

December 2014



CAMDEN COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

# Soil & Water Conservation

## SWCD Supervisors Election to Be Held December 02

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 02, 2014, from 9:00 am to 4:00 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:

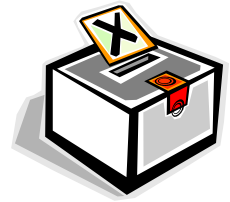
Area 2: Earnest L. Calvert, Sr., Camdenton

Earnest L. Calvert, Jr., Camdenton

Area 4: Roberta Woodall, Macks Creek

Joe Moulder, Macks Creek

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.



### Christmas Open House to Be Held December 02

On December 02, an open house will be held in conjunction with our supervisors' election (see related article above). Even if you are not eligible to vote in the election, come by the office between nine and 4:00 PM., have cookies and punch and some other goodies, and visit with staff. We want to see you on the second!

We're in one of the green buildings at the Seven Trails Development across the highway from Laclede Electric. Our office is the one closest to High Brothers Lumber Company,

# *Reviewing Your Fertilizer Practices*

By Dennis Bruns

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Baseball has its winter hot stove league, where fans gather and begin to cuss and discuss the past season or the upcoming season. They talk about plans, possible trades, or free-agent signings by their favorite major league teams, supposedly around a "hot stove" on cold winter days.

As a producer, a hot stove league is a great time to think and plan out your course of actions for the upcoming growing season. One of the things you might consider is making some changes to your pasture fertilization schedule. Your first step should be taking a soil test as this test will give you a snapshot of the present condition of your field(s). A \$15 soil test may save you hundreds of dollars in the long run as it might keep you from applying fertilizer that you don't need or not putting enough on to give you the results you are wanting.

Probably the most common fertilizer schedule producers follow is to apply a quantity of a standard fertilizer, say triple 17, to all of their fields in March or early April. This fertilizer will have a sizeable amount of nitrogen (N), phosphate (P), and potash (K) in the formulation. Instead of this method use the soil test to custom blend the fertilizer so that you are putting only the amount of each component that you actually need. The soil test will give different blend recommendations depending on whether you want to put the fertilizer on hay fields or pastures.

Another strategy you might consider for pastures is to split fertilizer applications to pastures. Spring cool season grass grows rapidly and will produce lots of forage. Most of the time it grows faster than what the cattle can eat, thus becoming mature and unpalatable to the animals. As this grass matures its quality (protein and total digestible nutrients) decreases since the grass is putting most of its energy into producing seeds. Spring N applications only worsens this situation. In the spring you might apply none or a minimal amount of N, say 20 lbs/acre, and the full amounts of P and K that is recommended by the soil test. Winter precipitations, snow and sleet, are able to fix nitrogen from the air and put it into the soil so there is some present for the grass to use. Also most local fertilizer dealers use diammonium phosphate (DAP), which is 18% N, as the source of P in their blends. The combination of these two sources should provide plenty N for the grass to use in the spring. The second fertilizer application should be in applied to pastures in early August and it will be N only, say 40-60 lbs/ac of N. This high N application will boost the fall growth of cool season grasses, which will be more leaves, improved quality, and higher palatability. This increase in grass can extend the grazing later in the year before you would need to feed hay, or stockpiled for winter grazing. Split fertilizer application has been shown be the most cost-effective way to keep up your pasture fertility.

These are just a couple of tidbits to ponder while you are sipping hot coffee or cocoa around your hot stove on a cold winter day.

# State Women In Ag Meeting Held in Hannibal



Camden County Attendees

Nine ladies from Camden County recently attended the 2014 State Women in Ag in Hannibal. The conference kicked off with vendors and special guest "Unsinkable" Molly Brown at the opening session. The ladies had many workshops to choose from: Identifying & Managing Vegetable Diseases, Financial Statement Fundamentals, Who Gets Grandma's Yellow Pie Plate, Raised Bed Gardening, Laughter "Just for the Health of It", Using Apps to Man-

age the Farm, and Do You Have Clutter.

The banquet opened up with special guests "Tom & Becky".

Dr. Jerry Crowover was the guest speaker at the Banquet and the hospitality room and silent auction was open after the banquet.

The exciting tours on Tuesday took the ladies on an adventure to the Rockcliffe Mansion, URSA Farmers Cooperative and BASF-The Chemical Company. Ladies enjoyed a wonderful luncheon at The Old Stone House Inn.

Wednesday began with a presentation by the Women, Food & Agriculture Network (WFAN), visiting with partners presentation and guest speaker Chris Chinn "Putting a Face on Agriculture".

