

Camden Soil & Water Conservation

Annual Dinner Meeting Planned for March 20

You are invited to attend the Camden County Soil & Water Conservation District's annual appreciation dinner. The event will be held Tuesday, March 20, 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 String Fever Music. David and Laurie Thompson will be playing different musical instruments and telling the history of some of those instruments. Laurie is well known for playing the hammered dulcimer. The Thompsons have played during the Great American Music Festival at Silver Dollar City for six seasons.

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.

So we can request the caterer to prepare the correct of meals, 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 1**. We have an answering machine so you may call at any time, day or evening.



**Support Your Local FFA Chapter
FFA Week-Feb. 18-25**

The FFA Booster Club of the Lake Career & Technical Center chapter will be having a fundraiser dinner and silent auction Tuesday, Feb. 21, 5:00 PM-8:00 PM. The dinner will be held at the Knights of Columbus building in Camdenton. Cost for the dinner is \$10.00 for adults and \$5.00 for children 10 and under. The dinner includes grilled pork steak, potatoes, salad, dessert, & drink.

Future Farmers of America was founded by a group of young farmers back in 1928. Their mission was to prepare future generations for the challenge of feeding a growing population. They taught that agriculture is more than planting and harvesting—it's a science. It's a business and it's an art. FFA continues to help the next generation rise up to meet those challenges. The FFA motto is **Learning to Do, Doing to Learn, Earning to Live, Living to Serve.**

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.

This year's theme is Soil to Spoon. Each day people take a spoon of food and put it in their mouth. Where does all of that food come from? How does it get from the soil to the spoon? It is a long process that depends on many people across the country, and sometimes around the world.

Our consumption of natural resources plays a vital role in the sustainability of planet Earth. What kind of impact does your lifestyle have on Earth's capacity to endure? Food production and food consumption are vital issues for you, no matter where you live.

The year 2011 saw the world population increase to 7 billion, and it is estimated to increase to 8.2 billion by 2030. At the same time, usable agricultural land is disappearing. Former ag lands are used in a variety of ways. Some has been converted to development for new family homes or shopping plazas. It is a difficult balance for our society that needs more room for more people, but also needs more food to feed the people.

*April 29
thru
May 06,
2012*

Each product you use can be traced back to the soil, and soil is an important ingredient in the production process. Most people rarely think about the important role of soil in the food they eat daily. Farmers and ranchers take great care of their soil. Most of their families have been working the same land for generations and they understand the important link between healthy soil and healthy food. Soil can't be treated like dirt!

America's network of 3,000 conservation districts across the country are working on the ground each and every day with local farmers, ranchers and landowners to protect our soil, water and air for future generations.

At your next meal, try and think where each product came from, and how far it had to travel before it reached your plate. And remember to thank your local agricultural community members for their work to provide for our nation and the world.

"When one tugs at a single thing in nature, he finds it attached to the rest of the world." —John Muir

2012 marks the 57th year of the National Association of Conservation Districts Stewardship Week. Help us celebrate Stewardship Week **APRIL 29 to May 6, 2012**. If you would like for your church to receive any materials relating to Soil Stewardship, please call our office.

Don't Just Kickback This Winter

By Dennis Bruns

As you are reading this, the weather outside may be frightful. There's the cold temperatures and maybe some snow or ice is falling or on the ground. After quickly doing your morning chores, it's time to plop down in front of the fireplace or wood stove with a hot cup of coffee or chocolate. You may be wishing and hoping that spring is near. It may be close, but are you ready for it?

Winter is an important time for spring and summer activities. This is when planning and management decisions are made that can greatly affect later events, maybe even determining profitability. It is a time to evaluate what you did last year or in the past, make changes where necessary, or discard altogether. This may be the only period of the year where you have some spare time so use it for reading and learning new techniques.

Establish at this time your grazing plan for the coming growing season. When looking at your rotation, be sure to include enough rest time for your paddocks to grow back new grass. Remember you can have shorter rest periods when grass is growing fast and longer when growth slows down. Maybe you need to make more paddocks. This is the time of year to move temporary fences or put them in.

Check and maintain your equipment. Are your energizers putting out enough voltage? Check **all** fences, both permanent and electric. Fix if needed or install new. Take inventory of your tools, clean and maintain them as needed.

