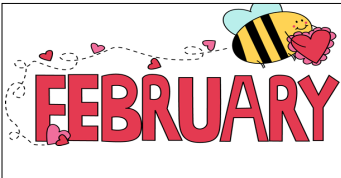


February 2016



CAMDEN COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Soil & Water Conservation

SWCD's Annual Dinner Meeting Planned for March 08

The Soil and Water Conservation District's annual dinner meeting will be held Tuesday, March 08, 6:30 PM in Camdenton at the Knights of Columbus Bauer Hall.

Darrin Hasleg from the Highway Patrol's Rural Crime Unit will be presenting the program and answering any questions. RCIU focuses solely on the investigation of crime unique to the agricultural industry and farming communities within the state of Missouri.

The annual photo contest will also be held so start going through your photo file. It's not too late to take some new shots. More info on the contest is on back page of newsletter.

So we can provide the caterer with correct number of attendees and we won't run out of food, please call our office with number of people in your party planning to attend **by March 2**. The phone number is 573-346-5125 and the answering machine is always on so you can call any time, day or night. If you prefer, you can email your response at connie.luttrell@swcd.mo.gov

Plan now to attend and visit with your neighbors and meet new ones. Registration for the evening with begin at 6:00 PM.

GRAZING SCHOOL TO BE HELD IN APRIL

Mark your calendars for **April 27 & 28** for attending school. Camden County SWCD along with NRCS and University Extension 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. Fee for the two day school is \$125 per person. Cost for two persons from the same farm is \$190.

Recently trending in the beef industry has been the rise of "grass-fed beef". You may have heard about this niche in various magazines, newspapers, or other media outlets. The grass-fed market has been steadily increasing nationwide and is largely a market geared towards more upscale and health conscience demographics. Current estimates are that about 6%-7% of all beef purchased and consumed in the U.S. is grass-fed and some analysts predict that it should climb to somewhere between 10%-15% before leveling off. But what is grass-fed beef and why is it becoming so popular?

Grass-fed beef is just as the name implies, the animal has eaten only grasses and forage products its entire life before harvest. It was never given any grains or starch based foods, such as corn, wheat, oats, DDG, etc., at any point. The beef should be grazed in mixed grass and legume pastures or cereal grain fields, such as wheat, rye, or oats, before the grain heads out. Most have also never been given hormone implants or antibiotics. Any supplemental feed must be high fiber materials. For example soybeans are prohibited but soybean hulls are acceptable. Mineral and salt supplements are allowed but cannot contain any grain products as a carrier of the mineral or salt. Also allowed are molasses, brassicas, corn silage that has been cut before ear development, sorghum/sudan grass silage or green chop. Gleaning crop fields after crop harvest is not allowed as the beef may have access to waste grains in the field.

So what are the advantages of grass-fed beef? The primary benefits include:

A more natural diet for the animal. Bovine rumen fermentation is designed to process high fiber grasses, legumes, and forbs as their primary source of nutrients and energy. Grain and starch fermentation was not the way that cattle originally evolved but has been used in the past 50 years or so to increase weights on cattle at a faster rate.

A healthier product for human consumption. Beef has gotten a bad rap in the last 25 years as a main contributor to heart problems. Research conducted at several universities show that grass-fed beef have lower levels of fat, cholesterol, and saturated fat than grain fed beef. Grass-fed beef also are higher in omega-3 fats (the good kind), higher in vitamins A and E, and contain cancer fighting alpha linoleic acids (ALA).

More profitable returns. Grass-fed beef usually command a premium over commodity cattle. Two mid-western companies, Tallgrass and Thousand Hills, pay from \$25-\$50 cwt above the highest current commodity prices for grass-fed beef. Examples of grass-fed beef prices at Farmer's Markets are \$5-\$7/lb for hamburger, \$20/lb for steaks, \$10/lb for roasts. One local producer is currently processing 1-2 animals every 3 weeks to keep up with the demand for his grass-fed beef. Springfield area grass-fed producers are charging \$2.50/lb live weight for quarters and halves.

Raising grass-fed beef can be a viable option to your livestock enterprise. It will work on any scale, whether you raise a handful of animals each year or 50. It will take some changes in management to be successful as not all cattle are created for grass-fed beef and not all pastures will finish beef to an acceptable level. Before jumping in you should research it well and read all you can on the subject.

2015 Camden County Plat Book Now Available

Who owns Camden County? Thousands of people have a piece of it, and they are listed in the new plat book published by Mapping Solutions and distributed by the Camden County Soil & Water Conservation District. The 2015 book is available for purchase for **\$40.00** at the Conservation District office located at 275 Old South Hwy 5 in Camdenton. Premium wall maps are also available for \$60.00. For more information contact their office at (573) 346-5125.

This book includes aerial view maps opposite the landownership map pages. The 92 page spiral-bound book features township and range maps of Camden County. These maps include the property boundaries for all rural parcels within the township, the name of the owner and the number of acres owned. Also, there is a handy landowner index for easy cross referencing.

In this new edition you will find an updated Camden County government directory, a School Districts map, a Fire Districts map as well as a Political Townships map and as an added bonus there is an explanation of the public land survey system. Mapping Solutions is the publisher.

This information is valuable to anyone with a need to know who owns land in Camden County. Prospective or adjoining property owners, hunters, foresters, timber and petroleum industry personnel, emergency services and many others would be interested in having a copy.



During the first month of sales of plat books, the SWCD held a drawing for free maps. Winning a wall map was Guy Winters and Ken Olive won a SmartMap.

Guy Winters

**CAMDEN COUNTY SOIL & WATER
CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

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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 02. 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.



Stoutland Girls Trio Opens Conference

During the recent Missouri Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts' 67th annual training conference held at Lake of the Ozarks the Stoutland School Girls Trio opened the conference by singing the National Anthem. The speaker at the opening assembly, Tom Steever, commented, "What an inspiration!"

The trio consists of Breanna Brown, Madelyn Brown, & Tristan Carroll.

Their music director is Megan Groll.



