

December 2010



CAMDEN COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Soil & Water Conservation

SWCD Supervisors Election to Be Held December 15

The Camden Soil & Water Conservation District will hold an election for one Supervisor in Area 2 (Camdenton-Linn Creek areas) and Area 4 (Macks Creek-Roach areas) on December 15, 2010, from noon to 6:00 pm at the SWCD office, located at 275 Old South 5, Camdenton, MO.

Nominating committees for the election have submitted names of the following qualifying candidates:

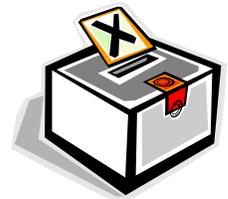
- Area 2: Earnest L. Calvert, Sr., Camdenton
Earnest L. Calvert, Jr., Camdenton
- Area 4: Roberta Woodall, Macks Creek
Connie Russell, Macks Creek

Any qualifying candidate not nominated by the committee may have their name added to the ballot if they reside in one of the two areas where an election needs to be held and have secured 10 signatures of land representatives in the territory they wish to represent on a petition and submit the petition to the Camden Soil & Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors at least 10 days before the election.

A qualifying candidate shall be:

1. A land representative
2. A resident taxpaying citizen within Camden County for at least two years
3. A cooperator of the SWCD
4. Reside in or own a farm lying in the same territory from which he/she is nominated

The owner of any farm lying within Camden County is eligible to vote. A farm is defined as land which has been assessed as agricultural land within land grades I through VII by the county assessor.



Supervisors administer District policies, programs, personnel, and funds. The District is supported by the one-tenth of one percent parks, soils and water sales tax, and other sources. For additional information on the district election, contact the District Office by phone at 573-346-5125, or by mail at PO Box 268, Camdenton, MO 65020.



Do you have a conservation contract (such as EQIP, WHIP) with a prescribed burn scheduled for spring 2011? If so, you should be checking your prescribed burn plan for establishing and maintaining your fire lines or fire breaks. Others may want to prepare fire breaks around their homesteads in case there is a wildfire in their area. Whatever your reason, good preparation now can prevent property damage in the upcoming spring.

Most grassland prescribed burn plans will not require a dozed or plowed line around the perimeter of the area to be burned. If your burn plan calls for a mowed fire line, fall is the time to start your mowing. Dead plant material will decompose over the winter and become much less flammable by spring. Dead, dry plant material that is only mowed in early spring will still carry a fire, and sometimes must be raked off the fire line prior to burning. Fall mowed plant material doesn't usually need to be raked off unless it is extremely thick and dry.

A general rule of thumb is to make your fire lines 15 to 20 feet wide. This may prevent "breakovers" of fire, and will be more comfortable and safer for your crew members helping with the burn. Besides mowing, read over all sections of your prescribed burn plan, becoming familiar with suggested weather conditions, fire equipment, emergency numbers, and number of persons required to do the burn. A little bit of prep work now could make your spring burning go a lot smoother.

Conservation Security Program Sign up

Deadline is January 7, 2011

The Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) encourages agricultural and forestry producers to address resource concerns by undertaking additional conservation activities and improving and maintaining existing conservation systems. Eligible lands include cropland, pastureland, rangeland and non-industrial forestland. More than 25 million acres have been enrolled in this innovative program that links conservation payments to environmental performance. In the Tri-County area, annual payments in 2010 on Pastureland averaged \$12.00 to \$17.00 per acre per year. Contracts are for 5 years. USDA is accepting new applications from interested farmers, ranchers and non-industrial private forest landowners. The USDA Service Center in Lebanon, Missouri will be accepting CS applications through January 7, 2011. For more information contact our office at 417-532-6305.

Submitted by Dan Silberberg



UPCOMING POSTER CONTEST

For those fourth, fifth, and sixth graders wanting to get started on their posters for the annual poster contest, this year's theme is "Forests for People – More Than You Can Imagine!" This year the National Association of Conservation Districts is collaborating with the USDA-Forest Service and American Forest Foundation/Project Learning Tree for this special 2011 Forestry Theme.

We want to connect people to the forest whether they have one in their back yard, in their state or no forests at all. We all have a connection to the trees in the forest that provide wood for our homes, furniture or cork for the center of our baseballs. We can thank trees that help clean the air we breathe. Trees play an important part in the lives of many farmers across the nation, for food we eat, how forests are managed and products we received from them. Forests are great to hike in as well as watching wildlife and birds. There is a lot to learn about forests!

Rules for the contest remain the same as previous years. Information will be sent to the schools in early January. If you would like to get more information on the theme and additional resources go to <http://www.nacdnet.org/education>.

State WIA Meeting Held in Branson



Nine ladies from Camden County traveled to Branson in September for the 16th annual Women in Agriculture Conference. The first day of the conference was filled with workshops, vendor displays, and a silent auction. The vendor displays ranged from pottery, soaps and lotions made from emu oil, handmade baskets, to informational materials from ag agencies. Workshops included finance and planning, archery, and creating a chipboard memory scrapbook.

