

CAPE GIRARDEAU COUNTY

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Chairman: Kenny Spooler
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District Manager: Paula Meier
District Technician: Denise Essner

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

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



March 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

The Cape Girardeau County Soil & Water Conservation District
cordially invites you to attend
the Cape Girardeau County SWCD



Open House Appreciation Day
Wednesday, March 18, 2015
11:00 a.m. till 1:30 p.m.



Presentation at 12:00 p.m. by
Jerry Kaiser, Plant Materials Specialist
with the **Elsberry Plant Materials Center**

Landowner Awards to follow
University of Missouri Outreach and Extension Lower Level

Annual Cape County Soil & Water Conservation District Essay Contest

REQUISITES:

- Applicants must be a graduate of a Cape Girardeau County High School and a Cape Girardeau County Resident at the time of graduation.
- Applicants must have completed a minimum of 60 hours of college level course work toward an undergraduate degree.
- Applicants must be enrolled in a four year degree program that falls into one of the following subject matter categories: Agriculture, Agriculture Business, Natural Resources, etc.
- Applicants must have a GPA of at least 2.5.

Applications may be picked up at the office at 480 West Jackson Trail, Jackson, Missouri.

Applications for the \$500 essay contest are due Friday July 10, 2015. Please contact the office at (573) 243-1467 ext. 3 with any questions.

MDC Holding Meeting in Cape on Proposed Deer Regulation Changes



The Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) is seeking public input on proposed changes to the state's deer hunting regulations for the 2016-2017 hunting season. To help explain the proposed changes and gather public feedback, MDC will hold a public meeting on March 10 from 5 to 8 p.m. at its Cape Girardeau Nature Center, 2289 County Park Drive.

MDC also welcomes public comments online. To learn more about the proposed regulations, additional public meetings being held, MDC's deer management plan, past public comments, and to provide comment, visit the Department's website at mdc.mo.gov/node/28079. Mail comments to: Missouri Department of Conservation, Attn: Policy Coordination, P.O. Box 180, Jefferson City, MO 65102.

CONGRATULATIONS!

In December at the Missouri Association of Soil and Water Conservation District's Annual Winter Training, the Cape Girardeau County Soil & Water Conservation District had two employees recognized. Denise Essner was recognized in Area 8, which includes 16 counties in Southeast Missouri, for her Outstanding Job Performance in 2014. Paula Meier was also recognized at this meeting. She received the 2014 State Program Specialist of the Year for Outstanding Performance. These awards were presented by the Missouri Soil and Water Conservation District Employees Association.

Cover Crop



unlock the
SECRETS
IN THE **SOIL**

Road Trip



March 10, 2015

CEU's Applied For

FIELD DAY

We hope that you will join us to see what is happening with cover crops in Southeast Missouri. We will be visiting the farms of Johnny Hunter at Avert, Keith Mayberry at Bernie and Peter Rost at New Madrid. All of these producers have planted different species and mixes of cover crops in their fields last fall. You will get to see different crop rotations which will include beans, rice and corn. Some of the fields are irrigated and some are non-irrigated. You will also get a chance to see some of their equipment that is specifically designed for use with cover crops.

AGENDA

- | | |
|-------|---|
| 7:30 | Meet at Johnny Hunter's Avert farm for registration |
| 8:00 | Johnny Hunter's cover crops and demonstrations |
| 9:00 | Drive to Bernie to Keith Mayberry's farm |
| 9:20 | Keith Mayberry's crops |
| 10:20 | Drive to New Madrid to Peter Rost's farm |
| 11:00 | Peter Rost's crops |
| 12:00 | Lunch provided |

RSVP for lunch by March 6th - call (573) 624-5939 x3



Equal Opportunity Employer and Provider

Stoddard County

SWCD



Hosted by :
Missouri Delta Soil
Health Alliance

If you need an accommodation, please contact Steve Crisel by March 6th at (573) 243-1467 ext 6

DEER

Damage Workshop

The Missouri Department of Conservation is hosting a free workshop for landowners, that want to learn about reducing deer damage on their property.

Topics Include:

Deer Biology & Behavior
Population Management
Vegetation Management
Fencing
Repellents



**Tuesday, March 17,
6:30 – 8:30 p.m.**
Cape Girardeau Conservation Nature Center
2289 County Park Drive
Cape Girardeau, MO 63701

This workshop would be an excellent opportunity to learn about different techniques to reduce deer damage to crop fields, tree farms and landscaping plants.



