



September 2011



Camden Soil & Water Conservation

Learn about Agricultural Cost-share Practices available in Camden County

All agricultural landowners in Camden County are invited to attend a meeting to learn about assistance for conservation practices. These practices include partial reimbursement cost and incentives.

Fencing to exclude livestock from woods and creeks

Plugging abandoned wells

Grazing systems—fencing and water supply

Improving pastures

Spring development

Plus additional practices



The meetings will provide information on available practices and how to apply for cost-share assistance.

Each meeting will have the same information. You may choose the date and location that is most convenient for you.

Dates and Locations

Tuesday, Oct. 11, 7:00 PM—Soil and Water Conservation
Office, 275 Old South 5,
Camdenton

Thursday, Oct. 20, 7:00 PM—Southwest Fire Station
Hwy NN, Macks Creek

Tuesday, Oct. 25, 7:00 PM—Ozark Outdoorsman,
Richland

Tuesday, Nov. 1, 7:00 PM-- J&T Country Store
Hwy 7, Climax Springs

You do not have to RSVP.

For more info, call the SWCD office at 573-346-5125

The cost-share program is funded by the 1/10 of 1% Parks, Soils, and Water Tax.

Meet SWCD's Technician, Dennis Bruns

Greetings everyone. I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself, and to some folks reacquaint with them. I am Dennis Bruns, the district's technician. I have lived and worked in the Camdenton area since 1978. I taught science for the Camdenton R-3 schools for 31 years, spending my first 14 at the junior high/middle school and the final 17 at the high school. In that time I've taught freshman, sophomores, and senior level courses in Biology, Physical Science, Applied Science, Zoology, and College Biology. I am currently teaching part-time at School of the Osage High School. I have also taught college courses for State Fair CC, Ozarks Technical College (OTC), University of Central Missouri (UCM), and Missouri State University (MSU). I received my B.S. and M.S. degrees in Biology from MSU and my Education Specialist degree in Science Education from the University of Missouri.



I have been happily married for 34 years to my wife, Charlene, and we have four children. Our oldest, Chris (32), just got married this past June and is teaching math in St. Clair, MO. Katharine (30) is a middle school math and social studies teacher in Fort Myers, FL. Daniel (26) is a lineman for Laclede Electric Cooperative in Camdenton and his wife just gave birth to our first grandchild in May. The baby, Elizabeth (22) is planning for a wedding this October and will finish her schooling at Southeast Missouri State University in Cape Girardeau, MO.

We live on a small farm between Camdenton and Montreal and have been there for almost 30 years. We have a few horses on the place and recently I began to raise Lowline Angus cattle to sell beef directly to consumers. We also have laying hens for eggs and have raised pastured broiler chickens for direct sales to consumers.

I am looking forward to meeting many of you and working with landowners to improve their operations. Feel free to call if you need any assistance. I may not know the answer, but I know that I can find it for you somewhere.

State Women in Ag Conference

Six from Camden County recently attended the state Women in Ag Conference held in Boonville, MO. The theme of the 17th annual conference was "Taking Charge of Your Future." At the conference, the women attended workshops and took a tour of Warm Springs Ranch, which is home to the Budweiser Clydesdale horses. They also toured the Starr Pines Christmas Tree Farm. The Camden County attendees were Roberta Woodall, Cheri Wiater, June Burton, Joann Smith, Margaret Young, and Connie Russell.

Be a Friend to Pollinators



Did you know? A world without pollinators would be a world without apples, blueberries, strawberries, chocolate, almonds, melons, peaches, or pumpkins.

Three-fourths of the world's flowering plants depend on pollinators to reproduce. Most fruit, vegetable, and seed crops—and other plants that provide fiber, medicines, and fuel—are pollinated by animals. Some scientists estimate that one out of every three bites of food we eat exists because of animal pollinators like bees, butterflies and moths, birds and bats, and beetles and other insects.

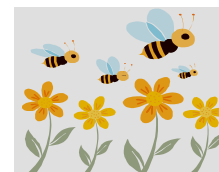
Pollinators visit flowers in their search for food (nectar and pollen). During a flower visit, a pollinator may accidentally brush against the flower's reproductive parts, unknowingly depositing pollen from a different flower. The plant then uses the pollen to produce a fruit or seed. Many plants cannot reproduce without pollen carried to them by foraging pollinators.

Bee, bats, and other animal pollinators face many challenges in the modern world. Habitat loss, disease, parasites, and environmental contaminants have all contributed to the decline of many species of pollinators.



You can help provide food and habitat for pollinators to help them thrive.

