

Conservation Courier Newsletter

JACKSON COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

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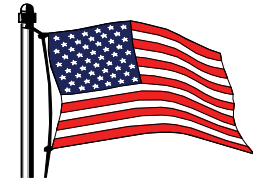
The Conservation Courier Newsletter carries the message of natural resource conservation to rural and urban Jackson County. To receive a quarterly e-mail notice listing new topics, just e-mail linda.struwe@swcd.mo.gov with your request.



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Please deliver by February 2, 2012



Conservation Districts
Conserving America

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Ag Appreciation Night Planned

Come join us Thursday night, February 16, 2012, 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.

Program highlights for this annual event includes:

- ◆ SusieO, Speaker & Humorist
- ◆ Conservation farmer of the year award
- ◆ Conservation Educator of the year award
- ◆ Conservation photo contest awards
- ◆ Educational displays and information
- ◆ District supervisor election
- ◆ Dinner



Ag Appreciation Night is scheduled at the Civic Center at 2100 South Broadway in Oak Grove. The district supervisor election will run from noon to 6:30 p.m., educational displays may be viewed from 6:00 to 6:30 p.m. as well as after the program, and the dinner with program following will begin at 6:30 p.m.

Admission is free although an RSVP is required by February 10, 2012, 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.

Soil and water conservation practices like no-till, terraces, waterways, ponds, etc. have added measurably to the conservation and wise use of soil and water resources in Jackson County. Ag Appreciation Night is designed to recognize the efforts of farm owners and operators who have installed and maintained these practices on the land.



Pesticide Applicator License Classes Offered

For applicators needing to renew their private pesticide applicator license, classes will be offered by University of Missouri Extension at several locations in west central Missouri. Current pest and crop management topics will be discussed, along with updates regarding pesticide laws, safety equipment, and environmental protection. Attendance at one of the 3-hour classes will fulfill the requirements necessary for recertification, as well as initial certification.

Three private pesticide applicator trainings will be held on Thursday, March 6, 2012.

- ◆ 10:00 a.m. at the Jackson County Extension Center
- ◆ 2:00 p.m. at the Clay County Extension Center
- ◆ 6:30 p.m. at the Platte County Extension Center



For more information and to register, please contact your local extension office. Registration is required.

JACKSON COUNTY FIELD OFFICE GOES TO SCHOOL

If you'd like an info/ed presentation at your school. Call Linda at the district office or email:

linda.struwe@swcd.mo.gov



Biomass Crop Assistance Program

The Farm Service Agency (FSA) has announced the first Biomass Crop Assistance Program (BCAP) Project Area. BCAP Project Areas provide financial incentives to interested farmers, ranchers and forest land—owners for the voluntary establishment and production of biomass crops for conversion to heat, power, biobased products and advanced biofuels.

FSA, with conservation planning assistance from the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and other partners, will enter into contracts with landowners and operators in the project area. Producers will generally be eligible for:

- ◆ Annual payments for the land enrolled;
- ◆ Establishment cost-share payments for perennial biomass crops and;
- ◆ Matching payments for up to two years for the collection, harvest, storage and transport of the biomass to a qualified biomass conversion facility.



Enrollment periods will be announced by FSA. Approvals during the period will be made on a continuous basis, subject to funding availability. Enrollment application will be taken at USDA Service Centers where the enrolled acres are administered.

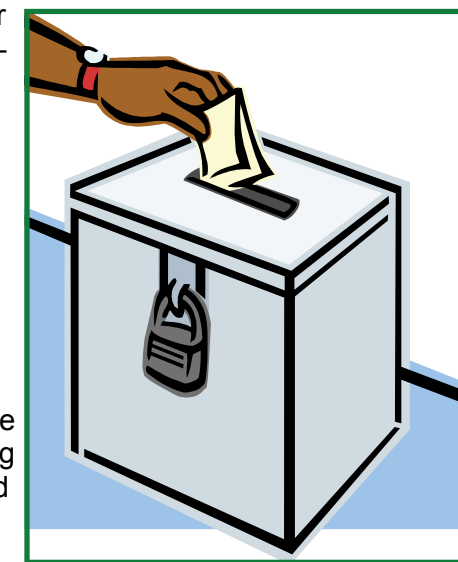
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Election 2012

It's an important election year nationally and on the local level too. Our district will conduct an election in two of four areas of the county including Area 2 (northwestern Jackson County) and Area 4 (southwest corner of the county). Every other year, the district holds an election to select supervisors from one-half of the county for a four-year term.

A district supervisor election will be held on February 16, 2012, in conjunction with *Ag Appreciation Night* at the Oak Grove Civic Center, 2100 South Broadway, Oak Grove. Polls will be open from noon to 6:30 p.m.

Nominating committees for the election have submitted names of the following qualifying candidates: Area 2, Dan Stock, Buckner, and Slade Uptegrove, Sibley, Area 4, William O'Brien, Kansas City. Any qualifying candidate not nominated by the committee may have their name added to the ballot if they secure 10 signatures on a petition and submit the petition to the district office at least 10 days before the election.



The volunteer service of supervisors is invaluable for the efficient administration of district programs, services, personnel, and funding. By Missouri statute, our board is composed of four elected members, representing specific geographic areas of Jackson County, plus one individual appointed by University of Missouri Extension. Current supervisors include Melvin Dickmeyer of Buckner, Chairman; Rob Montgomery, Lone Jack, Vice Chairman; Lala Kumar, Blue Springs, Secretary; Don Hicks, Lee's Summit, Treasurer; and Dan Stock, Buckner, Board member.

To increase election participation and improve transparency, the state Soil and Water Districts Commission has implemented new procedures including newspaper advertising and extended poll hours. Contact the district office at 816-228-1836, extension 3, or e-mail linda.struwe@swcd.mo.gov for more details on election procedures including candidate and voter eligibility.

Thank You Jackson County Legislature!



Sincere appreciation is expressed to the **Jackson County Legislature** for assistance in funding Jackson County Soil and Water Conservation District technical and information/education programs. With the Legislature's help, valuable programs are conducted which protect the natural resources of the county and further the missions of the county and our district. Several specific programs include:

- ◆ **Technical and State cost-share assistance to secure conservation practices on the land, protecting county soil and water resources and infrastructure**
- ◆ **Presenting soil presentations for school age children**
- ◆ **Sediment and erosion control and watershed hydrology training workshops**
- ◆ **Technical assistance with natural resource expertise for the West Branch Sni-A-Bar Creek Watershed Consortium**