

CAPE GIRARDEAU COUNTY

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www.swed.mo.gov/capegirardeau/index.htm



February 2015

James T. Hunt
NRCS District Conservationist

Monica Siler
NRCS Soil Conservationist

Scott Crumpecker
NRCS Soil Conservationist

Brad Pobst
Private Lands Conservationist
Missouri Department of Conservation

*Lend a Helping Hand to
Conservation of Land*

SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

NEWSLETTER

An Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer



Conservation Compliance Reminder!

If you are tilling your Highly Erodible (HEL) crop ground every year or even every 2 out of 3 years, you are most likely not in compliance with your crop rotation. This is especially true if wheat is not a part of your rotation. HEL Compliance is required to be eligible for farm program benefits (payments) received from the Farm Service Agency (FSA) or the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). Annual compliance status reviews are completed every year in June on randomly selected tracts throughout the county. Crop residues that are left in the field after the crops have been harvested are important for many reasons. They are good sources of plant nutrients, they add organic material to the soil, and they reduce erosion. Therefore, the more crop residue left on the surface throughout the year, the better your chances of not losing soil to erosion.

Time To Order Native Trees, Shrubs and Woody Vines

The Missouri Department of Conservation's George O. White Nursery is taking orders for tree seedlings from now through the end of April 2015. The Department of Conservation grows and provides low cost seedlings to Missouri residents for use in conservation projects which require the establishment of trees or shrubs. Tree and shrubs will be delivered late winter and/or early spring. Seedling order forms can be found at local Missouri Department of Conservation offices, Soil and Water Conservation District Offices and on the internet at www.mdc.mo.gov. The website is the best place to order from because out of stock species are listed. The State Nursery provides mainly one year old bare root seedlings with sizes varying by species. Seedlings are bundled in quantities of 10, 25, or 100 per species. Prices for seedling quantities range from \$6-\$32 per bundle. Receive a discount off seedling orders with a Heritage Card.



Help Pollinators Help You



For most Americans, pollen means allergies and bees mean stings – but to farmers, when one out of every three bites of food people take is made possible by a pollinator, bees and pollen mean much more. Pollinators play a tremendous economic role. The problem is, too many people see the pollination process as a free service from nature; most people don't know the unprecedented threats facing wild and managed pollinators worldwide.

Managed honey bee colonies have shrunk by more than 25 percent since 1990, and there are fewer bee hives now in the United States than at any time in the past 50 years. For more than a decade, biologists have documented declines in populations of migratory pollinators including butterflies, bats and birds.

Habitat loss and excessive exposure to agri-chemicals, as well as spread of diseases, parasitic mites, invasion of Africanized honey bees are most often mentioned for what's been called an impending pollination crisis.

Pollinators are particularly important to fruit, vegetable and nut growers, with crops valued in the billions. California producers rent half a million bee hive a year for almond trees alone.

On your land, there are several things you can do to help pollinators.

Don't disturb wild areas. Bumblebees nest in grass in old mouse nests, for instance, and other bees nest in dead wood.

Plant pollinator friendly crops. Clovers, alfalfa, trefoils and other legumes enrich and protect the soil and are pollinator favorites.

Use conservation buffers. Current USDA programs offer annual rental payments to plant grasses or trees on qualifying cropland. These contour strips, grassed waterways, hedgerows, filter strips and windbreaks offer some of the best habitat to pollinators, and they can be within the crop field that needs their pollination service.

Let plants bloom. Try to time mowing, tilling or grazing management decisions so that plants have the opportunity to bloom.

Time pesticide application. Your pesticide label lists bee toxicity and residual time.

For more information, stop by your local NRCS office or visit the NRCS Wildlife Habitat Management Institute's website at www.whmi.nrcs.usda.gov or the NRCS home web site at www.nrcs.usda.gov.

Prescribed Fire Workshops

Tuesday, February 10, 2015

Where: Southeast Regional
Conservation Office
2302 County Park Drive
Cape Girardeau, MO 63701



When: 1:00 -4:30 pm and
6:00- 9:30 pm

Presented by: Missouri Department of Conservation

This workshop will be given two different times to provide landowners a better opportunity to attend.

Prescribed fire is a low cost way for landowners to manage grasslands, CRP and old fields for forage production and/or improve wildlife habitat.

This workshop will include classroom discussions on methods, equipment, safety, and why and when you would use fire as a management tool. Emphasis will include how to conduct a safe and effective burn to control sprouts, encourage beneficial plants and create better quality quail habitat. Participation will qualify landowners to have a prescribed burn plan prepared for their fields and use available loan equipment.

Attendees will also be invited to optional demonstration burns which will be conducted later in March around the region to demonstrate the use of tools and techniques.

To register for one of the workshops please contact the Missouri Department of Conservation at 573/290-5730 or the Cape Girardeau County SWCD at 573/243-1467 ext. 3

Cape Girardeau County Deer Survey

Deer season is over with and I hope everyone who hunted was able to enjoy themselves even if you were not able to harvest one. The Missouri Department of Conservation relies on landowners and hunters to help manage the state's deer herd. Through the years some of you might have received a survey form MDC through the mail asking you to provide your opinions on what you thought the deer population was like in the area that you farm or hunt. I would like to expand this a little further and allow anyone who owns land in Cape Girardeau County to provide input by filling out the short survey below. Knowing the opinions of landowners helps MDC when it comes to managing this important resource. I thank you in advance for filling out this survey.

Surveys can be dropped off at the Cape Co. SWCD office or mailed to Brad Pobst, Missouri Dept. of Conservation, 480 W Jackson Trail, Jackson Mo 63755.

