

# CAMDEN SOIL & WATER

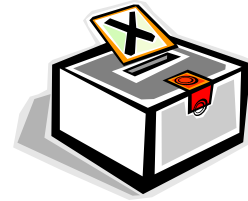
## CONSERVATION DISTRICT

### SWCD Supervisors Election to Be Held February 11, 2013

The Camden Soil & Water Conservation District will hold an election for one Supervisor in Area 1 (Barnumton-Climax Springs areas) and Area 3 (Montreal-Richland-Stoutland areas) on February 11, 2013, from 9:00 am to to 3:00 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 1: Jeff Apperson  
Thomas Wolf  
Area 3: Gregory Fry,



Qualifying candidates shall be:

1. A land representative
2. A resident taxpaying citizen within Camden County for at least two years
3. A cooperater 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 and receive no compensation for their time. 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 275 Old South 5, Camdenton, MO 65020.

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#### ANNUAL DINNER MEETING PLANNED FOR MARCH 12

You are invited to attend the Camden County Soil & Water Conservation District's annual appreciation dinner. The event will be held Tuesday, March 12, 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 agenda will include an entertaining and educational program by Carolyn Miller from Nostalgia Vintage Apparel. Mrs. Miller will display eight decades of clothing tying in fashion with what was going on in society during that period of time. She says, "Fashion is very influenced by life." "continued on page 8"

# *After The Drought-We Hope*

*Dennis Bruns*

Last spring and summer was one that we all would like to forget if you are a livestock producer. The high temperatures coupled with very little precipitation ruined or weakened most pastures and hay fields around the mid-west. The question to ask now is, "Will these fields recover?" The answer is the typical, "It depends."

Most of our forage fields in the county contain fescue in some form, whether it is the primary grass in the stand or part of a mixture with other grasses and legumes. Fescue is a grass that can be both praised and cursed. Unless you have completely refurbished your field sometime in the past 5 years with a novel endophyte fescue variety, your field's fescue is most likely the Kentucky 31 variety. The K31 fescue contains a fungus that lives within the plant's tissues and has a mutualistic symbiosis with the plant. The plant provides the fungus with food and nutrients while the fungus provides the plant resistance to droughts, high and low temperatures, and close grazing. This fungus is called an endophyte. This is why fescue grass is so tough and persistent. The drought may set the fescue back a bit, but it should rebound well with normal rains, temperature, and soil fertility in the coming spring. But K31 has a Mr. Hyde side to it. The endophyte fungus that makes the fescue plant so tough also produces a chemical called ergovaline, which is somewhat toxic to cattle and horses. The ergovaline causes livestock's body temperatures to elevate and reduces blood circulation. This shows up as "fescue foot" problems in cattle, premature miscarriages in horses, lower cow conception rates, and lower rates of gain in yearlings or stockers.

Fields mostly of K31 fescue will wear the drought the best. Fields that are more diverse; containing higher proportions of orchard grass, ryegrass, clovers, brome, etc. along with the fescue, will suffer more in that the drought probably killed off much of those other grasses and legumes. There will probably be gaps in the stand and it will be much thinner. Those fields are ones that will need the most attention to get them back on track to graze.

According to Mark Kennedy, the state Grasslands Conservationist for the NRCS, landowners should follow 4 steps to bring their pastures and hay fields back to post-drought production.

- 1. Take a soil test.** This will help identify any deficiencies in soil fertility and allow you to make corrections. Bringing fertility up to test will reduce further plant stress. With a soil test you will put only the nutrients on that are needed and in correct amounts, saving money by not applying unnecessary nutrients. Pay special attention to the soil pH. If you have limited funds, liming will get your biggest bang for your buck. Lime and phosphorous can be applied now and nitrogen should be applied at the beginning of the growing season.

