid's Corner



### FUN Food Facts

- It takes about 10 pounds of milk to make one pound of cheese. The average cow produces 2,100 pounds of milk in a month or 210 pounds of cheese. By the way, that same cow can produce about 46,000 glasses of milk in a year.
- Which vegetable do Americans eat the most? Potatoes. The average person in the United States eats 140 pounds of potatoes every year.
- Why do fresh apples float? Fresh apples float because 25% of their volume is air.



### Fruit Slushies

- 1 cup chunky or regular apple sauce
- 10 oz. Pkg. frozen strawberries thawed
- 11 oz. can mandarin orange segments, drained
- 1 cup grapes, if desired
- 2 tbs orange juice concentrate

In medium bowl, combine all ingredients. Spoon fruit mixture into individual dishes or paper cups. Freeze until firm. Remove from freezer about 30 minutes before serving. Makes 7 (1/2) cup servings.

## Meet Our New Technician!



Matt Ray joined the SWCD team on July 11, 2005. Since that time he has been very busy learning the ropes of his new position, putting in lots of field time and assisting landowners with District rental equipment. Matt was born and raised near Hickory, Missouri. He currently lives near Hickory on the family farm. Matt has one brother, Phil who also lives on a farm near Hickory. Matt attended Southeast Community College in Beatrice, Nebraska and Northwest Missouri State University in Maryville. He taught school for five years. Matt's hobbies include: outdoors, metal fabrication and woodworking. Stop in and welcome Matt aboard!

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### Private Land Services Adds New Positions Landowners Benefit

On June 16<sup>th</sup> Scott Roy began employment with the Missouri Department of Conservation to fill a newly created Private Land Conservationist (PLC) position in the Northwest region of the state. The new position was the result of restructuring the division of the counties to more evenly distribute the workload, cutting down turn-around time for servicing landowner requests.

Scott had been previously employed by the Grundy County Soil and Water Conservation District for the past five years. There he filled the roles of Watershed Projects Manager and District Technician, assisting landowners with the implementation of soil conservation practices.

Scott is married to Chillicothe native Cindy White. They have two daughters and live in the Trenton area. Scott obtained his education from Prescott College in Prescott, AZ, majoring in Outdoor Education with an Environmental Conservation minor.

Private Land Services is a relatively new division of the Missouri Department of Conservation. The division was established in 1999 and by the spring of 2000 the first Private Land Conservationists were in service. Other positions that fall within this division include the Wildlife Services Biologist, Wetland Services Biologist and Wildlife Damage Biologist.

*The mission of the Private Land Service Division is to help landowners achieve long term conservation of natural resources and meet **their** land use objectives in ways that enhance land stewardship.*

Duties of the Private Land Conservationist are very broad and encompass many different areas. First and foremost is to provide technical assistance to landowners on fish, forest and wildlife issues on their property. Other duties are to provide technical assistance to NRCS and FSA in the delivery of USDA farm bill programs in the areas of fish, forest and wildlife; conduct workshops and training for the public and partner agencies and assist other MDC divisions as needed.

Scott will be serving Grundy, Livingston and Mercer counties. For the next few months he will be stationed at the Missouri Department of Conservation office in Chillicothe Missouri. Following the indoctrination period his office will be located in the USDA/NRCS office in Trenton Missouri. Scott can currently be reached at 660-646-6122 or 660-359-5685 extension 3 or by email at [Scott.Roy@mdc.mo.gov](mailto:Scott.Roy@mdc.mo.gov).

### Grundy County USDA Offices will be closed on the following dates:

Monday, September 5, 2005	Labor Day
Monday, October 10, 2005	Columbus Day
Friday, November 11, 2005	Veteran's Day
Thursday, November 24, 2005	Thanksgiving
Monday, December 26, 2005	Christmas

# Grundy County Soil & Water Conservation District

Phone (660)-359-5685 Ext. 3 Fax (660)-359-3249

www.grundycoswcd.com

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## Board of Supervisors

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Dean Larkin.....Secretary  
Paul Johnson.....Member

## District Personnel

Matt Ray.....District Technician  
Nathan Meservey.....Watershed Manager  
Lynda Cowan.....District Clerk  
Maggie Scott.....District Clerk

## NRCS Personnel

Scott McClure.....District Conservationist  
Corey Walker.....Soil Conservation Technician

## MDC Personnel

Scott Roy.....Private Land Conservationist

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