

**Morgan County Soil  
and Water  
Conservation District**

**100 S. Burke Street**

**Versailles, MO 65084**

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

## SOIL CONSERVATION NEWS



### ***SIGN-UP NOW FOR COST-SHARE PRACTICES***

The Morgan County SWCD is taking applications for cost-share practices.

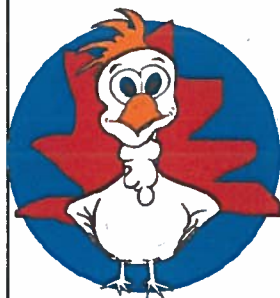
We have funding available for :

- Pest Management—Addressing weeds in your pastures
- Grazing Management Practices—Water Source, Water Distribution, Cross Fencing, Overseeding Legumes and Lime
- Sensitive Areas—Well Decommissioning, Spring Development, Riparian Forest Buffer, Streambank Protection, Streambank Stabilization
- Sheet/Rill and Gully Erosion—Terraces, Diversions, Ponds, Waterways, Critical Area Treatments, Pasture Establishment and Enhancement
- Animal Waste Storage Facilities

For more information call or stop by our office Monday—Friday from 7:30 to 4:30 pm. We will be glad to assist you.

#### **WASTE STORAGE FACILITIES**

- Swine
  - Poultry
  - \* Beef
  - \* Dairy
  - Composters & Incinerators, Winter Feed Facilities
- \$50,000 Max**



## *Pasture Weed Control*

Are you noticing more weeds in your pastures and hay fields this summer than you would like? Now is the time to start scouting and planning for next seasons weed control.

The Soil and Water Conservation district has a program for Integrated Pest Management in pastures. The purpose of the program is minimize entries of contaminants in surface water by following a pest management plan. Mitigation of pesticide "drift" is also a requirement as well as considerations for threatened and endangered species.

Contracts are written and board approved after January 1st prior to the application of any chemicals. Payment is made after October 31st. Land Operators will receive a \$10 an acre incentive for following an approved Pest Management Plan through the growing season. This period begins on the date of the Board Approval of your contract and will continue through the growing season. (October 31st). There is a lifetime maximum a cooperator can receive of \$5000.

To be eligible for participation in the Pest Management incentive the land must be either grazed pasture or hayland. A pest (weed) inventory from the previous crop should be completed before the pest management plan is developed. After we complete the inventory we will provide you with recommendations of chemicals to use from the University Extension. You may choose from these recommendation or use the chemical of your choice. After you make your chemical choice a Pest Management plan will be developed specifically for your farm. After spraying post spray scouting will be completed. Your receipts and documentation of when and what you sprayed will need to be turned in.

If you are interested for summer 2020 please call us at 573-378-5822 so your farms maps and a pasture inventory can be completed.



## *Broomsedge Bluestem Management*

Broomsedge (a.k.a broomsage, broomesedge, yellow bluestem) is a warm season perennial grass found throughout Missouri. Like other warm season grasses, it is dormant during the fall through early spring, as pictured below. Broomsedge growth begins as temperatures consistently stay above 60 degrees F. It produces many seeds that are distributed by wind. It is a poor competitor, has poor forage quality and low palatability. Broomsedge can quickly become the dominant species in over-grazed, low pH (<5.5), low phosphorus, thin (eroded) soils where desired vegetation will not thrive.

Since broomsedge is a perennial that is usually well established when many consider managing, the elimination within a single season is generally not practical. Since this plant thrives on low pH and low fertility soils, soil testing is the first step in managing a broomsedge infested field. Improved soil pH and fertility will shift the competitive edge toward the desirable forages. This component will take various lengths of time depending on soil test levels. If your budget is limited, the priority should be adjusting pH with lime.

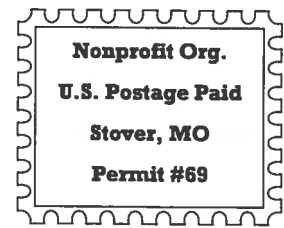
There is a very short window when vegetative growth just begins, prior to early boot that cattle may graze broomsedge, but even then it is not choice forage and generally avoided in a continuous grazing system. Broomsedge is also a poor competitor with other forage species. ***Managed rotational grazing will help shift the pasture back to desirable forages, if those forages are currently present by reducing over grazing and increasing the potential of grazing of the broomsedge during more palatable stages of growth.***

If broomsedge is shading desirable species lower in the canopy, mowing may be necessary to bring in more light. However, neither mowing nor prescribed burning will reduce broomsedge populations. The application of glyphosate during active growth, either as a spot spray or rope wick, can be an effective herbicide option. A broadcast application of glyphosate in a spray-smother-spray program when establishing a new pasture will also help reduce broomsedge populations.



**SOIL TEST—THEN  
LET'S TALK ABOUT  
OUR NUTRIENT  
MANAGEMENT  
INCENTIVE  
PROGRAM.**

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***"Return Service Requested"***

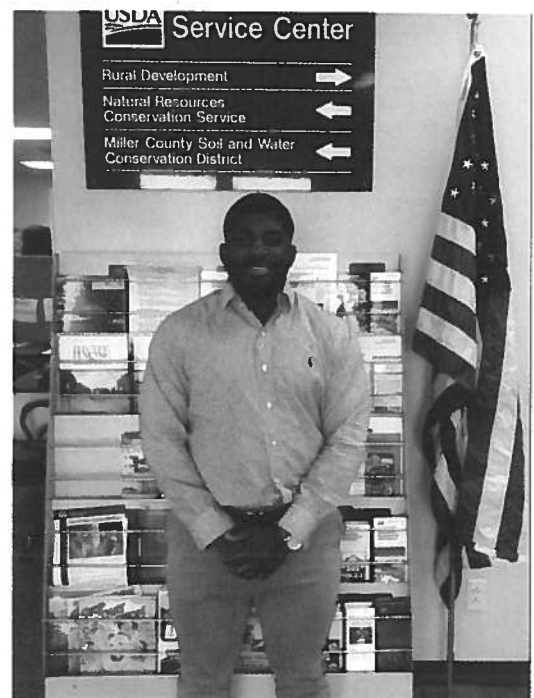
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John Draffen, Soil Conservation Technician

Hello, my name is Collin Ankton and I am a NRCS Pathway Intern stationed in Eldon, MO for the summer. Born in Memphis, Tennessee, I'm accustomed to both rural and urban living. In addition to this I have lived in 4 of the 5 regions of the United States. Because of this frequent moving, I have developed a skill in connecting with individuals from various backgrounds. I attend college at Lincoln University in Jefferson City majoring in Natural Resources Management. One thing I would like to gain from the NRCS Pathway Internship is to gain a better understanding and appreciation of the land.



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