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Lafayette SWCD

News Link

SWCD/NRCS/MDC

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June 2011

Holidays
July 4th, Independence Day
Sept. 5th, Labor Day
Oct. 10th, Columbus Day
Nov. 11th, Veterans Day
Nov. 24th, Thanksgiving
Dec. 25th, Christmas
Board Meeting Dates
June 29th
July 27th
Aug. 31st
Sept. 28th
Oct. 26th
Nov. 22nd
Dec. 28th
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June 30th, FY 11 Ends
July 1st, FY 12 Starts

FY 2012 Cost-Share Program Information

Cost-share percentage set by the Soil District Board of Supervisors for this fiscal year will be **60%** on all conservation practices listed on the Cost-Share Docket. The maximum dollar amount set by the Soil District will be **\$10,000**. If a landowner did not complete a practice in FY 2011 and will carry it over into FY 2012, those funds may count against the FY 2012's dollar limit.

Practices on the district's docket include standard terraces; underground outlet terraces; diversions; waterways; sediment retention erosion control structures; water impoundment reservoirs and pasture establishment. Also available are some of the grazing system practices.

Landowners who hope to receive cost-share assistance need to be sure they have completed the Vendor Input/ACH-EFT application. Because a Form 1099 will be issued for a practice, the actual individual who will receive the cost-share payment must sign the cost-share forms or complete a "Landowner Signature Authorization" form. This form serves to inform the cooperator that a Form 1099 will be forthcoming at the end of the calendar year for receiving cost-share funds on a completed conservation practice. This application is also used for cost-share payments to be done electronically through direct deposit.

The landowner will need to provide our office with either the title deed (current) or a copy of the property tax receipt for calendar year 2010. This information allows us to verify with the county assessor's office as to how the property is titled. The title verification check avoids audit findings for improper landowner cost-share payments.

Please keep in mind the practice **MUST** be approved by the Soil District Board **BEFORE** your contractor can start construction on the practice. Site investigation, staking &/or designing of the practice or signing the cost-share contract and other forms **DOES NOT** constitute cost-share approval. It is the landowner's &/or operator's responsibility to follow-up with the status of their conservation practice as well as the availability of cost-share funds.

For more information contact the NRCS/SWCD office, 120 W. 19th St., Suite 103, Higginsville or call 660-584-8732 ext. 3 after July 1st.

Nonprofit Organization
U. S. POSTAGE PAID
Higginsville, MO
Permit No. 25

Lafayette SWCD/NRCS/MDC
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How's the Fishing in Your Pond?

Spring and summer just wouldn't be the same without a few fishing trips. Around here, farm ponds offer great opportunities to "wet a line". If properly managed, ponds can provide great fishing fun and maybe the opportunity to hook a lunker. While local farm ponds can be great places to catch fish, landowners often struggle with some common pond complaints listed below.

Stockpiled bass: So when you fish your pond do you consistently catch dozens of small bass? This is a telltale sign that you have a stockpiled bass situation. The bass are bottlenecked into a stunted size class due to lack of available prey. You may catch an occasional "keeper" bass, but you will never develop a consistent trophy bass fishery. The only way to remedy this situation is to start keeping fish in the stunted size class. Generally this means harvesting fish in the 10-12 inch range and protecting fish in the 12-15 inch range. Around here, the general rule of thumb is to try and harvest 25-30 stunted bass per acre each year. Thinning the small bass will free up available food and allow the remaining bass to grow larger.

Aquatic weed problems: Nothing is more frustrating than having a nice fishing hole taken over by excessive aquatic vegetation. Aquatic plants are important because they add oxygen to the water, stabilize shore lines, and add habitat. However, you can have too much of a good thing. The goal should be vegetation management, not total elimination.

Landowners first need to look at the pond's watershed. Does the drainage area contain septic tanks, feed lots, or heavily fertilized fields? These can add nutrients to the pond and spur aquatic plant growth. Excessive nutrient inputs need to be addressed by changing practices or adding buffer strips.

