Franklin County Conservation District Newsletter

VOL. 34 NO. 1 SPRING 2022

Grazing School to be held May 3-5, 2022

What is a Management Intensive Grazing System?

Management intensive grazing (also known as rotational grazing management) is a system where grazing is managed for both the benefit of the livestock and forage. Livestock graze in each pasture long enough to harvest the forage but are removed before too much leaf area is consumed. A basic system may have 4 or 5 pastures while a more management intensive system will have 8 to 10 pastures.

Why should I attend this school?

The single most important management factor in determining the profitability of a livestock operation is keeping feed cost low. So why buy forage when you can grow high quality feed yourself through a management intensive grazing (MIG) system? Cost Control, not the amount of production, separates profitable from unprofitable operations. Through a MIG system you can keep your cost down and production in most cases will increase, all while helping out the environment.

The grazing school will feature information on these topics and more: Inventorying Farm Resources, Art & Science of MIG, Soil Function, Plant Growth, Extending the Grazing Season, Economics, Grazing Arithmetic, Livestock Nutrition, Matching Livestock Needs to Forage and Soil Health.

In addition to profits to your pocket book and environmental benefits you may be eligible to receive cost share assistance to help establish your MIG system. Check with your local SWCD or NRCS office for further information on cost share opportunities.

The Missouri Forage and Grassland Council (MFGC), Department of Natural Resources (DNR), Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and University of Missouri Extension will present topics in St. Clair, MO - May 3rd through May 5th, 2022. The cost to attend will include refreshments, lunch, speaker fees, materials and references. Registration for the school is limited to 25 slots. Don't wait to make reservations – slots will fill quickly. See page 3 for tentative schedule and registration form.

This newsletter was published from the 1/10 of 1% sales tax for state parks and soil conservation.

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GRAZING SCHOOL

Tuesday, May 3, 2022

8:00 —Registration

8:30—Welcome

8:45—Art and Science of Management Intensive Grazing

9:15—Evaluation of Resources

10:00—Break

10:15—Economics

11:15—Extending the Grazing Season

12:00—Lunch

12:45—Grazing Arithmetic

1:45—Weeds in Pasture

2:30—Break

2:45—Soil Health

4:00—Adjourn

Wednesday, May 4, 2022

8:00—Registration

8:15—Basics of Soil Structure, Function & Fertility

9:45—Livestock Nutrition on Pasture

10:45—Break

11:00—Basic Plant Growth, Forage Quality & Persistence

12:00—Lunch

12:45—Matching Animal Needs to Forage

1:45—Farm Tour

4:00—Adjourn from Farm

Thursday, May 5, 2022

8:00—Registration

8:15—Fencing

10:00—Break

10:15—Water Systems

11:15—Cost Share Opportunities

12:15—Lunch

1:00—Layout & Design

2:00—Farm Tour

3:45—Tying It All Together

4:00—Certificates Presented & Adjourn from Farm

LUNCH & REFRESHMENTS WILL BE PROVIDED EACH DAY

WILL BE VISITING FARMS ON DAY 2 & 3 – RAIN OR SHINE

Detach Here

REGISTRATION FORM

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

_____

CITY: _____

STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

PHONE: _____

☐ ***1 Person at $125***

☐ ***2 People at $180***

(1 set of materials)

Please enclose a check made payable to the Franklin County SWCD. The deadline to register is ***April 15, 2022****. Space is limited to 25 participants.* ***Registration is not complete until fees are paid! Confirmation will be mailed upon receipt of completed registration form and fee.***

PLEASE RETURN TO:

Franklin County Soil & Water
Conservation District
USDA Service Center
1004 Vondera Ave
Union, MO 63084
Phone: 636-583-2303 ext. 3096

HOW TO COLLECT A SOIL SAMPLE

Soil sampling is the most important step in soil testing. A well taken soil sample results in appropriate recommended rates of fertilizer and limestone. Conversely, a poorly taken sample may result in under or over application of fertilizer and lime and lower profit potential. It is best to wait at least three months after application of fertilizer, lime or manure before taking a soil sample. Sample your pasture every three to five years. Avoid taking cores near shade trees, water sources, winter feeding areas, fresh manure piles and recent urine spots.