573/290-5218 to register for the workshop
Contact Brad Pobst for more information

573/243-1467 ext: 123

Brad.Pobst@mdc.mo.gov



Brush Piles: good for wildlife in the backyard or in the countryside

Whether it's a series of large piles along a forest edge or a smaller single pile near a bird feeder in your back yard or acreage, you can make your land more accommodating for wildlife by building brush piles. Piles of tree limbs, brush, rocks, and other debris, large or small, can offer refuge to birds and other wildlife from the weather and predators.

Once common on most farms, brush pile habitat has been lost in many parts of the countryside as fence lines have disappeared along with the diversified agriculture that's now gone with many farms.

Larger fields and "clean farming" methods have led to fewer brush piles.

Helpful to many species.

Depending on size and location, brush piles are habitat for bobwhite quail, rabbits, ruffed grouse, wild turkeys, skunks, raccoons, woodchucks, chipmunks, mockingbirds, cardinals, juncos and many other small mammals and birds. They may also attract coyotes, foxes, bobcats, hawks, owls and other predators because of the mammal and bird populations using them.

Location.

Good locations for brush piles include edges of woodlands, along field borders, and in shelterbelts. Four piles per acre, spaced 150 feet apart, will give ample wildlife cover.

Building the pile.

The most important concept in building the pile is to form a solid, rot-resistant base layer with filler above that provides tunnels, dens and openings for animals to hide. Build the base with large hardwood stumps, logs and other large diameter material and then criss cross filler branches on top. Most brush piles are mound or tepee shaped.

An alternative is to "hinge-cut" several trees along timber edges to create a living brush pile. Partially cut the trees 2 feet off the ground, allowing the trees to fall leaving a portion still connected to the stump. Stack more branches on the tree but leave the treetops uncovered so they can grow for a period of time.

When to build.

A good time to build a brush pile is in the early spring or late fall, as a part of timber harvest, stand improvement, or firewood cutting.

Maintenance.

The brush pile will decay, so it's a good idea to add new material each year.

Spring Covey Headquarter Calendar March

Create brood habitat by strip disking grassland fields this month.

Get food plot seed, herbicide, fertilizer and equipment ready for planting season.

Drop honeylocust and hedge trees in fencelines and wood draws for quail covey headquarters. Don't forget to spray the stumps.

Spray fescue and brome in fencelines, woody draws and existing shrub clumps before leaf out.

Use herbicides and fire to set back CRO cool-season grasses 3/15 – 4/30.

April

Do not burn native warm season grass now unless utilizing for forage or trying to eliminate fescue or brome. Fall and early winter burning are preferred for quail.

Plant shrub seedlings early for best survival.

Burn fescue and brome to severely stunt grass, then strip disk and interseed legumes.

Till and fertilize food plots.

Youth turkey season April 12-13.

May

Listen for quail whistle calls on clear calm mornings.

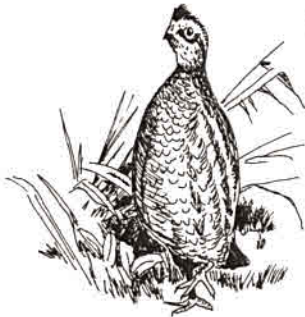
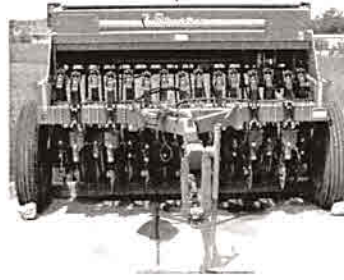
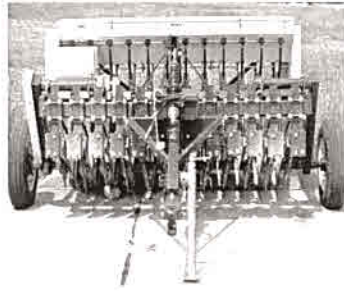
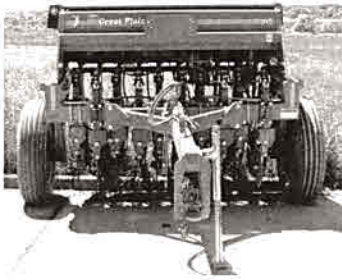
Nesting season begins for quail and other grassland birds – keep your mower in the barn.

Plant food plots this month for best results.

Conduct breeding bird counts.

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 group of rabbits is called a herd. Jackrabbits have eyes on the sides of their heads so they can see backward without turning their heads. They can run as fast as 45 miles an hour, and hear sounds from a mile away.

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

Return Service Requested

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