

Camden Soil & Water Conservation

Annual Dinner Meeting Planned for March 16

You are invited to attend the Camden County Soil & Water Conservation District's annual appreciation dinner. The event will be held Tuesday, March 16, at the Knights of Columbus Bauer Hall. The hall is located on west Hwy. 54 in Camdenton, approximately 1/2 mile from the intersection of highways 54 and 5. Registration will begin at 6:00 p.m. The buffet style meal will be served at 6:30 p.m.

This year's entertainment will be provided by Mechelle Matthews, a professional ventriloquist.

Students from the 4th, 5th, and 6th grades who participated in the poster contest will have their work displayed that evening. This contest is open to all public and private schools in the county. Poster contest finalists will be recognized and awarded their prizes. We invite you to come and recognize the young people in our community.

Photo contest entries will also be displayed. Voting for the photo contest will be held during the meeting and winners will be announced before the evening is over.

Instead of the usual return postcard that has been used in past years, we are asking you to call or email the SWCD office indicating your name and the number of persons in your family planning to attend. Please call 573-346-5125 or email connie.luttrell@swcd.mo.gov. **Deadline for response is March 6**. We have an answering machine so you may call at any time, day or evening.

Greg Fry Appointed as SWCD Supervisor



The Missouri Soil & Water Conservation Commission recently appointed Greg Fry as a supervisor of the Camden SWCD. Greg will serve out the unexpired term of Terry Evans. He will be representing the Richland-Montreal-Stoutland areas, designated as Area III.

Greg was born and raised in this area, attending Camdenton School. During this time he spent time working on his grandparents farm.

Following graduation, he served four years in the United States Air Force as a security policeman. He then worked for the government in Washington, DC for six years. Moving back to Missouri in 1993, Greg started farming and working another job. He married Jenny in 2000 and they have four children, Dylan, Austyn, Jazlynn, and Zayne. Greg presently stays busy working full-time at Modine in Camdenton, farming, helping his wife, and attending his kids activities.

Soil Stewardship Observance

The Soil and Water Stewardship Observance is celebrated in the United States to remind all people of their individual responsibilities to care for our soil and water resources. By its very nature, the observance is one to be joined in by everyone (regardless of religious beliefs) who share a sense of personal responsibility to care for our valued natural resources.

The roots of this special observance are deep in history. More than 1550 years ago in the city of Vienne, France, bad weather and natural disasters had brought crop failures and widespread hunger. The bishop of Vienne called for three days of prayer and penance. Word of what happened in Vienne spread throughout France and then to other countries. As the years went by, the annual practice of setting aside these special days was widely established.

Stewardship Week was established by the National Association of Conservation Districts, an organization that was founded to direct programs that protect renewable natural resources after the devastation to agriculture in the United States as a result of the Dust Bowl. Stewardship Week has been celebrated annually since 1955.

The Dust Bowl refers to a decade of drought which began in 1933. The drought impacted 75% of the United States, but was most devastating to portions of Texas, Oklahoma, New Mexico, Colorado and Kansas. These states lost the production of crops on approximately 100 million acres of land. Many believe had the farmers and landowners chosen to band together and implement proper agricultural practices, demonstrating good land stewardship, the devastation of the Dust Bowl could have been somewhat diminished. The good news is that Americans have learned from the past, and since the 30's there have been severe droughts, but the same devastation has not been repeated because good stewardship practices have been taught, learned and implemented on the land.

The observance, now known as Soil and Water Stewardship Week, is celebrated each year between the last Sunday in April and the first Sunday in May. However, congregations are encouraged to celebrate the observance at any convenient time.

The theme of this year's observance is "**Conservation Habits = Healthy Habitats.**" Conservation of our natural resources is important in every community. Look for ways to be involved at your home, local schools or with community conservation projects. There are plenty of conservation habits that help conserve water, provide shelter for animals, birds and insects as well as increase their food supply. Habitats are all across North America and around the world; you can find them in forests, grasslands, deserts, wetlands, arctic tundra as well as right outside your backdoor and in your community. Healthy habitats can include native plants, water features such as ponds, wetlands and rain gardens. Planting native trees along stream banks to stabilize the soil, preventing soil erosion or planting native plants to attract pollinators make citizens good stewards of the land. 2010 marks the 55th year of the National Association of Conservation Districts Stewardship Week. Help us celebrate Habitat Stewardship Week **APRIL 25 to May 2, 2010.**

Visit www.nacdnet.org for ideas on making rain barrels, rain gardens and eco-regional plants guides and more.