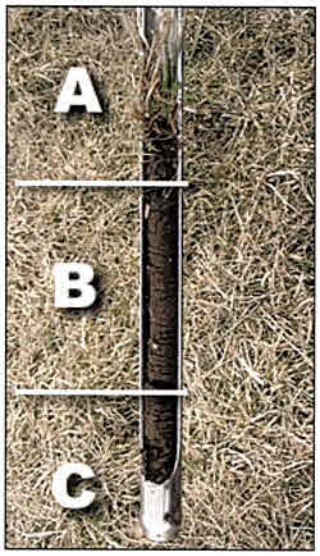
Always use clean equipment when collecting soil samples. You can use a shovel or spade for sampling, but a coring device (probe or auger) is the preferred tool. A plastic bucket should be used for collecting and mixing samples. Divide fields into 20 acres or less for one soil sample. Take 15 to 20 separate cores at random in a zigzag pattern across the field to a depth greater than 7 inches. Discard the organic duff on top of soil and the soil below the 6 to 7 inches (see illustration below). Mark on a field map the location of your core samples for future reference. The sample should be set out and allowed to air dry. If the soil is too wet, do not place the soil in the oven to speed up its drying time for the potassium levels could be affected. Air drying is the best method. Break up the 15 to 20 cores and thoroughly mix the soil. Place about 2 cups of the mixture into a clean container (plastic or paper bag/plastic box or bowl). Label the sample with the field name/number that corresponds to your 15 to 20 core samples.

The soil sample can be submitted to your local Extension center: Franklin County University Extension, 116 W. Main, Union (636)583-5141 or directly to a private soil testing lab. Be sure to use a lab that has been accredited by Missouri Soil Testing Association (MSTA). A list of accredited labs is available on the Web at http://www.soiltest.psu.missouri.edu/MSTAlabs.htm.

A. Discard organic duff on top of soil.

B. Put 6 to 7 inch soil core in sampling bucket.

C. Discard soil below 6 to 7 inches.



Information made available by University of Missouri Extension

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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1004 Vondera Ave. • Union, MO 63084
636-583-2303

The Franklin County Conservation District was organized in 1944 with a primary objective to solve soil and water conservation problems. The District, upon request, aids in planning and applying appropriate land use and conservation treatment measures.

OFFICE STAFF PERSONNEL

Lori Nowak, District Specialist IV, FCSWCD
Chuck Pierce, District Specialist III, FCSWCD

Renee Cook, District Conservationist, NRCS
Rhonda Davault, Lead Resource Conservationist, NRCS
Kervin Bryant, Soil Conservationist, NRCS
Jerry Busch, Area Soil Technician, NRCS

Lia Heppermann, Private Land Conservationist, MDC
Wesley Hanks, Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist

WHEN WATER IS AN ISSUE

When we hit a dry spell like we have in the past including but not limited to the drought of 2010, 2018 and last summer into fall, water for cattle, crops and critters becomes an issue.

It is not just a onetime issue but an ongoing issue of access to good quality drinking water for our livestock. Soil and Water has a couple of programs that address this in different ways and will hopefully help deal with this issue.

One of these is the Grazing Program with grazing school being a prerequisite and done every other year in our county, including this spring. Through Grazing cost-share is provided for Water Development (DSP-3.1) if a well or source of water is not present on the site where cattle are located and an approved Grazing Plan is done through your local SWCD office. Water Distribution (3.2) is also assisted with including trenching, pipe and tanks from water source.

All of this is referenced from the Approved Grazing System Plan that we assist you with at the start of the process.

Another possibility for assistance with water is through a Sensitive Areas program WQ-10 or Stream Protection Practice. If you have a stream with a definitive channel that the livestock have access to, we can assist with water also. The overall purpose of the WQ-10 is to reduce excess amounts of sediments, nutrients and pesticides running off into the stream with a secondary benefit of streambank stabilization. The basis for this practice is to keep the cattle out of the stream. Both sides of stream must be fenced out to access by livestock. With a minimum of 25ft from high bank and a maximum of 150ft.

Cost-Share is authorized for developing a water source if needed, permanent water distribution(trenching, pipe and tanks), stream crossing, exclusion fence, and critical area seeding. A buffer exclusion (out of production) incentive is also given per acre out of production.

If you would like more information on these or any of our other cost-share programs or just questions in general, please feel free to give us a call at your local SWCD office. Any way in which we can together improve Soil and Water is what we strive for. ☺

Thanks, Chuck Pierce - FCSWCD

FOR RENT

7 foot NO–TILL DRILL

MFA Agri Service
35 N. Commercial Ave.
St. Clair, MO 63077

To Schedule Rental
Call 636-629-2822

New Haven Farm & Feed
9659 Highway 100
New Haven, MO 63068

To Schedule Rental
Call 573-237-3831

DO NOT FORGET TO SIGH UP FOR:
Franklin County Grazing School
to be held May 3-5, 2022.
See Page 3 for the Registration Form.
Seats fill up fast!
Deadline to register is April, 15, 2022.

