

MANAGEMENT OF PASTURES AFTER DROUGHT

Kevin Monckton, SWCD Technician

After last year's drought, there are many questions which have arisen about pasture management. Many people are worried whether desirable plants have survived and should they reseed, interseed, or fertilize their pastures.

During the peak of the drought, we visited many farms throughout the drought assistance program area. The program addressed water availability, and we saw many ponds that were very low or dry. We also saw farms that had a lot of grass left and some that had already fed most of their hay supply.

The major difference that we observed between the farms that had grass and the ones that did not was the use of some type of pasture management. Not being overstocked was the major issue for pasture management in all cases. The second issue was having cross fences so there was pasture management that allowed plants to receive adequate rest periods. We saw pastures with minimal rotational systems all the way to the most intensive management systems. In all cases that we saw, managed systems had more grass than continuous grazing.

After the rain in the fall, the regrowth was tremendous on the grazing systems compared to continuous grazing. The reason for that was plants had a chance to grow to an adequate height during a rest period before they were eaten off. Some of the systems did have more grass than water because we never had enough rain to refill any ponds.

While the drought is fresh in our minds, this is the time to deal with the issues that we saw last summer. Many of the farms we looked at were noted for the same problems in 2007. Good quality water is very important for good livestock productivity, and good water distribution is just as important to make a grazing system work. As you work on water development, it is also the time to design and build a grazing system that includes a plan for water distribution and cross fencing. Reseeding or interseeding should also be considered but only if needed. Reseeding should only be a priority if there are a lot of bare areas. Interseeding is much easier to justify, but the pastures still must be managed to keep a stand and not be overgrazed.

If you are interested in pasture improvement after this dry spell, the workshop below will be a good place to get information and answer your questions about seeding and management after a drought.

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SMALL GRAZING WORKSHOP Tuesday, March 5, 2013 6:30 p.m. Hallsville Community Center Speaker: Mark Kennedy, NRCS State Grassland Conservationist *Dinner will be served at 6:30 p.m. with the speaker to follow.*

Please call our office at 875-5540 ext. 3 by Friday, March 1st to RSVP.

Boone County Soil and Water Conservation District

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<u>Missouri Department of</u> <u>Conservation</u> Mark McCulloch, Private Land

Conservationist

Statement of frequency: Three/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

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.

Out With the Old and In With the New..... District Conservationists that is.

Robert Hagedorn retired on January 3rd after serving over 35 years with NRCS, fifteen of those years as the District Conservationist for Boone and Callaway Counties. Bob has seen many changes in government programs and staff during that time, and he was still able to keep his great sense of humor. He did a terrific job of keeping not only one but two counties helping the people help the land through conservation.



We celebrated his retirement with a dinner and program on January 5th in Hermann, MO. Over 80 people attend-

ed, representing all areas of his life; family, friends and co-workers traveled from all areas of the state. That just goes to show how many people he has touched during his time with the USDA! We will miss him, but we wish him well in his retirement.

Welcome Our New District Conservationist



I'm Tony Hoover, and I'm looking forward to serving Boone and Callaway Counties as the NRCS District Conservationist. I graduated from Missouri State University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Agronomy (Soils & Crops) in 1994. After graduation, I left the family cattle farm in southwest Missouri and worked for the Missouri Department of Agriculture (MDA) in Jefferson City. I spent 10 great years with MDA as the Seed Laboratory Manager and the Federal Program Liaison. In 2004, I had the opportunity to accept a position with NRCS as a Soil Conservationist in Callaway

County. Since then, I've worked in several locations around the state. My most recent position was as District Conservationist in Cole and Moniteau Counties. I live in Jefferson City with my wife, Andrea, and our daughter, Madison. Andrea is a Sergeant with the Cole County Sheriff's Department and Madison is a junior at JCHS. We are looking forward to meeting all of you.

CALLAHAN CREEK WATERSHED TRUSTEE ELECTION TUESDAY, MARCH 12 7:00 A.M. TO 1:00 P.M. USDA SERVICE CENTER The Callahan Creek Watershed Trustee Election will be held in conjunc-

The Callahan Creek Watershed Trustee Election will be held in conjunction with the Boone County SWCD Supervisor Elections and Open House. Eligible voters for the Callahan Watershed Trustee Election must hold title to land within the watershed; Companies & Corporations:
1 officer vote; Partnerships: 2 member votes; Trusts: Trustees only.
Nominees for Trustee #2 are John H. Semon and Jerry Gerzen. Nominee for Trustee #3 is Park E. Bay; a write-in candidate will also be accepted. The term for each trustee is six years.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination against its customers. If you believe you experienced discrimination when obtaining services from USDA, participating in a USDA program, or participating in a program that receives financial assistance from USDA, you may file a complaint with USDA. Information about how to file a discrimination complaint is available from the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights. USDA prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex (including gender identity and expression), marital status, familial status, rarental status, religion, sexual orientation, political beliefs, genetic information, reprisal, or because all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs). To file a complaint of discrimination, complete, sign, and mail a program discrimination complaint form, available at any USDA office location or online at www.ascr.usda.gov, or write to: USDA, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW. Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call toll free at (866) 632-9992 (voice) to obtain additional information, the appropriate office or to request documents. Individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing, or have speech disabilities may contact USDA through the Federal Relay service at (800) 847-6339 or (800) 845-6136 (in Spanish). Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.

