

July 2014

We're on the Web!

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



Camden Soil and Water Conservation

SWCD Accepting Nominees for Supervisors Election

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, 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

Any qualifying candidate not nominated by the committee may have their name added to the ballot if they reside in one of the two areas where an election needs to be held and have secured 10 signatures of land representatives in the territory they wish to represent on a petition. The petition must be submitted to the Camden Soil & Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors by November 14, 2014.

The qualifications required to be a supervisor are:

1. Being a land representative from the district (10 CSR 70-2.020, 1C)
2. Residing in, or owning a farm in, the territory from which he/she is nominated
3. Being a cooperator of the district, defined as, "a person who is actively engaged in farming and practices conservation activities related to agriculture"
4. Being a resident tax-paying citizen of the county for at least two years preceding the election

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 275 Old South 5, Camdenton, MO 65020.

AG/FARM DAY PLANNED FOR SEPTEMBER 27

The Camden Soil and Water Conservation and the Camden County Farm Bureau Federation are sponsoring a "Farm/Ag Day on September 27 from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM. The event will be held on the Orscheln parking lot in Camdenton.

There will be farm related vendors, educational workshops, kids activities, food, and prizes.

If you want like to set up a informational display about your farm related products or activity or want to sell your products that day, please contact the SWCD office at 573-346-5125 or email connie.luttrell@swcd.mo.gov. Booth space is free.

If you do not desire to set up a booth, plan to attend this event and support the ag community.

Annual Meeting Hi-Lights

The Camden County Soil & Water Conservation District held their annual Appreciation Dinner on Tuesday, March 18, 2014 at the Knights of Columbus Bauer Hall. On hundred forty people turned out for a evening which included a catered meal, photo contest, and interesting and humorous presentation.

This year's program was provided by Jerry Crowover. Raised on a diversified livestock farm, Jerry served as a Professor of Agricultural Education at Missouri State University for 17 years. In 1997, Jerry resigned his position at MSU to do what he originally intended to after he got out of high school—raise cattle. He now works and lives on a beef cattle ranch in Lawrence County with his wife and sons. Jerry entertained the crowd with his humorous stories from his childhood and life on the farm.



Jeff Apperson, SWCD Supervisor, was recognized for his 25 years of service on the SWCD Board.



Youth Division Photo Contest

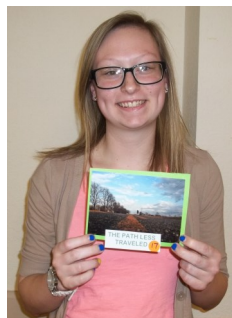
Winners

4th place – Peyton Jackson, “The Journey Begins”

3rd place –Peyton Jackson, “Ozark Sunset”

2nd place – Peyton Jackson, “God’s Rays”

1st place – Naomi Davis, “Woodpecker”



Adult Division Photo Contest winners

4th place-Jenna Jackson, “The Path Less Traveled”

3rd place-Kirk Davis, “Out with the Old”

2nd place-Connie Turek, “Power Under Control”

1st place-Heather Luttrell, “Fall Day”

Grand Prize—Anthony Davis, “Napping Deer”



NRCS Assistance Helps Local Food Pantry

For the past several years, the USDA has been making a concerted effort to increase consumer awareness of food origins. That's an easy task in Greenview, Missouri, where patrons of the Share the Harvest Food Pantry need only look in the parking lot to see where their fresh produce comes from.

Practically right outside of the front door of the food pantry is a 72-foot-by-30-foot seasonal high tunnel purchased and constructed with financial assistance from the USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS).

Judy Wimmer, food pantry director, says the pantry had been using raised beds and another nearby garden spot to grow summer vegetables to distribute to low-income families.

"We realized that the produce we were growing and bringing into the food pantry was very popular," Wimmer says. "So many mothers tell me that they just come here for the fresh vegetables. They really want fresh vegetables, but they can't afford to buy them at the store."