If you would like for your church to receive any materials relating to Soil Stewardship, please call our office.

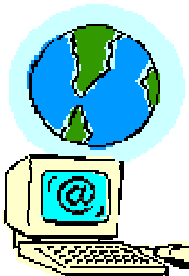


April 25
thru
May 02,
2010



Camden County SWCD Goes World Wide

By
John Pryor



Connie has been working diligently with our technical advisor, Jason, to develop this tool that will help you access us and our services. The Camden County SWCD website is now online and contains tools and links that may help you manage your operation. You can find the site at www.swcd.mo.gov/camden. In this article I will give you a brief guided tour of what you will find once you access the site.

On the home page you will find a quick overview of what we do and the history of our office. Navigation from the homepage is straight forward, and the links to other pages are found on the left side of the page.

By clicking the *Board Members* and/or *Staff* links you can view your local area representatives or contact our staff members via e-mail.

The *Upcoming Events* link will take you to a listing of upcoming events, meetings, field trips or conferences.

The next link; *Landowner Assistance*, outlines many of the services we provide through the cost share program. If you have questions about program applicability or eligibility, feel free to contact our office for clarification. Under this link you can also find links to the Vendor Input and Vendor Application forms, which must be completed and filed before cost share payments can be paid.

The link for *Rental Equipment* shows requirement, rules and billing rates for the use of the districts two no-till drills. Keep in mind that there is often a waiting list during prime seeding dates, so you may want to call us early to reserve the drills.

We have also added a *Newsletter* link so you can now view our newsletters online.

The next link, titled *Links*, hosts links to many good resources. From here you can reach the websites of Farm Service Agency, NRCS, Missouri Dept of Conservation, and University of Missouri Extension to name a few.

There is also a link to the Missouri Market News and Reports. This is an online publication from the MO Dept of Ag, where you can access livestock, grain, and hay market reports; weekly market reports, stockyard information and buy/sell hay listings.

We have also added a link to the CARES map room. This interactive mapping system allows you to create detailed aerial maps of your farm. You can map water resources, find the acreage of your fields, and use the maps to plan your management. I suggest using the address search under interactive maps, to take you right to your property. This site also has the BERM or Business Environmental Risk Management tool which allows you to map out your property line and create a report showing potential environmental hazards, and alerting you to precautions or laws that may apply in your area.

The *Local Projects* link is currently host to pictures from recent field trips or events. If you participated in these you may be able to see your picture online.

We hope you find these tools helpful. Of course if you are like me, you just want to talk to a real person, you can still find our phone number at the bottom of every page, and we are still right here in Camdenton, located in McCrory Center.

NRCS Financial Assistance Supports Organic Growers, High Tunnels

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) has \$1.2 million to help Missouri farmers produce organic products, and another \$150,000 for a pilot project to introduce all growers to high tunnel structures that extend the growing season for crops.

State Conservationist J.R. Flores says landowners may apply until March 19 for cost-share funding for both initiatives through NRCS' Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP).

The \$1.2 million available in Missouri is part of a \$50 million nationwide initiative to provide financial assistance to National Organic Program (NOP) Certified Organic producers as well as those transitioning to organic production.

EQIP promotes agricultural production and environmental quality. Through EQIP, farmers and ranchers receive financial and technical assistance to help install structural conservation practices and to implement management systems that promote conservation.

EQIP may pay for up to 75 percent of the costs associated with installing eligible practices, including high tunnels. For those qualifying as beginning farmers, limited-resource farmers, or socially disadvantaged farmers, EQIP funds are available for up to 90 percent of installation costs. Payments for organic operations may not exceed \$20,000 per year, or \$80,000 during any six-year period.

High Tunnels

Flores says high tunnels, also known as hoop houses, increase the availability of locally grown produce and other specialty crops in a conservation-friendly way.

"High tunnels can help producers extend their growing seasons and also expand the availability of healthy, locally grown crops," Flores says. "So their use can benefit producers and consumers."

