

## SWCD's Annual Dinner Meeting

The Camden County Soil & Water Conservation District held their annual Appreciation Dinner on Tuesday, March 16th, at the Knights of Columbus Bauer Hall. The weather cooperated and 180 people turned out for a evening which included a catered meal, photo contest, poster contest, and a PowerPoint presentation on the year's past events. Following the meal, the meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.



This year the Soil & Water District hosted Mechelle Mathews. Mrs. Mathews is a professional ventriloquist. On this evening she and a troupe of dummies presented an entertaining show which involved lots of audience participation. SWCD board member Greg Fry and several area landowners were picked from the crowd at random to speak with the star of the show 'Crystal', and even act as dummies while Mechelle spoke for them. Everyone seemed to enjoy the show.



Photo contest winners were determined by popular vote by those attending the meeting. Winners of the photo contest were:

- "Waiting for Mom"-Jim Turek-Grand Prize
- "Monet Morning"-Connie Turek-1st Prize
- "Getting the Nursery Ready for Baby"-Kay Abbott-2nd Prize
- "Who's First"-Heather-3rd Prize
- "Out My Back Door"-Jack Housley-4th Prize

This year's poster contest theme was "Conservation Habits=Healthy Habitats" and was open to all 4th, 5th, and 6th graders in the county. The grand prize winner of this year's Poster Contest was Emily Jones, who is a 4th grader at Stoutland Elementary School. Emily took home \$50 for her winning poster.

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

- 4<sup>th</sup> place – Jared Vanderberg, Camden Christian School
- 3<sup>rd</sup> place – Austin Horton, Camden Christian School
- 2<sup>nd</sup> place – Timothy Batty, Camden Christian School
- 1<sup>st</sup> place – Isaac Rector, Camden Christian School



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## Fescue Toxicosis Syndromes

By John Pryor

Endophyte Infected Tall Fescue is the primary forage for most grazing animals our area, its on my farm and probably yours. With out it most of our operations would cease to exist, but is your forage harming your herds production?

Fescue toxicosis syndromes affect many animals every year in the Ozarks. There are a few different kinds of syndromes which can affect your livestock, such as, Fescue Foot, Fat Necrosis, and Summer Slump. These are three examples of Fescue Toxicosis Syndromes which can cause your cattle to suffer losses as a result of having fescue as your main forage type. The cause of fescue toxicosis syndromes is the well known endophyte fungus. This fungus lives inside the plant and produces toxins. It is the most highly concentrated in the seed of the plant, and is spread through the seed and not plant to plant.

Fescue foot may cause many symptoms in your cattle. Some of the effects include poor circulation, lameness in cold weather, and elevated respiration rate. Also if left untreated fescue foot may cause loss of the hoof, loss of the ears and the loss of the tail switch.

Another type of fescue toxicosis syndrome, Fat Necrosis, is caused by fescue fertilized with high levels of nitrogen. Fat Necrosis may cause hard fat masses around the reproductive and digestive tracts. This could eventually cause digestive disturbances in the animal, resulting in reduced weight gains and could also result in calving problems.

Another fescue toxicosis syndrome, Summer Slump is characterized by cattle standing in the pond relentlessly. The effects of standing in the pond can lead to foot rot, internal parasites, poor quality of water, and poor quality fish habitat. Other signs of summer slump include cow standing with an arched back for an extended period of time, rough hair coat in the

summer, poor conception rates, and thickened placenta. Again Summer Slump may lower daily rate of gains and calving rates.

Fescue toxicosis syndrome also causes problems in a horse's reproduction cycle. The mare can have abortions, prolonged gestation, thick or retained placenta, and little to no milk production. To reduce the risk of this remove pregnant mares during the last 90 days of the pregnancy and feed hay to dilute the endophyte.

Despite all the bad things about the endophyte fungus, it provides the host plant higher resistance to insects, drought, high temperatures and overgrazing. This added resistance does not completely counteract the negative impact which endophyte toxicity can affect in rate of gain and reproduction, however; through proper management endophyte infected tall fescue can play a pivotal in our success as grassland farmers.

