

CAPE GIRARDEAU COUNTY

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October 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*

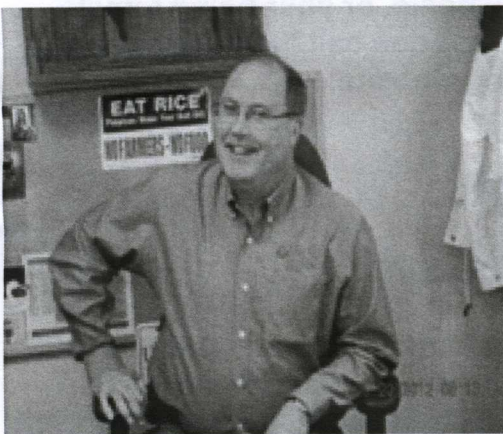
SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

NEWSLETTER

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or a part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Person with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD).

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.

WELCOME!



We would like to introduce Scott Crumpecker, our NRCS Soil Conservationist. Scott lives on a farm outside of Morehouse, MO. His spouse, Becky, is originally from Sikeston. They have a son, Christian, and a daughter, Paige.

In 1982 Scott graduated from high school in Sikeston. He went on to earn a Bachelor of Science degree in General Agriculture from the University of Missouri – Columbia in 1986.

He has worked at several places prior to coming here. He worked ten years (1987-1997) as a Technician for the Boone County Soil and Water Conservation District in Columbia, MO. He then worked six years (1997-2003) in the NRCS Irrigation and Water Quality Office in Dexter. During this time he served as a Biologist with the USDA-NRCS overseeing the implementation of the Missouri

Bootheel Partners Program – Cropland Flooding Program. He then worked eight years as an RC&D Coordinator (2003-2011) with USDA-NRCS at the Bootheel RC&D project office in Dexter prior to coming to the Jackson NRCS field office in November 2011.

Scott is an active volunteer in the Boy Scouts of America and member of the Sikeston R-6 Board of Education. He is an avid hunter and particularly enjoys waterfowl hunting.

FEDS FEED FAMILIES FOOD DRIVE



On August 23, 2012 USDA and SWCD staff had the opportunity to harvest 14,400 pounds of watermelons and deliver them to the SEMO Food Bank as part of the Feds Feed Families Food Drive. Another opportunity presented itself on August 30th, where another 19,152 pounds of watermelons were harvested and donated to the SEMO Food Bank. Feds Feed Families is a nationwide event that offers federal agencies the unique opportunity to give back to their local communities each summer. Founded in 2009 as part of President

Obama's United We Serve campaign, Feds Feed Families was designed to help food banks and pantries stay stocked during the summer months. In three years, this nationwide event has donated nearly 8.5 million pounds of food to families in need.

With Area and State office approval, word was spread to local USDA offices to solicit volunteers for the events. Volunteers working through the Earth Team Volunteer project who participated in the gleaning event stated that it was a great opportunity to foster team building and was fun for all while providing for others.



Notice to Hispanic and/or Women Farmers or Ranchers Compensation for Claims of Discrimination

If you believe that the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) improperly denied farm loan benefits to you between 1981 and 2000 because you are Hispanic, or because you are female, you may be eligible to apply for compensation. This means you may be eligible if:

- 1) You sought a farm loan or farm loan servicing during that period; and
- 2) The loan was denied, provided late, approved for a lesser amount than requested, or approved with restrictive conditions, or USDA failed to provide an adequate loan service, and
- 3) You believe these actions were based on your being Hispanic, or your being female.

If you want to register your name to receive a claims packet, you can call the Farmer and Rancher Call Center at 1-888-508-4429 or access the following website: www.farmerclaims.gov.



Grass Surviving the Heat and Drought

Livestock farmers that have a warm season grass component to their grazing operation still had forage during the extreme temperatures and drought that we have been experiencing. Warm season grasses fill a hole in available forage that fescue pastures lack. It is suggested to have 25% of your total pasture acres planted to warm season grasses. If you want to discuss warm season grasses or the funding available to help you establish it, please contact the NRCS office.



Grazing School



The grazing school that was held on September 5th & 6th was a huge success with the school being full with 30 people attending. The first day started out with a presentation by Mark Kennedy, NRCS State Grassland Conservationist, on the Art & Science of Grazing. The next presentation was by Selma Mascaro, NRCS, explaining how to Evaluate Farm Resources. Plant nutrition and management, presented by Kate Kammler, finished the morning presentations. After lunch the class then headed to the SEMO University Farm for field exercises. Various SEMO University staff welcomed the class and the farm manager gave an overview of the farm. The group was then divided into four smaller groups to participate in a round of field exercises. The groups rotated from station to station. Mike Squires, NRCS District Conservationist,

spoke about different fencing systems that work for rotational grazing. Mark Kennedy addressed his groups on Grazier's Arithmetic. Selma Mascaro, NRCS Resource Conservationist, spoke on how to evaluate pastures. Watering systems were discussed by James Hunt, NRCD District Conservationist.

