

Conservation Courier Newsletter



Volume 26 Issue 4

November 2012

Jackson County SWCD Changes Policies on Cost-Share

The drought of 2012 continues and continues to bring changes. In Jackson County, the Soil and Water Conservation District assisted ten Jackson County Landowners get water to their livestock. Three wells were drilled for a total of \$47,292.96 and all ten landowners were assisted in getting their water from their newly drilled wells or their rural or city water to their livestock, totaling \$25,592.34. Bringing the Drought Assistance total in Jackson County to \$72,885.30. Governor Nixon gave executive order 12-8, July 23, 2012 to help landowners get water to their livestock. \$2 million dollars were allocated for this project. As of date of this printing \$21,214,471.11 has been spent, much of these funds coming from unallocated funds from the State Soil and Water Districts Commission and additional state funding.



Because Regular Cost Share funds were used to help fund the Drought Assistance, there won't be as much regular cost share dollars this year. The initial allocation for FY13 cannot be exceeded. The result is, Jackson County SWCD was allocated \$128,693.00 for regular cost share with little or no possibility of receiving any more funds for Fiscal year 2013. Fiscal year 2012 Jackson County landowners put \$160,000.00 cost share dollars on the land.

At the District's November board meeting, a new cost share policy was put in place stating the Landowner will be required to come in to the office and sign up for any conservation practices requested on their own farm, and at that time fill out the Vendor Information and Landowner Authorization form or take it with them to return at a later date. Because there is a long list of landowners waiting to receive funds for conservation work and less funding for cost share, it was voted that a landowner will be allowed \$15,000.00 in cost share dollars per year. *The Jackson County Soil and Water Conservation District Board reserves the right to vary or exceed the maximum cost share dollars with special circumstances.* At the time your name comes up on the list, you will be contacted to see if you are still interested in the practice. At that time you will have two weeks to inform the office of your decision. If a decision has not been made at that time, your name will be placed at the bottom of the list. The policy remains the same as before, you have ninety days to complete your conservation practice.



Your contractor not getting there is not taken in consideration, you have the option to hire another contractor. Your practice must be started in sixty days or the contract will be cancelled.

For any questions or appointments call Linda at 816-228-1836 x 3 or email: linda.struwe@swcd.mo.gov

Pembroke Hill Honored at Training Conference



Pictured above: Hosain Ghassemi, Vincent Czerwinski, Coach SueAnn Wright, Wanda Czerwinski, Ryan Hrinya and Jeffrey Rubel

Attendees of the MASWCD Training Conference at Tan-Tar-A in Osage Beach, Missouri, November 27, 2012, got the opportunity to congratulate the 2012 Champions of the Canon Envirothon. The team placed 1st at the KC Region Envirothon, giving them the right to attend the Missouri State Envirothon. Also placing 1st at the State Envirothon gave them the privilege to represent Missouri at the Canon Envirothon in Pennsylvania, in July. In Pennsylvania, they were declared the Champions at the North American event. Many at the MASWCD Conference were pleased to commend them on all their dedication and hard work, quoting, "This was no small feat". Their coach SueAnn Wright also was awarded the title "2012 Conservation Teacher of the Year". When you are so dedicated, have a love for nature and soils, advance your team to the Canon Envirothon and are declared #1 in the **NATION** you deserve the title,

"Conservation Teacher of the Year".

Also attending from the Jackson County Field Office, were Supervisor Melvin Dickmeyer, District Tech II Dave Fry, and Program Specialist II Linda Struwe.

BENEFITS OF COVER CROPS

Cover crops can boost your profits the first year you plant them. They can improve your bottom line even more over the years as their soil-improving effects accumulate. Other benefits—reducing pollution, erosion and weed and insect pressure—may be difficult to quantify or may not appear in your financial statements. Identifying these benefits, however, can help you make sound, long-term decisions for your whole farm.



What follows are some important ways to evaluate the economic and ecological aspects of cover crops. These significant benefits shown below, vary by location and season, but at least two or three usually occur with any cover crop. Consult local farming groups and agencies with cover crop experience to figure more precise crop budgets.

Cut fertilizer costs

Improve yields by enhancing soil health

Conserve soil moisture

Help safeguard personal health

Reduce the need for herbicides and other pesticides

Prevent soil erosion

Protect water quality



Evaluate a cover crop's impact as you would any other crop, balancing costs against returns in all forms. Don't limit your calculations, however to the target cover crop benefit. A cover often has several benefits. Many cover crops offer harvest possibilities as forage, grazing or seed that work well in systems with multiple crop enterprises and livestock.

You can increase the range of benefits from cover crops by increasing the diversity of cover crops grown, the frequency of use between cash crops and the length of time that cover crops are growing in the field.

(Information taken from Managing Cover Crops Profitably Third Edition)

Season's Greetings

*May the Beauty
of Nature
Bring you Peace
and Hope
this Holiday Season,
and May the Importance
of its Conservation
Help Guide your plans
in the New Year*

**The Board of Supervisors
and Staff of the Jackson County
Soil and Water Conservation District**



Save the Date:

February 21, 2013

Ag Appreciation Night

**Come Help Us Celebrate the
Accomplishments of the District**

DATES TO REMEMBER:

Office Closed December 25, 2012 to Observe Christmas

December 31, 2012 Deadline for Local Photo Contest

Office Closed January 1, 2013 to Observe the New Year

Office Closed January 21, 2013 to Observe Martin Luther King, Jr birthday

February 21, 2013 Ag Appreciation Night, Oak Grove

NRCS Announces EQIP Signup



Natural Resources Conservation Service has announced an EQIP signup has begun. If you are interested in High Tunnels, Cover Crops, and other EQIP programs, contact Greg Stegner at 816-228-1161 or 816-228-1836 x 3, or email greg.stegner@mo.usda.gov.

SIGNUP ENDS JANUARY 15, 2013



Conservation Courier Newsletter

JACKSON COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

1974 NW Copper Oaks Circle
Blue Springs, MO 64015-8300
Phone: 816-228-1836,
Extension 3

Fax: 816-229-2384

E-mail: linda.struwe@swcd.mo.gov

The Conservation Courier Newsletter carries the message of natural resource conservation to rural and urban Jackson County. To receive a quarterly e-mail notice listing new topics, just e-mail linda.struwe@swcd.mo.gov with your request.



NONDISCRIMINATION STATEMENT

The Jackson County Soil and Water Conservation District prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and 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.) Persons 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 to USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410 or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.



**Conservation Districts
Conserving America**

Please deliver by December 19th

To:

*This newsletter is funded by the Parks, Soils
and Water Sales Tax through the Missouri
Department of Natural Resources.*



**JACKSON COUNTY SOIL AND WATER
CONSERVATION DISTRICT
1974 NW Copper Oaks Circle
Blue Springs, MO 64015-8300**

