

CAPE GIRARDEAU COUNTY

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Vice Chairman: Mark Reitzel

Treasurer: Susan Jahn

Member: Kenny Spooler

District Manager: Paula Meier

District Technician: Denise Aufdenberg

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

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



March 2012

James T. Hunt

NRCS District Conservationist

Monica Barnfield

NRCS Soil Conservationist

Scott Crumpecker

NRCS Soil Conservationist

Brad Pobst

Private Lands Conservationist

Missouri Department of Conservation

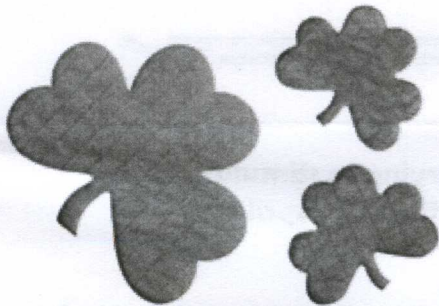
*Lend a Helping Hand to
Conservation of Land*

SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

NEWSLETTER

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The Cape County SWCD cordially invites you to attend
The Cape Girardeau County SWCD

Open House Appreciation Day
Wednesday, March 28, 2012
11:00 a.m. till 2:00 p.m.

Presentation at 12:00 p.m.

Landowner Awards to follow

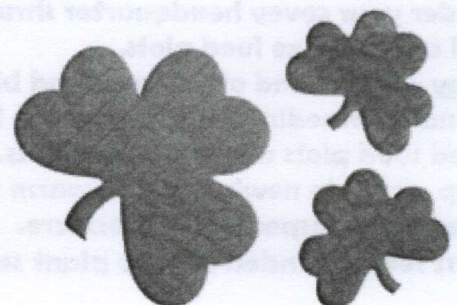
University of Missouri Outreach and Extension

Lower Level

Awards, Refreshments & Door Prizes

Election of Supervisors will be held from

11:00 am till 5:00 p.m.



ELECTION OF SUPERVISORS



The Cape Girardeau County Soil and Water Conservation District will be holding an election of Supervisors in Area I, which includes Apple Creek and Shawnee townships, and Area III, which includes Randol and Cape Girardeau townships. The election will be held in conjunction with the open house on Wednesday, March 28th. Polls will be open from 11:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. at the lower level of the University of Missouri Extension Center.

A Soil and Water Conservation District Supervisor is a person elected or appointed to represent people throughout the county, and to be part of the governing body of the District. Supervisors are elected to a four year term. Supervisors administer District policies, programs, personnel, and funds. The Supervisors have the authority "to promote all reasonable measures for the saving of the soil and water within that soil and water district". This leaves the Supervisors almost unlimited opportunity to execute a conservation program and makes them the key to success of the Soil and Water Conservation District. The District is supported by the one-tenth of one percent parks, soils and water sales tax, and other sources.

The candidates running for Area I are Gary Bock and David Seabaugh. For Area III, the only candidate is Susan Jahn. Any qualifying candidate not nominated by the committee may have their name added to the ballot if they reside in one of the two areas where an election needs to be held and have secured 10 signatures of land representatives in the territory they wish to represent on petition and submit the petition to the Cape Girardeau County Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors at least 10 days before the election.

March – Finish your winter edge feathering projects.

Do not burn native warm season grass past March 15th unless you are trying to stimulate it.

Burn or use a herbicide to set back CRP cool season grasses March 15th through April 30th.

Over seed clover and lespedeza into recently burned or disked fields.

April – Listen for male Bobwhite whistle calls on calm clear mornings.

Spray brome and fescue underneath shrubby areas with Fusilade, Select, or Post (check label before buying).

Do not burn native warm season grass unless utilizing for forage or trying to eliminate brome or fescue.

Order your covey headquarter shrubs from the MDC nursery before the end of the month.

Till and fertilize food plots.

May – Quail and other grassland birds are on the nest, stay off of your mower.

Conduct breeding bird surveys the last week of May through June.

Seed food plots now for best results.

Clip weeds in newly planted warm season grasses to a height of 4-6 inches.

Seed shrub lespedeza at 8lbs/acre.

Last recommended date to plant seedling shrubs is June 1st.



Cover Crop Basics

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service



Cropping challenges caused from poor fertility, low organic matter, poor infiltration, soil erosion, weeds and compaction are actually indicators of poor soil health. While tillage is often used to treat these issues, it is detrimental to soil health. Cover crops are used to scavenge nitrogen, increase organic matter, improve infiltration and reduce erosion and weed problems.

The information below provides some basic information about cover crops. Designate a 20-40 acre field to experiment with cover crops and see how they can help your soil and you!

Cover Crop Usage Tips

- Use shorter season varieties of corn or soybeans to maximize cover crop benefits.
- Leave crop residue to preserve moisture.
- Plan early and locate your seed in June.
- Select varieties that are well suited for your area, avoid "Variety Not Stated" (VNS) seed.
- Plant early and shallow (1/4 to 1/2 inch).
- Applying 20 pounds of nitrogen, per acre, at planting will give your cover crop a boost for quicker establishment.
- Extreme weather years show the most benefit from cover crop usage.