2013 DISTRICT ELECTION NEWS

Boone County SWCD Open House & Election March 12, 2013 We will be serving doughnuts, juice, and coffee from 7 to 11:00 a.m. and ham and beans/hotdogs

from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Staff will be available to answer questions about federal and state programs and other technical assistance.

CANDIDATE PROFILES

Area 1 (Bourbon and Centralia Townships)

John Lorentzen III has lived in northern Boone County since 1979. John has a row-crop and cattle farming operation with his son, Zack, and his father, John Jr. (recently retired), in Boone, Randolph, and Audrain Counties. In the 30 years he has farmed, John has employed many conservation practices including waterways, terraces, and sediment retention structures to protect his own farms and rented ground. John is a graduate of Sturgeon High School and Moberly Junior College. John and his wife, Becky, have four children: Zack, Jake, Johnna, and Joe. John enjoys going to Centralia Young Farmer meetings and helping with the Lighted Christmas Parade. He also helps with the Sturgeon Beef Show and enjoys the 4-H and FFA programs. "*I'm willing to see that all farmers and cattlemen have the opportunity to save the land in conservation practices and programs, and I'm willing to help all of us save our most valuable resources.*"

Darin Schnarre has lived in northern Boone County for 43 years. Darin, his wife, Christy, and their children, Brooke, Zach, and Blair, operate Schnarre Farms as a row-crop and cow/calf operation. Darin raises corn, soybeans, and wheat. He also has experience building and installing waterways and terraces. Darin has been the Missouri Farm Bureau Chairman of the Young Farmer Committee. Tractor pulling and collecting and restoring antique tractors are some of the things he does in his spare time. "*I am willing to serve as a Supervisor in order to preserve the resources that we have for future generations while maintaining and improving the value of the land."*

Area 3 (Rocky Fork and Columbia Townships)

Jeff DeShon and his wife, Glenda, have lived on their family farm in eastern Boone County for over 32 years. They have two married children and two grandchildren. Jeff is a graduate of the University of Missouri, College of Agriculture and is a Boone County Fair Board member. The farming operation consists of row crops, hay, and pastured meat goats utilizing Management Intensive Grazing. *Jeff believes that landowners have a responsibility to protect and improve our soil and water resources for future generations by using good conservation practices.*

Write –**In:** Anyone interested in petitioning to be placed on the ballot from Area 3 should contact Cindy Bowne at 573-875-5540 ext. 3 by noon, February 25, 2013.

Soil & Water Conservation District Election

Tuesday March 12, 2013 Polls Open 7:00 a.m.— 1:00 p.m. USDA Service Center Parkade Center, Ste. 213E 601 Bus. Loop 70W Columbia, MO

Supervisors from Area 1 (Bourbon and Centralia Townships) and from Area 3 (Rocky Fork and Columbia Townships) will be elected to four-year terms. An eligible land representative of an SWCD (the owner, or representative authorized by power of attorney, of any farm (land that has been assigned an FSA farm number or land which has been assessed as agricultural land by the county assessor)) may vote in any SWCD supervisor election held within that particular SWCD. Only a land representative is eligible to cast a vote in SWCD supervisor elections. If challenged, eligibility to vote must be demonstrated by the land representative. Each farm shall be entitled to representation in SWCD supervisor elections, and a land representative shall be deemed as owning one farm and having one vote, regardless of the number of farms claimed by such person. A farm owned by a firm, LLC, or corporation may be represented by one vote cast by one land representative so authorized by the firm or corporation; a farm owned by a partnership or jointly by a husband and wife may be represented by two land representatives. A trust can be represented by its trustee or co-trustees. If it is impossible for the farm owner to personally appear, a Power of Attorney may be given to a taxpaying citizen of the county who may represent one owner.



POND MANAGEMENT WORKSHOP	Calendar of Events	
Thursday, March 7, 2013	March 5	SWCD Board Mtg., 12:30 p.m.
6:30 - 9:00 p.m.	March 5	Grazing Workshop, 6:30 p.m.
MDC Central Regional Office	March 7	Pond Workshop, 6:30-9:00 p.m.
If you are interested in attending this free		MDC Central Regional Office
	March 9	Prescribed Burn Workshop
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Conservation office at 575-615-7900.	Marah 12	
	Warch 12	
PRESCRIBED BURN WORKSHOP		•
\Lambda Saturday. March 9 th 🔽	March 19	Soil Health Workshop
		9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Bradford Research Farm	March 20	-
unch will be provided. Call 815-7901 ext. 3483 by	April 2	-
•		•
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SOIL HEALTH WORKSHOP TUESDAY, MARCH 19TH 8:30- 9:00 A.M. (registration) to 4:00 P.M. LINNENBRINGER'S FARM 2950 STATE ROAD E (Red barn located 1.5 miles east of Rt. DD on Rt. E west of Hatton) SPEAKER: DOUG PETERSON, NRCS

Managing for soil health is one of the easiest and most effective ways for farmers to increase crop productivity and profitability while improving the environment.

RSVP by sending \$5.00 registration fee to: Callaway SWCD

LUNCH WILL BE PROVIDED

4549 St. Rd. H Fulton, MO 65251 573-592-1400 ext. 3

Registration deadline is March 12th but is open only to the first <u>50 participants.</u>