

Conservation Courier Newsletter

JACKSON COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

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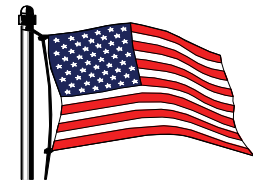
The Conservation Courier Newsletter carries the message of natural resource conservation to rural and urban Jackson County. To receive a quarterly e-mail notice listing new topics, just e-mail linda.struwe@swcd.mo.gov with your request.



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Please deliver by September 7, 2012



Conservation Districts
Conserving America

_____ To:



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The Drought of 2012, A Time We Won't Soon Forget



Jackson County and the entire state of Missouri continue to suffer under severe, extreme, and exceptional drought conditions, depending on your location in the state. Some scattered areas have received precipitation in the last week but not enough to be considered a drought buster, with temperatures remaining in the nineties area dryness continues to persist.

State and Federal Drought Assistance programs have been enacted and some relief has been restored to various farmers and ranchers, however ponds and streams continue to be dry. Many cattle, hogs, horses, donkeys,

goats and sheep are being watered from rural water supplies, thus driving up water bills to never before attained heights.

Sustained periods of drought can have significant environmental, agricultural, health, economic and social consequences. The effects vary according to each individual's set of circumstances, but in the end everyone is influenced. Food prices go higher, you can't water your lawn, we see more wildfires, crop production goes down, livestock has to be sold off, even our mental attitude takes a dip and we develop a great animosity toward weather prognosticators.



Our daily conversations are totally preoccupied with the weather, someone will say, "Do you think it will rain?" or we hear that common phrase, "I'm so sick of this weather!" In the end however, we continue to have hope, hope, that even a hurricane named "Isaac" might send a little rainfall our way. In our minds we know it will rain, it always has, but the big question is when? And will it get here in time to do us any good.

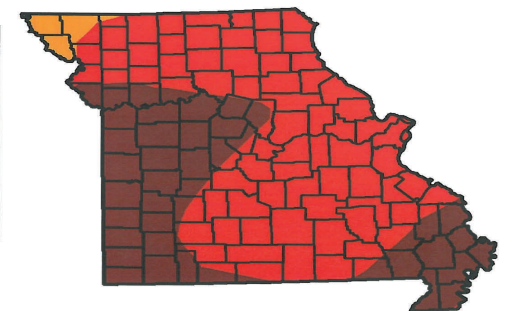
by Dave Fry

U.S. Drought Monitor Missouri

August 28, 2012
Valid 7 a.m. EST

| | Drought Conditions (Percent Area) | | | | | |
|---|-----------------------------------|--------|--------|--------|-------|-------|
| | None | D0-D4 | D1-D4 | D2-D4 | D3-D4 | D4 |
| Current | 0.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 97.44 | 35.29 |
| Last Week (08/21/2012 map) | 0.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 99.29 | 35.72 |
| 3 Months Ago (05/29/2012 map) | 44.73 | 55.27 | 19.40 | 2.52 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| Start of Calendar Year (12/27/2011 map) | 95.48 | 4.52 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| Start of Water Year (09/27/2011 map) | 55.19 | 44.81 | 22.45 | 8.65 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| One Year Ago (08/23/2011 map) | 44.91 | 55.09 | 16.87 | 4.28 | 0.00 | 0.00 |

Intensity:
■ D0 Abnormally Dry
■ D1 Drought - Moderate
■ D2 Drought - Severe
■ D3 Drought - Extreme
■ D4 Drought - Exceptional



The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. See accompanying text summary for forecast statements.

<http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu>



Released Thursday, August 30, 2012
Brian Fuchs, National Drought Mitigation Center

Pembroke Hill Places 1st in National Canon Envirothon

Extraordinary

FABULOUS

AMAZING

TERRIFIC

Outstanding

BRILLIANT

WE'RE # 1!



Pictured: Hosain Ghassemi, Ryan Hrinya, Riley Sloan, Wanda Czerwinski and Jeffrey Rubel

WOW

SUPERB

GREAT

SPLENDID

EXCELLENT

TREMEMENDOUS

PEMBROKE HILL HIGH SCHOOL DID IT! THEY ARE THE CHAMPS IN THE NATION! The last week in July the team and their coach, SueAnn Wright, traveled to Selinsgrove, Pennsylvania to compete in the 2012 Canon Envirothon, sponsored by Canon U.S.A. Inc. The winning team was announced during the closing ceremonies at Susquehanna University in Selinsgrove, Pa. on July 26th.

Teams from across 44 states, nine Canadian provinces and one Canadian territory, completed training and testing in natural resource categories such as soils and land use, aquatic ecology, forestry, and wildlife. Every year an additional topic is incorporated into the competition and based upon a current environmental issue. This year's topic was Nonpoint Source Pollution/Low Impact Development.

Winning teams were selected based on points earned from hands-on field-testing, written tests and oral presentations. The first-place team received a total of \$25,000 in Canon scholarships plus camera equipment.

On March 6, 2012 the team first participated in the KC Region Envirothon at Burr Oak Woods in Blue Springs. Pembroke, Blue Springs South and Oak Grove schools participated in the event. Winning 1st place at the Missouri Envirothon, April 18, 2012 gave Pembroke Hill the privilege to attend the national event.

Dedication, hard-work, commitment and the love for their environment describes this team. Through the school year the team meets once a week, every week, in Ms. Wright's basement, which has been converted into a science lab. Through the summer they meet every day when possible. It is quite obvious why this team has made it to Nationals the last four years. While team members change with the graduating of seniors their coach remains steadfast, exhibiting her love of soils and nature. SueAnn is a treasure, and Pembroke Hill High School is fortunate to have such a dedicated parent in their school.

Congratulations to the Pembroke Hill High School team and their coach, SueAnn Wright and special thanks also to Jackson County Legislators for help in funding Jackson County Soil and Water Conservation Districts' education programs. For information on how your school can participate, contact your local Soil and Water Conservation District.

"As the farmer who won the lottery said when asked what he was going to do with his winnings...
"Keep farming until it's all gone."

You know you are a farmer when...
you hear the same song 4 times a day on the local county radio station...
you know for a fact that they do play 12 songs an hour.

There are only three seasons for farmers:
before harvest, harvest and after harvest.

2012 Jackson County SWCD Poster Contest Winners

The theme for the 2012 Poster Contest was "Soil to Spoon". Five hundred sixty students participated in Jackson County from seven different schools, while learning the importance of soil for everything they eat, wear and they use in their everyday life. Twelve judges had the task of judging the contest. Blackburn Elementary in Independence had three winners and Meadow Lane in Lee's Summit had the fourth winner. Winners were presented their trophies at award ceremonies at their respective school, in front of their teachers, parents and their peers followed by refreshments for their entire grade. Congratulations to all the winners.



1st Place
4th Grade
Leah Cooper from Blackburn Elementary in Independence.
Ms. Look is Leah's teacher.

1st Place
3rd Grade
Taralynn Bailey from Meadow Lane Elementary in Lee's Summit.
Ms. Creemer is Taralynn's teacher.



2nd Place
Overall
Kinli Miller from Blackburn Elementary in Independence.
Ms. Look is Kinli's teacher.



3rd Place
Overall
Julian Harris from Blackburn Elementary in Independence.
Ms. Caswell is Julian's teacher.

SOIL TUNNEL AVAILABLE TO COME TO YOUR SCHOOL



Would your school like Soils Presentations?

For more information or reservations call Linda at 816-228-1836 x 3 or email: linda.struwe@swcd.mo.gov