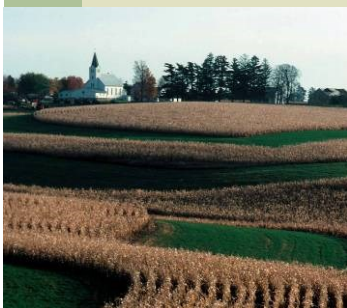


Conservation Courier Newsletter



Volume 30 Issue 1

February 2016

Ag Appreciation Night 2016

Come join us Thursday night, February 18, 2016, 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.

“Boys Grow” founded by John Gordon Jr. will present the program. The non-profit organization “Boys Grow” works with boys 14 to 16 years old who submit an application and are selected into the program. They are then committed to working long, hard days while receiving training.

Each year, the boys launch a new product. They’ve done barbecue sauce and agave ketchup and avocado hot sauce.

Other highlights for the evening include:

- ◆ Conservation Farmer of the Year Award
- ◆ Conservation Educator of the Year Award
- ◆ Conservation Photo Contest Awards
- ◆ Dinner



“Boys Grow”

Teaches boys about agriculture and more

Ag Appreciation Night is scheduled at the Civic Center at 2100 South Broadway in Oak Grove. Supervisor elections will begin at 6:00 pm with dinner and program following. Admission is free although an RSVP is required by February 12, 2016 as seating may be limited. E-mail: linda.struwe@swcd.mo.gov for your reservation or call 816-228-1836, extension 101, for a reservation and directions if necessary.

Soil and water conservation practices like no-till, terraces, waterways, ponds and cover crops 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.

Supervisor Election

The district supervisor election will be held on February 18, 2016, 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 2: Incumbent, Dan Stock, Buckner and Donald Scott, Grain Valley. Area 4: Incumbent, John Campbell, Lone Jack, and Shawn Moores, Lee’s Summit. 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 and Tim Brockmeyer, Member.

For any questions call the district office at 816-228-1836, extension 101.



Lessons learned in small-town Iowa

We enjoyed this article taken from Missouri Farmer Today and thought you might too!

Farm Transition—By Steve Bohr

Each year as the calendar turns from December to January, many of us take time to reflect. Sometimes a review of progress in business or personal matters is appropriate

A young man I had coached many years ago shared his sentiments of his rural upbringing this Christmas Season. His path can be tracked from the farm through high school and college as he has become a successful teacher and coach. I am proud to have been a small part of his growth and honored to call him a friend.

Most of you will identify with his reflections. His passion for family and community may even motivate you to deliberate on your agricultural upbringing and what you can do to sustain that same opportunity for generations to come. Here is what he wrote:

Lessons in a letter— “Over Christmas Break, I had the chance to spend some time back in Southeast Iowa reflecting on how I was raised. “I disagree with anyone who says that life on the farm or a small school isn’t good. I wouldn’t trade the lessons learned in my small town for anything, and here’s why:

“I learned the value of a dollar, the value of a hard day’s work, the value of getting up at 3 a.m. to load turkeys and the value of committing to something and following through with that commitment.

“I learned the value of getting a meal brought to you in the tractor at 10 p.m. on a Saturday night, the value of looking a person in the eye and the value of helping a neighbor in need.

“I learned that roots run deep, that blood is thicker than water and that if you don’t know your business someone else does. I learned that experience is priceless and cannot be replicated, duplicated or paid for.

“I learned that a home cooked meal is 100 times better than what can be fixed at a restaurant. I learned how to operate everything from a hammer to a four-wheeler to a tractor to a semi to a combine to a post pounder to a dump truck to a backhoe and shovel.

“I learned how to shingle a roof and side a house. I learned how to be taught hard and coached hard and how to build relationships. I learned that you do unto others as you want done unto you.

“I learned the value of a Sunday spent in church and with family as opposed to a youth tournament. I learned that you respect authority and respect your elders at all times no matter the circumstance.

“I learned that it takes a village to raise a child. I learned how to make mistakes, how to own up to and not repeat those mistakes. I learned that it’s ok to fail and that if you don’t fail then you aren’t learning some of life’s most valuable lessons.

“I learned that you give credit to others, that you solve your own problems and you admit to things when they are your fault. I learned that if you got in trouble at school it was going to be 1,000 times worse at home.

“I learned how to be honest because sooner or later the truth always comes out. I learned how to think for myself and form my own opinions about religion and politics and life without someone breathing down my neck.

“I learned that nothing can be learned from a video game and that playing outside 365 days year makes you a better person. I learned that grit, determination and prayer will help you to succeed in any situation.

“I learned that a great work ethic and relationships with people are two of the most important characteristics of getting from point A to point B.