We have several aquatic plant species that can become a problem and proper identification is critical in determining correct control measures. The management advice will vary depending on what types of vegetation you have. Physical methods like water drawdown, cutting, or adding grass carp can be effective in some situations. In other situations, careful use of appropriately labeled herbicides is an effective control measure.

New pond with no fish: So maybe you're reading this article and you have new pond, or plan to build a pond soon. Planning now can save you headaches down the road and improve your pond for fishing. The first question is often "what fish should I stock?". We recommend stocking largemouth bass, bluegill, and channel catfish. We have done years of study on this combination and it is simply the easiest combination to manage and provides consistent fishing opportunities.

You can buy your fish at any of the local fish days in the area. However, you can also get free fish from the Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC). We have a pond stocking program designed to provide fish to Missouri landowners. You have likely heard rumors about our program, but rest assured, participation in our stocking program does not require you to allow public access your land. It is simply the case of MDC having facilities to produce fish and wanting to assist landowners with initial pond stocking.

Other tasks like designing the pond edges with steeper slopes to reduce vegetation problems, installing underwater brush piles, spawning beds, or docks are much easier to do before the pond fills. This is also a great time to look at the watershed and look for ways to limit the introduction of excess nutrients.

So what now? I have only scratched the surface in dealing with these pond issues and there are many more that often arise. The good news is that we are here to assist you. If you have a pond question you can contact me for assistance at (660) 747-8200 ext 117 or e-mail me at steve.hoel@mdc.mo.gov. We also have lots of useful information at our web site <http://mdc.mo.gov/fish/ponds/>.

Hopefully we can help you manage your pond to bring you and your family years of enjoyment.



FY 2011 Cost-Share Accomplishments

With the fiscal year rapidly coming to an end on June 30th we would like to report our cost-share accomplishments to date. Cost-share funding claimed within this fiscal year (July 1, 2010 to June 30, 2011) was \$309,325.64. The District's allocation for the year was \$372,435.69 with \$3,835.69 for Grazing Management and \$368,600.00 for Sheet & Rill/Gully Erosion practices.

Landowners or operators participating in this program numbered 96 individuals with approved cost-share contracts; this leaves 12 pending contracts with a total cost-share of \$52,591.67 to be completed by mid June. As of May 9th we had 84 participants completing a conservation practice. For practices completed in the Sheet and Rill/Gully Erosion resource concern were as follows reporting as number and either feet, cubic yards or acres plus cost-share per practice:

Standard Terraces	5 — 5,883 feet	\$ 6,926.24
Diversions	3 — 1,650 feet	4,974.26
Underground Outlet Terraces	31 — 46,287 feet	108,691.59
Water Impoundment Reservoirs	4 — 20,324 cu. yds.	31,655.59
Sediment Retention, Erosion Control Structures	6 — 15,587 cu. yds.	37,274.26
Grassed Waterways	35 — 47.6 acres	119,803.70

The total tons of soil saved over the life span (10 years) of these practices computed out to 25,640 tons with an average tons saved per practice to be 305.24. In calculating out the cost per ton over the life span on these practices that figure totaled \$12.06. The acres served for all of these practices was 1,493.86. Along these same lines, the average cost-share per practice also computed out to \$3,682.45.

The District's cost-share percentage in this fiscal year was 60% with a maximum dollar amount of \$10,000.00. Unfortunately under the Grazing Management resource concern we were not able to spend that allocation of funds.

Besides providing assistance for the individuals that received cost-share funding our technicians were also busy assisting with EQIP conservation practices and other non-cost-share practices.

WEATHER PROVERBS

A cold May is kindly and fills the barn finely.

A late spring is a great blessing.

Plant the bean when the moon is light; plant potatoes when the moon is dark.

Clover contracts its leaves at the approach of a storm.