

# CAPE GIRARDEAU COUNTY

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Byrd Creek Watershed  
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Phone: (573) 243-1467, ext. 3



January 2010

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NRCS District Conservationist

Ben Williams  
NRCS Soil Conservation Technician

Monica Siler  
NRCS Soil Conservationist

Larry Heggemann  
Private Lands Conservationist  
Missouri Department of Conservation

*Lend a Helping Hand to  
Conservation of Land*

## SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

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*To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410 or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-8382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.*

**HAPPY NEW YEAR**

From

The Cape Girardeau Soil and Water Conservation  
District and NRCS Staff

....may the year be full of wonderful blessings



# \$\$\$\$\$\$\$ For Conservation \$\$\$\$\$\$\$

## Conservation Programs Sign Up Through January 29, 2010

Missouri agricultural producers and landowners interested in protecting or improving natural resources on their land are urged to contact the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) by January 29 if they want to sign up for conservation financial assistance in 2010.

NRCS is currently taking applications for 4 programs:

**Grassland Reserve Program (GRP), Wetland Reserve Program (WRP), Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP), and Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP).**

### Grassland Reserve Program (GRP)

The Grassland Reserve Program (GRP) is a voluntary conservation program that emphasizes support for working grazing operations, enhancement of plant and animal biodiversity, and protection of grassland under threat of conversion to other uses. GRP implementation is coordinated by the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and Farm Service Agency (FSA).

Participants voluntarily limit future development and cropping uses of the land while retaining the right to conduct common grazing practices and operations related to the production of forage and seeding, subject to certain restrictions during nesting seasons of bird species that are in significant decline or are protected under Federal or State law. Applications will be taken on Form AD-1153 by either FSA or NRCS.

Participants must choose a rental agreement time span of 10-years, 15-years, or 20-years, or a permanent conservation easement. Annual payments for rental agreements will be in an amount of **\$16.50/acre/year** in Cape Girardeau County.

Easements will be funded based on an area-wide market analysis value minus the grazing value. The fair market value is determined by a licensed real estate professional/appraiser. Accepted easement applicants will have refusal rights of the USDA easement offer amount as established by appraisal.

### Wetland Reserve Program (WRP)

The Wetlands Reserve Program is a voluntary program offering landowners the opportunity to protect, restore, and enhance wetlands on their property.

Landowners who choose to participate in WRP may sell a conservation easement for up to **\$2600/acre** in Cape County or enter into a cost-share restoration agreement with USDA to restore and protect wetlands. The program offers landowners three options: permanent easements, 30-year easements, and restoration cost-share agreements of a minimum 10-year duration. Landowners and NRCS develop a plan for the restoration and maintenance of the wetland.

As a requirement of the program, landowners voluntarily limit future use of the land, yet retain private ownership. Landowners continue to control access to the land – and may lease the land – for hunting, fishing, and other undeveloped recreational activities. At any time, landowners may request that additional activities be evaluated to determine if they are compatible use for the site. This request may include such items as permission to cut hay, graze livestock or harvest wood products. Compatible uses are allowed if they are fully consistent with the protection and enhancement of the wetland.

### Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program (WHIP)

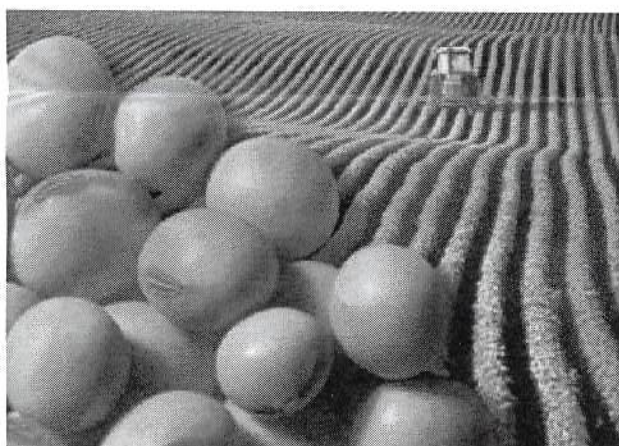
The Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP) is a voluntary program for private landowners to develop fish and wildlife habitat on private agricultural land, and nonindustrial private forest land. Through WHIP, eligible participants may receive financial and technical assistance to develop upland, wetland, riparian, and aquatic habitat areas on their property, by implementing conservation practices that establish, improve, protect, enhance or restore conditions for fish and wildlife.

