

**Morgan County Soil
and Water
Conservation District**

100 S. Burke Street

Versailles, MO 65084

573-378-5822 ext. 3



SOIL AND WATER ANNUAL MEETING

The Morgan County Soil and Water Conservation District cordially invites you and your family to join us at our Annual Meeting on Tuesday evening March 19, 2019. This years meeting will be held at the Stover Community Center with a meal, provided by the district, being served at 6:30 PM.

Our speaker this year will be Drew Burdick from the Lost Valley Fish Hatchery in Warsaw.

The Cooperator of the Year for 2018 will be named. There will be drawings for door prizes donated by area businesses.

So that we will know how many meals to plan for please contact our office at no later than March 14, 2019 with the exact number that will be attending. Please return the bottom portion of the newsletter or phone 573-378-5822.

If you need accommodation to attend this meeting please call Patty Wittrock at 573-378-5822 by March 14, 2019.

From: _____

Please print name.

_____ Number attending dinner. Please include both adults and children.

Spring Development

The Morgan County Soil and Water Conservation District offers a practice to develop a spring. This practice applies where livestock have access to a spring or seep and the development will provide a dependable supply of water. Its purpose is to protect and improve water quality through proper collection and the distribution of the ground water.

Cost Share is offered for this practice at 75% of the county average cost to complete the spring development. Cost share is authorized to help pay for up to 300 feet of pipe and trenching from the collection area to the distribution point. Cost share is also included on one large capacity concrete waterer or tire tank, an exclusion fence to keep livestock away from the spring, and critical area seeding for the area impacted.

Developing a spring is a good practice for areas where electricity is limited, or soil erosion is occurring. Some other benefits include providing a clean source of water, not requiring a pump since they work off gravity, and they are generally freeze resistant. Even a small spring can provide enough water for several head of livestock.

A spring can be developed by digging into the hillside to find the source of the spring or seep, but more commonly by placing a four inch perforated pipe in a trench with gravel over the pipe to collect water created from the spring. A solid pipe will then be connected to the perforated pipe using gravity to run the collected water into a tank below. Generally, we recommend that there is 4 feet of elevation difference between the collection area and the tank so there will be enough fall for the water to travel into the tank. From the tank an outflow pipe will be diverted to a low impact area to catch overflow water from the tank. The collection area and pipeline trenches will then be backfilled with soil and reseeded.

This is a spring that was developed using a large capacity concrete tank. The back of the tank is covered by compacted soil to keep the tank covered and provide a source of heating to keep the tank from freezing during the winter. The protected area was fenced out to keep cattle out and then the landowner split the tank using a fence to provide water for two paddocks.



A New Farm Bill Is Signed

Submitted by Michael Morris, NRCS District Conservationist

Despite the Congressional turmoil gripping this County, a significant piece of legislation was passed and signed into law on December 20, 2018. Entitled the "Agricultural Improvement Act of 2018" this piece of legislation set into motion the US Farm Policy for the next several years. While not nearly as dramatic as the events that occurred on December 7, 1941, "a date which will live in infamy", the 2018 Farm Bill will impact the lives of countless citizens of this country. I am not a Farm Bill expert but there are two provisions in this Bill that I want to address.

The Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 appropriated continued funding for the Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) and the Conservation Stewardship Program (CStP). During the Months of debate leading to the eventual signing of the 2018 Farm Bill much discussion and compromise focused on these two Programs. One version that was passed by the House of Representatives eliminated the CStP and rolled more money into EQIP. The Senate version continued funding for CStP but at a lower level. In this end this version prevailed. As the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is charged with administering these provisions, I will detail what impacts the 2018 Farm Bill has on them.

The Conservation Stewardship Program continues but with reduced funding levels there are changes. The good news is that with continued funding, existing Contracts will continue to be in place. Morgan County has 12 contracts with land operators for over \$105,00.00. Since its inception in 2008, there have been 26 contracts in Morgan County paying out approximately \$443,000.00. CStP contracts are for 5 years with the land operator (Not necessarily the land owner) implementing conservation "enhancement" practices. Payments are made on a per acre rate determined by a score based on the level of existing conservation and the amount of conservation enhancements adopted. A sign up for new contracts will be forthcoming in FY 2019 but with the reduced funding the amount of new contracts nation wide will be reduced. NRCS is waiting on guidance for going forth with this program.

The Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) as put forth by the 2018 Farm Bill is for the most part unchanged from previous versions. For FY2019, a sign-up period and provisions had already been put in place and fortunately the wording in the new Farm Bill will allow this process to go forward. Current applicants had been told we would be developing contracts with them by now and many have been wondering why they have not heard back from us to this point and it is because the NRCS National Office was evaluating the new Farm Bill wording to see if we could move forward or did we need to start all over. In 2002 a new Farm Bill was signed (Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002) and its timing forced NRCS to redo much of what had already been done with applications that year. As a result, some landowners who had been approved for funding ended up not getting funded (not a good experience). Fortunately, that is not the case this year.

EQIP has been a very popular program in Morgan County since its inception in the in 1996 Farm Bill (Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act of 1996) with 136 contracts paying out over 1.8 million dollars for the implementation of conservation practices. The 2018 Farm Bill ensures EQIP will continue to be a valuable tool for conservation in Morgan County.

