

Conservation Courier Newsletter



Volume 28, Issue 1

February 2014

Ag Appreciation Night Planned

Come join us Thursday night, February 20, 2014, 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:

- ◆ **Andy Carmack, MDC, Fighting Western US Fires**
- ◆ **Fort Osage High School, Show Choir, “*Touch of Class*”**
- ◆ **Conservation farmer of the year award**
- ◆ **Conservation Educator of the year award**
- ◆ **Conservation photo contest awards**
- ◆ **Educational displays and information**
- ◆ **District supervisor election**
- ◆ **Dinner**



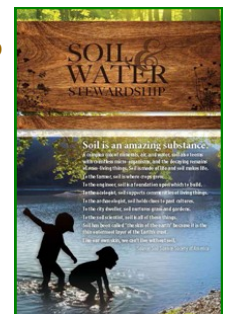
Ag Appreciation Night is scheduled at the Civic Center at 2100 South Broadway in Oak Grove. The district supervisor election will run from noon to 6:30 p.m., educational displays may be viewed from 6:00 to 6:30 p.m. as well as after the program, and the dinner with program following will begin at 6:30 p.m. Admission is free although an RSVP is required by February 13, 2014, 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.

Stewardship Week

Stewardship is a personal and social responsibility, including a duty to learn about and improve natural resources as we use them wisely, leaving a rich legacy for future generations. April 27—May 4 is Stewardship Week, this is a great time to help remind us of the power each person has to conserve natural resources and improve the world. Jackson County SWCD can help your place of worship with resources for this important week. For more information contact Linda at the District Office at: 816-228-1836 x 3 or linda.struwe@swcd.mo.gov

When the land does well for its owner, and the owner does well by his land— when both end up better by reason of their partnership—then we have conservation— Aldo Leopold



New District Conservationist

Meet Autumn Newby, Jackson/Clay Counties District Conservationist. Newby grew up in Hayti in southern Missouri. After attending college at Lincoln University, Newby took a job with the Natural Resources Conservation Service as a Resource Conservationist. Newby has worked with NRCS for seven years. In September she accepted the position of District Conservationist for Jackson and Clay counties. Autumn is married to Larry Newby who is a teacher at the Lee A Tolbert Academy in Kansas City, Missouri.

Autumn is looking forward to meeting and working with the landowners in Jackson County.



Congratulations Autumn!

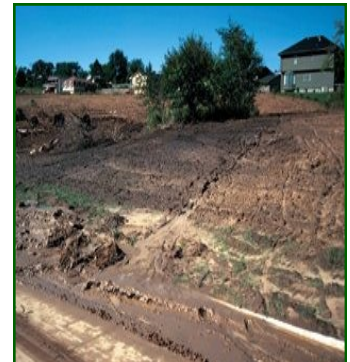
Urban Storm Water Control Workshop Planned

The Jackson County Soil and Water Conservation District will be hosting an Urban Storm Water Control Workshop, March 20, 2014 at the Oak Grove Civic Center, in Oak Grove, Missouri. Registration will begin at 8:30 a.m. with the workshop starting 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Lunch will be provided with your \$40.00 registration. This workshop is designed for farmers, engineers and public works. The Department of Natural Resources will be leading the workshop with assistance from Natural Resources Conservation Service, Missouri Department of Conservation and Jackson County Legislature.

Topics include:

PERMITS — OUR MISSOURI WATERS — MUNICIPAL SEPARATE STORM SEWER SYSTEM — BRIDGING THE GAP and a NRCS DEMONSTRATION.

For more information on this upcoming workshop call Dave Fry at the District Office at: 816-228-1836 x 3 or email: dave.fry@swcd.mo.gov



NRCS Announces February 21 Deadline for EQIP

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) announced a cut-off date of February 21 for the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) and four tie-in initiatives.

More than \$11.8 million is available through EQIP, including \$100,000 each for the On-Farm Energy, Seasonal High Tunnel, and Organic Initiatives. An additional \$9.8 million is designated for the Mississippi River Basin Healthy Watersheds Initiative (MRBI).

Missouri State Conservationist J.R. Flores says, "EQIP is a versatile program that helps all types of land users throughout the state in their efforts to preserve the quality of the natural resources upon which all life depends."

EQIP is the agency's largest Farm Bill conservation program. It helps producers of agricultural products improve water quality, build healthier soil, improve grazing and forest lands, conserve energy, enhance organic operations, and achieve other environmental benefits.

NRCS accepts applications for EQIP on a continuous basis, but producers must file applications by February 21 for consideration for the next round of application funding. Applications filed after February 21 will be considered in the next ranking period if funds are available.



EQIP offers farmers a variety of options to conserve natural resources while boosting production on their land. For more information, call the Jackson County Field Office at 816-228-1161, to find out what practices might apply to you.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all of 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, political beliefs, genetic information, reprisal, or because all of part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. (Not all bases apply to all program.) 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).

Election 2014

Our district will conduct an election in two of four areas of the county including Area 1 and Area 3. 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 20, 2014, 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. at the Civic Center.

Nominating committees for the election have submitted names of the following qualifying candidates: Area 1: Richard Adams, Sibley, and Tim Brockmeyer, Buckner, Area 3: Rob Montgomery, Lone Jack, running for his third term and Dale Richard, Oak Grove. 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 Rob Montgomery, Lone Jack, Chairman; John Campbell, Grain Valley, Vice Chairman; Lala Kumar, Blue Springs, Secretary and University of Missouri Extension Representative; Dan Stock, Buckner, Treasurer.

For any questions call the district office at 816-228-1836, extension 3.

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**

Conservation Courier Newsletter

JACKSON COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

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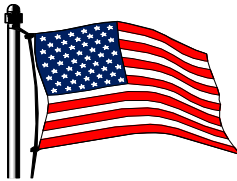
Fax: 816-229-2384
E-mail: linda.struwe@swcd.mo.gov

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



**Conservation Districts
Conserving America**

Please deliver by February 3, 2014

Rob Montgomery, Chairman
John Campbell, Vice Chairman
Dan Stock, Treasurer
Lata Kumar, Secretary and University
of Missouri Extension Representative

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**JACKSON COUNTY SOIL AND WATER
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