“I learned that trust takes forever to be earned and can be lost in an instant. I learned the real meaning of sacrifice, humility and pride from those closest to me.

“I learned that no matter how bad you think you have it, there are millions in the world who have it worse. I learned that midnight curfew doesn’t mean walking in the door at 12:01— and Mom always knew more than what you thought.

“I learned that ‘good TV’ included the Red Green show on IPTV on a Saturday night. I learned that duct tape and WD-40 can fix just about anything and that the early bird gets the worm.

“I learned how to drive a truck with a manual transmission by being told to simply ‘meet me at the other end of the field.’ I learned that electric fence can turn cattle into Christians and that four-wheel drive doesn’t mean four-wheel stop.

“I learned that the hay is never really all in the barn because there is always more work to do. I learned that if you are from a small town there are three certainties in life: Death, Taxes and everyone has a nickname.

“I learned that you can gain more knowledge in 10 minutes from a group of farmers at the elevator that you can in any other place in the world.

“I learned that bad things can happen to good people and that character is built one small brick at a time. I learned that a Grandma who has already raised four sons already knows every trick in the book.

“I learned how to add and subtract by taking stats on a TV tray while watching Hawkeye basketball games.

“I learned that farming the basement floor is always acceptable and that on Sunday’s in the fall there was sure to be an intense game of tackle football at David Field (to this day there have been no documented concussions).

“I learned that the words SILENT and LISTEN have the same letters for a reason and that if God wanted us to talk more than he wanted us to hear He would have given us two mouths and one ear.

“This by no means is everything that I learned in my small town but it’s a start. I’ve been blessed with the best family, community, experiences and friends in my life. I wouldn’t change any of it.

“May God Bless your families, communities, experiences and friends in 2016!”



Jackson County SWCD Gives Soil Presentations

Staff of the Jackson County Soil and Water Conservation District and many volunteers gave hands on soil presentations to over 2000 folks with the majority being 3rd and 4th grade students in 2015. Soil presentations are limited to one a week, due to staff also conducting their regular jobs. When invited to a school, four different stations are set up which include the soil tunnel, edible soil profile, apple demonstration and a video on soil or taking the actual soil survey equipment. From set up to take down takes approximately three hours, two hours for presentations for 100 students. The District also gave soil presentations at:

- American Royal School Tours Day— 4900 students in attendance
- Earth Day at the Capitol
- Missouri State Fair
- Kemper Outdoor Education Center
- Powell Gardens
- Sixteen Jackson County Schools

Jackson County SWCD is appreciative to Department of Natural Resources and the Jackson County Legislature for funds to continue this very important endeavor of teaching students the importance of soil. The soil tunnel is titled, “A Worm’s Eye View of the World Beneath Our Feet”, the tree roots on the top help signify this. In the presentation the students are reminded, that everything directly or indirectly comes from the soil, and their very existence depends on soil.



Dates for soil presentations are still available in March and April. Contact Linda at 816-228-1836 extension 101 or email: linda.struwe@swcd.mo.gov

KC REGION ENVIROTHON TRAINING — March 3, 2016

KC REGION ENVIROTHON — April 5, 2016

MISSOURI STATE ENVIROTHON — April 28, 2016



If you would like to volunteer, for this worthwhile program for High Schools students. Call Dave at: 816-699-4528

Regional Conservation Partnership Program

The **Northwest Missouri Urban and Rural Farmers United For Conservation** project is now in it's second year, with Jackson County Soil and Water Conservation District being the Lead Partner. Projects that have been implemented in Jackson County are: High Tunnels, No-Till, Cover Crops, Pollinator Habitat and many more. This program has brought urban and rural together working for the same outcome as in water quality, soil health, declining wildlife species and growing food. The success of this project will be based upon NRCS implementation of conservation practices, adoption of new management practices and outreach and development of urban and rural alike. If you have questions or would like to see if you are eligible for any programs, contact Greg Stegner at 816-228-1161 x 109 or greg.stegner@mo.usda.gov

A BIG THANK YOU TO JACKSON COUNTY

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**



Conservation Courier Newsletter

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Phone: 816-228-1836
Extension 101

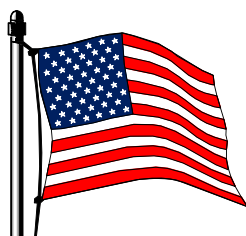
E-mail: linda.struwe@swcd.mo.gov

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**

If you would no longer like to receive this publication please contact the office.

Rob Montgomery, Chairman
John Campbell, Vice Chairman
Dan Stock, Treasurer
Lala Kumar, Secretary and University of Missouri Extension
Tim Brockmeyer, Member

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**JACKSON COUNTY SOIL AND WATER
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