

Greene Lines

Greene County Soil & Water Conservation District

SUMMER 2011

Greene County SWCD & MU Extension 2nd Annual Meeting

Was held on the 1st of March at The Springfield Livestock Marketing Center with around 75 farmers in attendance. Dr. Beth Walker an Assistant Professor with MSU talked about “Societal Issues Facing Animal Agriculture” and Kelly Smith the Director of Marketing and Commodities with Farm Bureau talked about “What Drives the Commodities Market”. Both talks were very well received.

The Greene County SWCD also recognized a two land-owners in the county for their conservation efforts this past year: David and Wade Hall were awarded Cooperator of the Year. Alan Scarrow was Grassland Farmer of the Year.



How does your water taste?

Have you ever wondered while drinking a big glass of water at home “What is really in this” “ It tastes good, but...” Well you can take a sample of your water to the health department to get it tested for a small fee. Water samples may be dropped off for testing Monday through Wednesday from 8am—5pm and Thursday 8am—3pm.

Call the laboratory for further information on how to properly take the sample. 417—864-1673 or visit their website:

www.springfieldmo.gov/health



RC&D Program Funding Eliminated by Congress

The budget recently approved by Congress and signed by President Obama eliminated funding for the Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) program. This means that the 375 RC&D Councils across the United States will not receive a RC&D Coordinator, vehicle, office space, or supplies from the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service.

Southwest Missouri RC&D, serving the 15 counties in our area, will continue to exist. Their on-going fire protection projects funded by the USDA Forest Service will continue. Duane Parker, Bill Altman, and Dick Henderson will continue to work, on a contract basis, with fire departments, landowners, and partners to complete these projects.

Rita Mueller, former RC&D Coordinator for Southwest Missouri RC&D, is working out of the Springfield NRCS office and can be reached at 417-831-5246 ext. 122.

Southwest Missouri RC&D would like to thank its volunteer directors, sponsors — Soil and Water Conservation Districts and County Commissions, NRCS, funders, partners, and friends for their years of support.

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If you would like more information on any of these topics, etc please contact us @ 417-831-5246 Ext. 3

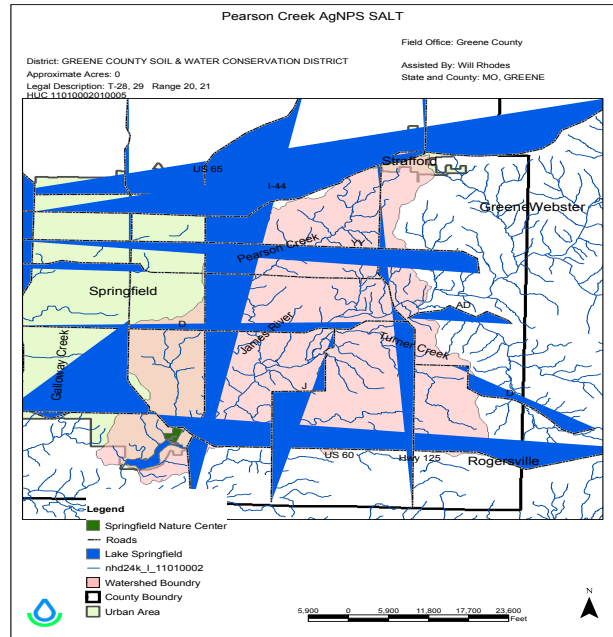
Your Greene County SWCD Board Members-

- Janet Wooten— Chair
- Shanda Feemster— Vice-Chair
- Adrian Murray— 2nd Vice-Chair
- Joann Pipkin— Treasurer
- Patrick Byers— Secretary
- University of Mo, Extension

SALT News- Special funds again designated for the James/ Pearson Watershed.

Landowners in the Pearson Creek and James River Watersheds East of Springfield should be aware that the SWCD will again have special SALT funds available this fall. SALT stands for Special Area Land Treatment. This program allocates additional funds to watersheds that have been determined to be impaired or polluted in an effort to correct those problems. Cost-share and in some cases incentive funds, can be used to inter-seed legumes in pastures, replant crop fields and hayfields to grasses, fence livestock from timber or install grazing systems. Funds are also available to drill new water wells, install pipelines and tanks for livestock use and even develop springs for livestock use. In some instances an out-of-production incentive payment is also available to the landowner to help defray installation and maintenance costs.

If your property is in the James River or Pearson Creek basin, essentially above Lake Springfield, you could be eligible for these additional funds. If you are interested or would like to know more about what is available, call the SWCD at 831-5246 ext.3



Where is the money going?

<u>Resource Concern</u>	<u>Obligated \$\$</u>
• Grazing Management	42017.34
• Nutrient Management	3054.00
• Pest Management	825.00
• Sensitive Areas	32883.31
• Sheet and Rill/Gully Erosion	20662.61
• SALT Pearson Creek	38425.92
• Woodland Erosion	7096.34

If you would like more information on any of these topics, etc please contact us

@
417-831-5246



The Greene County SWCD has been busy helping farmers throughout Greene County implement various cost-share practices on their farms.