*Continued on page 5*





**Annie's Project** is an educational program dedicated to strengthening women's roles in the modern farm enterprise; developed by farm women for farm women. Through six educational sessions, Annie's Project fosters problem solving, record keeping, and decision-making skills in farm women. Classes will be held at the Jackson Extension Center on March 2, 4, 9, 10, 16 and 18 beginning at 6:00 p.m. For information, contact Gerald Bryan at 573-243-3581.



## **2010 SOYBEAN CONFERENCE**

**Tuesday, January 12, 2010**

**The Clinton Building, Sikeston, MO**

**7:30 Registration**

**8:00 a.m. Program Begins**

The same program will also be offered in Jackson at the University of Missouri Extension Center beginning at 10:30 a.m. Please pre-register for the Jackson location by calling 573.243.3581 by January 6, 2010

# Timely & Thrifty Farm Estate Planning

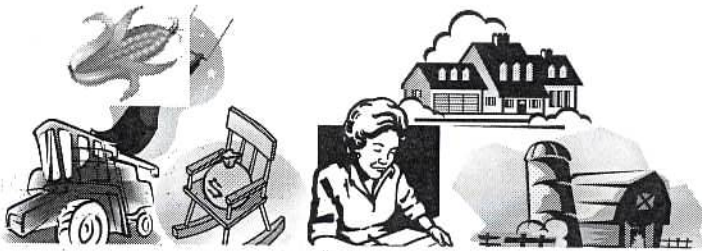
January 12th, 19th & 26th, 2010

6:30 to 8:45 p.m.

**Cape Girardeau County Extension Center**

**684 W. Jackson Trail, Jackson, MO**

## Don't Let Dreams - Turn Into Nightmares



**Instructor:** Parman Green, Agricultural Business Specialist,  
University of Missouri Extension

### Topics:

- Estate Planning Overview & Update
- Identifying Your Goals & Objectives
- Tools in the "Tool Box"
- Tools and Provisions—Pros and Cons
- Popular Estate Planning Strategies
- Your Plan—Make it Flexible and Thrifty
- Conduct an Estate "Fire Drill"
- What Are You Waiting For?

**Fee: \$30** - includes resource notebook, **OR**  
**\$40** per family - fee includes one resource notebook.

Extra Notebooks— \$20 each

**ITV Presentation:** Sessions will broadcast live to each  
hosting site with opportunity for audience participation  
and questions.

### Sponsor:

University of Missouri Extension (573) 243-3581

UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI

**Extension**

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ County of Residence: \_\_\_\_\_

Registration deadline is January 8th. Please send your reservation form along with your check made payable to: Cape Girardeau County Extension, 684 W. Jackson Trail P.O. Box 408, Jackson, MO 63755.

University of Missouri Extension Programs are open to all!



Activities are carried out according to a WHIP Plan of Operations (WPO) developed with the producer that identifies the appropriate conservation practice(s) needed to address the identified resource concerns.

### **Environmental Incentive Program (EQIP)**

The Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) is a voluntary conservation program. It supports production agriculture, forest management, and environmental quality as compatible goals. Through EQIP, eligible producers may receive financial and technical assistance with certain structural (includes vegetated) and management conservation practices on agricultural land.

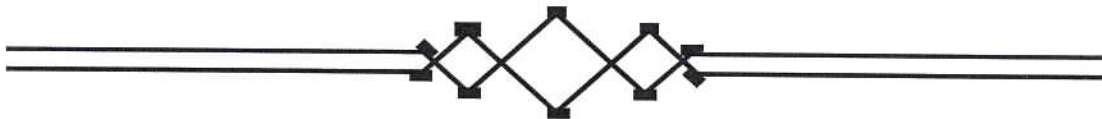
Eligible land must have a resource concern identified by a certified conservation planner that the financially assisted practice will address. Activities are carried out according to an EQIP Conservation Plan of Operations developed with the producer that identifies the appropriate conservation practice(s) needed to address the identified resource concerns.

