

Maries County Soil & Water Conservation District Newsletter

April, 2011 Volume 20 Issue 3

33rd Annual Meeting Recognizes Contest Winners

The highlight of every annual Meeting of the Maries County Soil and Water Conservation District is the presentation of awards for the district's annual photo, poster and essay contests. Nearly 190 people attended this year's event.

After dinner provided by the district, the program began with the photo contest awards. In the Youth Division, winners were Justin Duggan, Kelly Hale and Ben Hale. Winners in the Adult Division were Linda Hollis, Nichoel Snodgrass and Sherryelle Ford. Nichoel Snodgrass won the People's Choice Award from the 67 photos that were entered this year.

Awards were then presented to participants in the Essay Contest. 75 essays were entered in this year's contest. Danielle Thompson from Maries R-I, Rebekah Strode, Samantha Koehn, Tasha Littrell, Prezley Duncan and Matthew Murphy from Maries R-II took home top honors.

A total of 342 students submitted posters for this year's contest. Certificates and prize money were presented to: Sarah Backues, Kelly Hale and Maggie Wieberg all from Visitation Inter-Parish; from Belle Elementary: Lydia Cox, Heather Parrish, Denni Horstman and Brooke Rohrer; and from Maries R-I: Kamryn Hayes, Uriah Veasman, Brittany Long, Cassidy Hill, Ryleigh James and Mikayla Snodgrass. Grand Prize County Winner was awarded to Kelly Hale.

Along with the presentation of the contest awards, Russ Titus was recognized for his service to Maries County landowners. He recently retired from NRCS and provided federal and state program assistance and had also helped at several Safety Day events. The speaker for the evening was Jeremia Markway who presented a program on managing your forage for profit and sustainability.

An election for board of supervisors was held in Area II and IV with Darryl Schwartz and Greg Dillon both being re-elected.

The event ended with everyone getting a flowering dogwood tree seedling ready for planting. The district thanks all those that participated in this year's contests and looks forward to next year's entries!



Nichoel Snodgrass captured the People's Choice Award in the Photo Contest with a picture of her son, Gavin and friend titled *Snack Time*.

It's Grazing School Time In Maries County

The Maries, Gasconade and Osage County Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCD) are sponsoring their annual grazing school this year at the Vienna United Methodist Church, on May 12th and 13th. The school will run from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. each day.

The University of Missouri Extension and the Natural Resource Conservation Service will be presenting a variety of topics such as: evaluating the

resources of the farm, soil fertility, watering systems, forage growth, animal nutrition, and basic grazing concepts. Two farms will be visited. One has an active grazing system and the other needs established. Students will be placed into groups and will be asked to present a plan for this system.

This course fulfills one of the requirements for the State Cost-share, DSP-3 Grazing System Practice. It provides valuable

information on forage and animal production.

The cost for this class is \$70 for one person and \$100 for two with one set of materials. The fee covers materials, meals, and refreshments for both days. If you are interested in attending the grazing school, please contact the office at 573-422-3342 by May 4th. Space is limited.



Check out the pictures of the winners of the poster and essay contests on page 2!

District Board of Supervisors

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Megan Ordway, Soil Conservationist
Kary Wolfe, Soil Conservationist
Aaron Holsapple, Resource Forester
Lee Hughes, Wildlife Biologist
Kyle Lairmore, Private Lands
Scott Williams, Fisheries Biologist

Upcoming Events

May 10—SWCD Board Meeting at office 8:00 PM

May 12 & 13—Tri-County Grazing School at Vienna United Methodist Church

May 30—Office Closed for Memorial Day Holiday

July 22—Deadline to sign up for Monsanto Bus Tour

August 4—Bus Tour to Monsanto (See page 3 for information)



3rd Grade: Lydia Cox, Kamryn Hayes and Uriah Veasman



4th Grade: Sarah Backues, Heather Parrish and Denni Horstman



5th Grade: Kelly Hale, Brittany Long and Brooke Rohrer



6th Grade: Cassidy Hill, Ryleigh James and Mikayla Snodgrass



7th Grade: Maggie Wieberg

Congratulations to all
the winners!



Freshman/Sophomore Essay Winners: Danielle Thompson, Rebekah Strode and Samantha Strode



Junior/Senior Essay Winners: Tasha Littrell, Prezley Duncan and Matthew Murphy

Monsanto Bus Tour

MONSANTO



***Sponsored by: Gasconade and Maries County
Soil & Water Conservation Districts and
Natural Resources Conservation Service***

August 4, 2011

Pick-up times & place:

Bank of Vichy, 14780 Hwy 63 - 6:30 a.m.

Owensville Wal-Mart, 1888 E Hwy 28 - 7:00 a.m.

Cost - \$25.00 per person, due at time of registration

Tour Highlights

BIOTECHNOLOGY TOUR - Since the mid 1990's plants delivering biotech benefits have given farmers new ways to solve old problems. Since 1998, we have introduced 12 new seed traits, and we will be introducing more products in the future. We seek to help farmers increase yields through herbicide tolerance, insect protection, weather protection, drought tolerance and increased productivity.

- Gene Discovery
- Gene Insertion
- Tissue Culture
- Greenhouses
- Growth Chambers
- Greenhouse Test Plants

BREEDING AND AGRONOMIC TECHNOLOGY TOUR - Plant breeding still depends on many techniques discovered centuries ago. These tried-and-true practices are combined with the knowledge and skills learned through modern science to develop seeds that offer the best yields for specific growing conditions

- Sampling and Testing
- Protective Seed Coating
- Consumer Health Benefits
- New Agronomic Practices
- Effective Weed Control

Lunch is provided!

***Space is limited so please call 573-437-3478 ext 3
or 573-422-3342 to reserve your seat.***

Registration Deadline is July 22, 2011!

NRCS Assistance Support Organic Growers

Missouri's organic farmers and those transitioning to organic production have until May 20 to apply for the next round of financial assistance available through the Natural Resources Conservation Service, State Conservationist J.R. Flores said.

Flores said about \$1.3 million is available through NRCS' Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP). Under EQIP Organic Initiative contracts, NRCS provides financial payments and technical assistance to help producers implement conservation measures in keeping with organic production. The 2008 Farm Bill limits EQIP payments for organic operations to \$20,000 per year per person or legal entity up to \$80,000 over six years.

To apply, contact the NRCS in Linn at 897-3797.



A big thanks to Russ Titus, who recently retired from NRCS and was recognized at the district's annual meeting. Helping him accept his award is his granddaughter Hailey.

Little Maries River SALT Project Update

Special funding from the Little Maries River SALT (Special Area Land Treatment) project grant will be ending on June 30, 2012. A project review was completed by the state office staff in March and all the completed practices that were checked passed inspection. They are all functioning as designed.

With only one more year left in the grant, the Maries County Soil & Water board and staff have been reviewing the remaining goals that they would like to accomplish with the funding that is available. An informational meeting is being planned and notices will be sent out with the date and location.

Landowners in the Little Maries River watershed and its tributaries are encouraged to contact to the office to see what cost-share practices are available. The cost-share program pays up to 75% of state average costs although some practices have a maximum amount allowed. Watch the mail for more information.

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