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Lafayette SWCD News Link

SWCD/NRCS/MDC

Volume 4 Issue 2

June 2010

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Practices on the district's docket are standard terraces; underground outlet terraces; diversions; waterways; sediment retention erosion control structure; water impoundment reservoir; pasture establishment; permanent vegetative cover on critical areas; grazing system water development; grazing system water distribution; grazing system fence and grazing system lime.

Landowners who hope to receive cost-share assistance need to be sure they have completed the Vendor Input form which the state uses to issue IRS 1099 forms for all cost-share payments received. You also need to have on file the Vendor ACH/EFT form. This form is for cost-share payments to be done electronically through direct deposit. Check with our office to see if these forms have been completed or if they need to be completed or updated.

NEW ITEM: This year we will need to see either your property deed or your property tax receipt to be sure the cooperator name on the contract matches what is on the property deed or your property tax receipt. You can get a copy of your deed from FSA to show it to us.

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A Legacy of Conservation-75 Years of helping People Help the Land

2010 marks the 75th Anniversary of the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and the beginning of the federal commitment to conserving natural resources on private lands. Established by Congress in 1935, NRCS has expanded to become a conservation leader for all natural resources, ensuring private lands are conserved, restored and are more resilient to environmental challenges.

Things You Should Know About NRCS.

- Seventy percent of the land in the United States is privately owned, making stewardship by private landowners critical to the health of our nation's environment.
- NRCS works with landowners to plan, design and implement conservation systems that benefit the soil, water, air, plants and animals. NRCS provides financial assistance and free technical assistance to private and public land users in every county in Missouri through more than 100 offices.
- Missouri's 400-person, NRCS staff has a combined 7,538 years of experience. That equals 15,679,040 hours of helping people help the land.
- Conservation systems installed in Missouri, with the assistance of NRCS and its partners, have reduced the annual soil erosion rate by 100 million tons compared to 30 years ago. This reduction minimizes the negative effects on ponds, lakes, streams, culverts and water systems and maintains the productivity of cropland.
- NRCS has helped Missouri landowners restore 130,681 acres of wetlands. Wetlands improve water quality, provide habitat for wildlife, reduce soil erosion and flooding and provide outdoor recreation and aesthetic beauty.

The 75th Anniversary of NRCS was celebrated in Lafayette County with the above cake at the SWCD Board Meeting on April 28th. The cake was enjoyed by the supervisors, NRCS and district staff and staff from FSA and Rural Development along with Cody Tebbenkamp and Jim Plassmeyer from the Soil and Water Conservation Program from Jefferson City.

“Managing Wildlife & Native Plants in Agriculture Field Day”

This field day will be June 17th at the MU Bradford Research and Extension Center in Columbia, MO, from 2:00 PM to 8:00 PM.

The field day is designed for landowners, students, quail and native plant enthusiasts who want to hear the latest information, meet exhibitors and see new products. Open to the public, no fee and no reservations required. Drinks and hamburgers provided. There will be indoor workshops as well as six 1 hour wagon tours.

This field day is sponsored by the University of Missouri, MU Extension, USDA-NRCS, Missouri Department of Conservation and Missouri Soybean Association. For more information contact Tim Reinbott, 573-884-7945 or Bob Pierce, 573-882-4337.

So you want cost share for terraces?

Many producers have signed up for terrace stake out and have not gotten your terraces built or maybe even staked out. Many factors, weather, cost share monies being used up, or the lack of trained staff, have contributed to this. We cannot do anything about the weather but we have been working on training a new district technician and he has started staking terraces. The other factor is cost share monies being used up before your contractor can get to your site to build the terraces. This is where you come in as the producer. The state cost share funds become available for use between the middle of July and first of August. We all know that crops are growing at this time and we do not want to tear up our crops to build terraces. **PLANNING** on when to build your terraces has become very important. What crop is not in the field when the cost share monies become available? You're right, **WHEAT!!!** Many producers have indicated to me that wheat is not profitable and therefore they do not want to plant wheat. The majority of those producers end up either waiting another year, preserving the layout flags while growing the next year's crop, hoping that monies will still be available when it is harvested or building the terraces without cost share. So I ask you, if you do not get your terraces built or build them without cost share, how profitable is that? Would it not be better to plant wheat on the area that you want to build terraces, not even the whole field, or let it set idle for a growing season to better increase your odds of getting cost share for your terraces? However, there is no guarantee that you will get cost share. You need to **PLAN** to build your terraces; you will greatly increase your odds.

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