

New Cost Share Practices and Changes

As of July 1, 2009 funding became available to the local soil and water districts to provide new cost share practices to address water quality, as well as soil erosion concerns. As a result of these changes there are now several different Resource Categories, each having its own funding allowance.

Grazing Management

This category includes the new and improved grazing system practices, which were detailed in our June newsletter. Each of these practices will be paid independently and as they are completed. Practices are paid on a per acre basis.

- Water Development-This practice is designed for the development of a pond, well or spring development.
- Water Distribution-This practice includes components for getting water from the source to the grazing paddocks. Trenching, water-lines, tanks etc.
- Fencing-This practice includes cross fencing necessary to install or intensify a grazing system.
- Liming-This practice is available on systems that currently meet the NRCS standards and specifications for prescribed grazing. This is a one time application of lime according to soil test
- Legume Interseeding- This practice is available on systems that currently meet the NRCS standards and specifications for prescribed grazing. This is a one time seeding application.
- Legume Interseeding-In addition to the grazing system practices a full Legume Inter-seeding is available on up to 160 acres per land-owner/operator. This practice will pay for the legume seed, cost of drilling the seed, and the minimum and necessary lime and fertilizer needed to establish legumes.

Ground Water Protection

The practices available in this category include:

- Well Decommissioning-protect ground water by filling and capping abandoned wells. Practice pays \$400 per well.
- Sinkhole Treatment-Improve the quality of recharge waters by decreasing sediment and nutrient load of water entering sinkholes. Cost-share is available for fencing as well as a \$300 per acre out-of-production incentive.
- Spring Development-protects ground water by collecting and distributing groundwater resource. Provides an excellent, inexpensive water source where applicable.

Nutrient Management

- Nutrient Management-develop and follow an approved nutrient management plan. Practice pays \$30 per acre for proper application of lime and fertility according to soil test. Available for cropland, pastureland, or hayland.

New Cost-Share Practices (cont. from pg 1)

Pest Management

Pest Management-develop and follow an approved pest management plan. Practice pays \$15 per acre for proper scouting, planning and application of pesticides and herbicides according the needs of the crop and the approved plan. Available for cropland, pastureland, or hayland.

Sensitive Areas

- Filter Strip-reduce erosion and improve water quality by creating filter areas below cropland, hayland or pasture land to reduce runoff of sediment, nutrients, pesticides and animal waste. Cost-share is available for fencing to exclude livestock as well as a one time out-of-production incentive.
- Stream Protection-reduce excess amounts of sediment, nutrients and pesticides in surface runoff and shallow ground water flow, with a secondary benefit of stream bank stabilization. This goal is achieved by fencing the areas surrounding streams to exclude livestock (flash grazing may be approved for excluded areas). Cost-share is available for fencing, stream crossings and alternative watering sources as well as a one time out of production incentive of up to \$500 per acre excluded.

Streambank Erosion

- Streambank Stabilization-protect streambanks from accelerated erosion, for sites where bank cuts and excessive erosion problems exist. Cedar tree revetments are the most popular component of this practice.

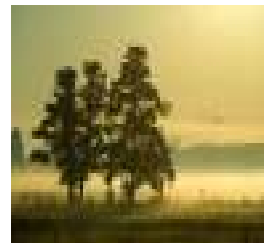
Sheet and Rill/Gully Erosion

- Grass Establishment and Legume Inter-seeding-protect the soil, reduce pollution and control erosion by improving ground cover. Cost share may be available for seed bed preparation, seed, and minimum necessary lime and fertility to establish the approved crop.
- Critical Area Seeding- protect the soil, reduce pollution and control erosion by improving ground cover in areas such as gullies, banks, roadsides and similar problem areas. Cost-share may be available for shaping and grading, seeding and nutrients necessary to establish cover to control erosion.
- Sediment Retention/Erosion Control Structures-build sediment basins or similar structures to prevent or reduce erosion.

Woodland Erosion

- Use Exclusion-
- Woodland Protection-

Both of these practices pay for fencing out an area that is susceptible to erosion. Assistance is available for fencing under both practices. In addition, there is a \$5 per acre incentive to complete the practice under Use Exclusion.



Please contact our office for more information on the practices listed above. If you are interested in signing up for cost-share practices you should contact us as early as possible, as funds may be limited in certain categories and there may be a waiting list.

My Trip on a Tour Bus to Newark and Huntsville, Missouri

By Hayden Otto

Hayden, the writer for this article, is a sixth grader who went on this tour with his grandparents.

We got on the commercial bus that had a "restroom" in it at 7:00 a.m. in Eldon. That was the first time that I rode a bus like that. The trip was sponsored by the Dept. of Agriculture Soil and Water. They served us donuts and juice on the bus.