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. Next year the conference will be held in Excelsior Springs September 21-23.



URSA Farmers Cooperative



Tom Sawyer  
Becky Thatcher



Old Stone House Inn

# 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. *Continued on page 5*



## Winter Garden *cont'd from pg 4*

- Grasses like blue fescue and blue oat grass maintain their structure and some of their color during the fall and winter.

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. "From Seed to Harvest and Beyond Garden Journal& Calendar" is a journal available for purchase from University Extension. For more info on the journal go to <http://extension.missouri.edu/mp928>

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: <http://extension.missouri.edu/camden>

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



### ***Save The Date***

#### ***Grazing School***

Mark your calendars for **April 29 and 30** for attending school. Camden County SWCD along with NRCS will be hosting a grazing school for any producer, landowner, or operator who is interested in learning techniques to improve the amount and quality of grass that they can grow. The school will teach the basics of how to implement rotational grazing by livestock (cattle, horses, sheep, and goats) on your farm. Attendance to a grazing school is required if you wish to participate in any cost share practice (cross fencing, wells, pipelines, watering tanks, lime, etc.) to set up a grazing system on your farm. If you or someone you know is interested please call the SWCD office. More details (time, cost, etc) will be coming out in the spring.



### **Photo Contest**

Grab your camera or look through your file of pictures! You could be a winner in the SWCD's photo contest. The pictures could depict any natural resource related subject (trees, plants, landscapes, wildlife, education) Maximum size limit is 8" x 10". Black-and-white and color prints will be judged together. Photos should be taken in Missouri. There will be two divisions-one for 18 and over and anyone under 18. Photos may be dropped off at the SWCD office before March 03. Each participant may enter three photos.

Four cash prizes will be awarded in each division at the district's annual meeting in March. Winners will be determined by popular vote of attendees.

### **Change in SWCD Supervisor**

Because of time constraints, Greg Fry recently resigned from the Soil and Water Conservation Board. Greg represented Area 3, which included the Montreal, Richland, and Stoutland areas. Troy Frederick was selected to complete Greg's term. The state Soil and Water Commission will be officially appointing Troy at their December 10th meeting. More info on Troy will be printed in the next issue of the SWCD newsletter.

**CAMDEN COUNTY SOIL & WATER  
CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

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

**Board of Supervisors**

*Ernest L. Calvert, Chairman*  
*Roberta Woodall, Vice-Chairman*  
*Jeff Apperson, Secretary*  
*Troy Frederick, Member*

**SWCD Personnel**

*Connie Luttrell, Manager*  
*Dennis Bruns, Technician*

**NRCS Personnel**

*Dan Silberberg, District Conservationist*  
*Alan Garton, Resource Conservationist*

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

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## Christmas Trivia

1. Who wrote How the Grinch Stole Christmas? **Dr Seuss**
2. From which country does the poinsettia plant originate? **Mexico**
3. What are the names of the three wise men said to have brought gifts to the baby Jesus? Most think **Balthasar, Melchior, Caspar** (or Gaspar - Interestingly the Bible does not states state their names, nor even the number of wise men: "...there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem... and when they had opened their treasures, they presented unto him gifts; gold, and frankincense and myrrh..." from Matthew 2:1 and 2:11.
4. In Charles Dickens' novel A Christmas Carol, who was Scrooge's dead business partner? **Jacob Marley**
5. Name the original eight reindeer from the 'Twas the night Before Christmas' poem? **Comet, Cupid, Dasher, Dancer, Prancer, Vixen, Donner, Blitzen** (The poem is alternatively titled A Visit from St Nicholas. 'Twas the night Before Christmas' is the first line. The poem was first published anonymously in 1823 and is commonly attributed to Clement Clarke Moore, although some believe Henry Livingston was the true author. Rudolph was created later in 1939 by copy-writer Robert May for the Montgomery Ward department store chain, as the main character in a free Christmas promotional story, which extended the 1823 poem, and was subsequently turned into the popular song Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer. Incidentally Donner and Blitzen mean Thunder and Lightning in German.)
6. How many points does a snowflake have? **Six**
7. In the song The Twelve Days of Christmas, '...my true love brought to me nine...' what? **Ladies dancing**
8. When you go Wassailing, what is it that you are doing? **Going to visit neighbors and receiving goodies**
9. Which star led the magi to Jesus? **Star of Bethlehem**
10. Which American state was the first to make Christmas an official holiday? **Alabama**