Try diluting the toxic fungus by adding legumes into your fescue pastures, this allows for higher forage yields, better animal performance, nitrogen fixation, and more summer growth. Another solution to the problem is to add warm season grasses to your grazing system to allow for summer grazing. By adding warm season grasses to your farm you are avoiding the endophyte levels when they are at their highest. There are also endophyte free fescues and new strains of friendly endophyte which provide the increased resistance to the plant with reduced toxicity. If replanting is not an option you could also add a rotational grazing system to your farm. This will keep the grass more vegetative and there will be a lower endophyte level in the leaf blades. Or try clipping fescue before seed production to keep forage vegetative and reduce toxicity. These are just some of the things to be thinking about with summer coming on. If you have any questions about this or any of our programs feel free to call our office at 573-346-5125.

### SWCD's Annual Meeting *continued from pg. 1*

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

4<sup>th</sup> place—Cheyenne Harbison, Camden Christian  
3<sup>rd</sup> place – Faith Phillips, Camden Christian School  
2<sup>nd</sup> place – Ciara Byler, Oak Ridge  
1<sup>st</sup> place – Paige Rhodes, Oak Ridge

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

4<sup>th</sup> place – Ashley Jackson, Oak Ridge  
3<sup>rd</sup> place – Kayla Linshyn, Macks Creek  
2<sup>nd</sup> place – Jacob Hilton, Macks Creek  
1<sup>st</sup> place – Jordan Zedaker, Macks Creek

Door prize drawing concluded the evening's events.

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## Routine Checklist for Your Cow Herd

Weaning time is a great time to perform routine checks on your cow herd. Below is a list of things you can do to ensure your cows are healthy and producing.

- Give cows a body condition score - mature cows should have a 5 condition score or better, heifers a 6 or better.
- Pregnancy check your cows - it is expensive to feed a non-producing cow through the winter.
- Give an udder score - Rate on a 1-5 scale with 1 being a small udder with small teats and 5 being a large udder with large teats. A calf has to get under the cow and be able to fit its mouth over the teat. A poor udder can reduce weaning weights. I want to stress that the size of the udder has no bearing on how much milk a cow gives. A small-uddered cow can give more milk than a cow with a big bag.

Check eyes, teeth, feet, and legs - all of these things will reduce production. A cow with no teeth will not have a proper diet. Poor feet and legs restrict movement and possible feed intake, severe pinkeye and cancer eye can cause bad infections.

- Weigh your cows - we always under or over estimate our cow size. Most cows these days will easily weigh 1200 pounds or more. A correct cow weight will ensure you are feeding her enough.
- Weigh your calves - weaning weights can be a great culling tool. We often forget how well one cow did from one year to the next.
- Retag cows - identification is a key to proper management, no matter how well you think you know your cows. Cow number 4 tends to be more reliable than that ole cow with the white

tail, especially when you keep her heifer calf in the herd that looks just like her.

- Keep records - we tend to play favorites and give too many second chances to our cow herd. Records provide us with a black-and-white version of how our cows did from year-to-year. When the numbers stack up against a cow SELL HER and don't keep heifer calves out of her!

- Give shots - Lepto is the most common shot given to cows at this time. You may want to make sure it has Harjo-Bovis in it. This strain of lepto has been found in the United States and is not in most of the common lepto vaccines. Other shots to consider are respiratory - IBR, BVD, PI3, and BRSV. Use killed vaccine if your cows are pregnant, otherwise the modified live vaccine provides better protection. A scours vaccine might also be helpful.



- Parasite control - if you have been using the same type of dewormer for a while it may pay to switch to avoid resistance. When I say switch I mean switch active ingredients not just brands. For example, switch from a "mectin" product such as ivermectin to a bendazole product such as fenbendazole. Make sure your dewormer includes lice control.

