

CAPE GIRARDEAU COUNTY

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

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



May 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

**Funds Available to assist Missouri Farmers
with Healthy Soil Practices**

The Missouri Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is currently accepting applications for Resource Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) funds from eligible farmers and ranchers with an interest in soil and water conservation practices designed to improve soil health and water quality. Successful projects will not only assist the participant in maintaining and improving agricultural productivity, but also improve water quality and wildlife habitats throughout the farming region.

Funds are currently available to farmers in the following regional watershed areas: Little River Ditches Watershed and Upper Mississippi – Cape Girardeau Watershed.

The funds are available through a partnership between the USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and DNR's Soil and Water Conservation Program, along with the Missouri Corn Merchandising Council, Missouri Soybean Association and the following partner organizations: Lincoln University, Missouri Agribusiness Association, Missouri Association of Councils of Governments, Missouri Department of Conservation, Missouri Soil and Water Conservation Districts, University of Missouri Extension and the Women, Food, and Ag Network.

For more information and to apply by June 4, 2015, contact Cape Girardeau County Soil and Water Conservation District at 480 West Jackson Trail, Jackson, Missouri or call 573-243-1467 ext. 3.

2014 AWARDS GIVEN AT MARCH OPEN HOUSE



The Cape Girardeau County Soil and Water Conservation District would like to thank everyone that attended and helped make our Open House on March 18th a success!

During the Open House a presentation on cover crops and soil health was given by Jerry Kaiser (top left), Plant Materials Specialist, with the Elsberry Plant Materials Center. Awards were given for

the Conservation Farmer of the Year and the Wildlife Conservationist of the Year. Accepting the award for Conservation

Farmer of the Year was Mike and Steve Aufdenberg (right) of M&S Aufdenberg

Farms LLC which was presented by SWCD Chairman, Kenny Spooler. The Wildlife Conservationist of the Year award was

presented by SWCD Vice Chairman, Mark Reitzel and accepting the award was Glenn and Shawn Neumeyer (bottom left) of Neumeyer LLC.



Missouri State Women in Ag Conference to be held in Excelsior Springs

The 21st Annual Missouri Women In Agriculture Conference will be held September 21st - 23rd, 2015 in Excelsior Springs, Missouri at the Elms Hotel & Spa. The 2015 Women in Agriculture Conference will include workshops, vendor/exhibitor booths, and a banquet on Monday, tours of the area on Tuesday, and additional workshops and closing ceremony on Wednesday. The conference planning committee is currently working on the agenda and activities for the conference. Approximately 160 are expected to attend the conference this year. For more information please contact the Soil & Water Conservation District at 480 West Jackson Trail, Jackson MO or by calling 573.243.1467 ext. 3.



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.

FOR SALE By SEALED BID



2002 Rhino PT10 Renovator

**Renovator may be seen at the Cape Girardeau County
SWCD office. Bids accepted until
noon on June 1, 2015.**

**If you have any questions,
please call (573) 243-1467 ext. 3.**



**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 from high school.**

- * 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, or Natural Resources**

- * Applicants must have a GPA of a 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 if you have any questions.



2015 Farm Day



On April 29th we were fortunate enough to speak to local third graders about soil conservation and streambank erosion. We participated in Farm Day 2015, along with over 900 3rd graders, parents, and teachers at Flickerwood Arena, sponsored by the SEMO Cattleman's Association. Students traveled from one station to another to listen, answer questions, and participate in hands on activities about forestry, pork, beef, poultry, corn, dairy, conservation, bees, soybeans, agri-tourism, and they even receive a snack made from some of the products listed above. At the conservation stop, we demonstrated with stream tables the effect that running water can have on soil and why it

is so important to conserve soil. Farm day has been very educational for many children the past 20 years, and we look forward to helping continue this benefit by participating in Farm Day 2016 on April 27, 2016.

Connecting Corridors: What they mean to Wildlife

As you think about the needs of wildlife, it can often help if you put yourself in their place, as best you can. That's true when you think about the value of wildlife connecting corridors. If you were a wild animal or bird, given the choice, you would probably spend most of your time in a larger patch of habitat rather than a smaller one. And, you might well need to move from one habitat patch to another, searching for water or new or fresh food.

But you'd want to do it over, behind or through some protective cover, hidden from predators, wouldn't you? That's where connecting corridors are valuable for wildlife.

Connecting corridors are the strips of grass and/or shrubs and trees that connect larger habitat areas—whether they be wetlands, native grasses, woodlands, or other habitat.

In recent years, interest in connecting corridors has grown because wildlife corridors are seen as ways to allow wildlife and plants to spread across natural landscapes that have been cut into pieces by roads, development, logging or other land disturbances.

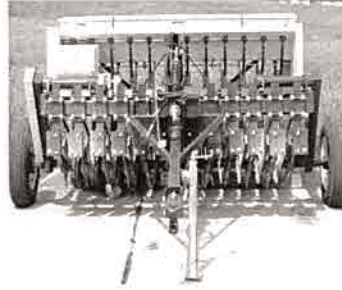
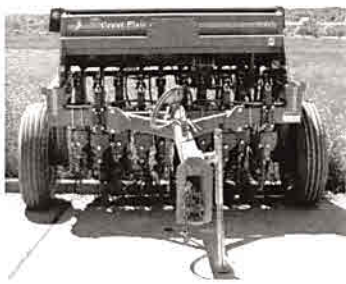
The corridors allow animals to find new resources and prevent isolation of species.

Studies have shown that wild areas connected by corridors have more wildlife or greater biodiversity than disconnected fragments.

There is some concern about corridors entrapping some wildlife species, since predators can more easily find their prey in a narrow strip of habitat. For that reason, the wider the corridor, the better. In most situations, landowners creating corridors may want to consider a design that is edge feathered, which includes zones of grasses, shrubs and trees all in the same corridor. The center of the corridor would be planted to trees, with strips of shrubs on each side, bordered on the outside by zones of grasses and legumes. This combination offers habitat for wildlife that may use all three types for food and cover, as well as wildlife that needs only one of the habitat types.

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 any of the drills, please call 573-243-1467 ext 3.



WILDLIFE WAYS

DID YOU KNOW.....

Owls have the best hearing of all birds. They fly silently at night; even though many owls live their entire lives near people, they are seldom seen. It is illegal to capture or kill an owl.

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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