

Grundy County Conservation Notes

February 2006

Semi-Annual

Trenton, Missouri



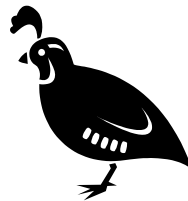
Customer Appreciation Day!

Mark your calendars for Friday, March 3, 2006 from 11 AM-1 PM at the Rock Barn in Trenton. We will be hosting our 3rd Annual Customer Appreciation Day complete with a complimentary catered meal by The Wild Onion Café and door prizes. We will also be recognizing the District's 2005 Cooperators of the Year, Rick and Betty Hall at the event. Please join us!



2006 Grazing School

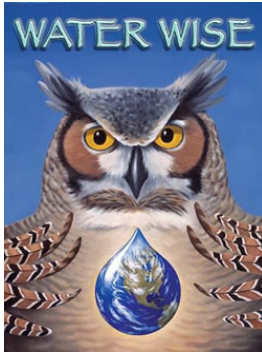
Tentative Date and site: September 19th and 20th at Spickard MU Thompson Farm. If interested, please contact SWCD office for more information.



CRP Management for Quail and Small Game WORKSHOP

The Missouri Department of Conservation will hold a workshop on Friday, **March 3, 2006** in Trenton, MO at the **Rock Barn on the North Central MO Fairgrounds**. The workshop will begin at **6:30 p.m.** and run until 8:30 p.m. Topics will include: reasons for quail decline, quail biology and quail habitat needs, how to effectively manage CRP stands for quail and small game, tools and management techniques to make your farm more inhabitable for quail and other upland species and potential Farm Bill Programs for wildlife. All landowners are encouraged to attend. Please **RSVP** by **March 1st** at the Grundy County Soil and Water Conservation District **(660) 359-5685 ext. 3**.





2006 Soil and Water Stewardship Week

April 30 to May 7, 2006

Soil and Water Stewardship Week is one of the world's largest conservation-related observances. The National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) has sponsored the national Soil and Water Stewardship Week program since 1955.

This year's theme is "Water Wise". Water is essential to our life making up more than 60% of our body, and about 75% of our brain. All of our food and most other products we use require water. It takes about 4,000 gallons of water to grow a bushel of corn and about 11,000 gallons for a bushel of wheat.

Stewardship involves personal and social responsibility. We have a duty to learn about and improve natural resources and to use them wisely.

You can make a difference every day by conserving resources and improving the environment. Small changes in an individual's lifestyle can produce big results. Some examples of ways to act as good stewards of the earth's resources are:

- * Turn off lights when not in use
- * Improve your home's insulation
- * Recycle glass, paper, metal and plastic
- * Take a shower instead of a bath
- * Check for leaky faucets and fix them
- * Don't cut lawns too short
- * Plant native plants that don't require watering
- * Feed wild birds with plants and feeders
- * Plant a tree
- * Minimize your use of pesticides & fertilizers and always follow directions
- * Plant grass or other ground cover on bare soil
- * Put mulch around trees and bushes
- * Set up a bird bath
- * Plant a butterfly garden

Forage and Beef Conference



Monday, February 27, 2006
Cuba, Missouri
Knights of Columbus
I-44 East-HWY UU Exit



Topics include management and health of beef cattle, water sources in grazing systems, educational and marketing opportunities and opportunities to capture value. Contact the Crawford County Soil and Water Conservation District at 1-800-364-8732 for more information. There will be a \$5.00 per person charge for the conference payable at the door.

Welcome our New Watershed Project Manager



Nathan Meservey began his duties as Hickory Creek Watershed Project Manager on October 3, 2005. Nathan is the son of Gary and Vicki Meservey of Trenton. A 1996 graduate of Trenton High School, he joined the Marine Corps in January 1997 and spent a four year enlistment with an infantry company stationed in southern California. Nathan graduated from Southwest Missouri State University in May 2005 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Conservation.



New 12 ft. Great Plains Drill

The District purchased the new implement with hitch and seed attachment this fall utilizing local funds and matching grants. Rental rate is \$7.00/acre (\$50.00 minimum) with a \$200 deposit. An 80 hp tractor weighing at least 8,000# is required. The drill is equipped with small and large seed boxes. Some of the common uses of the drill are for soybeans, wheat and grass/legume interseeding.

