

Livingston County

Soil & Water Conservation District

July—September 2014 Newsletter

<http://www.swcd.mo.gov/livingston>



Another Great Year with our Partners-In-Education!

The Livingston County Soil & Water Conservation District is excited to have wrapped up another successful year with our Partner-In-Education classes. Our partners again this year were Mrs. Drenda Neptune's 1st grade class at Southwest, Mrs. Debbie Moore's 3rd & 4th grade class at Chula and Mrs. Billie McGraw's 3rd grade class at Field School.

This year we planned our visits and activities around these topics: "What is Soil", "Who uses Soil", "What Lives in Soil", and "Where is our Soil Going?". The kids and I made edible soil profiles (aka dirt pudding) when talking about what soil is. We made mini-pizzas while tracing every ingredient back to the soil to show that without healthy soil we wouldn't have healthy, abundant food. We use Gobstopper candies to talk about what erosion is....the candy "washes" away just like soil washes away if we don't do something to prevent it.

To wrap up the year we had each class come to the Litton Agri-Science Center for an exciting and educational field trip. The message I convey to the students about the importance of soil and preventing soil erosion all culminates at the end of the year with our field trip when they get to see the conservation practices with their own eyes. While at the Litton Center, the students enjoyed a tour of the facilities led by Rusty Black, Chillicothe Ag Department. Rusty talked to the students about the different conservation practices in place at the Litton Center and how those practices prevent soil erosion and keep our water clean. Brian Sturm, NRCS Soil Technician and Tyler Gordon, SWCD Technician worked with the students on a high tech scavenger hunt using GPS. They showed the students how they use GPS when out in the field staking different conservation practices. The students took turns using the GPS and taking notes, just like our technicians do! We wrapped up the field trip with tasty root beer floats!

Being Partners-In-Education with these classes is really a highlight of what the Livingston County Soil and Water Conservation District does. Our purpose is to provide education and technical assistance in the wise use and management of our natural resources. These students are the future stewards of the land and we love being part of helping them learn what all that means!

Kristen Lourenco
Program Specialist II
Livingston County SWCD



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Cost-Share Summary for Fiscal Year 2014 (July 1, 2013—June 30, 2014)

Practice	# of practices	Cost-Share \$	Tons of Soil Saved	Acres Served	Extents Installed
Diversion	2	\$18,527.92	400	12	6182 cu yd
Terraces w/UGO	11	\$179,663.65	21,200	267	45,900 ft
Structures	8	\$71,377.66	1,130	208	30,980 cu yd
Sediment Basin	2	\$8,176.06	570	33	2,562 cu yd
Nutrient Mgmt	7	\$12,836.00	N/A	793	N/A
Total	30	\$290,581.29	23,300 tons	1,313 acres	



So, you're approved for District Cost-Share....now what?

You've been on the sign-up list for district cost-share for a while and you get notified that you'll be receiving cost-share this year—now what? The technicians will do a site visit with you then they'll stake out the practice. Once it's staked they will spend time in the office designing it. Once your practice is designed, the Program Specialist creates a cost-share contract. You will sign the cost-share contract and then the technician and a board member have to approve the contract before construction can begin on your practice. (Hopefully, you've already lined up your contractor!) Once you receive notice from our office that your cost-share contract has been board approved, you can pick up your designs and give your contractor the green light to start your practice. ***An important thing to note - your contract will have a termination date. Board policy is that landowners are given 6 months from the creation of the contract to have the practice completed. Prior to this termination date, the practice must be completely constructed, checkout notes turned in from the contractor, paid receipts turned into our office by the landowner and the practice checked by our technician. Payment can not be processed until these steps are complete.***

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Help Protect Missouri's White Tailed Deer

The Missouri Constitution gives the Conservation Commission authority over the management and control of all game and wildlife resources of the State. White-tailed deer are wildlife, regardless of whether they are held in captivity or are free-ranging. The same is true for other wildlife species held in captivity, such as quail, black bear, mountain lions, timber rattlesnake, raccoons, and squirrels.

White-tailed deer and deer hunting are a multi-generational and important family heritage for many generations of Missouri families. Over half a million citizens go deer hunting every fall throughout Missouri. The Department wishes to ensure future generations of Missouri children can enjoy Missouri's deer resources just like their parents and grandparents.

Thousands of Missouri landowners have made significant investments to purchase and improve their land specifically for the benefit of white-tailed deer. White-tailed deer and deer hunting are an important economic engine for Missouri and its citizens. Deer hunting in Missouri generates over \$1 billion of business activity annually. That activity results in over \$95 million in state and local tax revenue each year. Many businesses across Missouri receive a significant economic boost from the annual deer hunting seasons.

All white-tailed deer face serious threats from diseases such as chronic wasting disease (CWD). The Department has been working diligently to address disease management for white-tailed deer, including regulation changes to help slow the spread and limit the prevalence and impact of diseases such as CWD. The Department has engaged citizens and industry over the past two years to address disease management concerns such as animal movement, disease transmission, fencing standards, record keeping, and health certification forms.

On June 6, 2014, the Conservation Commission approved the proposed amendments for regulation changes to be published in the *Missouri Register*. After a 30-day public comment period beginning July 16, any comments received on the proposed rule changes will be forwarded to the Conservation Commission for its consideration before deciding whether to adopt, amend, or withdraw changes, as final regulations.

The public can comment at www.mdc.mo.gov/deerhealth



Summer Habitat Management

June

Begin spraying actively growing Johnson grass.

Mow newly planted native grass stands to a height of 6-8 inches for weed control.

Mow firebreaks to prepare for late summer and fall burns.

Peak of quail hatching is June 15.

Conduct breeding bird surveys now through June 30.

Seed milo, millet, and forage sorghum food plots before June 30.

July

Spray sericea lespedeza now through September.

Mow newly planted native grass stands a second time to a height of 6-8 inches for weed control.

Excessive June and July rains shifts peak quail hatch to August.

CRP mid-contract management activities can resume July 16th. Contact your FSA office for details.

August

Till firebreaks to prepare for prescribed burns.

Mow or burn fescue to prepare for fall herbicide treatments.

Continue to treat sericea lespedeza through September.

Re-nests and second quail broods hatching – do not mow idle areas