Soil Testing

Skipping Fertilizer Applications is Possible for Cool-season Forages

by Brie Menjoulet, Agronomy Specialist MU Extension

Forgoing fertilizer may seem like an easier option to reduce farm expenses compared to other cost-saving alternatives. Many times, forage producers are discouraged from skipping annual fertilizer application, and most of the time this warning is justified. However, skipping phosphorus (P) and potassium (K) applications every now and then can be done without negatively impacting the vitality, persistence, and yield of forages.

All Ozark's soils have the ability to retain P and K, which can maintain a forage crop from year to year when properly built up. Phosphorus and K are built up in the soil when they are applied in amounts higher than what is removed by the crop. Once a soil is built above these levels, forage producer should skip an application and coast for a year on the existing nutrient supply in the soil. However, relying on these reserves will only delay the enviable- when nutrients are removed, they have to be replaced at some point.

Nitrogen cannot be built up in the soil over time and should be applied annually or semi-annually. Producers can eliminate or greatly reduce their nitrogen costs by incorporating legumes (clovers and alfalfa) into their grasses. When legumes comprise 20 to 30% of the available forage, sufficient levels of nitrogen are provided to the grasses and applications of nitrogen fertilizer are usually not needed.

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MIG- Grazing Schools

Neosho, MO – June 14, 15, 16 (daytime), Crowder College. Limited to 30 attendees.
Contact McDonald/Newton Co SWCD, 417-451-1007, ext. 3.

Marshfield, MO – September 13, 14, 15 (daytime). Limited to 30 attendees.
Contact Webster County SWCD, 417-468-4176, ext.3.

Forsyth, MO – September 19, 20, 21 (daytime). Limited to 20 attendees.
Contact Taney Co SWCD, 417-546-2089

Bois D'Arc, MO – October 18, 19, 20 (daytime), MDC Dalton Shooting Range, NW of Springfield.
Limited to 40 attendees. Contact Greene Co SWCD,

All Sessions are part of the grazing school and must be attended as a whole. Times and dates are subject to change without notice.



USDA-NRCS

Agriculture Programs and Assistance Available to Farmers

Natural Resources Conservation Service has several programs available to assist farmers install conservation practices.

- Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP): Cost-share assistance to install practices -- grazing systems, crossfencing, waterlines & tanks, wells, seedings, spring developments, stream corridor, tree planting, windbreaks, animal waste systems, forest improvement, etc.
- Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program (WHIP): Cost-share assistance to install wildlife habitat improvement practices -- food-plots, buffers, field borders, woodland openings, forest improvement, etc.
- Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP): Financial incentives to maintain existing conservation practices plus add additional management to improve natural resources.
- Conservation Planning: Technical assistance -- look at farm, discuss objectives, provide alternatives, put into a plan. All financial programs require a conservation plan. We also provide plans for producers without financial program participation.

If you're interested in learning more, come by the office. You need to get your information into the USDA system. Signup for these programs will be this fall, but planning ahead gets you ready.

The single most important management factor in determining the profitability of a livestock operation is keeping feed cost low. So why buy it when you can grow high quality feed yourself through a Management-Intensive grazing (MIG) system?

Soil Testing cont'd

Skipping Fertilizer Applications is Possible for Cool-season Forages

by Brie Menjoulet, Agronomy Specialist MU Extension

The only way to know the levels of P and K in a soil is to submit a soil test. Maintaining a minimum of 35 lb P/acre and 220 lb K/acre can give producers the flexibility to skip a fertilizer application in grasses if need be. At these levels, yield loss due to P and K deficiency is usually not a problem. Depending on the use of the field, P and K removal will vary. Haying removes substantially more nutrients than pasturing (Table 1). However, when hay is fed on the same field that it was cut and removed from, very little P and K is actually removed, though, the distribution of nutrients may be impacted by the feeding method (bale ring versus unrolling). If producers are successful in building soil P and K levels up, maintenance fertilizer applications will still be needed, but the frequency of these applications will vary depending on the use of the forage.

Table 1. Nutrient removal for cool-season grass pastures and hayfields.

Nutrient	Pasture [†]	Hay [†]
	--- (lbs per cow/calf pair) ---	--- (lbs per ton) ---
Nitrogen (N)	10	50
Phosphorus (P)	3	6
Potassium (K)	0.7	40

Adapted from University of Missouri Extension Grazing Manual (M157).

[†]Exact removal will vary depending on the species of forages present.

For more information you can contact Brie @ 417-745-6767

or e-mail

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**Greene County Soil & Water
Conservation District**

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**Visit us on the
Web!!**

www.swcd.mo.gov

Seeding Dates:

- August 15—October 1
- January 1—February 15
(Dormant)
- March 1—May 15
- April 1—June 15
(warm season)

Soil and Water Conservation Districts throughout the state provide financial incentives to landowners to implement conservation practices that help prevent soil erosion and protect water resources. District staff provides technical support with the design, implementation and maintenance of these practices.

By promoting good farming techniques that help keep soil on the fields and waters clean, each soil and water conservation district is conserving the productivity of Missouri's working lands.

Equipment



The Greene County SWCD has No-Till Drills available for rent. For more information please contact us @ 417-831-5246 Ext. 3

How to contact us by e-mail:

SWCD Staff

Deneen Jenkins— District Manager
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Will Rhodes— SALT Manager
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NRCS Staff

Mark Green— District Conservationist
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Paul McDonald— Resource Conservationist
E-mail paul.mcdonald@mo.usda.gov

Bob Smith— Soil Conservationist (part-time)

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