2. **Evaluate your existing stands.** Now is the best time to do this. Walk through your fields and note the plant populations, density, plant vigor, number of legumes, etc. A helpful form developed by NRCS, called the JS-Agron 24, can be downloaded at the following website: [www.mo.nrcs.usda.gov/technical/forms/out/grassland/agron24l/pdf](http://www.mo.nrcs.usda.gov/technical/forms/out/grassland/agron24l/pdf)
3. **Develop your alternatives.** After evaluating your fields you may want to interseed legumes into the stand. Livestock performance is optimized if about 1/3 of the forage is composed of legumes. January and February are great times to frost seed clovers and lespedeza. Broadcast the legume seed at a rate of 5-8 lbs/acre PLS (pure live seed) while the ground is frozen or just before a snow. Be sure to inoculate the seed before planting. The melting snow or freeze/thaw action will carry the seed into the soil to germinate in the spring. Other grasses, such as orchard grass and ryegrass, can also be sown in late winter or early spring.
4. **Manage your grazing.** Allow the newly planted forages to grow and become established before grazing. Do not overgraze or mow too short. This may be an opportunity to begin a good pasture rotation program. Give your pastures ample time to grow between grazings. After the stress of a drought, the grass will fare much better if allowed to get a little over mature rather than grazing or cutting too early. This allows the grass to put more reserves into its root system to hold more moisture and withstand future droughts. Don't increase your herd size back to the pre-drought levels until the fields are fully recovered. You will be better off and more profitable in the long run if you are understocked rather than overstocked.

The above is framework for what you can do to get your forage lands back in shape. Remember that it will take time for this recovery. Assuming we receive normal rains and precipitation, it may be 2 full years before the fields are producing well. Just like our bodies, you probably would not be running a marathon a week after breaking your leg. Give it time and be gentle with it. Mother Nature has a great way to cycle the forage lands back to normal in due time.



### **Mid-Missouri Grazing Conference**

The Mid-Missouri Grazing Council is hosting a Grazing Conference on Thursday, February 28, 2013 at the Capital Plaza Hotel at 415 W. McCarty in Jefferson City, MO. Session topics include Pasture Renovation, Genetics for Feed Efficiency, Pasture Weed & Brush Control, Alternatives Forages, Native Grasses 101, and Management Intensive Grazing 101. Keynote Speakers are Teddy Gentry and a Central Mo Producer Panel on "How We Managed Our Grazing Systems During the 2012 Drought and What We'll Change fro 2013."

Registration is open to the public and the cost to attend is \$50 individual, \$85 couple or \$25 student if you register by February 22nd. 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.

## Annual Meeting Hi-Lights

The Camden County Soil & Water Conservation District held their annual Appreciation Dinner on Tuesday, March 08, 2012 at the Knights of Columbus Bauer Hall. Two hundred fifteen people turned out for a evening which included a catered meal, photo contest, poster contest, a PowerPoint presentation on the year's past events, and musical entertainment.

This year's entertainment was provided by Denver Golden and Friends. Denver's friends included John Green, Pauline Burton, and Helen Russell.

This year's poster contest theme was "Soil to Spoon" and was open to all 4th, 5th, and 6th graders in the county. The grand prize winner of this year's Poster Contest was Austin Horton who is a 6<sup>th</sup> grader at Camden Christian School in Camdenton. Austin received \$50 for his winning poster. First place winners received \$25, second place received \$20, third place winners received \$15, and 4th place took home \$10. Along with their cash prizes, finalists received ribbons. All participants received a bag of goodies for their efforts.



### 4<sup>th</sup> Grade

HM – Hanna Lehner, Camden Christian

3<sup>rd</sup> place – Mason Kinney, Camden Christian

2<sup>nd</sup> place- Aeryn Kennedy, Hawthorne

1<sup>st</sup> place – Lalia Sousley, Camden Christian

Grand Prize Winner

**Austin Horton**



### 5<sup>th</sup> Grade

HM– Ezequiel Avendano, Oak Ridge

HM– Sofia Gopar, Oak Ridge

HM– Adalberto Gonzalez, Oak Ridge

HM– Jose Cortes, Oak Ridge

3<sup>rd</sup> place – Mariza Vasquez, Oak Ridge

2<sup>nd</sup> place – Meagan Boze, Oak Ridge

1<sup>st</sup> place – Precious Batty, Camden Christian

### 6<sup>th</sup> Grade

HM-Charisma Hynes, Climax Springs

3<sup>rd</sup> place-Jackie McCartney, Climax Springs

2<sup>nd</sup> place-Cassie Kennedy, Oak Ridge

1<sup>st</sup> place-Timothy Batty, Camden Christian

Photo contest winners were determined by popular vote by those attending the meeting.