We went on Hwy 54, then Hwy 63, and then Hwy 156 to Newark, Mo., near Kirksville, Mo. During our trip we passed a Sod farm, and then near Moberly they were putting in a giant PIPE line. We passed the MISSOURI STATE CEMETERY which is between Moberly and Macon. We also passed an abandoned Drive In Movie Theater in Macon, MO. There also was an exotic animal salebarn that had elk, deer, zebra, etc. The bus driver said that Hwy 63 was considered the deadliest highway in Mo, until the 4 lane highways were built. The other things they talked about on the bus was that the gestation time of cows is 283 days, the dairy state is Wisconsin, the normal life span of a cow is around 25 years, and a hog is 15 to 30 years. It takes 1.4 gallons of milk to make one gallon of ice cream. The name of the farmer in the advertisement on t.v. for Highland (Hiland) dairy is Carnes Dairy in Camdenton, Missouri.

Games were played while on the Bus and I learned that the Mo. State soil is the Minfro (Menfro) and the state grass is the Big Blue Stem. I knew that Mo. Had 114 counties and that the state flower is the Hawthorn.

We finally arrived at the Heartland Christian Academy Farm in Newark, Mo. Which was built 16 years ago. It was built to help troubled youth and men and women. It has a big dairy farm with about 7,000 cattle of which 2,800 are milked 3 times a day. Cows produce around 35-40 pound of milk a day. They milk the cows for 10 months and then for two months they let them go dry until they have another calf. It also has 900 goats which produce about 5-10 pounds of milk, which is made into cheese and also the meat which is called chevon.

At the dairy they sell regular milk, chocolate and ROOT BEER milk. Their milk is sold at Hy-Vee in Jeff City and the Lake. They showed us how they milk the cows in a circular carousel milking stalls with some of the trouble youth putting the milkers on the cows and doing all of the other jobs that go with the milking process. We saw how they made giant compost piles and if a cow died, they first did an autopsy of it and then put it into the compost pile which they use to fertilize the fields. They also use the liquid from the lagoons for irrigation and fertilizer for the crops.



Cow Milking Carousel

The is Heartland farm is pretty much where it takes care of itself by growing their own food with a 35 acre garden and they grow their own meat, milk, etc. They have their own clothes washers, cleaners, etc so they really don't need to go into the real world to get their necessities. Everyone learns special skills so when they go out into the real world, they will have skills that will make them independent people and get a job to support themselves. This place is paid for by the Minister, Mr. Sharp because he owns the Ozark National Life Ins. Co and he puts all his profits in the Heartland Christian Academy. This place also has a Calvary Medical Center, Constructions Co, Community Church, Auto Repair, Academy and College, Creamery, Egg Farm, Heartland 4H Farm, Greenhouse, Telecommunications, Store, Car Wash, Steakhouse, and a Solid Rock Café and a Ford Museum. With all of this, the youth who live there for a year or two, get to learn all of these skill of their choices, which keeps them occupied from their troubles and learn new skills as well.

On our way to Circle A Ranch we went through lots of towns like LaPlat, Macon, Excelle, and Huntsville. I missed some of them because I fell asleep. At Circle A, I learned that the building 2,800 ft. long, 120 feet

wide, and it is 7.5 acres under roof. It will hold 5,000 Angus cattle at one time. In order to sell cattle there, the calves have to be from a Circle A cow or bull. They have to weigh 600-800 or so pounds to get the high price. It also cannot be over 11 months old. The sale to buy some of Circle A's Angus Cattle this year will be October 17, 2009 in Iberia, Missouri.

I thought this day was a wonderful day and I learned a lot.

*Hayden Otto,
author of this arti-
cle, taking a nap
on the bus.*



State Women in Ag Conference Held in Kirksville

The fifteenth annual Women in Ag Conference was held in Kirksville, MO on September 14-16 at the Days Inn Convention Center. Eight ladies from Camden County carpooled to the conference where this year's theme was "Heart of the Puzzle." Registration was held the first day from 10:00-12:00, allowing participants the opportunity to visit the vendors set up to display their products. At 1:00 women got to attend three 45 minute workshops of their choice. The workshop topics were: Companion Planting, Life Balance Challenges, Estate Planning Basics, Dealing with Stress, Fall Flower Arranging, Update on Animal Health Issues, and What's Type Got to Do With It.

The evening's banquet attendees were entertained by Mechelle Matthews, a professional ventriloquist. a musical group from the local college while the speaker for the evening was a female farm reporter from a Kansas radio station.

On Tuesday the group boarded buses and toured the Heartland Community. This is a community developed for young people and adults who desire to make positive changes in their lives. While working in the community for minimum wage, they also learn a new skill which can be utilized once they leave the community. The cow dairy at Heartland is Missouri's largest dairy. The group also toured the goat dairy and creamery, the cannery, Ford Museum, Solid Rock Café, and the New Creation Country Store. A buffet lunch was served at the Ozark Lodge & Steak House. Tuesday evening the group had the opportunity to take a twilight tour of a 500 acres native prairie with wildflowers and native grasses. The native grass farm was owned by Frank and Judy Oberle. This couple has a passion to save native prairies.