Cover Crops Play a Starring Role in Climate Change Mitigation

On your own land, you've probably seen evidence that climate change is happening – things like extreme weather events or changes in growing seasons over the years. America's rural communities are on the frontlines of climate change, and now is the time for agriculture, forestry, and rural communities to act.

There are various ways to help mitigate the effects of climate change on your land and improve your bottom line at the same time. One very effective way is by planting cover crops. Cover crops offer agricultural producers a natural and inexpensive climate solution through their ability to capture atmospheric carbon dioxide (CO2) into soils. But cover crops don't just remove CO2 from the atmosphere, they also help make your soil healthier and your crops more resilient to a changing climate. Healthy soil has better water infiltration and water holding capacity and is less susceptible to erosion from wind and water. Cover crops also trap excess nitrogen – keeping it from leaching into groundwater or running off into surface water – releasing it later to feed growing crops. This saves you money on inputs like water and fertilizer and makes your crops more able to survive in harsh conditions.

USDA's Cover Crop Support

During the past year, USDA has made a number of strides to encourage use of cover crops. Earlier this month, USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) formed a new partnership with Farmers For Soil Health. We also launched a new Cover Crop Initiative in 11 states through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), targeted $38 million to help producers mitigate climate change through adoption of cover crops.

In fiscal 2021, NRCS provided technical and financial assistance to help producers plant 2.3 million acres of cover crops through EQIP.

We've also recognized the importance of supporting cover crops through crop insurance. USDA's Risk Management Agency (RMA) recently provided $59.5 million in premium support for producers who planted cover crops on 12.2 million acres through the new Pandemic Cover Crop Program. Additionally, RMA recently updated policy to allow producers with crop insurance to hay, graze or chop cover crops at any time and still receive 100% of the prevented planting payment. This policy change supports use of cover crops, which can help producers build resilience to drought. Visit RMA's Conservation webpage to learn more.

Working together, we can lead the way through climate-smart solutions that will improve the profitability and resilience of producers and foresters, open new market opportunities, and build wealth that stays in rural communities. Our support for cover crops are part of a much broader effort at USDA to address climate change. To learn more, read USDA's January 18, 2022 news release.

Cover crops are not only good for rural communities, but also for urban areas. Late last year, the NRCS National Plant Materials Center planted cover crops in the urban garden in front of USDA's Washington, D.C. Headquarters. See how cover crops are also great for the urban farmer or backyard gardener.

To learn more, visit farmers.gov/conserve/soil-health, watch our Conservation at Work video on cover crops, or contact NRCS at (636)583-2303 Ext.3.

Submitted by Renee Cook, NRCS District Conservationist

FRANKLIN COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT
1004 Vondera Avenue
Union, Missouri 63084-3132
636-583-2303

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Union, MO 63084

COMING EVENTS

Tues.-Thurs., May 3-5, 2022 Franklin County Grazing School St. Clair KC Hall	Tuesday, May 10, 2022 SWCD Regular Board Meeting 6:30 a.m., Extension Mtg Room
Monday, May 30, 2022 USDA Service Center closed Memorial Day Holiday	Tuesday, June 14, 2022 SWCD Regular Board Meeting 6:30 a.m., Extension Mtg Room
Monday, June 20, 2022 USDA Service Center closed Juneteenth Holiday	Monday, July 4, 2022 USDA Service Center closed Independence Day Holiday

Call to confirm meeting date and times. All regular meetings are open to the public.

Quarterly Quote

"We shall never achieve harmony with land any more than we shall achieve justice or liberty for people. In these higher aspirations the important thing is not to achieve but to strive."

– Aldo Leopold

THANK YOU

The District Board appreciates the cooperation of the businesses that advertise in our newsletter and hope that our readers patronize these advertisers. The Board especially appreciates the financial assistance of the Franklin County Commission. Thanks also to our partners in conservation: NRCS, FSA, DNR, University Extension, MDC, Quail Forever. Assistance from the Soil and Water Conservation District is available to all county residents regardless of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, gender identity, reprisal, political beliefs, marital status, familial or parental status, sexual orientation or individual's income. State Cost-Share funds are available for agriculture landowners that have active erosion and are approved to complete practices that solve the erosion problem and for practices that protect our water quality.