

FY26 SUMMARY

The cost-share program once again achieved success in fiscal year 2026 with \$44,853,830.76 delivered to Missouri landowners through a total of 5,736 contracts. Thank you to the hard work and dedication of SWCD boards and staff, NRCS, and the SWCP for making this possible! During fiscal year 2026 there was more than 924,000 tons of soil saved from erosion, 2,511 cover crop contracts addressing 148,000 acres, 455 terrace contracts saving 330,000 tons of soil, 37,000 grazing acres managed through rotation grazing and protecting 21 miles of streams through livestock exclusions and streambank stabilization projects.

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NEW STAFF

Emmy McCauslin joined the program office in July 2026 as the newest coordinator for the north-central part of the state. Emmy received a bachelor's degree in environmental science with an emphasis in atmosphere from the University of Missouri-Columbia in May 2024. She then went on to earn her Master of Science in Natural Resources in June 2026. Emmy is a native Missourian, who loves spending time outdoors with friends and family. Emmy resides in Marcelline with her husband, Alex.

PARKS SOIL AND WATER SALES TAX RENEWAL

During the August primary election the Parks, Soil and Water Sales Tax was approved by Missouri voters in every county for another 10 years with an unprecedented 82% overall approval. This is the highest approval margin since the tax's inception in 1984. The one-tenth of 1% sales tax annually generates approximately \$136 million, allowing both the 93 state parks and historic sites and the 114



soil and water districts to continue vital work for Missouri. Thank you to all of the state parks soil and water conservation staff and voters for your support!

DISTRICT HIGHLIGHT

Article provided by Andrew County

During FY26, the Andrew County Soil and Water Conservation District demonstrated its commitment to improving soil health and conservation efforts by hosting a cover crop workshop for area producers and conservation partners. The workshop provided a valuable opportunity to educate producers about the benefits of cover crops, share real-world experiences, and highlight available cost-share assistance for implementing conservation practices.



An area farmer shared firsthand experiences with incorporating cover crops into their farming operation, providing farmers with practical insight into the challenges, successes and benefits of using cover crops. This producer-to-producer perspective helped demonstrate how conservation practices can be successfully implemented on local farms.

Soil and Water Conservation District Program staff provided information on the Parks, Soils and Water Sales Tax, highlighting how these funds support conservation efforts throughout Missouri. District employees also explained the cost-share opportunities available to local producers for establishing cover crops and encouraged producers to take advantage of available programs to improve soil health and protect natural resources.

The Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) provided an engaging rain simulator demonstration, allowing participants to visually see the impacts that cover crops and other conservation practices can have on reducing soil erosion, improving water infiltration and protecting valuable topsoil.

The event also included a catered lunch, giving producers, conservation staff and partners an opportunity to network, share experiences and discuss conservation opportunities.

Through this workshop, the Andrew County Soil and Water Conservation District continued its commitment to providing local producers with the knowledge, resources, and financial assistance needed to implement effective conservation practices. By bringing together producers and conservation partners, the district helped strengthen awareness of cover crops and their important role in improving soil health, reducing erosion, protecting water quality, and promoting long-term sustainability for Andrew County's agricultural community.



PRACTICE HIGHLIGHT

The DSP 3.3 practice helps producers improve pasture management, reduce soil erosion and protect water quality through managed grazing systems that support healthier land and livestock operations. In FY2026, the program was able to assist landowners in managing a total of 37,000 grazing acres through rotation grazing.

SWCD COMMISSIONERS



Laura Collins
of Sikeston

In March of 2026, Governor Mike Kehoe made four new appointments to the State Soil and Water Conservation Commission. The new appointments replace one vacant position and the expired terms of Ralph Gaw, Jeff Lance and Kenny Lovelace.

The Missouri Soil and Water Districts Commission is made up of six farmers that hold a title to a farm and who are earning the majority of their livelihood from that farm. Each member of the commission is appointed by the governor. Additionally, the commission must have three members from north of the Missouri River and three south of the river. There can only be one commissioner per state senatorial district and no more than four of the commissioners can be of the same political party. In addition to the six farmer members there are four ex-officio, non-voting members on the commission. Ex-officio members are currently the Director of the Department of Natural Resources Kurt Schaefer, Director of the Department of Agriculture Chris Chinn, Director of the Department of Conservation Jason Sumners and the Dean of the MU College of Agriculture Christopher Daubert.

The newly appointed commissioners are as follows: Laura Collins of Sikeston, Drew Lock of La Plata, Matt Lambert of Laclede, and Jim Sherrell of Macks Creek.



Drew Lock
of La Plata



Matt Lambert
of Laclede



Jim Sherrell of
Macks Creek