The second day was all classroom presentation and exercises held at the University of Missouri Extension. The day started off with a presentation by Kendra Graham, Livestock Specialist with the University of Missouri Extension. She discussed how to match livestock needs and nutrition. Following Kendra's presentation, Mark Kennedy spoke on forage diversity and plant growth, which highlighted how almost any mainstream forage can be managed for quality feed. The next topic to be discussed was the Economics of Forage and Livestock Management. Kendra Graham discussed with the class that with input prices at such high levels, intensive grazing can improve reproductive efficiency, increase sales price, lower feed costs and other variable costs. Mark Nussbaum, NRCS Area Engineer then spoke to the class about various watering systems that can be used with intensive grazing. Mark Kennedy then finished up the day with presentations on fencing systems and layout and design of intensive grazing systems. He stressed that grazing management strategies must be flexible and that a lane between all the paddocks increases the ease of livestock movement and reduces stress on livestock and you.

Spotted Knapweed

Invasive Plant that can Impact Pastures and Wildlife Habitat

Spotted knapweed, another invasive exotic plant that is starting to show up in Cape Girardeau County will be the next exotic that landowners will have to deal with. This tap-rooted, short-lived perennial named for the spotted bracts immediately below the many lavender flowers is being spread across Missouri. It is often found in heavily disturbed sites, such as roadsides, gravel pits and agricultural field margins, but also can be present in undisturbed dry prairies, oak and pine woodlands and pastures.

A single plant can have a single stem or as many as 20 stems. It blooms June through July. By the end of its first year, a knapweed plant is a small basal rosette. It usually bolts in the second year, producing branched stems. The leaves are alternate, deeply lobed and pale blue-grey. Flowers are small, lavender, and thistle like. The numerous flowers can produce as many as 1,000 seeds per plant. The seeds can remain viable for eight years or more. As spotted knapweed seeds mature in late summer and fall, they can be spread on mowing equipment and in infested hay, seed and gravel, or by hitchhiking on vehicles, other equipment and even clothing. They can also spread by wind and water.

This plant produces chemicals that inhibit nearby plants, reducing diversity in the area and degrading pastures and wildlife habitat. Livestock and wildlife find it unpalatable, so as it spreads animals have less food. Runoff, erosion and sedimentation increase, harming streams and aquatic organisms. It is estimated that Montana loses \$4.5 million dollars annually in recreation, forage and costs related to knapweed control.

The most effective control strategy for large infestations is an integrated approach using bioagents, mechanical removal and herbicides. The recommended chemical control is the application of a herbicide containing aminopyralid, such as Milestone, in the spring before the plant flowers. Applying 2,4-d to rosettes in the fall or early spring is also effective. Burning and mowing are not effective control measures.

For more information contact the Missouri Department of Conservation or go to <http://mdc.mo.gov>.

Deer and Hemorrhagic Disease

Brad Pobst - Private Land Conservationist with MDC

Reports continue to be received by the Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) on dead deer around the state. The culprit appears to be hemorrhagic disease (HD), a general term for epizootic hemorrhagic disease and the bluetongue virus. Both diseases are closely related, have similar clinical signs and are naturally spread by a small, biting midge fly.



Cattle and goats are normally not affected, or show only mild signs of being sick. Sheep are susceptible only to the bluetongue virus. Humans do not get hemorrhagic disease, so handling and consumption of meat from deer that have recovered from the disease pose no health hazard.

Some deer deaths from hemorrhagic disease may occur every year, mostly during August and September. These minor outbreaks tend to go unnoticed because carcasses quickly decompose and are scavenged. During drought years, outbreaks tend to be more significant.

Significant outbreaks have mainly happened during droughts, with past ones being in 1980, 1988, 1998 and 2007. Outbreaks tend to occur in larger numbers during droughts because deer, and the biting flies, congregate near the fewer water spots. This increases the likelihood of the disease spreading. Freezing temperatures will mean an end to the biting fly and the disease outbreak.

As of mid-September, MDC has received reports of approximately 2,800 dead deer from throughout most of the state, with HD being the suspected cause. MDC received few if any reports from counties in the southeast. Locally Ste. Genevieve County has the highest with 32 reported deer. Other local counties include Perry with 20, Bollinger with 7, Stoddard with 2, and Cape Girardeau with 1. Osage County in the middle of the state has been hit the hardest with 193 reported deer.

Most deer infected with HD tend to die within one to three days. Typical symptoms include fever, excessive salivation, swollen tongue or swollen eyelids, and reduced activity. Because sick deer are feverish, they are often found near water.

