



AG APPRECIATION NIGHT FEBRUARY 17, 2011

Come join us Thursday night, February 17, 2011 at the Oak Grove Civic Center for an evening of ag information, awards, conservation conversation, good food, and entertainment as we celebrate farming in Jackson County! The event will recognize the positive impact of soil and water stewardship on agriculture. The event will be held at the Oak Grove Civic Center at 2100 South Broadway in Oak



Grove. The evening begins at 6:30 pm with a buffet and program following.

- ◆ **Introductions:**
- ◆ **Conservation Farmer of the Year Award**
- ◆ **Conservation Photo Contest Awards**

Brent Emch, Grain Merchandiser, and Drew Swinford, Farm Marketer from Cargill Inc. will be our guest speakers to give us informative information on our grain markets today and looking into the future. Also, the singing voices of the Oak Grove Middle School will be there to entertain us. Come and hear our future.

Admission is free although an RSVP is required by February 14, 2011, as seating may be limited. E-mail linda.struwe@swcd.mo.gov for your reservation or call 816-228-1836, extension 3, for a reservation and directions if necessary. *Ag Appreciation Night* is designed to recognize the efforts of farm owners and operators in Jackson County who have installed and maintained conservation practices on the land.

DATES TO REMEMBER:

- February 17 — Ag Appreciation Night
- February 21— Office Closed to Observe George Washington's Birthday
- March 3 - Regional Envirothon Training
- March 13— Daylight Savings Time Begins
- March 17— Regional Envirothon

Jackson County Cooperator Wins State Award

Allen Owings and wife, Susan, traveled to Tan-Tar-A, in Osage Beach, November 30, 2010 to accepted the *2010 State Cooperator of the Year* award.

Owings, and family live west of Sibley. Many of the fields Allen farms pose the conservation challenges of highly erodible upland. Allen tries to tailor the practices on each field to do what's right for the land with respect to soil and water conservation. He has an impressive record of installing conservation practices to protect the land. Allen practices: no-till crop production, contour framing, strip cropping, crop rotation, grade stabilization structures, grassed waterways, and terraces with underground outlets and waterways.

Allen is truly a conservation role model in the Jackson County farming community. This type of cooperative action improves the entire county, and helps to save and conserve two of our most important natural resources, soil and water, in Jackson County and State wide.



Keeping Erosion Control Practices Maintained is Part of Good Stewardship

By NRCS Soil Technician Scott Slusher

With the extreme rainfall events and snows of the past two years farmers have seen accelerated sedimentation in tiled outlet terrace channels and grassed waterways. This is both good thing and also a new maintenance challenge. Look at your waterways this winter and make sure the grass stands are still good. Interseeding in the spring might be a good idea if the sediment loads have buried sod. Check for ditches, seepy areas where the vegetation is sparse. If the stands area adequate but over all plant vigor is lacking perhaps a soil test or blanket application of Nitrogen, Phosphorus, and Potassium would be required. In extreme cases a waterway cleanout of sediment or brush with complete reseeded may be required. If this would be the case you might want to check with your local SWCD office about cost share funds for this.

Tile outlet terraces should be looked at for silt accumulated around the inlet to tile line. The heavy runoff will pick up fine soil particles the water that stands around the riser will drop the sediment in the terrace channel. This silt should really be respread above the terrace channel since this is where it washed from. However, it can be placed in the berm or on top of the berm on older terraces to increase the storage height especially if a certain portion of the berm overtops during heavy rains. The important point is to regain the temporary storage. If your terraces were constructed in the last ten years check your NRCS staff about design plans and asbuilt berm heights and storage distance. You can easily reshoot the terrace and determine if the storage volume is still adequate.

Checking the inlet and outlet locations for damage to materials is also recommended. Check for crushed tile, risers that have been displaced. Outlets should be open and free of silt. Outlet pipes and animal guards should still be in place. Animal guards especially external type should not be covered up.

Ponds and grade stability structures should be checked for obstruction to inlet pipes. Auxiliary spillway areas should be checked for ditches or sod cover, as most of the spillways have been used in the extreme rains where runoff exceeded the flow capacities of the main spillways.

Earth fill areas need to be checked for areas that may have been overtopped, seeping areas or burrows from animals. Vegetation should be of the grass family, woody vegetation should be removed from the dam itself.

Keeping these practices working for you is very important part of your soil stewardship responsibility as a landowner and farmer. As a farm operator or manager if you find defects please report them to the landowner and work out how to make the corrections, if you have question please check with your local NRCS office.

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Menfro The Missouri State Soil

A state soil is a soil that has special significance to a particular state. Each state in the United States has elected a state soil, twenty of which have been legislatively established. These "Official State Soils" share the same level of distinction as official state flowers and birds. Also, representative soils have been selected for Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands.

Areas with similar soils are grouped and labeled as soil series because of their similar origins, chemicals, and physical properties, these agents cause the soils to perform similarly for land use purposes. A soil series name is derived from a town or landmarks in or near the area where the soil was first recognized.

Each series consists of soils having major horizons that are similar in color, texture, structure, reaction, consistence, mineral and chemical composition, and arrangement in the soil profile. A soil profile is the sequence of natural layers, or horizons, in a soil. It extends from the surface downward to unconsolidated parent rock material. Most soils have three major horizons, called the surface horizon, the subsoil and the substratum.

The surface layer has the maximum accumulation of organic matter and is the horizon of maximum leaching of clay minerals and of iron and aluminum oxides. Some soils have a subsurface layer below the surface layer.

The subsoil, which underlies the surface layer or subsurface layer, is the horizon of maximum accumulation of clay minerals, iron and aluminum oxides and other compounds. These compounds may have been leached from the surface layer and redeposit in the subsoil, or may have formed in place. Most likely, they occur as a result of a combination of both of these processes. The subsoil commonly has blocky or prismatic structure and generally is firmer and lighter in color than the surface layer.

The substratum is below the surface layer and subsoil. It consists of parent rock material that has been somewhat modified or broken down by weathering but is relatively unchanged by soil-forming processes.

On Friday May 7, 2004 the 92nd General Assembly voted a state resolution recognizing Menfro Soil Series as the state soil. Representative Peter Myers sponsored the resolution. Menfro soils are used for corn, soybeans, small grain, and forage crops and for specialty crops of tobacco, grapes, vegetables, and fruits. These soils are desirable building sites. Most of the steeper areas support deciduous hardwood timber.

The Menfro silt loam soils are located in river-bordering counties from Kansas City to St. Louis and from Hannibal to Cape Girardeau. Menfro soils occur on about 780,000 acres in the state of Missouri. The first State Capitol building in St. Charles, the present State Capitol building, in areas of Menfro soils and the Governor's mansion were constructed on Menfro soils. The home of Daniel Boone and the first settlement west of the Mississippi River are in areas of Menfro soils. Hannibal, the home of Mark Twain, and Hermann an historic German Community, also are on Menfro soils.

Nearly 20,000 acres of Menfro silt loam are found in Jackson County. An excellent way to learn more about this and other soils of our county is to go on line and view the Web Soil Survey which can be accessed at: <http://websoilsurvey.nrcs.usda.gov>



Conservation Courier Newsletter

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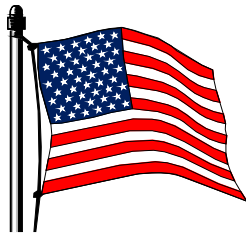
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The Conservation Courier Newsletter carries the message of natural resource conservation to rural and urban Jackson County. To receive a quarterly e-mail notice listing new topics, just e-mail linda.struwe@swcd.mo.gov with your request.



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**Conservation Districts
Conserving America**

To:

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