The evening's meal and entertainment consisted of a trip to Dixie Stampede where the silverware was your fingers. Both the meal and entertainment were excellent! The ladies came out of the show stuffed, but not so miserable they couldn't do a little mischief with their bidding at the silent auction.



Instructor and students at the Hog Farm

On Tuesday the group spent the day touring the College of The Ozarks where the students earn their tuition by working on the campus. The Keeter Center, which was constructed with labor by the students, has a gorgeous dining area, lodging, meeting rooms and a staged auditorium. The tour included the Fruitcake and Jelly Kitchen where 40,000 plus fruitcakes are made by student workers and staff. Other stops on the tour were the Star Schoolhouse and Williams Memorial Chapel.



We visited the Gaetz Tractor Museum and viewed tractors, ag equipment, and a huge display of barbed wire. We also toured the W. Alton Jones Dairy and saw the milking operation, the hog farm, the greenhouse, and the mill. At all these stops, the students were working and gave us information on each operation. The students were very prepared, polite, and did a great job. At the hog farm, John Gan who is a local young man from Richland, led a tour. Another stop on the tour took us to the Ralph Foster Museum. The museum has something

for everyone here, wildlife, antiques, fishing lures, music memorabilia, the original truck that was used on "The Beverly Hillbillies." etc .



Connie with her winning prize submitted by anonymous bidder

On Wednesday several speakers spoke on different topics such as fitness programs designed for "Silver Sneakers" to various issues on women's health, bug bites and ended with a story of inspiration, life, strength, courage and hope by Jan, who is a 5-year breast cancer survivor.

Names of the silent auction winners were drawn. Several of the ladies from Camden County came home with some great items. Connie Luttrell managed to win a much coveted item without bidding on anything.

This was yet another informative and fun-filled Women In Agriculture Conference and all of the ladies look forward to next year! The conference is hosted in various locations in Missouri every year and will be held somewhere in the central part of the state in September 2011.

Winter Time Gardening

Winter time gardening is more than just getting your garden ready for winter.

Of course, we all have fall and early winter gardening chores to do –it’s time to bring tender plants, such as tropicals and containerized plants inside for overwintering. You can place them in your garage or storage shed. You will need to dig and store your summer and fall flowering bulbs, such as dahlias. Be sure and prune away broken branches, but avoid heavy pruning of trees and shrubs. Touch up mulch at the base of your perennial plants once temperatures are consistently cold. A layer of mulch about two to four inches deep is ideal. It is fine to leave foliage that has died back as it will provide additional protection at the crown of plants. Leave ornamental grasses intact without cutting them back to discourage new growth during warm spells and encourage birds to visit.

Your garden tools will need to be cleaned before storing for the winter. Start by hosing them off. Sharpen everything with blades; oil the metal and the wooden handles (so they won’t dry out. When you have finished fall clean-up-chores you can begin to focus on your winter garden.



Your winter garden doesn’t have to be a boring and bare landscape. You can enjoy the beauty of nature all year long. Just follow some of these tips to improve the look of your garden during the winter.

The main way to add interest to the winter garden is of course with plants! After all, it is a garden! You can plant spring flowering bulbs like daffodils and tulips. However, the plants that work to make an interesting winter garden are not necessarily known for their foliage and flowers.

Choosing plants that will look good during the colder months is more a matter of thinking about bark, berries, and shape. Many plants, such as Japanese maple, have unusual colors of bark. Other trees, like the Japanese Pagoda tree, have interesting fruits or seeds that form during the fall and winter. Deciduous vines like wisteria can form strange, twisting branches that look like surreal sculptures in the winter. Evergreen plants are an obvious pick for creating an attractive landscape for the winter.

You can also make a protected area of your garden where you can try growing a true “winter garden” with frost hardy plants. If you’d like to dedicate a specific area of your yard to a winter garden, it’s good to try and block the area off from winter winds. Wooden fences or natural green fences made from evergreen shrubs and trees can serve as wind breaks. Remember to pick an area for your winter garden that gets plenty of sunlight. Place your plants in a protected area, along fences, foundations and warmer, southern-exposure areas to maximize protection from the winter weather.

I suggest that you choose attractive ornamental plants that offer beauty throughout the year. Remember to choose plants that do well in Zones 5 and 6 to ensure they will survive our cold winters

