

# PLANTING IDEAS

December 2015  
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*A County Publication of the  
Boone County Soil & Water Conservation District*



## Current State Cost-Share Update

Contracts	Resource Concerns	\$ Obligated	\$ Allocated
34	Sheet & Rill/Gully Erosion	\$ 128,156.16	\$ 162,457.00
3	Grazing Management	\$ 3,934.81	\$ 19,226.00
0	Sensitive Areas	\$ 0.00	\$ 14,250.00
2	Woodland Erosion	\$ 2,267.29	\$ 9,500.00
39	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 134,358.26</b>	<b>\$ 205,433.00</b>

District staff have been working hard with landowners to get contracts approved and completed. We have seen a large number of cover crop contracts and anticipate even more next fiscal year. Remaining funds in the Sheet & Rill/Gully Erosion Concern are spoken for, for this fiscal year, but there is

plenty left in the Sensitive Areas and Woodland Erosion Concerns for interested cooperators. These Concerns include practices such as Streambank Stabilization, Field Borders, Forest Buffers, Filter Strips, Stream Protection, and Livestock Exclusion, among others. There are numerous benefits to these practices, and some even allow for intermittent grazing of livestock or haying, adding additional benefits. Contact the district office for more information.

## STATE COST-SHARE PRACTICE UPDATES

### Cover Crops:

**The cover crop pilot practice is no longer a pilot program, it is now the N340 Cover Crop practice. The Commission approved the new policy at the June 17, 2015 meeting. Some of the highlights of the new practice are listed below.**

- Contracted acres must currently be in a minimum of a two species crop rotation.
- Cover crops must be no-tilled or broadcast seeded with either ground equipment or aerial.
- Production crop following the cover crops must be planted using a no-till system on the contracted acres. No-till is defined as per standard 329 for Residue and Tillage Management No-Till.
- Payment can be issued after no-till planting of the production crop into the terminated cover crop or after May 25<sup>th</sup> if the production crop has not yet been planted.
- All Cover Crop mixes MUST include at least 25% cool-season annual grass or small grain (note: annual ryegrass is not recommended)
- Cover crops will be terminated as late as practical to maximize plant biomass production and nutrient uptake.
- Cover crops will not be harvest for grain, seed or hayed.
- Cover crops may be grazed once the forages have reached a minimum height of 6-8 inches with enough biomass produced to justify grazing. Grazing will need to stop once the forages have been grazed down to 4 inches.
- Tillage cannot be used to terminate cover crops.
- Soil samples must be taken on each field prior to seeding cover crops.
- **MAXIMUM COST-SHARE:** Payment of \$30/acre/year for a 1 or 2 species mix, or \$40/acre/year for 3 or more species mix. Lifetime maximum per operator of \$20,000.

### Buffer Extension Incentive:

**Policy was approved by the commission at their April 8, 2015 meeting to provide an additional incentive to extend the maintenance life of buffer practices. An out-of-production incentive payment of \$500 per acre is available to maintain established buffers for the N386 Field Border, N391 Riparian Forest Buffer, N393 Filter Strips and WQ 10 Stream Protection practices not under a current maintenance agreement. Practices must be re-enrolled during the fiscal year following the end of the maintenance life. Contracts that expired during FY2014 will also be eligible in FY 2016.**

**Boone County  
Soil and Water  
Conservation District**

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**MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF  
CONSERVATION**

**Eric Niemeyer, Private Land  
Conservationist**

Statement of frequency: Two/year  
Mailed in Columbia, Missouri

Authorized organization's name &  
address:

**Boone County Soil & Water  
Conservation District**  
**Parkade Center, Suite 213E**  
**601 Business Loop 70 West**  
**Columbia, MO 65203**  
**573-875-5540 ext. 3**

[www.swcd.mo.gov/boone](http://www.swcd.mo.gov/boone)

**Hours:**

**Monday-Friday 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.**  
**Closed 12:00 p.m. - 12:30 p.m.**

**Funding for information/education  
activities are provided in part by the  
Parks, Soils and Water Sales Tax  
through the Missouri Department of  
Natural Resources.**

**FY 2015 Cost Share REPORT  
Boone County 7/1/14-6/30/15**

Contracts	Resource Concerns	\$ Claimed	\$ Allocated
17	Sheet & Rill/Gully Erosion	\$ 134,723.32	\$ 190,194.00
6	Grazing Management	\$ 8,406.63	\$ 20,141.00
0	Sensitive Areas	\$ 0.00	\$ 16,500.00
0	Woodland Erosion	\$ 0.00	\$ 10,000.00
0	Pilot Cover Crop	\$ 0.00	\$ 4,800.00
<b>23</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$143,129.95</b>	<b>\$ 241,635.00</b>

**Conservation Client Gateway**  
**How Conservation Client Gateway can assist  
your conservation efforts**

**What is Conservation Client Gateway?**

Conservation Client Gateway is a website that lets landowners and operators access their conservation information anytime, anywhere. Instead of driving to your field office multiple times, Conservation Client Gateway enables you to request technical assistance, access conservation plans, sign documents, document completed practices, request practice certifications and interact with NRCS field staff online. Of course, NRCS staff will still be available in field offices to work with you face to face. This online tool just provides another option.

**How to Access  
Conservation Client Gateway?**

There are two things you need:

1. An Individual Service Center Information Management System (SCIMS) record.
2. A USDA eAuthentication Level 2 account.

**How to get started?**

Go to <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/clientgateway> and click on the "Get Started" link or stop by your local NRCS office for details.