Cover Crop Termination Tips

- Be able to control cover crops in the spring, even if by ATV sprayer.
- For best results, spray on sunny days when temperatures are above 50 degrees.
 - If spraying when temperatures are in the 40s, spray in the early morning versus afternoon to allow for better herbicide translocation.
- Use additives such as Ammonium Sulfate (AMS) with your herbicide.
- Consider using non-glyphosate herbicides to reduce the risk of plants developing herbicide resistance.
- When planning herbicide control for cover crop mixes, take all species types into account.
- Residual herbicide from the previous grain crop can prevent desired cover crop establishment.
 - This is especially noticeable in overlap areas and during dry and late planting years.

What is the easiest cover crop to try?

Cereal Rye after corn and before soybeans. Increased soybean yields result from this rotation.



Crimson Clover

Annual Ryegrass

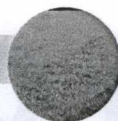


Preferred varieties:
King, Bounty, Jackson

Drilled Rate: 9 pounds per acre
Broadcast Rate: 14 pounds per acre
Seed Cost: \$7-\$11 per acre
Seeding Period: March, August-September
(up to October 10 works most years)

- Reasonable in cost
- Seed in September for best results
- Works well in front of corn or soybeans
- Establishes easily, even when broadcasted
- Provides weed control
- Has good root mass
- Adds organic matter and soil tilth
- Likes wet soils
- Collects nitrogen in the fall and winter
- Kill in April during its vegetative state
- Secondary buds allow regrowth
 - If not controlled in the spring it can become a problem
- Plan on two herbicide applications
- Can be a problem in wheat
- Decomposes easily
- Marshall, Bruiser are good forage varieties

Cereal Rye



Preferred varieties:
Aroostock, Rymin, Daold

Drilled Rate: 45 pounds per acre
Broadcast Rate: 65 pounds per acre
Seed Cost: \$12-\$17 per acre
Seeding Period: March-May,
August-mid November

- Easy to establish, can usually broadcast
- Good for breaking up surface compaction
- Provides good weed control
 - Winter annuals, smartweed, ragweed, horseweed
- Be careful if used before corn
 - Has the potential to stunt corn especially in cool, wet conditions
 - Broadcast 50 pounds of nitrogen per acre at planting, come back and side-dress to alleviate the issue
- Easy to plant into
- Captures nitrogen
- Kill at end of March to release nitrogen
- Easy to control in the spring
- Grows fast in April
 - Can severely dry out soil if not controlled early enough
- Can be grazed/harvested for hay

Crimson Clover



Preferred varieties:
Dixie, AU Robbins, AU Sunrise

Drilled Rate: 12 pounds per acre
Broadcast Rate: 18 pounds per acre
Seed Cost: \$14-\$21 per acre
Seeding Period: July-September 20
(up to October 1 works most years)

- Inoculate seed prior to planting
- Not the same as Red Clover
- Doesn't like wet field conditions
- Winter annual – excellent growth
- Good nitrogen provider
 - Provides up to 100 pounds per acre usable nitrogen
- Kill Crimson Clover in mid April
 - In late April/early May Crimson Clover will bloom and die

Hairy Vetch



Preferred varieties:
Groff, Madison, Winter, Pennington, Kaup

Drilled Rate: 15 pounds per acre
Broadcast Rate: 20 pounds per acre
Seed Cost: \$27-\$36 per acre
Seeding Period: August-September

- Inoculate seed prior to planting
- Blue, Purple and Common Vetch are not winter hardy.
- Not the same as Crown Vetch
- Good option before corn
- Provides 100+ pounds of nitrogen for following corn crop
- Increases corn yields
- Easy to control in the spring with 2,4-D
- Vetch can be driven over and planted into.
 - Plant corn 1.5-2 inches deep and make sure to plant into soil and not the cover crop residue.
- Decomposes in less than 30 days

Oats

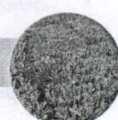


Preferred varieties:
Bates, Webster

Drilled Rate: 35 pounds per acre
Broadcast Rate: 50 pounds per acre
Seed Cost: \$12-\$17 per acre
Seeding Period: March-April,
August-September

- Cheap to plant
- Establishes fast
- Provides good erosion control
- Scavenges nitrogen
- Reduces winter annuals
- Winter kills
- Can be grazed
- Easy to plant into in spring

Oilseed Radish



Preferred varieties:
Adios, Arena, Tillage, Daikon

Drilled Rate: 5 pounds per acre
Broadcast Rate: 8 pounds per acre
Seed Cost: \$13-\$20 per acre
Seeding Period: March-May,
August-September 15 (October 1 at the latest)

- A fall seeding rate will produce carrot size root
- Best results when planted early
 - Earlier planting date provides larger root
- Easy to establish
- Works best in rows
- Doesn't like acidic soil
- Increases soil tilth and organic matter
- Works well mixed with oats or cereal rye
- Dies after several days at 25 degrees
- Decomposes quickly, no root left in spring

What Not to Use as Winter Cover Crops

- Winter peas and lentils are not winter hardy
- Turnips are better for grazing than as a cover crop
 - You will see more advantages in row crops with Oilseed radish
- Canola is difficult to grow and requires a September 12-20 seeding date to survive winter
- Buckwheat is a summer annual that captures phosphorus and provides summer weed control
 - Buckwheat must be killed in 45 days or it sets seed and becomes a weed itself.