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

Monday, February 20, 2006 Presidents' Day
 Monday, May 29, 2006 Memorial Day
 Tuesday, July 4, 2006 Independence Day

Hickory Creek Kick-Off Dinner Held

A Kick-Off Dinner and Presentation for the Hickory Creek Project was held On February 2nd at Dockery Chapel. The event was attended by nearly 35 landowners, committee members and personnel. Attendees were treated to a catered meal and PowerPoint presentations on the project and SWCD.

Equipment

15' Rhino Rotary Cutter	\$150.00/day
12' No till Drill	\$7.00/acre
Big Bale Mulcher*	\$75.00/day
6 c. yd. Scraper*	\$100.00/day
Root Plow	\$10.00
24' Cultipacker	\$6.00/acre
Harrow*	\$100.00/day
Plotmaster	\$25.00/day
Survey Equipment	\$15.00/day
Burn Equipment	\$25.00 Deposit
Electric Seeder	\$25.00 Deposit
Flags-bundle of 25	\$2.50
Flags-bundle of 50	\$5.00
Flags-bundle of 100	\$10.00

*Required to bring your own hitch pin.
 Minimum rental fees vary between equipment.
 Deposits required for each.

Choosing the Right Tank

When constructing a new pond, often one of the last things considered is what type of livestock tank to put in. Usually this decision is based on what type of tanks a landowner has used in the past, what types of tanks are readily available in the area, or ease of installation. However, if one of the main reasons a landowner constructed a pond was for livestock water, then careful consideration should be given as to what type of tank to install.

In the past, we at the NRCS / SWCD office have been as guilty as anyone in not helping landowners choose the right tank for their systems. Our main purpose for building ponds or structures is to control erosion. Therefore, our only requirement was that the tank be "freeze proof" or be designed so that it doesn't freeze over in the winter. However, our policies have changed, and we must now work with producers to try and fit the right type of tank to their pond during the planning and design stage of a project, instead of after construction if completed or as an after thought.

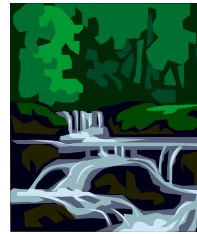
There are several factors to consider when choosing a tank. First, how many head of livestock are going to be drinking from the tank. Second, are you going to use the tank for summer, as well as, winter water supply and how far away it is to an additional water supply. Third, the location of the tank in relation to wind protection, runoff, etc. Also, some other considerations include accessibility of the site and how much maintenance you can do on a tank and finally, what type of tank you prefer to use.

The number of livestock that are going to be using a tank, especially in the summer, is an important factor because many tanks, including cement and energy free styles, have limited drinking space. This helps them stay ice free in the winter, but as cattle tend to go to water as a group and leave as a group, some animals, especially calves, may not have the time to drink adequately. We have a program in the office that we can run the herd size and other factors through, to help determine the perimeter inches of drinking space needed to provide an adequate watering source. If drinking space is going to be too limited, a producer should consider using a double drink or some other type of tank, such as a heavy equipment tire. There are also other options, such as installing a pop up valve or hydrant in the line, and then using an open galvanized or plastic tank in the summer for additional water access.

We do not promote or endorse one style of tank over another and there may be pros and cons to them all. Our main goal is to help a landowner find the right fit for their situation and one they will be satisfied with for many years. One resource that is available to help you explore your options is a tank book that is on the counter in the office. In it, we have compiled pictures of the various types of tanks that have been installed in the county in recent years. If you have questions about a tank in the book, we can probably give you the name of a landowner who has used that type of tank and would be happy to give you more information or their thoughts on it.

As with any type of purchase, the more questions you can ask and the more informed you can be before you make a decision, the greater the chances you will be satisfied afterwards. Also, if you are using a type of tank that is not in our book, please let us know so that we can include it for others to see.

If you should have any questions about livestock tanks, or our other programs, please give us a call or stop by the office.



Missouri Stream Team

Missouri is rich in water resources, with over 56,000 miles of free flowing streams. These streams provide recreation, water and serenity for ourselves and our children but they need your help.

Stream teams strive to assist in the proper management of Missouri waterways. The Stream Team program organizes concerned citizens to address stream problems at the local level. Homeowners, students, landowners and businesses are examples of the cross section of society that Stream Teams hope to continue to recruit in their efforts to conserve Missouri's greatest natural assets. The program is user friendly and enables citizens to contribute as much or as little time and energy as they are willing to do.

There were 449 Stream Teams including over 20,000 volunteers by the end of 1993. In 1996, 187 tons of trash were removed from Missouri streams, 11,973 trees were planted and 224 volunteers were trained and equipped to monitor water quality.

