

# Greene Lines

Greene County Soil & Water Conservation District Newsletter

Summer 2012



Jan Wooten retires from the Greene County Board after serving 20 years. Joann Pipkin presents plaque at our Annual Meeting held March 20, 2012. Board and staff wish her the best in her new adventures!

#### Inside this Issue:

- Management-Intensive Grazing Schools in SW Missouri
- District Rental Equipment Available
- New Board Member
- Extension News
- Grazing Management- Why Should I?

#### Upcoming Events: Wednesday, June 20

USDA 150th Anniversary Customer Appreciation  
Open House from 11:30 – 1:00 come join us for  
hot dogs & cake at the  
Greene County USDA Service Center

## DNR ANNOUNCES AWARD TO THE GREENE COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT FOR THE ASHER CREEK WATERSHED 319 PROJECT

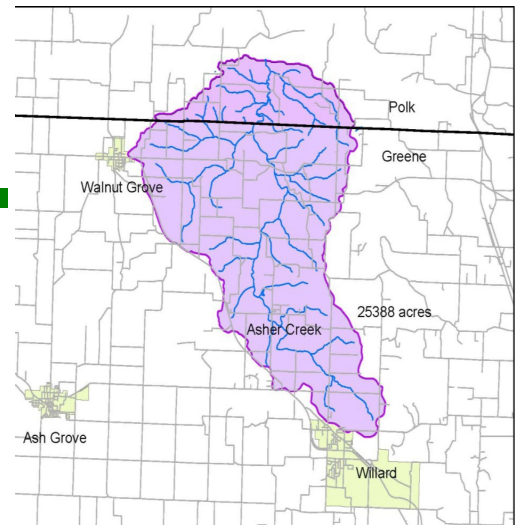
JEFFERSON CITY, MO., February 1st, 2012 - The Missouri Department of Natural Resources (the department) has granted an award of \$134,186 to the Greene County Soil and Water Conservation District (District) for the Asher Creek Watershed 319 Project. Partial funding is provided by a Section 319 grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region VII, through the department.

One of the main objectives of the project is to reduce the nutrient and bacteria load deposited into the Asher Creek Watershed, a sub-watershed of the Little Sac River located in North Western Greene County and South Western Polk County. To achieve this goal the District will work with landowners in the watershed to implement a cost-share program to assist in the installation of best management practices (BMPs). BMPs offered will include riparian buffers, pasture and hayland soil pH correction and planned grazing systems. In addition, the District will work with the Ozarks Environmental and Water Resources Institute at Missouri State University and the Watershed Committee of the Ozarks to collect and analyze water samples from Asher Creek to determine the level of impairment in the watershed.

The project area was selected because it was identified from earlier water quality data as a targeted watershed in the Upper Little Sac River Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan completed in 2009. This plan addresses both point and nonpoint sources of pollution within the upper portion of the Little Sac River watershed. Additional information will be distributed to local landowners in the form of newsletters, post cards, signs, flyers, field days and/or similar project activities.

Partners for the project include: Greene County NRCS, Missouri State University and the Ozarks Environmental Resources Institute (OEWRI) and the Watershed Committee of the Ozarks.

[www.swcd.mo.gov/greene](http://www.swcd.mo.gov/greene)





## David Hall

Meet our newest board member: Born Louisville, Kentucky on January 1, 1951. Grew up in Springfield and graduated from Glendale High School in 1968. I attended Texas Christian University in Fort Worth receiving a B.A. in 1972. I went to Law School at Southern Methodist University graduating with a law degree in 1975. I am licensed to practice law in both Texas and Missouri and started practicing law in Springfield in 1975. My practice is focused on Insurance Law, Personal Injury, Commercial Law and Litigation.