- Get your vet to do a Breeding Soundness Exam (BSE) on your bull. This entails a semen check and a thorough physical evaluation to see if all parts are working correctly. A simple check can save you a lot of money when it comes time for your cows to calve again and they don't because your bull was not getting the job done.

By: Kendra Graham, University of Missouri Extension  
Regional Livestock Specialist

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## Grazing Management Schools

Grazing schools are typically two to three day courses, held in a classroom setting with field visits built in, designed to cover a wide selection of topics concerning grassland farmers in today's market. Topics covered include animal selection, animal health, forage quality, nutritional needs of livestock, fencing systems, watering systems, resource analysis, budgeting and farm economics.

| Location               | Dates         | Contacts  |
|------------------------|---------------|---|
| Houston                | July 28-30    | Sandy Wooten or Robert Rouse (417) 967-2028 Ext 4 |
| Callaway               | Sept. 1-2     | Callaway County FO (573) 592-1400                 |
| Hermitage              | Sept. 8-9     | David Wright (417) 745-6613 Ext 3                 |
| Maries River Watershed | Sept. 9-10    | Maries County SWCD (573) 422-3342                 |
| Iberia                 | Sept. 21-22   | Lisa Tellman (573) 392-5667 Ext 113               |
| Ozark                  | Sept. 21-23   | Christian County SWCD (417) 581-2719 Ext 3        |
| Bois D'Arc             | October 19-21 | Green County SWCD (417) 831-5246 Ext 3            |

Grazing schools are hosted by local SWCD, NRCS, and MU Extension offices, and are taught by staff members, many of whom are also farmers.

Attending a grazing school is a great way to learn new management techniques, it is also required in order to participate in many SWCD cost share programs.

This list includes upcoming schools less than 100 miles from Camdenton. For a full listing contact our office at 573-346-5125 or visit us at [www.swcd.mo.gov/camden/index.html](http://www.swcd.mo.gov/camden/index.html)

## A Look at Missouri

### Missouri

**Capital:** Jefferson City  
**Population:** 5,842,713  
**Founded:** August 10, 1821 (24<sup>th</sup> state)  
**State Bird:** Bluebird  
**State Tree:** American Dogwood  
**State Flower:** Hawthorn  
**State Grass:** Big Bluestem  
**Number of Counties:** 114  
**Largest City:** Kansas City **Population:** 442,768  
**Nickname:** Show-Me State

### Soil

**Menfro is the official Missouri State Soil.**  
 Menfro soil occurs in about 780,000 acres in Missouri.  
 The first State Capitol building, the present State Capitol Building and the Governor's Mansion sit on Menfro soil.  
 Menfro soil has a dark brown silt loam surface layer with a brown silt loam subsurface.

### Climate

•Missouri has a wide range of climates depending on the region of the state.  
 Average annual temperatures range from 50 degrees in the NW to 60 degrees in the SE.  
 Average statewide rainfall is 35 inches.  
 Spring is tornado season in Missouri.

### Interesting Websites for Livestock Producers

Some of these sites have to do with plants, cattle production, maps, and resource management, etc. Check them out and take a spin on the web!

[www.afgc.org/](http://www.afgc.org/)

[www.cares.missouri.edu/](http://www.cares.missouri.edu/)

<http://plants.usda.gov/>

[www.noble.org/webapps/plantimagegallery/](http://www.noble.org/webapps/plantimagegallery/)

[www.eatwild.com/](http://www.eatwild.com/)

[www.thegrasswhisperer.com/content/6631](http://www.thegrasswhisperer.com/content/6631)

[www.behave.net](http://www.behave.net)

[www.beef-mag.com/](http://www.beef-mag.com/)

[www.stockmangrassfarmer.com/sgf](http://www.stockmangrassfarmer.com/sgf)

<http://aes.missouri.edu/fsrc>

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# Women in Agriculture



Missouri's 16th Annual Women in Ag State Conference will be held September 13-15, 2010 in Branson, MO. Women in Ag may work on family farms, tend backyard gardens or write grants from an office. Often they are unrecognized as an economic force that is diverse but growing. The annual meeting is a way to unite, educate and promote women in agriculture.