There is no cure or vaccine for HD. Not much can be done to stop the disease from running its course through local whitetail populations, but reports of dead deer can help MDC biologist determine impacts of the disease on deer numbers in specific areas. If you find a dead deer and the cause of death is not apparent, report it to your local conservation office or agent.



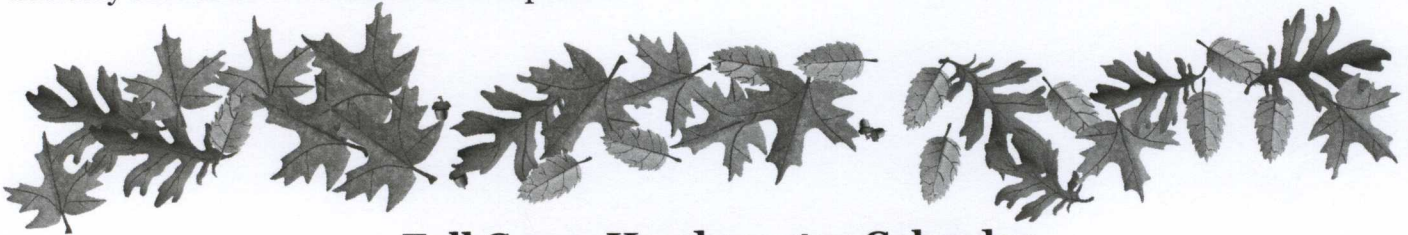
Order Seedlings Starting in November

The Missouri Department of Conservation's George O. White Nursery will start taking orders for tree seedlings from November 15th through the end of April 2013. 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 in late winter and/or early spring.

Seedling order forms can be found at local Department Offices, Soil and Water District Offices and on the internet at www.mdc.mo.gov. The website is the best place to order because out of stock species are listed. Seedlings are bare rooted and are available in single species bundles of 25 seedlings that cost from \$4 - \$8 per bundle.

POLLINATOR HABITAT

Pollinators are essential to many natural ecosystems and provide value to global food webs. Pollinators include bees, flies, birds, butterflies, and even bats. Planting pollinating species, i.e. wildflowers, creates habitat for pollinators. One can plant wildflowers in the garden or on large-scale plots. Pollinator plots can be part of the Conservation reserve Program or Conservation Security Program. Landowners enrolled in these programs receive cost share/payments for the practices. Here are a few nice things to remember about pollinating plants: the seed is cheaper to purchase than expected, they benefit wildlife, and they are easier to establish than expected.



Fall Covey Headquarter Calendar

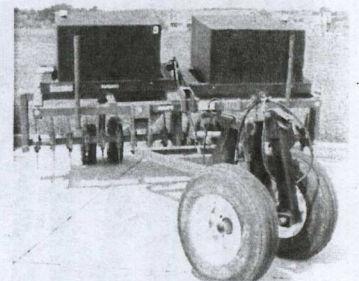
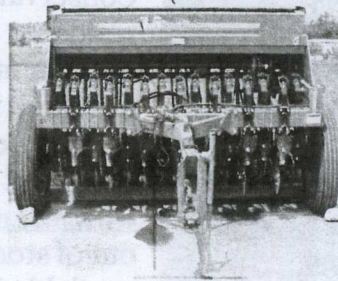
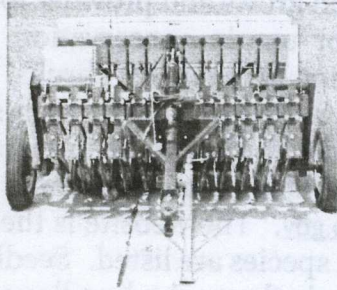
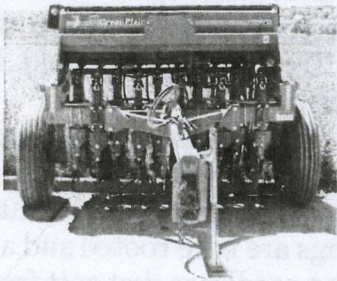
October: Prepare areas for edge feathering by spraying brome and fescue where trees will drop. Conduct quail covey counts this month. Disk your CRP acres this month to promote broadleaf plants. Spray native warm-season grasses for invading brome and fescue after a killing frost. Prepare ground for spring shrub planting.

November: Begin edge feathering operations and continue through March—build new homes for quail. Order your covey headquarter shrubs from the MDC nursery through April. Blackberry, grey and roughleaf dogwoods, wild plum, and false indigo bush are best for quail.

December: Dormant seed CRP grasses and wildflowers starting December 15th. Disk your CRP acres this month to promote ragweed. Consider burning your native warm season grass fields to set back grass and encourage annual weeds.

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.....

More than 80% of Americans value privately owned farms and ranches for the wildlife they produce. People are more concerned about wildlife being properly managed on farms and ranches than they are about whether they can hunt or fish.

Non Profit Rate
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