Winners of the photo contest were:

4<sup>th</sup> place – Kirk Davis, “A Sunny Day at Ha Ha Tonka”

3<sup>rd</sup> place –Steve Watten, “Sunset at Lake of the Ozarks”

2<sup>nd</sup> place – Heather Luttrell, “A Saturday Night in the County”

1<sup>st</sup> place – Heather Luttrell, “Eye See You”

Grand Prize—Michaela Kinney, “After the Storm”



The evening concluded with drawings for door prizes which included themed food baskets

## High Tunnel Tour Held in Camden County

Dan Silberberg, District Conservationist

A self-guided high tunnel tour to two farms in Camden County was provided to nearly 40 people from Camden, Laclede, Morgan, Benton and Miller Counties on June 2, 2012. The tour, sponsored by the Camden County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) and the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), gave individuals considering a high tunnel access to others who had recently installed them on their farms.



Bear Hollow Farm high tunnel

The tour included stops at Bear Hollow Farms and Jeff and Tanya Apperson's farm. After brief presentations by the operators, attendees had an opportunity to ask questions about the installation and operation of a high tunnel.

Mark Zickefoose of Bear Hollow Farms showcased his Farm-Tek High Tunnel installed in 2010. Zickefoose harvests twice as much produce with the assistance of his high tunnel and grows a variety of vegetables including broccoli, tomatoes and strawberries.

Jeff Apperson, who serves on the Camden County SWCD board, showed off his Zimmerman High Tunnel installed in September 2011. He planted tomatoes on March 15 and harvested nearly 500 pounds of tomatoes from the high tunnel by June 2.



Apperson Farm tomato plants

Both high tunnels on the tour were installed with the assistance of the NRCS Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) High Tunnel Initiative.

Dan Silberberg, District Conservationist in Lebanon, received favorable comments on the self-guided tour concept.

"The tour didn't require a lot of advance preparation and was inexpensive for both participants and the sponsors," Silberberg said. "Best of all, participants heard directly from producers who had already taken the plunge and were successful

in setting up and managing their own high tunnels."

If you are interested in installing a high tunnel and would like more information, contact Dan Silberberg at the Natural Resources Conservation Service in Lebanon, MO. The phone number is 1-800-203-4467.

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### Field Office Service Area Receives Award

Each year, the Natural Resources Conservation Service recognizes individuals and groups who have been nominated for some aspect of their work. This year the Camden/Laclede/Pulaski FOSA was a recipient of an award for their work during the drought program.

**Spring Forage Conference and Heart of America Grazing Conference  
set for February 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> in Springfield**

The annual Southwest Missouri Spring Forage Conference and the annual Heart of America Grazing Conference have partnered to present an informative and educational two-day event. This year marks the 29<sup>th</sup> annual Southwest Missouri Spring Forage Conference. It is the 12<sup>th</sup> year for the Heart of America Grazing Conference which is held annually throughout a 5-state region of Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Ohio, and Missouri.

The conference will be held Monday, February 25<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday, February 26<sup>th</sup>, 2013 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 and 2013 should draw even more attention with the two annual conferences teaming up.

This year there will be three different main speakers, along with a local humorous speaker. Monday afternoon starts with Richard McConnell from Hand N Hand Livestock Solutions, providing four hours of training on *Low Stress Livestock Handling*. Monday evening, Dr. Garry Lacefield, State Forage Specialist from the University of Kentucky, will present a talk titled *Forages: Change-Challenges-Opportunities*. Local beef producer and humorist Dr. Jerry Crownover will round out the evening with his topic- *Life is Simple*. During Tuesday's luncheon, Kathy Voth from Livestock for Landscapes LLC will give a presentation entitled *Training Your Cows to Eat Weeds*.

On Tuesday, the conference will also feature several 45-minute breakout sessions. Topics will include fescue toxicity management, grazing system layout, alfalfa management, forages and wildlife, novel endophyte fescues, selecting livestock to fit your environment, evaluating potential of different livestock enterprises, taxes and farm records, native warm season grasses, direct sales of grass-fed beef, inter-seeding annuals into pasture, and pasture renovation with livestock.

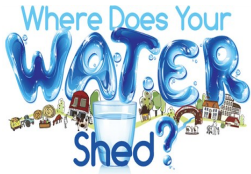
More than 30 companies and organizations will have exhibits and booths, with representatives available to discuss their products and services. Ample time is provided throughout the conference to visit with the vendors.