With a strong demand and a limited supply of fresh vegetables, Wimmer considered what could be done to grow more fresh produce for the 1,000 families that the food pantry serves. When she attended a tour sponsored by NRCS and the Camden County Soil and Water Conservation District, she had an idea. One of the stops was at a high tunnel on a private farm just a few miles from the food pantry.

"I thought, 'it sure would be nice to have one of those high tunnels,'" she says.

She contacted NRCS District Conservationist Dan Silberberg, who helped her through the application process. The food pantry's application was approved, and NRCS provided about \$8,000 for the high tunnel kit, a micro-irrigation system and mulch.

"We would not have been able to do this without (NRCS) assistance," Wimmer says.

Sheila Morse, food pantry garden manager, says the seasonal high tunnel was constructed last July. By year's end, it supplied more than 500 pounds of tomatoes, 270 one-gallon bags of greens, and 240 pounds of cucumbers. Morse says she plans to utilize the high tunnel year-round to supply a wide variety of healthy produce.

"This will benefit families immensely," she says. "This food is fresh. It's organic. The nutritional value is a great benefit." Morse adds that the produce she and volunteers grow is not certified organic, but she follows organic-growing practices. This spring she also purchased 2,000 earthworms and released them into the soil under the high tunnel to improve the soil's health.

Silberberg says the Share the Harvest Food Pantry qualified as a non-traditional customer. Because the food pantry is not-for-profit, its unique application required a little extra work. But he says he is glad that NRCS was able to provide the assistance that made the food pantry's high tunnel possible. It is one of about 500 seasonal high tunnels constructed in Missouri with NRCS assistance totaling about \$2.5 million since 2010. Nearly all of those are on private farms.

"It's going to increase their vegetable production, and they give the produce to the community," Silberberg says. "It's nice that some of these local people are getting fresh vegetables. And it's only 90 feet away."



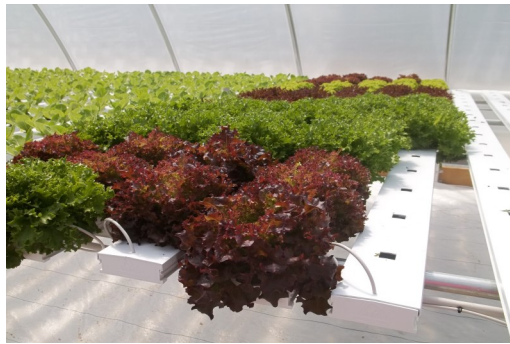
Reprinted with permission

Photo ID: NRCS District Conservationist Dan Silberberg and Share the Harvest Food Pantry Director Judy Wimmer inside the pantry's seasonal high tunnel.

Women in Ag Group Tour Local Ag Operations



On May 5th, a group of women toured several agricultural operations in the Montreal area. First stop on the tour was the Tree Tunnel Farm, owned by the Lewis Family. Ronnie Lewis heads up the operation and was there to show us the hydroponic operation. Hydroponic operations use water and nutrient and no soil to grow their plants. The huge greenhouse housed over 1400 tomato plants. Environmental control computers help to maintain perfect growing conditions. According to the Lewis Family, this makes for a very efficient and relatively easy grow period. It keeps production high and labor low. After viewing the plants and the computerized nutrient water system, Mr. Lewis suggested the group visit his neighbor down the road, Tandy Crabtree.



Tandy also has a hydroponic system where he raises lettuce in his greenhouse. The Crabtree Family began construction of his greenhouse in the spring of 2013 and the first crop was planted in the fall of that year. Leaf lettuces, Romaine, and Buttery Bibb are some of the varieties of lettuce being grown by the Crabtree Family. The plants are seeded in grow cubes. After germination and a two week grow period,

the plants are transferred to grow channels where nutrient rich water is continuously fed over the

plant roots in a recirculating system. The plants remain in the channels for approximately 4 weeks. The Crabtrees first sales were made to Camdenton High School and local caterer, Angela's Catering.



