

**Morgan County Soil  
and Water  
Conservation District**

**100 S. Burke Street**

**Versailles, MO 65084**

**573-378-5822 ext. 3**

## SOIL CONSERVATION NEWS



### *Soil and Water Annual Meeting*

The Morgan County Soil and Water Conservation District Annual Meeting is back after being gone for two years due to Covid and you and your family are **CORIALY INVITED**. This year's meeting will be held at the Stover Community Center on Tuesday March 15th, 2022 with a meal provided by the district, being served at 6:30 PM.

Our speaker this year will be Bill Moulder. Bill is a story teller and will entertain us with a program on drovers and cattle drives in Mo.

The Cooperator of the Year for 2019, 2020 and 2021 will be named. There will be drawings for great door prizes provided by area businesses. So that we will know how many meals to plan for please contact our office no later than March 8, 2022 with the exact number that will be attending. Please call 573-378-5822 ext. 3 or email [patty.wittrock@swcd.mo.gov](mailto:patty.wittrock@swcd.mo.gov)

## *Terraces*

Most of you have either had terraces on your own land or saw them in crop fields. Terraces are dirt-work structures that slow down runoff water on fields that have moderate to steep slopes. They change long slopes into a series of shorter slopes. Terraces are used as a conservation practice to reduce sheet and rill erosion and prevent gullies from occurring in fields. They are most effective when used in combination with other conservation practices such as no-till, crop rotations, field borders, contour farming, and cover crops.

There are two main types of terraces. Gradient terraces are designed as channels to slow down runoff water and carry it to a stable outlet like a grassed waterway. This is generally the most cost-effective type of terrace system if the terrain in the field allows for it. However, if a stable outlet is not already in place a waterway must be built first and may take up to a couple years for the seeding to establish well enough, before terraces should be released into the waterway. The other type is a storage terrace that collects water and stores it until it can infiltrate into the ground or be released through a stable outlet. Underground outlets with tile are the most common type in our area. While this type is generally more expensive due to the tile cost, they do not require a waterway and provide a quicker option to have a completed system.

There are three main terrace shapes. The one that is most used in Morgan County is the broadbase terrace. This terrace is the most gradual looking and is farmed on both slopes. Farmers in our area prefer this type because it is easier to farm, and they can crop the entire terrace. If utilizing cost-share, farmers are still required to farm with the terraces and not farm over them. State Cost-share is available for both types of terraces on existing crop ground. This reimbursement is at a rate of 75% of the county average cost. For assistance in planning, designing, and laying out a terrace system on your farm, contact the Morgan County Soil and Water Conservation District.

## *Native Plants Provide Abundant Benefits for Farms, Yards*

When it comes to sprucing up the farm or yard, native plants are a great option. These plants are indigenous to a particular area and provide advantages when used in the right place. Native plants are typically low maintenance and resistant to pests if planted in a place similar to their natural surroundings.

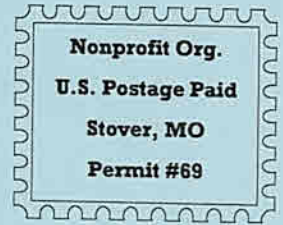
Many farmers recognize the benefits of native plants and are incorporating them into working lands, a practice commonly called "farmscaping." Farmers incorporate natives into field borders, hedgerows and buffer strips – all conservation activities that help agricultural production and the environment. On farms, native trees, shrubs and plants help:

- § Reduce the need for pesticides because native plants attract beneficial insects and birds that eat agricultural pests and also help pollinate
- § Protect farmsteads, crops and livestock from wind and dust
- § Keep soil in place, enabling it to become healthier and not wash into and pollute waterways;
- § Provide wildlife habitat
- § Increase the beauty of the farm landscape

Our community has a variety of wildflowers. For more information, contact your Morgan County USDA Service Center at 573-378-5822 extension 3 or visit [nracs.usda.gov](http://nracs.usda.gov)



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***"Return Service Requested"***

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**REMINDER  
RSVP to the  
Annual Meeting, TODAY!!!**