For the Monday sessions, registration begins at noon and the first session begins at 1:00 p.m. Monday's events conclude at 9:00 p.m. On Tuesday, registration begins at 7:30 a.m. and the conference adjourns at 3:30 p.m. Multiple options are available for attendance of this event. Participants have the option to attend Monday's *Low Stress Stock Handling* session only (\$25), all of Monday only (\$50), all of Tuesday only (\$35), and the whole 2-day conference (\$75). These rates are for advanced registration (pre-registration by February 19<sup>th</sup>). Registration fees will increase by \$10 for late registration. A prime rib dinner will be served Monday evening and is included in the \$50 or \$75 attendance options. A sliced beef luncheon will be served Tuesday, and included in the \$35 or \$75 attendance options.

To pre-register or for more information, contact the Greene County Soil and Water Conservation District at (417) 831-5246, extension 3 or visit the website at <http://springforageconference.com/> for more conference information, maps, lodging information, biographies on the main speakers and a registration form.

. The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, and marital or family status. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at 202-720-2600 (voice and TDD) To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326W, Whitten Building, 14th and Independence

## UPCOMING POSTER CONTEST

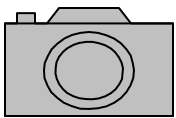


For those fourth, fifth, and sixth graders wanting to get started on their posters for the annual poster contest, this year's theme is "Where Does Your Water Shed?"

Where does your water shed? The amount of fresh water on earth is all we have. It is important to understand where the fresh water goes after a rain, after you empty the bathtub or use it to water your plants. We have to take care of our fresh water as it gets used over and over again. Everyone lives in a watershed. What is a watershed?

A watershed is an area of land that drains to a particular body of water such as a river or a lake. Rain or any type of precipitation that falls anywhere in that watershed eventually flows to a body of water. The water may travel over land as surface water or flow underground as groundwater. Look around your community or as you travel to see water traveling within a watershed.

Rules for the contest remain the same as previous years. Information will be sent to the principal of each school in January. If you do not receive it and would like to get more information, call our office at 573-346-5125. Cash prizes will be awarded to the top winners. Each participant will receive a token of appreciation.



### 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. There will be two categories for judging. The youth division will be for those under age 18. The adult division will be for those 18 and older. Photos may be dropped off at the SWCD office before March 04. Each participant may enter three photos. Cash prizes will be awarded to the top vote-getters in each division.



## FFA Boosters Plan Silent Auction and Dinner

The Lake Career and Technical Center FFA Booster Club will be having their annual silent auction and dinner, featuring pork steak or chicken breast, on **February 19, 2013** at the **Knights of Columbus** Hall on west Highway 54 in Camdenton, MO 65020.

Dinner will cost \$10.00 per person and serving will begin at 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

All profits from the FFA Booster Club will help provide quality education opportunities for the LCTC FFA Chapter students. Funds are used to help pay for the cost of camp, travel expenses to National Convention, to provide scholarship opportunities, and much, much more.

The Booster Club is asking for monetary donations, items to offer for auction or prizes, and items for the dinner. Any donation is appreciated!

For more information on donations, you may contact Valerie Stonitsch at 573-480-0963

FFA chapters makes a positive difference in the lives of their members by developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth and career success through agricultural education. Today's FFA members are tomorrow's leaders of America's number-one industry, agriculture.

Today there are 557, 318 FFA members in grades seven through twelve who belong to one of 7,498 local chapters throughout the United States, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands.

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### DID YOU KNOW?

Agriculture employs more than 24 million American workers (17% of the total U.S. work force). Today's American farmer feeds about 155 people worldwide. In 1960, that number was 25.8.

**CAMDEN SOIL &  
WATER  
CONSERVATION**

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Camdenton, MO 65020

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**Board of Supervisors**

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

**SWCD Personnel**

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

**NRCS Personnel**

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

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

***We're on the Web!***

<http://swcd.mo.gov/camden/index.html>

**WINTER 2013**

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**(Con't from pg. 1, Annual Dinner Meeting)**



Mrs. Miller often wears the vintage articles of clothing she has collected over the years.

Photo contest entries will also be on display that evening and attendees will be asked to vote on their favorite photo.

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](mailto:connie.luttrell@swcd.mo.gov). **Dead-**

**line for response is March 1.** We have an answering machine so you may call at any time, day or evening.