

# 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 1<sup>st</sup> grade class at Southwest, Mrs. Debbie Moore's 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> grade class at Chula and Mrs. Billie McGraw's 3<sup>rd</sup> 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