This is also a good time to do a soil test. This is the best \$15 you can spend to determine where you are in pasture fertility. Depending on what your test shows, you can plan your pasture and hay fertility program accordingly. Why put extra nutrients on a field if you don't need it? If the pH is low, you can add lime now. Lime may take up to 6 months to raise pH levels to optimal levels. If you have only enough funds for one nutrient, liming will give you the biggest bang for your buck.

February is a great time to add legumes to the mix. In my opinion, legumes should be in every pasture or hayfield in the state. Clover, lespedeza, or trefoil can be frost seeded by broadcasting the seed over the fields this month. The freezing and thawing action along with a late winter snow will get the seed into contact with the soil where it can germinate.

Since you will most likely have more spare time in the winter use it to do some reading. I recommend Jim Gerrish's books, Management Intensive Grazing and Kick the Hay Habit, along with No Risk Ranching and Comeback Farms by Greg Judy. Another good reading that I would recommend is "The Stockman's Grass Farmer" monthly periodical. It's a little pricey, but well worth the read.

So have fun this winter and don't kick back too much.

Did You Know? There are approximately 22 million people who work in agriculture related fields.

Spring Forage Conference set for February 28th in Springfield

The 28th annual Southwest Missouri Spring Forage Conference will be Tuesday, February 28, 2012 at the University Plaza Hotel in Springfield, MO. Each year this conference attracts an increasing number of people interested in learning more about management strategies for forages and livestock.

This year's keynote speaker will be Dr. Temple Grandin, Professor of Animal Science at Colorado State University. Dr. Grandin is one of the world's leaders in the design of livestock handling facilities. She has designed livestock facilities throughout the United States, Canada, Mexico, Australia, and other countries. In North America, almost half of all cattle processing facilities include a center track restrainer system that she designed for meat plants. Her curved chute systems are used worldwide and her writings on the flight zone and other principles of grazing animal behavior have helped many producers to reduce stress during handling. Temple has also designed an objective scoring system for assessing handling of cattle and pigs at meat plants. This system is being used by many large corporations to improve animal care. Other areas of research are: Cattle temperament, environmental enrichment for pigs, reducing dark cutters and bruises, bull fertility, training procedures, and effective stunning methods for cattle and pigs at meat plants. Dr. Grandin has provided worldwide media exposure for the livestock industry and, in particular, with issues relating to animal care. She has appeared on television shows such as 20/20 and 48 hours, and has been featured in People Magazine, the New York Times, Forbes, U.S. News and World Report, and Time magazine. She was named one of Time Magazine's 100 Most Influential people and HBO made a movie about her life starring Claire Danes. Temple's topic for the noon luncheon is called "Understanding Animal Behavior".

The conference will also feature several breakout sessions to choose from- both in the morning and the afternoon. Topics will include: Managing the spring flush of forage, nutrition from forages, carrying capacities, minimizing hay feeding/storage losses, weed management, grazing records, trichomoniasis in cattle, profiting from woodlands, can I afford to fertilize?, roles of forage in a changing beef industry, and stocker cattle performance and pasture costs. More than 30 companies and organizations will have exhibits, and have representatives available to discuss their products and services.

Conference registration begins at 8 a.m., with sessions running from 8:45 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. A banquet luncheon is included with the registration. The cost is \$25 per person in advance or \$35 at the door. To pre-register (by February 22nd) or to get more information, contact the Greene County Soil and Water Conservation District at (417) 831-5246, extension 3. Conference information and a registration form are also available at <http://agebb.missouri.edu/sfc>.

The conference is co-sponsored by several southwest Missouri Soil and Water Conservation Districts, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, Missouri State University, University of Missouri Extension, MU Southwest Center, Missouri Department of Conservation, and the USDA Farm Service Agency.

* * * * *

Mid-Missouri Grazing Conference

The Mid-Missouri Grazing Council is hosting a Grazing Conference on Thursday, February 9, 2012 at the Capital Plaza Hotel at 415 W. McCarty in Jefferson City, MO. Session topics include Soil Health, Preparing Beef Cattle for the Breeding Season, Multispecies Grazing Systems, Getting the Most \$ out of Forage Crops, winter Annual Pasture Cover Crops, Beef Quality Assurance, Small Ruminant Forage management, Organic & Natural Food Production, and Whole Farm Forage Management to Enhance Livestock & Wildlife Production.