- Use pollinator-friendly plants in your landscape. Shrubs and trees such as dogwood, blueberry, cherry, plum, willow, and poplar provide pollen or nectar, or both, early in spring when food is scarce.
- Choose a mixture of plants for spring, summer, and fall. Different flower colors, shapes, and scents will attract a wide variety of pollinators.
- Reduce or eliminate pesticide use in your landscape, or incorporate plants that attract beneficial insects for pest control. If you use pesticides, use them responsibly.
- Renew forage and nesting habitats by adding flowering plants, hedge rows, and other shrubs.
- Use reduced-tillage practices. Start to develop riparian zones for wildlife habitats.



Did you know? The honey bee alone contributes to the production of many billions of dollars worth of crops in American every year.

Farm Facts

- Today the average U.S. farmer feeds 155 people. In 1960, a farmer fed just 26 people.
- Farmers are a direct lifeline to more than 24 million U.S. jobs in all kinds of industries.
- Today's farmer grows twice as much food as his parents did—using less land, energy, water and fewer emissions.



About 14,000 earthquakes are detected around the world each year. That's 35 earthquakes a day.

Each year, there are about 60 significant (6.5 to 7.0 on the Richter Scale) earthquakes and 19 major (7.0+) ones.

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Cutting Home Energy Costs- Options & Ideas

By Pamela Cornelius

Seems like about twice a year (when the largest cooling and heating bills roll in) homeowners try to brainstorm about how they could cut their expenses. Most of the time we are trying to cut costs on a home we already have, and designing a new energy efficient structure from the ground up is not an option.

When looking at charts put out by the US Dept. of Energy, Nat'l. Renewable Energy Laboratory, the wind resources in our part of the country could not meet the entire demands of a typical single family house. Existing trees and local regulations on wind turbine towers are just some of the considerations when thinking about wind power. Also, we are not in the higher rated sections of the country for using solar power panels without a lot of battery back-up. For many households in this area, more efficient outdoor wood furnaces can help cut the cost in winter heating, but what about that electric bill?

Without living in a basement or trying to "go off the grid" and use wind or solar panels exclusively, here are 3 ways to try to put a damper on the runaway costs of home energy.

If feasible- buy a smaller house. The average size of the American house has done nothing but expand over the last 40 years. Before this last 10 years of expensive energy cost increases and the go green movement, most people would have never considered this option. After all, a bigger home is better, right? For many people the answer from a personal and environmental aspect is now "not really". If you can't move at this time, close off a few rooms in the house that your family doesn't use that much.

Energy audits & cutting consumption. In most areas you can get the local electrical provider or a government agency to assist you in an energy audit of your home. Has your family gone completely technology crazy? Why not try one night a week where all electronic devices are turned off and the group plays cards or does an outdoor sport together? (Could help with the number on the bathroom scale too...) Look for other ways to cut consumption like turning thermostats up in summer & down in winter.

Look for devices that don't need to be left on constantly, making it a family habit to turn off lights when leaving a room. If you have younger children, give out a monthly prize or privilege to the family member that comes up with the best energy saving idea. Then actually put it to use!

Using Passive Solar Energy. This is strategy, if designed correctly can contribute to the heating, cooling, and day-lighting of nearly any building. Passive solar has been actively used in some of the western states for a long time now. But, you need to keep some of the more important concepts in mind while trying to harness this type of solar power. There is a good article by Dan Chiras called "Sun-Wise Design: Avoiding Passive Solar Design Blunders" that you can look up on the internet at: www.homepower.com. It appeared in the Feb/March 2005 issue.