My father grew up on a 60 acre farm near Avilla in Jasper County. He purchased the initial 68 acres in 1961 near Turner Station and shortly, thereafter, started raising Angus. It is interesting that one of the first things the Missouri Extension people told him back then was to eliminate all the cross fencing. He passed away in 1996, and my son Wade and I basically have by default taken over the farm operation. There is now approximately 200 acres. There are three generations living on the farm. Most of the land is forest and rocks. What is left we attempt to use to continue to raise Angus. Now we are going back and putting in cross fencing that was eliminated over 50 years ago to create more paddocks for rotational grazing.

I decided about 4-5 years ago that if I was going to continue to raise cattle and take care of the land, I should know what was the best way, rather than just keep doing the same thing year after year. I started going to seminars and started with Greene County Soil and Water District in the Pearson Creeks Salt Program. Now people ask if I play golf, and my response is "No, I build fences." Now at the end of the day, I have something to show for my effort, rather than the frustration of being bad at what seems to be a simple game of putting a white ball in a hole.

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### Greene County SWCD Board of Supervisors

<b>Shanda Feemster</b> Dairy Farmer, Springfield	<b>Chair</b>
<b>Adrian Murray</b> Farmer, Ash Grove	<b>Vice- Chair</b>
<b>Joann Pipkin</b> Farmer, Republic; Freelance writer	<b>Treasurer</b>
<b>Pat Byers</b> UMC Extension - Appointed Member	<b>Secretary</b>
<b>David Hall</b> Farmer, Attorney	<b>Member</b>

#### District Personnel

<b>Deneen Jenkins</b>	<b>District Manager</b>
<b>Eric Morris</b>	<b>District Technician</b>
<b>Will Rhodes</b>	<b>SALT Project Mgr.</b>
	<b>319 Project</b>

#### Natural Resource Conservation Service

<b>Mark Green</b>	<b>District Conservationist</b>
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**For information about**  
**State and Federal**  
**Cost Share Programs**  
**please contact us at**  
**417-831-5246 Ext. 3**

## **Proposed County Budget Puts Greene County Extension Programs in Jeopardy**



SPRINGFIELD, Mo. – The budget proposed by members of the Greene County Commission cuts the annual allocation to the Greene County Extension Council to the state minimum of \$10,000 for 2012. That reduction puts the local office, which provided educational programs for over 25,000 people during 2010, in jeopardy according to Greg Whitlock, chairman of the Greene County Extension Council.

“Our best projection is that with this current reduction, the office will have enough money to operate for another 12 to 14 months,” said Whitlock. “A cut of this size will cause a significant reduction in services here in Greene County. For two years we have pulled from our reserves to fulfill our mission after the Commission cut our budget by 72 percent.”

University of Missouri fully funds the salaries, benefits, training, and computer support, for the five specialists headquartered in Greene County. County funds are used to pay for two administrative assistants and office expenses like the telephone, copies, office supplies, some postage and travel for specialists conducting programs.

“Under normal budget situations, when the County Commission was allocating \$100,000 to the local Extension office, we could say that for every \$1 the County Commission allocates, the University of Missouri invests \$15 back in to this county,” said David Burton, civic communication specialist and county program director for Greene County Extension. “The last two years the Commission has not fully funded our office but the University has kept their promise to offer services.”

In 2009, the County allocated \$95,000 to the publically elected Greene County Extension Council. The local office also generated about \$25,000 as part of an annual office budget of \$115,000, which was still a cut from previous years.

In 2010, the County Commission voted to allocate \$27,000 to the local office as a savings measure and the local office began to draw heavily from reserve funds, even after making cuts. The Commission repeated the allocation of \$27,000 (a 72% percent cut from previous years) with the 2011 budget also.

By state law, every first class county funds an Extension office with minimum of \$10,000. That amount was set in 1961 and would actually need to be \$72,000 now to have the same buying power.

“The local Greene County Extension Council has instituted many cuts and revenue generating ideas over the past two or three years in an effort to balance the budget,” said Whitlock.

For example, the Greene County Extension Council cut a full-time youth assistant position Jan. 1, 2010, has eliminated 1.5 secretarial jobs over the previous three years, and has not budgeted or given a raise to the administrative assistants in three years. Mileage payments for travel have been reduced below the IRS rate, materials are rationed, and postage has been greatly reduced.

