

CAPE GIRARDEAU COUNTY

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January 2014

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Missouri Department of Conservation

*Lend a Helping Hand to
Conservation of Land*

SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

NEWSLETTER

An Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer

**Are You a Good Steward of the Land?
If So, CSP is for You!**

Authorized in the 2008 Farm Bill, the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) is a voluntary program that offers payments (\$\$\$ per acre) to producers who exercise good land stewardship and want to improve their conservation performance on their crop, pasture, and/or forest land. With CSP, producers get credit (\$\$\$ per acre) for conservation measures they have already implemented and for new measures they agree to add.

Applicants must be listed as "operator" on FSA records and must enroll all eligible land. If accepted, the CSP acres will be included in a five year contract (i.e. five years of payments). Your only way to see what payment may be available to you is to apply.

**If you are interested in learning more about CSP, please call the NRCS office (573-243-1467 ext. 3) or on the web go to:
<http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/mo/programs/>**

Applications for 2014 funding are due February 7, 2014. Please do not wait until the last minute to inquire or apply.

Don't Till It – Cover It

Written and Produced by USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service

Expert: Cover Crops Key In Preventing Yield Losses When Converting To No-Till

Most farmers with experience in improving soil health have converted from conventional tillage to no-till farming, then over time, added cover crops into their farm operations.

But many farmers have experienced yield drops, at least in corn, in the transition years to no-till. However, that doesn't have to be the case, and there's no need to master no-till before you use cover crops with no-till, says Jim Hoorman, an assistant professor and Extension educator for Ohio State University.

"No-till corn yields typically lag conventionally tilled fields by as much as 10 to 15 percent for five to seven years until the microbial populations recover in the soil," Hoorman says. "That's because in the transition years, as microbes increase in numbers and build organic matter and humus, the corn crop has competition for nitrogen – microbes take up nitrogen faster than plants, so if nitrogen is limiting, the crop will suffer."

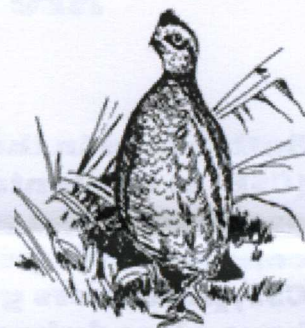
But farmers can shorten – or eliminate – a yield drop in the short term while you're on your way to increasing yields long term by using cover crops from the start with no-till, he says.

"The literature says there are 1,000 to 2,000 times more microbes associated with living roots than in soil without live roots," Hoorman says. "If you want to build soil, you need to leave it undisturbed and keep it covered with living plants as much of the time as practical."

For more information on how to "Unlock the Secrets in Your Soil," call or visit your local USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service office or visit www.nrcs.usda.gov.



Covey Headquarter Management Calendar



January

Stop wasting money on inputs on low-yield cropfield edges. Visit your local FSA office and enroll these areas in CRP practice CP33.

Burn your CRP acres to reduce grass competition and increase wildflower abundance.

Plant your wildflower pollinator habitat this month.

February

Interseed wildflowers/legumes in conjunction with your CRP management practices.

Broadcast annual lespedeza over recently burned areas and firelines.

Create covey headquarters by dropping large trees along fencerows and leave them where they fall.

Finish burning your native warm-season grass acres this month. For quail, DO NOT burn rind stands of native grass after March 15.

Complete edge feathering, downed tree structures, and forest stand improvement projects.

Prescribed Fire Workshops

Tuesday, March 4, 2014

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

UPCOMING EVENTS:



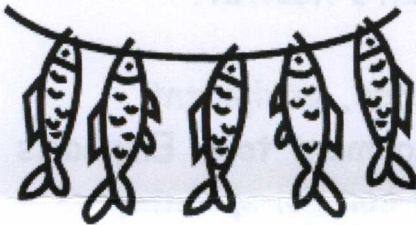
Forestry Field Day Saturday, March 15, 2014



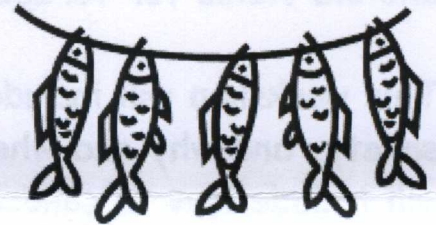
The Missouri Department of Conservation will be hosting a forestry field day for Missouri landowners on Saturday, March 15, 2014, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the General Watkins Conservation Area in Scott County. In case of bad weather the tour will be the following Saturday, March 22, 2014. This is a free workshop, however participants must pre-register.

This is a great opportunity for landowners to learn about practices that will help them manage their forest resource before, during, and after a timber sale, provide habitat for deer, turkey and other wildlife species, and water quality. Topics at the field day will include timber stand improvement (TSI), edge feathering, temporary forest opening, oak regeneration, and control of unwanted plant species.

The workshop participants will meet at the General Watkins Conservation Area Schlosser Tract parking lot. To get to this parking lot you take Highway 61 south of Benton to County Park Road, turn west and follow the signs to the parking lot. To register for the workshop, please contact the Missouri Department of Conservation at 573-290-5730 or the Cape Girardeau County SWCD at 573-243-1467 ext. 3.