Both operations are selling to some local stores. The Crabtree's lettuce will be easily identified in store as they are labeled with the "Living Fresh" label. The Lewis' tomatoes will not have an identifiable label.



For more information on either of these operations, check out their web sites online. Treetunnelfarm.com and crabtreefarminc.com are the addresses.

Finishing the tour that day, the group visited Terry and Kelley McDaniel's farm. The McDaniels raise sedum which they sell to Woodland Scenics, where the sedum is used for miniatures, like trees in train sets. Terry has experimented with different varieties until the ideal one, Autumn Joy, was selected. The McDaniels, their children and grandchildren have all been involved in different aspects, such as planting, weeding, watering, picking, and packing, of producing the finished product. The end product is sold in stores like Hobby Lobby and Michaels. Using Kelley's phrase, "Who would have thought a little podunk place like Montreal would be producing a product that would be sold nationwide?"



Wanting to spend more time with their grandkids, the McDaniels would like to sell their sedum operation, including the watering system. They may have already done so by the time you read this, but if you might be interested, give the SWCD office and we'll give you a contact number.



During June, the group set out on another tour, first having lunch at the Paint Box Café. They then traveled to Keith and June Percival Farm. Keith also raises hydroponic tomatoes with a shorter growing season since his tomatoes are raised outdoors. The 400 + plants are growing in pots attached to poles, which makes it easier to pick. He also uses a computerized water/nutrient system. Keith's grandson and Ronnie Lewis' son is the same person and both men give him lots of credit for helping set up their system. The group had an enjoyable afternoon, viewing Keith's garden and June's store, Fox and Hounds Antique Shop.



Tour participants thoroughly enjoyed visiting each location. The owners of each farm were very gracious and they gave us details of their operation. We wish all of them much success!



(See our web page for additional photos under local projects.)

**Meet SWCD Intern,
Jenna Jackson**

The SWCD has an intern working in the office this summer. Jenna Jackson graduated from Camdenton High School in 2013. She is presently a sophomore at State Fair Community College and is undecided about her career goal and is working in different fields to determine her interest. If you call the office and hear a different voice, that's probably Jenna.



Farm Service News

I'm sure most of you have already heard by now, but the FSA presently has a disaster program going on now. The program was authorized by the 2014 Farm Bill and provides retroactive authority to cover losses occurring after October 1, 2011.. The Livestock Forage Disaster Program provides compensation to eligible producers who suffered grazing losses due to the drought. If you owned eligible livestock, you may be compensated. Call the FSA office in Lebanon at 1-800-203-4467, ext. 2 and make an appointment. You will be informed of any necessary records you may need to bring with you.

Camden Soil & Water Conservation District

275 Old South 5
Camdenton, MO 65020
Phone: 573-346-5125
Fax: 573-346-5125
Email: connie.luttrell@swcd.mo.gov

Supervisors

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

SWCD Personnel

Connie Luttrell, Manager
Dennis Bruns, Technician

NRCS Personnel

Alan Garton, Resource Conservationist
Dan Silberberg, Dist. Conservationist

Inside this issue:

SWCD Nominees for Supervisors Election 1

Annual Meeting Highlights/ Photo Contest Winners 2

NRCS Assistance Helps Local Food Pantry 3

WLA Group Tour Local Ag Operations 4

WLA Tour Cont./New SWCD Intern/Farm Service News 5

Emails Requested! 6

Emails Requested!

The CCSWCD is requesting your email address to help decrease printing and postage expenses. Please send Connie Luttrell your email address and current cell phone number. This information will be placed in your folder and used for communications. The following is an email example:

EXAMPLE

TO: connie.luttrell@swcd.mo.gov

CC:

SUBJECT: Email Address

somebody@somewhere.com

Cell Number: 555-555-1212

Your Signature/Name Current Address