**Annual Sign-Up & Erosion School**

The Boone County SWCD Board of Supervisors has approved new policy to go into effect regarding the Sheet & Rill/Gully Erosion Resource Concern practices. Starting this coming February the Boone County SWCD will have a month-long sign-up period for those who are interested in implementing any of the following practices: Permanent Vegetative Cover Establishment, Permanent Vegetative Cover Improvement, Terrace System, Terrace System with Tile, Diversion, Permanent Vegetative Cover—Critical Area, Permanent Vegetative Cover—Critical Area: Confined Animal

Feed Lot, No-Till System, Water Impoundment Reservoir, Sediment Retention, Erosion, or Water Control Structure, Sod Waterway, Contour Buffer Strips, Cover Crops, and Contour Stripcropping.

In order to be eligible for these practices the district will now require that the landowner or operator attend a one-time Erosion School (similar to the statewide requirement for grazing practices), to be hosted annually by the Boone County SWCD, two of which will be held this first year (see Calendar of Events for dates). Vegetative practices will continue to be placed at the top of cost-share list each fiscal year, while the non-vegetative practices will be ranked at the end of the sign-up period. You will not need to have attended the Erosion School before signing up for the coming fiscal year, but you must have attended one before that fiscal year begins on July 1 of each year.

As stated previously, cover crops are included in this sign-up period. So if you are interested in participating in that practice then you will need to come by the office in February and sign up. You will also be required to participate in an Erosion School prior to the start of the next Fiscal Year. For more information contact Ethan Miller or Kevin Monckton at the district office.

## Terrace Maintenance

By Kevin Monckton, District Technician

This spring we have had several calls about terraces not functioning and we have seen many more that were not functioning as we are travelling around the county. We have only seen one set of terraces this year that have been plowed to maintain the berm height.

The last call that we had was on an older set of tile outlet terraces that an attempt had been made to fix them by installing new tile line next to the old line but that new line had also failed. The root of the problem was that the top of the terrace berm was worn down and had not been maintained adequately. On tile outlet terraces the height of the berm determines the amount of storm water that the terrace will handle and the size of the tile has very little effect on that. With our new terrace design program the terrace is designed before even considering the tile size. The tile size affects the draw down time of the terrace but the terrace has to hold the water until it can be drawn down.

The problems we have been seeing include the lack of maintaining berm height, damaged or plugged risers, large amounts of sediment in the channel, and terraces incorrectly worked and planted. A tile outlet terrace is kind of like a funnel and if the height is not maintained a large amount of the storage capacity is lost. Every time a terrace is worked, berm height is lost. A terrace should be plowed up every two to three years depending on how much the soil has been disturbed.

We are also seeing many problems with risers in terraces. Occasionally we see one that is plugged from residue or other objects such as plastic bags. The largest problem we are finding is risers that have been hit, run over or are missing. Those things happen, but if they do, inspecting the risers after planting and harvest and making the necessary repairs can prevent small problems from becoming big ones. Many times the fix is as easy as putting the riser back on but sometimes the upright or elbow is crushed requiring a more serious repair.

In the last couple of years we have had several pipes crushed because of being driven over when the ground is soft. If you are making ruts in the field with your equipment, it can easily crush a pipe. We recommend that you stay away from tile lines when the ground is that soft.

Sedimentation has become a bigger problem in recent years. A little sedimentation around the riser is to be expected but we are seeing silt accumulation to the top of risers in many cases. The purpose of terraces is to shorten the slope the water has to travel and to convey water to a safe location to leave the field. Excessive sedimentation is a sign of erosion above the terrace. Excessive erosion is usually caused by poor soil condition, lack of cover, low organic matter and a poor crop rotation. Many producers are using a corn, soybean rotation and that is just too erosive for many of the soil types found in this county. Crop residue on many of these planted fields is non-existent contributing to soil loss and sedimentation of the terrace channels. Cover crops and no-till have been proven to reduce soil loss. These practices are being used successfully in this county and soil erosion reduction is just one of the many benefits of cover crops.

Many of the farms that are signed up for terraces in the future have terraces that are not being maintained properly. It will look very poor to the public if the tax payers' money goes to building more terraces on these farms if past practices are not being cared for.

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***USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.***

## Boone County SWCD E-Newsletter!

Due to budget constraints the SWCD newsletter will be moving to an electronic version, accessible via the Boone County SWCD website. Paper copies will still be available in the SWCD office at the front desk. You can also print off copies from our website. If you would like to receive the newsletter by email you can contact the office and have your email address added to our contact list.

The newsletter is now available at the following web address:

<http://swcd.mo.gov/boone/newsletter.htm>

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December 2015 PLANTING IDEAS  
Boone County Soil and Water Conservation District  
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601 Business Loop 70 West  
Columbia, MO 65203  
573-875-5540 ext. 3



## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

<b>December 14</b>	<b>SWCD Board Meeting, 9:00 a.m.</b>
<b>December 25</b>	<b>Christmas Day Holiday, Office Closed</b>
<b>January 1</b>	<b>New Year's Day Holiday, Office Closed</b>
<b>January 5</b>	<b>SWCD Board Meeting, 9:00 a.m.</b>
<b>January 22</b>	<b>Erosion School, 9:00 a.m.</b> <b>Parkade Center, Suite 232</b> <b>Columbia, MO</b>
<b>February 1-29</b>	<b>Annual Sign-Up for Sheet &amp; Rill/Gully</b> <b>Erosion Practices</b>
<b>February 5</b>	<b>Erosion School, 9:00 a.m.</b> <b>Parkade Center, Suite 232</b> <b>Columbia, MO</b>