High tunnels are made of ribs of plastic or metal pipe covered with a layer of plastic sheeting. NRCS will provide financial assistance to fund one high tunnel per farm where there is existing cultivated cropland. NRCS will offer financial assistance for a high tunnel that covers up to 5 percent of an acre (2,178 square feet). Producers may build larger tunnels and pay 100 percent of the extra costs themselves. To receive assistance, eligible producers must use commercially manufactured high tunnel kits, and no electrical, heating or mechanical ventilation system can be added.

EQIP funds are also available to help fund supporting practices associated with the use of high tunnels. Examples of supporting practices include, but are not limited to: diversions; critical area plantings; nutrient and pest management; and underground outlets

Flores says the three-year study is part of USDA's "Know Your Farmer, Know Your Food" initiative. He says the study will verify if high tunnels are effective in reducing pesticide usage, keeping vital nutrients in the soil, extending the growing season, increasing yields and providing other benefits to growers.

To apply for EQIP or to get more information about EQIP and other NRCS programs, contact the NRCS office serving your county. Look in the phone book under "U.S. Government, Department of Agriculture," or access this website: <http://offices.usda.gov>. You can also get information about NRCS programs online at <http://www.mo.nrcs.usda.gov/programs>.

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Great Household Tips

- * Candles will last a lot longer if placed in the freezer for at least 3 hours prior to burning.
 - * To remove old wax from a glass candle holder, put it in the freezer for a few hours. Then take the candle holder out and turn it upside down. The wax will fall out.
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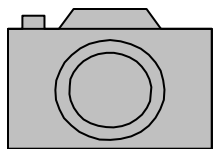
POSTER CONTEST

The annual contest incorporates the Soil and Water Stewardship Week theme, "Conservation Habits = Healthy Habitats." Each of us can be good stewards of our natural resources at our home and in our communities. When we think about protecting and managing our natural resources we can provide healthy habitats for the ecosystems on our planet. Each of us can make a difference by starting in our own backyard, our school or in our community.

Conservation is careful management of the environment and of our natural resources. A habitat is the place where something lives because it is adapted to find food, water, shelter, and space. People, plants, and animals all need a place to live and food to eat.

For 4th, 5th, and 6th graders participating in this year's poster contest, the deadline is February 25. Posters will be picked up at area schools or you may bring them by the office. For students wanting to participate who might have not received information about the contest, please call our office. Prizes will be awarded at the SWCD's annual meeting March 16.

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) or even a conservation problem. There is no size requirement and black-and-white and color prints will be judged together. Photos should be taken in Missouri. All ages will be judged in the same contest. Photos may be dropped off at the SWCD office before March 10. Each participant may enter five photos.

More Household Tips

Look what you can do with Alka Seltzer

Clean a toilet Clean a vase.

Polish jewelry. Clean a thermos bottle. Unclog a drain.

Spring Forage Conference

Don't miss the 26th Annual Southwest Missouri Spring Forage Conference covering issues and topics affecting today's graziers. The conference will be **Tuesday, February 23, 2010, 8:00 AM – 3:30 PM** at the University Plaza Hotel, 333 S. John Q. Hammons Pkwy, Springfield, MO.

Join other livestock producers for lunch, presentations and view the latest in products and exhibits on forage related information!

The Keynote Address, "*Is Your Farm a Job or a Business and Are You Working for a Lunatic?*" will be given by Dave Pratt, CEO of Ranch Management Consultants, Inc

The conference fee of **\$25.00 (NON-REFUNDABLE) DUE BY FEBRUARY 16, 2010 (\$35.00 after February 16, 2010 or at the door)** covers registration, proceedings and meal. For more information call 417-831-5246 ext. 3 or visit the website:

<http://agebb.missouri.edu/sfc>

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SWCD
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Supervisors**



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SWCD assistance is available without regard to race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, or marital status.

Funds for this publication are provided by Missouri's parks, soils, and water 1/10 of 1% sales tax.

Schedule of Events



Feb. 15-May 01-Spring Seeding Dates

Feb. 25-Poster Contest Deadline—Posters will be picked up at schools or may be dropped off at SWCD office.

Feb. 24-Southwest Mo. Spring Forage Conference

March 06-Deadline Annual Mtg RSVPs

March 10-Photo Contest Deadline

March 16-SWCD Annual Dinner Meeting

**Camden Soil & Water
Conservation District**

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Camdenton, MO 65020
573-346-5125**

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