All four programs have a separate scoring or ranking system for applications, in order to make funding decisions. Landowners are encouraged to discuss their situations and needs with the staff in order to determine if one or more of the programs would be applicable. Payments for completed practices can only be made on practices started and completed after final approval of a conservation contract.

All four programs have land eligibility criteria and landowner/producer eligibility criteria that must be met before the end of the application period.

**Landowners must submit applications on or before January 29, 2010 to receive consideration for funding in fiscal year 2010.**

For more information contact the Jackson NRCS Office at 573-243-1467 ext 3 or go to [www.mo.nrcs.usda.gov/programs](http://www.mo.nrcs.usda.gov/programs).



### **Notification of Supervisor's Election for Cape County**

The Cape Girardeau County Soil and Water Conservation District will be holding elections of Supervisors for Area II and Area IV at the annual Open House. Area II consists of the townships of Byrd, Whitewater, and Kinder. Area IV consists of the townships of Hubble, Liberty, and Welch.

To be eligible you must

- be a land representative
- a resident taxpaying citizen within the SWCD for two years preceding the election date
- reside in or own a farm lying in the same Area

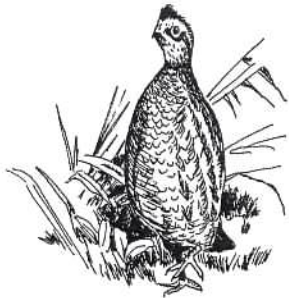
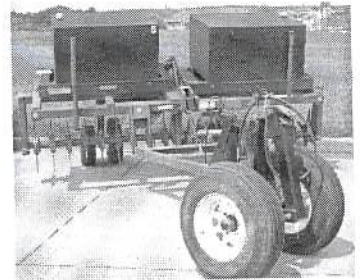
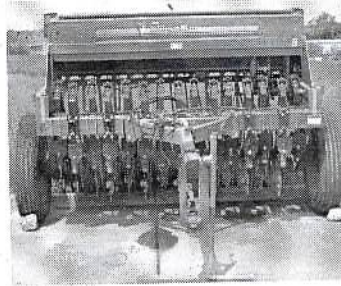
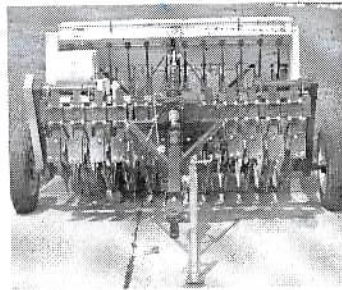
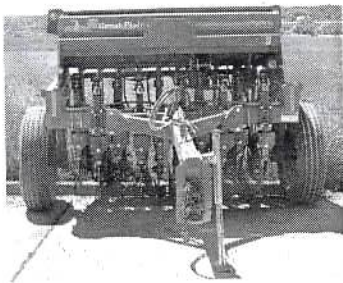
Anyone interested in running for the position of Supervisor in either of these Area's can contact our office to submit your name for consideration to :

Cape Girardeau County SWCD, 480 W Jackson Trail, Jackson MO 63755

Or contact our office at 573.243.1467 ext 3.

## 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 also available for rent. The 10' drill rents for \$8/AC, the 7' drill rents for \$7/AC, the 8' drill rents for \$10/AC, and the renovator rents for \$6/AC. If you would like to schedule either the drills or the renovator, please call 573-243-1467 ext 3.



## WILDLIFE WAYS DID YOU KNOW.....

National forests cover only 19% of forested land in the United States. Non-industrial private landowners own 59% of the forested land; their actions are critically important to birds, bears, ducks, and other wildlife that depend on forestland habitat.

## SAYING GOODBYE

Derek Miesner, Byrd Creek SALT Technician, would like to take this opportunity to thank the board members and the landowners of Cape County for giving him the chance to work with them and especially the Byrd Creek area. He has recently taken a job with the NRCS area office assisting the landowners of Cape County, along with the rest of Southeast Missouri area. He thinks that the SALT project is off to a great start and feels it will continue that way with the help of its landowners. Again he thanks everyone for the opportunity and the experience he has gained.