Beef Cattle Spring Seminar

Tuesday
April 9, 2019

Door opens at 5:00pm
5:30 –8:00pm

Location:
Cross Road Community
Center
Versailles, MO
(Next to Hostetter on Hwy C)

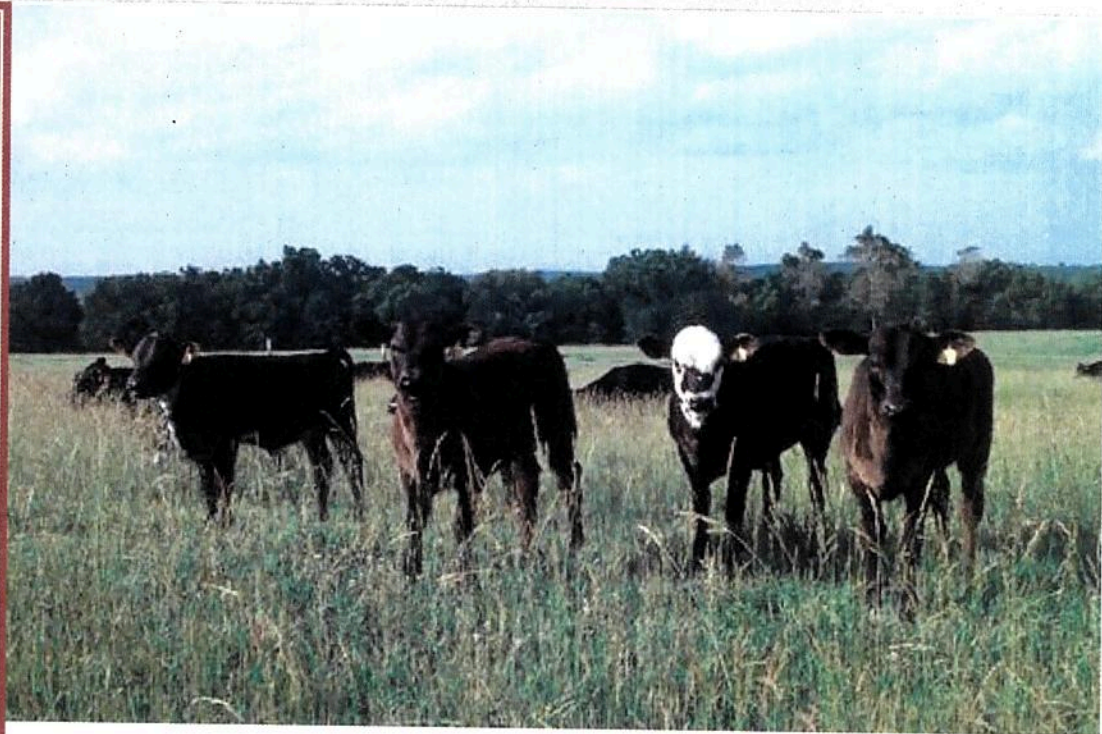
Meal will be served
before seminar.

No Cost to Attend

RSVP is requested:
Greg Schad—573-378-3332
Bailey Marriott—573-569-0760
Morgan

Come Visit with
Booth Sponsors!

Extension – 573-378-
5358



Seminar Topics will include:

- Replacement Heifer Selection and EPD Review for Sire Selection
- Gene Schmitz, MU Extension Livestock Specialist
- Spring Pasture Recovery— After a long and muddy winter what can be done to help our pastures recover.
- Travis Harper, MU Extension Agronomist Specialist
- Weed Control - What is a weed, why is it there and how do I get rid of it? Have small fields and need a sprayer to go on a gator...we will have one for you to look at and ask questions.
- Todd Lorenz, MU Extension Agronomist Specialist

Sponsors include Morgan County Cattlemen's Association

*MU Extension, Morgan County SWCD &
Natural Resources Conservation Service*

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Morgan County Management Intensive Grazing School

April 11 and 12, 2019

(8:00 am- 4:30 pm for both days)

Hunter Civic Center

201 W. Jasper St., Versailles, MO



Registration fee covers costs of the seminar including meals, speaker fees, refreshments, fence and water system demonstration materials and the following references:

- Missouri Grazing Manual
- Forages and Weeds of Pastures
- Grazing Stick

You also receive these publications:

- Electric Fencing for Serious Graziers
- Water Systems for Serious Graziers
- Soil and Pasture Health Guide for Missouri
- Extending Grazing and Reducing Stored Feed

Topics Covered:

- Inventorying Farm Resources
- Soils and Topology
- Plant Growth and Species
- Grazing Basics
- Livestock Water
- Extending the Grazing Season
- Fencing
- Forage Quality Discussion
- Economics of Grazing
- Layout of Design of a MIG System
- Meeting Nutritional needs of Livestock with Pasture
- Pasture Fertility
- Forage Estimates
- Grazing Heights
- Matching Livestock with Forage Resources

In addition to profits in your pocket book and the environment, **you may be eligible to receive cost-share to help establish your MIG system.**

Seating is limited. If you have questions or to RSVP, please call the Morgan County SWCD office in Versailles, Missouri @ 573-378-5822 ext. 3.

Cost: \$125.00 per person (second person with paid full registration will be an additional \$75.00)

Management Intensive Grazing Schools are presented by:



Morgan County Soil and Water
Conservation District

UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI
 Extension



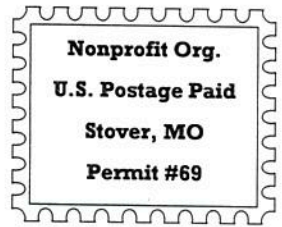
Missouri Forage and
Grassland Council



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If you need an accommodation to participate in this activity or event, please contact Colby Lehman at 573-378-5822 ext. 3 or by email at colby.bestgen@swcd.mo.gov by March 28, 2019.

Morgan County Soil and Water
Conservation District
100 S. Burke Street
Versailles, MO 65084



Phone: 573-378-5822
E-mail: patty.wittrock@swcd.mo.gov

"Return Service Requested"

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