“Educational programs at the Greene County Extension Center draw people from other counties in to Greene County where they spend money and then take what they have learned back home to improve their own communities. The regional specialists in the Greene County office conduct programs that impact the entire region but they also do good work for Greene County. Closing that office will mean that those specialists will either be moved to other counties in the state or their jobs will be eliminated,” said Jay Chism, interim regional director for MU Extension. “From a regional perspective, the Greene County office is one of our flagships so a suggested cut of this magnitude is especially troubling for our organization, our staff and the people we serve. It could also lead to some of our larger conference and events being moved to other counties.”

More information about the impact of the budget cut is available on the Greene County Extension website, <http://extension.missouri.edu/greene>.



## **Skipping Fertilizer Applications is Possible for Cool-season Forages**

By: Brie Menjoulet, Agronomy Specialist MU Extension, 417-745-6767, [menjouletb@missouri.edu](mailto:menjouletb@missouri.edu)

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 could 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.

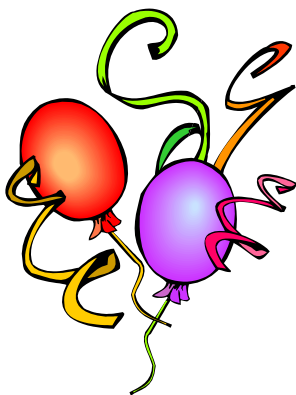
The only way to know the levels of P and K in a soil is to submit a soil test. Maintaining a minimum of 35 lb P/acre and 220 lb K/acre can give producers the flexibility to skip a fertilizer application in grasses if need be. At these levels, yield loss due to P and K deficiency is usually not a problem. Depending on the use of the field, P and K removal will vary. Hay-ing 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 <sup>†</sup>	Hay <sup>†</sup>
	--- (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).

<sup>†</sup>Exact removal will vary depending on the species of forages present.



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## GRAZING MANAGEMENT, WHY SHOULD I DO IT?

by Mark Green, NRCS District Conservationist

There has been a lot of information about grazing management out there in recent years. It's called Management-Intensive Grazing, Rotational Grazing, Intensive Grazing, Prescribed Grazing and several other fancy titles. The bottom line is, "Why should I be interested in splitting up my pastures and moving livestock around? Sounds like a lot of work to me. What do I get out of it?" Well, these are good questions. If you are not going to gain or improve something, then why do it! I hope to point out some reasons to try improving grazing management in this article.

**Reduce feed costs** - The most economical feed you can provide to any livestock is pasture. When compared to other feed sources the cost for other feeds can be 2 to 4 times the cost of pasture. If the animal can harvest the forage directly, it is always more economical than if you have to purchase or harvest that feed to feed later. Plus, a whole lot easier on your back!

**Decrease feed waste** - Grazing utilization is the amount of forage animals actually consume in comparison to the amount available in the pasture. When livestock are left on a field continuously (no rest), there is only about a 30% utilization rate. The livestock leave areas ungrazed and overgraze other areas. They also waste forage by laying on it and depositing manure and urine. However, if we start moving livestock from one pasture to another, this puts more livestock in a smaller area for a shorter time, therefore the utilization rate will go up anywhere from 40% to 70%, depending on number of pastures. We never want 100% utilization, the grass needs some leaves left to carry on photosynthesis and grow more grass.

**Improve fertility** - A cow will recycle 90-95% of the phosphorus and potash in forages through urine and manure. If livestock are in one big pasture, they will deposit the majority of this fertility under trees, around water tanks and in ponds. If pastures are split into smaller areas, livestock deposit more of this "fertility" back out on the forage to be used by the plant. If your soil fertility is in good shape, this could reduce the amount a purchased fertilizer.