*"One of the
best State
Conferences
we have had.
The tours
were great.
What an in-
spiration! "
Donna Short*



Wednesday morning the following presentation were made: USDA programs, Farm Bill, and Women's Preventative Health Issues. The luncheon drew the event to a close with door prize drawings and the announcement for next year's location. Attending from Camden County were Roberta Woodall, Shirley Henson, Donna Short, Margaret Young, Doris Murray, Connie Luttrell, Joann Smith, and June Burton.

Conservation Security Program (CSP)

The Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) encourages agricultural and forestry producers to maintain existing conservation activities and adopt additional ones on their operations. CSP is a new voluntary conservation program that provides financial and technical assistance to conserve and enhance soil, water, air, and related natural resources on their land. CSP provides opportunities to both recognize excellent stewards and deliver valuable new conservation.

tract. The signup period for this program is continuous, however, there will be different ranking periods in which participants are selected. The first ranking period has passed, and the next ranking should be sometime in January, 2010.

If you are interested, please contact NRCS staff at 417-532-6305.

This federal program is competitive and requires a 5 year con-

Winter Farm Maintenance

By Pamela Cornelius

Now that all the crops are in, the hay is stored in the barn, and the holidays are approaching it may be a good time to cast an eye towards maintenance. Yes, all those “little jobs” that you never seem to have the time to do in the spring and summer. Things attended to during the fall and winter could save you big headaches come springtime. Below is a list of items we could probably all benefit from checking on. I am sure you could think of others as well.

- Checking fences and water gaps for breaks, etc. If your farm has electric fencing, it would be a great time to get out the voltmeter and test for drops in power at various points. Make changes and improvements to your gates between pastures as well.
- Look over your barns, coops, and sheds. Replace those broken window panes, repair holes in the walls and replace caulking if needed. If you lock certain buildings, make sure you have spare keys made for emergencies.
- Check your farmstead and livestock watering systems for proper operation and/or leaks. Repairs made now may keep you from having to work on these in zero degree weather.
- Inspect heating system flues for bird nests, creosote build-up. No one likes a flue fire for Christmas.
- Replace light bulbs and repair lighting systems as needed. With less hours of daylight coming on, you may need more artificial light than during the summer months.
- If you have a well house, make sure the heater is working, or the light bulb has been replaced.
- It is also time to check all farm machinery for broken or worn belts and hoses. Don't put this job off until that day in spring when you really need that machine operational.
- General clean-up of shop areas is also beneficial. A good sweep-up session including running a magnet over the floors for nails and screws could prevent flats later. Throw away grease and oil soaked rags, these can spontaneously combust.
- Look over pastures for lack of clovers. Frost seeding clover seed on these in January or February can help to provide nitrogen to your grasses.
- Repair or replace items used for winter animal feeding. Do your need to fix a couple of bale rings or just check your dog water heater in the kennel? As in most of these maintenance ideas, it is always a good idea to see to these things now. If you wait until “everyone” needs the same item as



you, supplies may be running low.

- Organize and clean your tools, check on what may have been lost or broken during the year. You may need to call your brother-in-law and remind him that yes you would like your hammer-drill back now. (If you let him keep it too long, he may forget that it is yours.)
- Were shields on power take-off units removed over the year? We all do it, but now might be a good time to find them and put them back on.
- It could be time to revise your long-term plan for the farm. Do changes need to be made as far as the goals for your operation? A change in the economy or the amount of available labor for your farm sometimes necessitates a fresh outlook.

Be ready for the winter months and maybe you can avoid some of the problems they sometimes bring. Now settle down in your easy chair with the remote and try not to eat too much turkey!

DID YOU KNOW?

Eight pairs of cowboy boots can be made from one cowhide.

A 'black baldy' most times is a cross between an Angus and a Hereford.

The Longhorn was the first breed of cattle brought to the U.S.

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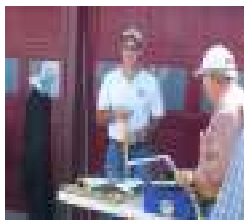
Conserving for the future

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Grazing School held in Camden County

By John Pryor

The Camden, Laclede and Pulaski county Soil and Water Conservation Districts, in association with Natural Resources Conservation Service and University of Missouri Extension hosted a Management Intensive Grazing School on September 16 and 17. Circumstances demanded that a new location be found for the school this year, and the Laclede Electric Co-Op on Hwy 5 south of Camdenton end up being an excellent choice.



In total 28 participants joined us for the two day training consisting of



classroom sessions and field visits to two nearby farms. At the farms students learned to use pasture sticks, which were provided by the school to evaluate pasture conditions and forage quantities. Students were also given the opportunity to design a Management Intensive Grazing System in the field.



Among the speakers were specialists from around the state who provided training on grazing concepts, water requirements and nutritional needs of livestock, fencing systems, economics, animal health and forage production among others.

The grazing school is a great resource for any livestock producer who is interested in increasing productivity and addressing ecological concerns. At-



tending a grazing school is also a requirement for those wishing to participate in the DSP-3 Grazing System cost share practices. If you are interested in attending a grazing school, please contact our office for a list of up coming grazing schools around the state or region.

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