Try These Cover Crop Mixes

- Oats at 30 pounds per acre with Crimson Clover at 8-10 pounds per acre (\$22/acre)
- Oats at 30 pounds per acre with Oilseed Radish at 3 pounds per acre (\$18/acre)
- Oats at 30 pounds per acre with Hairy Vetch at 12 pounds per acre (\$32/acre)
- Cereal Rye at 35-40 pounds per acre with Oilseed Radish at 3 pounds per acre (\$18/acre)
- Annual Ryegrass at 8 pounds per acre with Crimson Clover at 10 pounds per acre (\$18/acre)

 **NRCS** Natural Resources Conservation Service
United States Department of Agriculture

The USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Prescribed Fire Workshops

Tuesday, March 6, 2012

Where: Cape Girardeau Conservation
Nature Center

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

Presented by: Missouri Department of Conservation

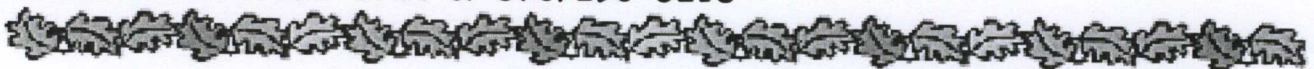
This workshop will be given two different times to provide landowners a better opportunity to attend.

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 the spring 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 573/290-5218



Wildlife Habitat Tour

Saturday March 24, 2012

Where: Maintz Conservation Area
Jim Wills Property

When: 9:00 - 2:00 p.m. Lunch Provided

Presented By: Missouri Department of Conservation
Cape County Soil and Water Conservation District
Landowners



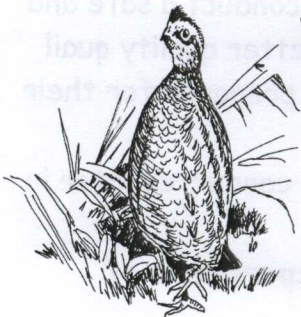
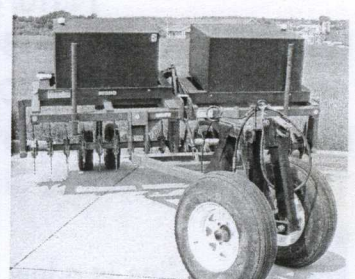
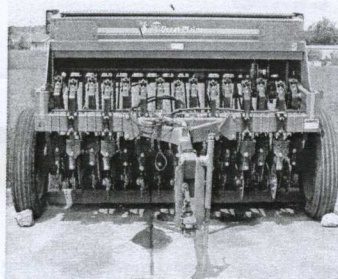
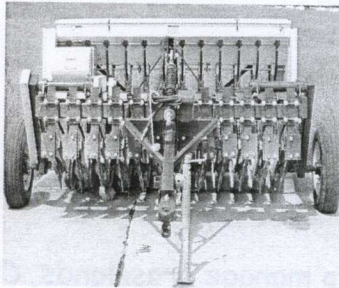
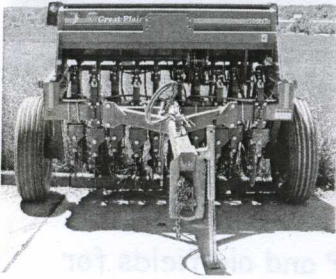
To register contact the Cape County SWCD by March 20, at 573/243-1467 ext. 3. Wildlife populations require the right habitat in the right place on a farm. No matter if you manage for whitetail deer, turkey, quail and rabbits or even for better fishing in a pond the habitat that you have on your farm will dictate the type of wildlife populations that will be present.

This tour will focus on practices that you can do on your land that will benefit wildlife with emphases on quail and other small game, deer and turkey. Practices that will be looked at would include CRP grass management, edge feathering, burning, disking, food plots (grain and green browse), timber stand improvement (TSI) wildlife watering facilities, tree and shrub establishment and ponds.

Directions: Take Highway B (Millersville) to County Road 472, go 1 ½ miles west to signs

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.....

Loblolly pines are fire-adapted and thrive with periodic burning, once the stand has been thinned. The burns also encourage new plants that give food and cover to wildlife.

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

Cape Girardeau
Soil and Water Conservation District
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