- The Flowering Dogwood is a fine example of a four season plant – With beautiful white and/or pink blooms in the spring-leaves that turn to red in the fall and the berries lasting into winter.
- Azalea Girard ‘Crimson’: This is a shrub that grows between two to three feet high. This plant has beautiful fall and winter foliage.
- Bottlebrush buckeyes is a low-maintenance shrub displaying 12 in. long, white bristly flowers spikes that last several weeks in the spring , the large, palm-shaped dark green leaves provide a coarse texture in the summer and turn bright yellows in autumn, followed by a non-edible chestnut like fruit in the winter.
- Serviceberry is a large shrub or small tree that will enhance the winter landscape as it matures. During the winter months, the smooth, silvery gray bark glistens in winter landscape. The spring brings forth white flowers; followed by its blueberry-like fruit adored by wildlife and humans alike.
- Rhododendrons brighten up the garden with lush, evergreen foliage in the winter and masses of colorful blossoms in spring and summer. They are most effective in mass plantings, foundation plantings, and in shade gardens.
- Boxwood: An excellent garden plant for year round beauty.
- Yews are prized landscape shrubs because they remain green year-round, are easy to grow, and tolerate a wide range of environmental conditions. They have a variety of landscape applications, including formal or informal hedges, screens, and foundation plantings.
- Christmas fern (*Polystichum acrostichoides*): An evergreen fern. Also used for Christmas decorations.
- Evergreen Vines: There are a huge number of pretty vines that will provide your garden with year round color and interest. English ivy is an excellent overall vine for your landscaping.
- Grasses like blue fescue and blue oat grass maintain their structure and some of their color during the fall and winter. *Continued on page 5*

Improve Your Forages This Year

Spring is around the corner and your thoughts may include improvement of pasture or hay land on your farm. Begin planning now for spring seeding of cool season grasses and legumes.

Grass grows beef and good soil grows grass. High animal gains, milk production, and reproductive efficiency require adequate nutrition. Producing high-quality forage requires knowing the factors that affect forage quality and good management. This often means knowing which nutrients are needed by your soils and applying them accordingly.

A soil sample should be taken from the pastures to be planted to

determine how much fertilizer and lime is needed. This practice more than any other affects the level and economic efficiency of forage production. Fertilizing and liming as needed help ensure good yields, improves quality, lengthens stand life and reduces weed problems. A soil test is also required for cost share programs involving seeding.

Along with proper fertilization and liming, adding legumes, such as clover, may help improve grass stands by adding nitrogen to the soil and improving overall forage quality.

Every producer should regularly consider on a field by field basis, whether the introduction or enhancement of legumes would be beneficial and feasible.

If you are interested in cost-share funds for grass establishment or inter-seeding of legumes next spring, you will need to come in or call our office to sign up. We have programs which offer assistance for establishing grass pastures, improving pastures with legumes, and applying nutrients needed for optimal forage growth.

Assistance offered by the local Soil & Water Conservation District may include sharing the cost of lime, fertilizer, seed and no-till equipment needed to complete the practice.

Eligibility for cost-share programs will be determined by the local technician based on erosion, pasture quality and fiscal availability.

John Pryor, SWCD Technician

Winter Garden *cont'd from pg 4*

Even if you don't grow plants during the winter, you can still enjoy winter time garden activities:

Collecting seeds from your plants during the fall and winter and store them for next spring.

Read up on gardening and plan your garden for next year. You can think about what plants you'd like to grow, and how to design your garden.

Go shopping! Check out the home garden departments, nurseries, and pick up discounted supplies for next season.

Develop a garden web site or blog.

Start a garden scrapbook, file, or journal that you can refer to when you need inspiration or when you just want to find a particular plant's name when is time to reorder.

You can use a garden journal to collect magazine articles, pictures, and ideas for improving your garden. This is a great way to keep notes about plants that you already have, including planting dates, bloom times and plant performance.

I hope I have encouraged and inspired each of you to add winter gardening to your list of things to do. If you have any questions check out University of Missouri Extension's Master Gardener site at: www.extension.missouri.edu.

Submitted by Charli Allee, member of the Lake Area Master Gardeners

Peanut Clusters

2 lb white almond bark 3 c. chocolate chips
2 lb. Spanish peanuts

Place almond bark and chocolate chips in large pan. Bake at 250 until melted. Add nuts and drop onto wax paper with teaspoon. This makes several clusters.

Turtles

1 pkg sm. Round pretzels 1 lg pkg pecans
Rolos candy

Place pretzels on cookie sheet. Place 1 Rolo on top of each pretzel. Press 1 pecan on top of Rolo. Cool. Store in airtight container.

Sympathy

Eddie Fry passed away November 22 at his home in Montreal. Eddie had been battling cancer for seven years but was still able to participate in one of his favorite activities the last week of his life-hunting. Many of you will know Eddie from visiting his business, Eddie's Fin, Feather, and Fur. Eddie was the father of Greg Fry, one of the SWCD board supervisors.

Sympathy is extended to the Fry Family.

**CAMDEN COUNTY SOIL & WATER
CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

275 Old South 5
PO Box 268
Camdenton, MO 65020
Phone: 573-346-5125

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Conserving for the Future
<http://swcd.mo.gov/camden>

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We've Moved!

Open House to Be Held December 15

After twenty-two years at the McCrory Center, the Soil and Water Conservation District has moved to 275 Old South 5. We're in one of the green buildings at the Seven Trails Development. Our office is the one closest to High Brothers Lumber Company, across the highway from Laclede Electric.

On December 15, an open house will be held in conjunction with our supervisors' election (see related article on page one). Even if you are not eligible to vote in the election, come by the office between noon and 6:00 PM. View our new office space, have cookies and punch, and visit with staff. We want to see you on the 15th!

Our phone number, 573-346-5125 and mailing address, PO Box 268 have stayed the same.