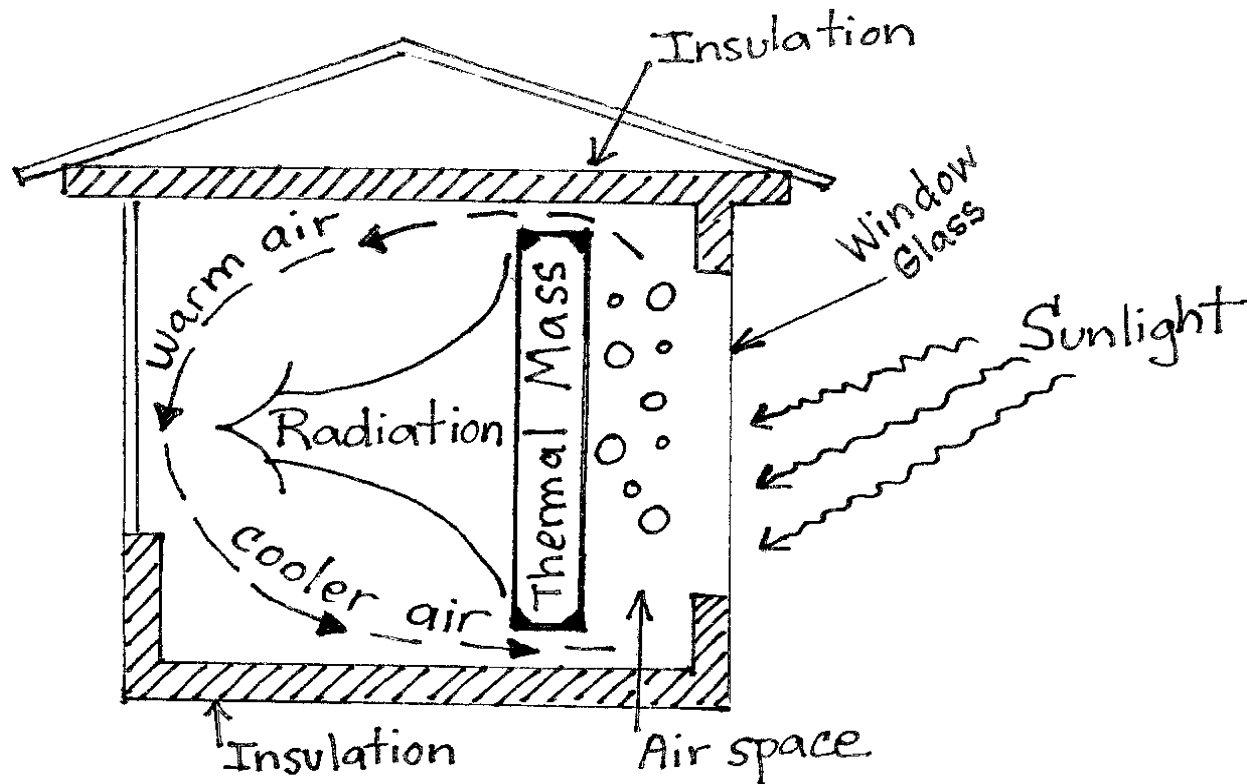
Here are some of the main points he makes about mistakes in using passive solar energy:

* Improper Orientation- Ideally, the house should be oriented towards true south to work the best, which exposes the greatest surface area and window space to the winter sun. Windows for passive solar on the west will not give the best results.

- Excess shading- Many people install the proper windows on the south side, and then shade them by planting evergreen trees or other species. This will not work.

*Overglazing- Just too much south-facing glass! Read the above reference article to help determine your glass-to-mass ratio. Unless you do, you may get more heat than you bargained for.

*Inadequate Overhangs- Single story houses usually have enough overhangs to control excess light penetration. Beautiful two story houses with lots of south facing glass usually let in more heat than is needed. Nighttime heat loss can be



significant and huge expanses of glass are difficult to cover with window shades.

*Angled Glass- Unless you intend to turn your whole home into a greenhouse for plants, angled glass has significant problems. Off-vertical windows eventually leak and they are not easy to put window shades on, most just cause excess heat gain in the house.

*Under-insulation- speaks for itself. Once you collect the passive solar heat in the winter, the structure must be properly insulated so it is not lost.

*Inadequate Thermal Mass- This is vital to the success of a passive solar home by preventing overheating and reducing temperature swings at night. In most homes, thermal mass consists of poured concrete or block walls, adobe, or rammed earth walls. The mass need to be at least 3" thick (or more) to do the job.

*High Ceilings- Here again, probably aesthetically appealing but a definite nightmare when it comes to trying to use passive solar. You just can't ever lose sight of the fact that heated air rises and moving it downward is more expensive.

These ideas and others were explained further in the above mentioned article. So, research what you can do in your situation. You might be surprised how much you can save on a yearly basis by only a 15-20% reduction in energy use.

Get Plugged into MAESTRO

MAESTRO is a program funded by the U.S. Department of Energy and operated by the Missouri Department of Agriculture, University of Missouri and EnSave, Inc. The program offers farm Energy Management Plans, Technical Assistance and Home Energy Audits. MAESTRO looks at ways to save energy on the whole farm including the farm residence through the installation of energy efficient equipment.

Energy Management Plans – a \$1,500 value for only \$250, FREE if you install the recommended equipment
Free Technical Assistance

Home energy audit – a \$500 value for only \$125, FREE if you install the recommended equipment

Incentives up to 75% of the total project cost, not to exceed \$5,000

To receive incentives, projects must have 15% energy savings or greater.

•For assistance or more information, call the MAESTRO TEAM at (800) 732-1399

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Pam Cornelius, Resource Conservationist
Dan Silberberg, District Conservationist

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

Forage Calendar

September

- Start winter annual planting for maximum forage production
- Inventory winter feed supplies to avoid deficiencies.
- Rest fescue that will be used for stockpiled winter feed. Remember this is the best quality forage that will be produced all year.

October

- Evaluate the thistle situation and apply needed herbicide to fields with severe infestation. This needs to be done while plants are actively growing.
- Continue to allow fescue to stockpile. The longer the delay in using the fescue, the more hay on-the-stump will accumulate.

November

- Start planning for next year. Identify weak links in the system. What will make the system easier to manage?
- Start using stockpiled fescue. Allow livestock access to one to three days of forage at a time.

Camden Soil & Water Conservation District

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