

Conservation Courier Newsletter



Volume 24 Issue 3

August 2010

Honoring 19 years of service to Jackson County; BILL BOHNERT RETIRES!

The Jackson County Soil and Water Conservation district office will never be the same; Bill Bohnert, Jr. retired July 2, 2010. With Bohnert's 40 years experience in conservation education, research and development, extension education, and agronomic management, his shoes can not be filled.

The district was privileged to have Bohnert for 19 years. Bohnert's agronomic abilities and knowledge inspired thousands of folks and young peoples lives in Jackson County. For many years, Bohnert was the Kansas City Region Envirothon coordinator. The program prepares high school students for competitions on our envi-

ronment. Bohnert encouraged preserving the soil through workshops and presentations in cooperation with Jackson County, NRCS, MU Extension, MDC, MAACD and other organizations. Bohnert also influenced numerous school children through Earth Day, Jackson County Day Camps, festivals and school presentations in Jackson County. Furthermore, Bohnert's job included managing the Jackson County SWCD office. He excelled in creating reports, writing grants, maintaining budgets and composing, ***The Conservation Courier***, the district award winning newsletter for which Bohnert has received much acclaim.



When asked how he would spend his newly found *free* time, Bohnert answered, it wouldn't be hard with two daughters getting married this summer, the list of honey-do-jobs, mowing the lawn and working in his garden. With a list like that, Bohnert hopes he can at least find the time for his hobby of restoring antique Case IH tractors. Good Luck in conserving your "new found free time", Bill! Best Wishes to you! You'll be missed!

Best Wishes can be sent to:

W.P. Bohnert, Jr.

2423 N. Twyman Rd.

Independence, MO 64058

Missouri's Farm Women Gather in Branson



Women, you are invited to the 16th Annual Missouri Women in Ag Conference, September 13th-15th, 2010 in Branson MO. The conference is held in different areas of the state each year so women in agriculture can experience all the diversity of farming in Missouri.

The theme, for this years' conference is "Growing in Harmony". The conference includes a tour of the College of the Ozarks. At "HARD WORK U", the students: Don't pay tuition; Work for an education; Graduate without debt; and Learn character. The professionally taught College of the Ozarks agriculture curriculum is coupled with a hands-on farm production, industry and managerial work experience.

Conference participants also can choose from workshops covering a variety of topics, including financial planning, threats to the agriculture community, farm management skills, and an overview of state and federal programs, using organic herbs, archery, scrapbooking and women's health.

Come join women throughout Missouri involved in agriculture for a sure-to-be, fun and informative conference.

For more information, contact Linda Struwe at the District Office 816-228-1836 ext. 3 or by email at linda.struwe@swcd.mo.gov.

Pasture Pointers

Attention Jackson County beef producers:

Fall is an excellent time to evaluate pastures, especially for weed control. Biennial weeds, such as musk thistle, in the rosette growth stage and certain winter annuals can be effectively treated in the fall. Fall treatment can also help control established perennial weeds by interfering with the accumulation of root reserves for winter survival. Always check label directions and University Extension recommendations as a guide to effective and safe herbicide application.

Good pasture management is essential for getting the most out of herbicide treatments. Vigorous, thick stands of grasses and legumes are a key element in good weed control. Satisfying fertilizer and lime needs, based on a soil test, and rotational grazing will help ensure a good stand to optimize production and aid in weed control.



Fiscal Year 2011 Cost Share

Monday, July 26th Director Bryan Hopkins sent a letter to all MO Soil & Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors. In this letter he stated that a supplemental district cost-share allocation process was approved by the Soil and Water Districts Commission. This new approach will be a clear benefit to the districts and represents a more effective cost-share allocation process. The commission recognizes that changes can occur after the development of a district's Needs Assessment. Factors such as weather, variations in prices and other items influence what is practically achievable by districts. Some of these factors are difficult to anticipate at the time the Needs Assessments area developed.

The commission reaffirmed its view that any allocation adjustment process should not hold back the resource needs assessment approach implemented following the passage of House Bill 250. The commission also authorized the obligation of up to \$5 million in additional district cost-share allocation. The funds are targeted for availability this fall. At this time, districts will be able to receive additional funds for resource concerns where they have over 70 percent of their allocation obligated or pending.

If you are considering taking action to stop soil erosion on your farm, contact Linda Struwe at the District Office 816-228-1836 x 3.

DATES TO REMEMBER:

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|------------------------|---|
| August 2 — 27th | 39th General CRP Signup |
| Now-September 1 | DCP/ACRE —Producers can sign 658's for both the benchmark yield as well as for actual 2009 production. The extension is for this year only! |
| September 6 | Office Closed to observe Labor Day Holiday |
| September 13-15 | Women In Ag Conference — Branson |
| September 16 | SWCD District Board Meeting 7:00 pm |

Dig It! The Secrets of Soil

Did you know that the soil is the foundation of our environment? It's true, the soil is one of the most important natural resources on Earth and literally the foundation for our food supply, buildings, roads, wildlife habitat, and much more! Conservation of soil, and related resources like water, trees, wildlife, etc., is vital to all life on Earth. The following are some fascinating facts about our soil:

- ◆ Soil makes up the top layer of the earth
- ◆ Five tons of topsoil spread over an acre is only as thick as a dime
- ◆ It takes 100 years for nature to create one inch of topsoil
- ◆ There are more than 70,000 kinds of soil in the United States
- ◆ Between five and ten tons of animal life can live in one acre of soil
- ◆ An ideal soil contains about 45% minerals, 25% water, 25% air, and 5% organic matter.
- ◆ Thanks to erosion, soil is the number one pollutant in the Missouri River
- ◆ There can be more bacteria in a teaspoon of soil than there are people on Earth (your mother was right when she said to wash your hands after playing in the dirt!)
- ◆ The noun "soil" is derived from the Latin word "solum" meaning floor or ground
- ◆ A six-inch layer of topsoil covering one acre weights about 2,000,000 pounds
- ◆ Topsoil, the most productive soil layer, is lost first when erosion occurs



The Jackson County Soil Survey can be found on line at:
<http://soils.missouri.edu/survey/missouri.asp>

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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

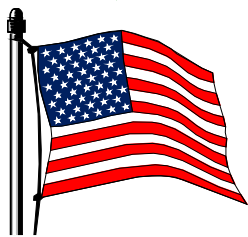
E-mail: linda.struwe@swcd.mo.gov

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.



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**Conservation Districts
Conserving America**

To:

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