



Lafayette SWCD News Link

SWCD/NRCS/MDC

Volume 7 Issue 1

January 2013

Holidays

Feb. 18, Presidents' Day

May 27, Memorial Day

Board Meeting Dates

February 27th

March 27th

April 24th

May 29th

June 26th

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turbing Soil Less**

Did You Know.

Important Dates

Open House, March 7th

SWCD ANNUAL OPEN HOUSE

Lafayette Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors and staff cordially invite you and your family to attend our **13th Open House, Thursday, March 7th, 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.** It will be held at the **Community Building, 801 West 29th St., Higginsville.**

Elections for 2 SWCD Supervisors, 2 Tabo Creek, 2 Wellington-Napoleon and 1 Little Sni-A-Bar Watersheds trustees will be held from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Soil District accomplishments, poster/photo winners and some entries will be on display. Poster and photo winners will be announced and presented with awards at 1:00 p.m.

The Soil District will furnish lunch (boneless pork loin, baked beans, cole slaw and drink).

PLEASE RSVP for LUNCH by WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 20th.

CALL OUR OFFICE at 660-584-8732, ext. # 102 WITH YOUR RSVP BY PROVIDING YOUR NAME & NUMBER ATTENDING.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR for MARCH 7th for the SWCD OPEN HOUSE at the COMMUNITY BUILDING, FAIRGROUND PARK in HIGGINSVILLE, from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

PLAN TO ATTEND.



MANAGE MORE BY DISTURBING SOIL LESS

Tilling the soil is the equivalent of an earthquake, hurricane, tornado and forest fire occurring simultaneously to the world of soil organisms. Physical soil disturbance, such as tillage with a plow, disk or chisel plow, that results in bare or compacted soil is destructive and disruptive to soil microbes and creates a hostile, instead of hospitable, place for them to live and work. Simply stated, tillage is bad for the soil.

The soil may also be disturbed chemically or biologically through the misuse of inputs, such as fertilizers and pesticides. What happens when we supply inputs to the soil? Soil and all the organisms that live and grow in it have been cycling plant nutrients for a very long time without any human intervention. Consequently, soil and plants have very efficient and sophisticated ways of working together to ensure their mutual sustainability. When we add chemical inputs to the soil, we need to understand and respect existing soil and plant relationships, or we might actually be setting the system up to be inefficient, or worse to fail altogether.

If crop nutrients are applied to the soil in excess, plants will not develop associations with soil organisms that help them acquire water and nutrients. After the “party is over” and the synthetic fertilizer is gone, the plants are left “high and dry” with few to no soil factory workers to help them access water and nutrients for the remainder of the growing season. The plants then give up valuable energy (sugars) in an attempt to make connections with microbes mid-way through the growing season when the plant should be putting that energy into flowering and seed development to produce a harvestable yield. By applying excess fertilizer, particularly nitrogen or phosphorus, we create plants that are very inefficient as they try to function without the support system of the soil with which they evolved.

By reducing nutrient inputs, we take advantage of the nutrient cycles in the soil to supply crop nutrients and allow plants to make essential associations with soil organisms. This ensures that plants are able to achieve their full potential, and the soil is allowed to perform all of its desired functions to its full potential. If we acknowledge the complex life in the soil and work with it instead of disturbing it, we will harness a tremendous engine for biological production (growing crops).

The ‘soil factory’ workers can be most productive when they have a good working environment with an ample supply of energy. When they are most productive, the farmer is most profitable.

For more information on soil health, go to <http://vimeo.com/channels/raythesoilguy>.

Did You Know....



Lettuce is a member of the sunflower family. The darker green lettuce leaves are more nutritious than the lighter green leaves. Almost all lettuce is packed right in the field. Lettuce is the second most popular fresh vegetable in the United States.



Blueberries are the second most popular berry in the United State. Over 200 million pounds of blueberries are grown every year in North America. Blueberries are a good source of Vitamin C and fiber.

It's Time to Order Trees

Many of you may not realize it, but each year the Missouri Department of Conservation provides millions of low cost trees and shrubs to Missourians. The George O. White State Forest Nursery is located near Licking and grows over 80 different species of trees and shrubs each year. The trees and shrubs consist of bare-root stock that is between 12 and 36 inches tall. Orders are shipped all over the state for a flat \$5.00 handling charge per order. Missouri Conservation Heritage Card holders can receive a 15 percent discount up to \$20 off their seedling purchases.

This year's catalog has dozens of tree species ranging from black walnut to white pine. They also have a wide selection of shrubs such as redbud and flowering dogwood. You should place your order as soon as possible because many of the species are very popular and sell out quickly.

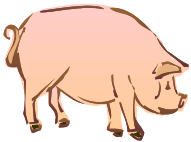
In the past, trees and shrubs came bundled in increments of 25 seedlings. This was fine for landowners planting many seedlings, but was inconvenient for people who only needed a few trees. This year brings major changes to the way the seedlings are ordered. Seedlings can now be purchased in increments of 10, making it possible to place smaller orders. Prices vary by type of seedling and number ordered.

These seedlings are especially useful for landowners enrolled in CRP programs that require planting trees or shrubs. The nursery provides economical planting stock for the large numbers of trees and shrubs that can be required for these programs.

The nursery is now accepting orders and you should order immediately for the best selection. You can view a full list of seedlings offered and place an order at: <http://mdc.mo.gov/node/3986> You can also pick up a hard copy at the USDA service center or nearest Missouri Department of Conservation office. If you have questions about species selection or planting techniques, you can call Steve Hoel, Private Land Conservationist for the Missouri Department of Conservation at (660)-747-8200 ext. 117.

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Did You Know....



Pigs can't sweat because they have no sweat glands. Instead, they roll around in the mud to cool themselves off. A piglet, or baby pig, weighs about 3.5 pounds at birth and will double its weight in just 7 days. Heart valves from hogs are used to replace damaged or diseased human heart valves.



Pumpkins were once recommended for removing freckles and curing snake bites. Pumpkins are 90% water and their flowers are edible. The name "pumpkin" originated from "pepon", the Greek word for "large melon." Native Americans used pumpkin seeds for food and medicine. In early colonial time, pumpkins were used as an ingredient for the crust of pies, not the filling.

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