Water quality affects each one of us and is something that is often too easily taken for granted. There will be an **Introductory Water Quality Monitoring workshop** on **Saturday, April 8, 2006** from 8:30 AM- 5:00 PM at **Gallatin R-V High School** 812 S. Clay Street. Workshops consist of six hours of classroom instruction and one-two hours on a stream to demonstrate sampling methods. Volunteers will learn to measure biological and physical aspects in order to evaluate stream conditions.

If you are interested in attending the above workshop or would like more information on other workshops throughout the state or information regarding Missouri Stream Team, visit www.mostreamteam.org or contact Priscilla Stotts at Priscilla.Stotts@dnr.mo.gov or 1-800-781-1989.

Missouri Stream Team is sponsored by the Missouri Department of Natural Resources, Missouri Department of Conservation and the Natural Resources Conservation Service.

Soil Erosion Caused By Water

Soil erosion caused by water occurs when water falls on the soil surface and breaks soil particles loose. When loose soil particles combine with moving water, a suspension is formed. Then the suspension is carried down the slope by moving water. Rapidly moving water is capable of carrying large amounts of soil in suspension. There are four main types of soil erosion caused by moving water which includes sheet, rill, gully, and stream bank erosion.

Sheet erosion occurs when the upper soil surface (A horizon) is removed to the point that the subsoil (B horizon) becomes exposed. Typically the A horizon found in our area is darker in color than the B horizon.

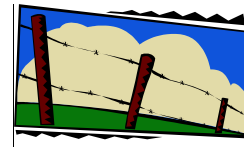
Rill erosion occurs when moving water cuts small channels in a slope. Typically, the small channels run perpendicular to a ridge giving them the appearance of miniature gullies. Rill erosion can usually be farmed across with most agriculture equipment. However, rill erosion may have the same result as sheet erosion where the top layer of soil becomes absent.

Gully erosion appears as deep channels with nearly vertical sides. Typically, gullies are considered stable when vegetation is growing on the side slopes. Gullies are considered active when the side slopes are free of vegetation. In some cases, head cuts or the vertical fall of water may be found in the bottom of gullies. When head cuts are found, active erosion is in action.

Historically, stream bank erosion effects the most productive soils. This type of erosion is usually worse in stream water containing less sediment. When stream water contains less sediment, its sediment carrying capacity is greater. Cutbanks are found on the outside bend of a stream. Sedimentation or sandbars can be found on the inside bend of a stream. These different characteristics are caused by different velocities of the water.

Soil erosion affects many aspects of production agriculture and the environment. For example, productive soil is lost, soil texture and structure changes, and water temperature increases. Furthermore, water quality changes, field boundaries are altered, and the eco-system is affected. Completed soil and water conservation projects will help preserve our farms for the future.

Rotational Grazing-Is it for me?



Rotational grazing systems may not be for everyone, but they have their place. Management of these systems is the key to their effectiveness, and different people have different management styles and options.

State cost-share is available for grazing systems. To be eligible to receive cost share the grazing system's manager must attend an approved grazing school. An approved grazing school is a cooperative effort between the University of Missouri and the USDA NRCS. These grazing schools can assist you in becoming familiar with different types of systems, and deciding what system best suits your needs.

Last year's local two day grazing school was held at MU's Thompson Farm west of Spickard. The cost for attending the school was \$70 per person. Information presented during the workshop included feeds, feeding, livestock watering, forage production, soils, soil fertility, land forms, and topography. Along with these topics, information was also presented on fencing design, layout and fencing demonstration, stocking rates, timing, and space uniformity of pastures. There was also a small animal physiology presentation that included how ruminant animal's digestive system functions.

Each rotational grazing system application is not to exceed 75 percent of the actual or county average costs up to \$60 per acre for all components and for the total number of acres in the entire system. A maximum of \$9,000 in cost-share is allowed per landowner for all farms owned by that landowner through this practice. (*Missouri Department of Natural Resources Cost-Share Handbook, section X, page 48b*)

For more information concerning rotation grazing systems you can visit the Grundy County Soil and Water Conservation District Office and we will be glad to assist you. Postings of upcoming grazing schools can be found on the Missouri Forage Grassland Council's web page at <http://agebb.missouri.edu/mfqc> the new school dates should be posted sometime around the first part of March 2006.

Grundy County Soil & Water Conservation District

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www.grundycoswcd.com

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