## Monday's workshops include

**At Your Service** - USDA Service Center representatives give a brief overview of state and federal programs available (includes time for Q&As).

**Trust Me?** - Dean Young, financial planner with Heim Young & Assoc., explain basics of trusts and criteria to consider before establishment.

**Trouble with a Capital 'T'** - Review threats to the agriculture community and how you can become a "harder target".

**F.A.S.T. Recordkeeping** - Learn farm management skills for today's farm women.

**Spice It Up** - Growing, preserving, and using organic herbs.

**Discover Nature Women: Introduction to Archery** - Come, learn the basics of archery. Designed for women wanting to learn the fundamentals covering safety, parts of the bow, different types, stances and techniques to get you on target.

**"A Branson Memento"** - Christa Pickle with Scrapbooks Forever will help you create a chipboard mini-album with a Branson theme. (preregistration & additional cost applies)

**On Tuesday there will be a walking tour of College of the Ozarks** where students:

- ☐ Don't pay tuition
- ☐ Work for an education
- ☐ Graduate without debt
- ☐ Learn character

The students work program involves over 80 diverse

and fulfilling work areas many of which are agricultural related. Agriculture is a dynamic and diversified field in which the need for graduates that are trained in the liberal arts as well as the practical and scientific aspects is great. The professionally taught College of the Ozarks agriculture curriculum is coupled with a hands-on farm production, industry, and managerial work experience available to the students. The agriculture department has modern, state-of-the-art facilities in both the academic and the work program areas which makes it a very unique program!

## Wednesday morning's schedule includes the following workshops.

### Fueling the Fire

Barbara Zimmerman with St. John's Medical Center speaks on women's health.

### Many Hats...

One woman's victory over breast cancer.

### Silver Sneakers

Unlock the door to greater independence and a healthier life.

Registration for the event is \$60. A block of rooms at the Radisson Hotel has been reserved for this meeting at a rate of \$92. Booking must be made by August 12, 2010 for this special rate. Please make your reservations directly with the hotel.

If you are interested in attending this event and would like more info, please contact the SWCD office at 573-346-5125.



## Local WIA

The local group of WIA recently carpoled to the J&T Country Store on Hwy 7 near Climax Springs. Owners of the store, Jeff and Tanya Apperson, met the group and gave a tour of the store, greenhouse, and garden. Some of the furnishings of the store had been used in an store/post office that was located at Barnumton which was across the highway from Jeff and Tanya's present store. The Barnumton store was operated by Jeff's ancestors.

The J&T Country Store has a number of unique grocery items (pickled beet eggs, homemade soap), bedding plants, and hanging flower pots available for sale. As it becomes available, home grown garden produce will also be for sale.

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**Camden County  
Soil & Water  
Conservation  
District  
Board of  
Supervisors**



*Ernest L. Calvert, Chairman*  
*Roberta Woodall, Vice-Chairman*  
*Gregory Fry, Treasurer*  
*Jeff Apperson, Secretary*

**SWCD Personnel**

*Connie Luttrell, Manager*  
*John Pryor, Technician*

**NRCS Personnel**

*Pam Cornelius, Resource Conservationist*  
*Dan Silberberg, District Conservationist*  
*Alan Garton, Resource Conservationist*

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

**Did you know ...**



A dairy cow annually consumes more than 2.2 tons of corn?



Honey was once so valuable that Missouri and Iowa entered into a seven day Honey War? Missouri ranks 21st in the U.S. in honey production, with 1.5 million pounds of honey produced in 2001.



The Bootheel is home to the state's only rice milling operation? Missouri ranks sixth in rice production.



An acre of farmland, which is about the size of a football field, can produce 14,000 ears of sweet corn, 35,000 oranges, 36,000 pounds of potatoes, 24,000 heads of lettuce, 2,800 loaves of bread and 266 pairs of blue jeans?

Missouri Dept. of Agriculture

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Conservation District**

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