**Increase legumes** - With continuous grazing, legumes will usually get grazed first. Livestock select what they like first and keep going back until it is gone. When livestock are removed from a pasture and it is rested, the legumes get a rest also. This gives them a chance to stay healthy and survive longer. Also, when livestock are turned into a smaller area and then moved after a short time, they will tend to graze all forage species in the pasture more evenly. This also gives the legumes a better chance.

**Improve forage quality** - The most nutritious part of plant is the blade or leaf. Whatever we can do to keep the plant vegetative will result in higher quality forage.

**Cont'd** By rotating livestock among smaller pastures, we can come closer to keeping the forage vegetative. The very first and basic step to good grazing management is understanding the grass plant. It gets 95% of it's food from the air and sun, only 5% from the roots. Grass leaves are food factories that supply food to the plant. If we leave some leaves out there and rest the plant, it will produce more leaves. These leaves are what feed our livestock.

**Increase animal production** - Rotational grazing may allow you to actually run more livestock. If continuous grazing is only giving 30% utilization and rotational grazing can give up to 60-70% utilization, this in itself can provide more forage and feed. However, if already overstocked, don't count on increasing your herd, but, you may not have to purchase extra feed to get through the year.

**Improve wildlife habitat** - When a rotational grazing system is set up, many times the landowner will fence out woody draws so he doesn't have to mess with them. Also, rotational grazing improves legumes and other desirable forages in the pastures. This can improve wildlife habitat on the farm.

### Grazing Schools

I would advise anyone interested in improving grazing management to get all the information they can. There is a lot of information and experience out there. NRCS and University of Missouri Extension began conducting Grazing Schools several years ago. These 3-day schools cover all aspects of grazing management. Topics include economics, grass plant, fence, livestock water, animal nutrition, matching forage and livestock, pasture fertility, designing a grazing system, and other topics. The schools are offered at various locations in SW Missouri. There are several schools scheduled in 2012. For more information, contact the SWCD office at 831-5246, ext.3.

### Upcoming Grazing Schools

**June 12—14 (daytime) Neosho, Mo.**  
**For more information call: 417-451-1366 Ext. 3**

**June 25—27 (daytime) Crane, Mo.**  
**For more information call: 417-581-2719 Ext. 3**

**September 26—28 (daytime) Mt Vernon, Mo.**  
**For more information call : 417-466-7682 Ext. 3**

**October 16—18 (daytime) Bois D'Arc, Mo.**  
**For more information call : 417-831-5246 Ext. 3**

### Seeding Dates

**Aug. 15 – Oct. 1**  
**Jan. 1 – Feb. 15**  
**(Dormant)**  
**March 1 – May 15**  
**April 1 – June 15**  
**(warm season)**

**For more information contact us**  
**@**  
**831-5246 Ext. 3**  
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**Greene County Soil and Water  
Conservation District**

**Equipment for Rent in Greene County**

**John Deere & Haybuster  
No-Till Drill**

- \$10.00 per acre with a \$100.00 minimum
- 50 hp Tractor with hydraulic attachments required
- 10' wide with 7" row spacing
- 14" double disc openers
- 2" x 15 1/2" press wheels
- Legume, Warm Season Grass and Grain boxes
- 28 Bu capacity
- Solid filled tires



**Model 605 NT Great Plains  
No-Till Drill**

*Funded in Part by the National Wild Turkey Federation*

- Discounted for NWTF members \$10.00 per acre with a \$100.00 minimum
- 6' planting area, 8' wide, 7 1/2" row spacing
- 35 hp Tractor with hydraulics attachments required
- Legume, Warm Season Grass and Grain boxes
- 2 x 13 press wheels
- 5/16" fluted coulters
- Solid filled tires

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**Other Equipment available includes: Spinning Jenny, fence splice crimpers and soil augers.  
Call 831-5246, Ext. 3 for terms of usage.**

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*Equal Opportunity Employer and Provider.*

**For information about  
State and Federal  
Cost Share Programs  
please contact us at  
417-831-5246 Ext. 3**

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**Greene County SWCD  
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**Or Current Resident**