Pond Management Workshop Thursday, March 27, 2014



Attention pond owners! Have you ever wanted to know how to improve your pond fishery? How to deal with nuisance aquatic plants? What fish to harvest and what fish to stock? Well here is your chance to learn about these questions and more.

On March 27th the Missouri Department of Conservation will host a pond management workshop at the Cape Girardeau Nature Center in the Cape County Park. The workshop will begin at 6:00 p.m. and end at 9:00 p.m.

Presentations will be given by MDC Fisheries Management Biologists over various topics which include: pond construction, watershed management, fish stocking and management, aquatic vegetation establishment and control, plus much more. Questions are encouraged and this informal discussion will hopefully get you on your way to a successful and enjoyable pond. This workshop is free; however, pre-registration is required. To pre-register or for more information, contact the Missouri Department of Conservation at 573-590-5218.

Does Water Quality Impact Herbicides?

Sarah Kenyon, Agronomy Specialist, MU Extension Oregon County Center

Yes, some herbicides are affected by water quality. The herbicide label will give specific directions that you need to follow. Always read the herbicide label!

Some chemicals, especially glyphosate (Round-Up), are sensitive to hard water. Hard water is water that has high levels of calcium (Ca), magnesium (Mg), and/or sodium (Na). When Round-Up is mixed with hard water, the Ca, Mg, or Na binds to the herbicide, rendering it ineffective. Therefore, the ability of Round-Up to kill plants is reduced when hard water is used.

To solve this problem use ammonia sulfate (AMS) when mixing the chemicals. Add the AMS before adding the pesticide. When adding AMS, the ammonium preferentially attaches to the glyphosate molecule and prevents Ca, Mg, and Na from attaching. When ammonium is attached, the molecule can function normally, neutralizing the effects of hard water.

Some water conditioners can be used instead of AMS, read the product information to make sure that the purpose of the product is to protect the pesticide from deactivation from hard water. Look at the active ingredient list to make sure it contains ammonium sulfate, ammonium nitrate or urea.

Do I need to use a surfactant? The role of AMS is different than that of non-ionic surfactants. Surfactants are active on the leaf surface and improve herbicide absorption into the plants. AMS is active in the spray tank where it prevents deactivation from hard water. However, some surfactants contain nitrogen, read the active ingredients to see if ammonium sulfate, ammonium or urea is present.

How much AMS do I need? The glyphosate label allows you to add up to 17 lbs. AMS to a 100 gallon spray tank. To determine the exact amount that is needed you will need to get a water test. Then you will use the following equation developed from North Dakota State University:

$$\text{AMS (lbs./100 gallons water)} = (0.009 \times \text{ppm of calcium}) + (0.005 \times \text{ppm of sodium}) + (0.002 \times \text{ppm of potassium}) + (0.014 \times \text{ppm of magnesium}).$$

If you do not have a water test, read the label and apply the recommended amount which can range from 4.25 – 17 lbs. of AMS/100 gallons.

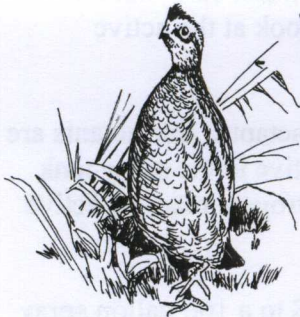
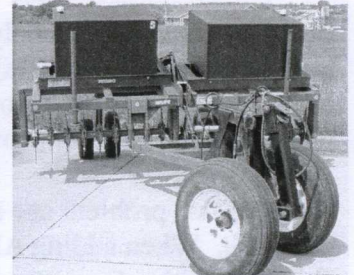
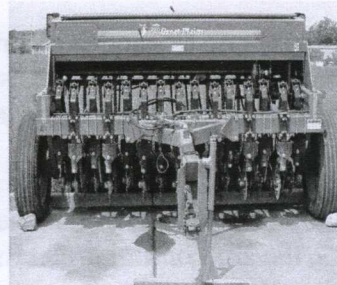
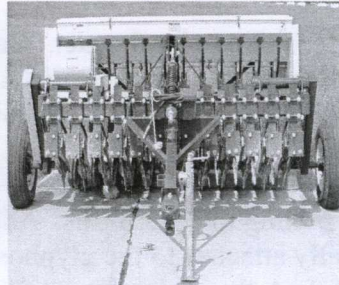
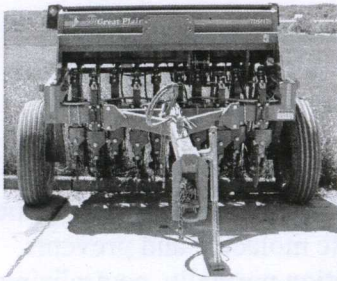
Are other chemicals besides Round-Up affected by hard water? Calcium, magnesium, sodium have all been reported to reduce the efficacy of weak-acid herbicides. These herbicides include: glyphosate, 2,4-D, dicamba (Clarity, Banvel), picloram (Grazon P+D, Tordon 22K), and triclopyr (Garlon, Remedy).

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 2014. 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 15% discount up to \$20 off seedling orders with a Heritage Card.

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 \$9/AC, the 7' drill rents for \$8/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.....

Some people say bluebird blue is "the most vivid" and the bluebird warble is "the most charming." Their reputation is as a "sweet" bird, but males and females fight among themselves, and sometimes kill each other over mates and nest sites.

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

Cape Girardeau
Soil and Water Conservation District
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