1. Which statement describes your feelings about the deer population in Cape Girardeau County?
 - A. Too many deer
 - B. About the right number of deer
 - C. Too few deer
 - D. No opinion

2. In your opinion what was the deer population 5 years ago in Cape Girardeau County?
 - A. More deer
 - B. About the same number of deer
 - C. Fewer deer
 - D. Don't know

3. In Cape Girardeau County, hunters were able to purchase an Antlerless Permit along with an Any Deer Permit which allowed hunters to harvest two deer in 2014 with a firearm. Please indicate if you would like this to be
 - A. Liberalized
 - B. More Restrictive
 - C. Stay the same

4. Are you:
 - A. Row crop farmer
 - B. Livestock Producer
 - C. Recreational Landowner

THE MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION PRESENTS A

Landowner Workshop

Enhance wildlife habitat, forests and ponds on your land.



**Malden Higher Education Center
Malden, Mo.**

Feb. 28, 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Register at 8 a.m.

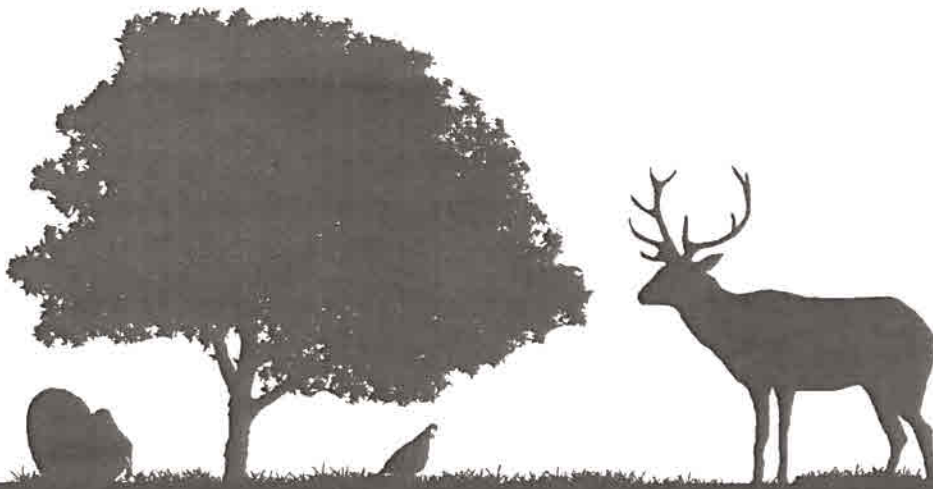
Choose from 11 different one-hour presentations on topics that pertain to private land management. Sessions are designed to offer landowners plenty of how-to suggestions.

Lunch will be provided and class size is limited, so pre-registration is required by Feb. 20. There will be an optional equipment demonstration following the workshop.

Topics include:

- Statewide deer management
- Pond management
- Waterfowl management
- Timber management
- Aquatic vegetation in ponds
- Trespassing issues
- Cost share and incentive programs
- Invasive plants
- Furbearers and nuisance

wildlife



Call 573-290-5730 for more information and to pre-register by Feb. 20.

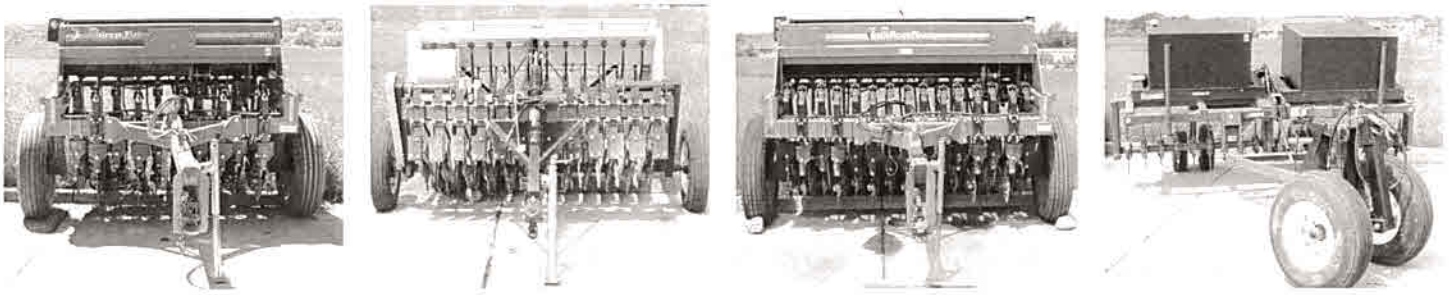
mdc.mo.gov



Serving nature and you

FOR RENT NO TILL DRILLS & PASTURE RENOVATOR

The SWCD would like to remind everyone the District has a 10' Great Plains Drill and a 7' Great Plains Drill for rent along with a 8' Truax Drill (warm season grasses). The District also has a Rhino Pasture Renovator available for rent. The 10' drill rents for \$9/AC (10AC minimum), the 7' drill rents for \$8/AC (10AC minimum), the 8' drill rents for \$10/AC, and the renovator rents for \$6/AC (5AC minimum). If you would like to schedule either the drills or the renovator, please call 573-243-1467 ext 3.



WILDLIFE WAYS

DID YOU KNOW.....

A bee's wings vibrate about 435 times a second. More than 75 percent of the crop plants that feed the world, and many plant derived medicines in our pharmacies rely on pollination by insects or other animals for healthy fruit development.

Non Profit Rate
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Jackson, MO
63755
Permit No. 78

Cape Girardeau
Soil and Water Conservation District
480 W. Jackson Trail • Jackson, MO 63755
Return Service Requested