Registration is open to the public and the cost to attend is \$50 individual, \$85 couple or \$25 student if you register by February 3rd. Registration @ the door = \$85 per individual, \$120 per couple or \$35 per student

For more information, contact Ed Gillmore or Peggy Lemons at 573-893-5188, ext 3.

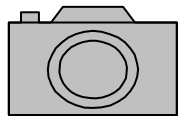


POSTER CONTEST

This year's poster contest will incorporate the stewardship theme of "Soil to Spoon." The posters should show the connection to the soil to the food we eat each day.

For 4th, 5th, and 6th graders participating in this year's poster contest, the deadline is March 02. 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 20. Four winners from each grade will be chosen with Honorable Mention receiving \$10, 3rd place-\$15, Second place-\$20, and first place receiving \$25. The overall grand prize winner from all three grades will receive \$50.

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. Maximum size limit is 8" x 10". 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 09. Each participant may enter three photos. Five cash prizes will be awarded at the district's annual meeting on March 20. Winners will be determined by popular vote of attendees.

USDA Conservation Programs Sign-Up

There's a good way to avoid missing the application sign-up deadlines you see and hear announced from time to time for most conservation programs. Just go to your local USDA Service Center and sign up now — even if you've missed the most recent cutoff date. Many of the programs that offer USDA incentive or cost-share payments are open for signup all year long. So, while you might miss this year's funding, you'll be in line for the next funding cycle. Most of the USDA conservation programs are open for sign-up at any time, continuously, not just for a few weeks each year. You can make an appointment and sign up for cost-sharing through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program [EQIP] at any time throughout the year. The applications are held until an annual ranking date is announced; then all applications that NRCS has received to date will be ranked for funding that year.

EQIP

EQIP is the primary USDA program available to farmers for farmland conservation work. The program cost-shares on several common conservation practices in Missouri. EQIP was established to help all types of farmers: livestock and dairy, grazing or cash crop, including specialty crops, organic, and agro-forestry. EQIP also offers additional assistance for beginning, socially disadvantaged and limited-resource farmers.

CSP

The program provides many conservation benefits including improvement of water and soil quality, wildlife habit enhancements and adoption of conservation activities that address the effects of climate change. Eligible lands include cropland, pastureland, rangeland, nonindustrial private forest land. Producers interested in CSP should submit applications to their local NRCS office by the deadline so that their applications can be considered during the first ranking period of 2012.

Sign up, stay in touch

If you did miss this year's cutoff date, NRCS encourages you to stop by your local office to discuss your conservation concerns at any point throughout the year. You can find out whether EQIP, CSP, or another program fits your situation. Their technical assistance is available at no cost. For more information, contact the NRCS office at the USDA Service Center in Lebanon, by calling 1-800-203-4467.

**Camden County
SWCD
Board of
Supervisors**



Ernie Calvert, Chairman
Roberta Woodall, Vice-Chairman
Greg Fry, Treasurer
Jeff Apperson, Secretary

SWCD Personnel

Connie Luttrell, Manager
Dennis Bruns, Technician

NRCS Personnel

Pam Cornelius, Resource Conservationist
Alan Garton, Resource Conservationist
Dan Silberberg, Dist. Conservationist

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

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Feb. 9 Mid-Mo Grazing Conference
- Feb. 13-SWCD Board Meeting
- Feb. 20-Presidents' Birthday Holiday
- Feb. 21-LCTC FFA Dinner/Silent Auction
- Feb. 28-SW Mo Forage Conference
- Mar. 02-Poster Contest Deadline
- Mar. 09-Photo Contest Deadline
- Mar. 20-SWCD Annual Meeting
- April 29-May 06-Soil Stewardship Week

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

**Camden Soil & Water
Conservation District**

**275 Old South 5
Camdenton, MO 65020
573-346-5125**

Inside This Issue

Annual Dinner Meeting	1
FFA Dinner/Silent Auction	1
Soil to Spoon	2
Forage/Grazing Conferences	4
Poster/Photo Contest	5