



Maries County Soil & Water Conservation District Newsletter

Volume 23 Issue 1
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Unusual Year For District's Cost-Share Program

Without a doubt, Fiscal Year 2013 ended as the highest amount paid out to Maries County landowners in the district's cost-share program. A total of \$406,914.74 were distributed for 143 practices. Overall 218 contracts were entered into the system which included 142 requests for assistance in the Drought Program under the Governor's Executive Order 12-08.

Although the program guidelines did not allow the district to help everyone, it was a definite benefit to help some livestock operators maintain their herds. The staff had strict rules to follow on the qualifications for the drought program and many landowners that did not meet requirements for this program were able to get funding through federal programs. Statewide \$21,854,876 were distributed in the Drought Assistance program for 5,387 contracts.

Fiscal Year 2014 cost-share funds have been allocated to the district and the staff is diligently working down the list of requests for assistance. We ask for your patience while plans and contracts are developed. The Missouri Soil & Water Districts Commission should be releasing more funds in November so the staff can assist more landowners that are currently on the waiting list.

The contracts completed this past fiscal year included:

Drought Assistance—Livestock Water Development	40—\$213,359.61
Drought Assistance—Livestock Water Distribution	40—\$ 77,960.04
DSL-1 Permanent Vegetative Cover Establish	7—\$ 18,940.86
DSL-2 Permanent Vegetative Cover Improve	16—\$ 4 2,040.50
DSL-5 Diversion	1—\$ 2,300.68
DSP 3.2 Grazing System Water Distribution	7—\$ 16,411.40
DSP 3.3 Grazing System Fence	3—\$ 6,298.64
N472 Use Exclusion Fence	9—\$ 9,517.33
N574 Spring Development	7—\$ 14,239.68
N590 Nutrient Management	2—\$ 630.00
N595 Pest Management	11—\$ 5,216.00

The Drought Assistance program was only available in FY-13. Contact the district office at 573-422-3342 to learn about the programs listed above and the other practices also offered. You can also stop by the office Monday to Friday 7:30 AM to 4:00 PM.

Livestock Losses And Flood Damage

As of this printing, the Farm Service Agency does not have a current program for livestock losses or flood damage repairs.

However, there is a possibility assistance may be available under the new Farm Bill legislation for livestock losses. The FSA County Committee is currently considering Federal assistance for flood damage repairs through the Emergency Conservation Program.

For more information, contact the Farm Service Agency office in Linn at 1-800-811-4649 or 573-897-2138 Ext. 2.

UPCOMING DATES:

- September 2—Office Closed - Labor Day Holiday
- September 10—Board Meeting at 7:00 PM at SWCD Office
- September 16-18—Office Closed for Missouri Women in Agriculture Conference in Farmington
- September 26 & 17—Wurdack Grazing School @ Cook Station
- October 10—Office Closed to assist with FFA Grassland Contest
- October 14—Office Closed - Columbus Day Holiday
- November 11—Office Closed - Veterans Day—
Thank you to all our retired and active military for your service to our country.
- November 28—Office Closed - Thanksgiving Day
- December 16 to 18—Office Closed for Annual Training Conference



District Announces Theme For 2014 Poster & Essay Contests

Even though the poster and essay contest officially starts in January, the district is already gearing up for 2014. The contests are sponsored by the Maries County Soil and Water Conservation District. This year's theme is *"Dig Deeper: Mysteries In The Soil"*. Posters and essays should highlight that soil is an amazing substance. It is a complex mix of minerals, air and water. Soil also teems with countless micro-organisms, and the decaying remains of once-living things. Soil is made of life and soil makes life. *Deadline to enter contests is February 28.*

Posters can be entered by any student enrolled in the 3rd through 6th grades of

any Maries County school or home-schooled in Maries County. Posters should be on poster board measuring 14" x 22".

The district's essay contest is open to any student living in Maries County and/or enrolled in the 7th through 12th grades of any Maries County School. Essays should be 400 to 500 words in length. It should be double spaced typed or legibly handwritten. Only one essay may be entered per student.

Further rules on both contests and information on the theme will be sent to the schools in January. You may also contact the district office at 422-3342.



Allison Buschmann was the 2013 Grand Prize Poster Winner.
Congratulations!

Check out all the winners from the 2013 Contests at the district's website www.swcd.mo.gov/maries and click on *Local Projects and Events*.

Employee News



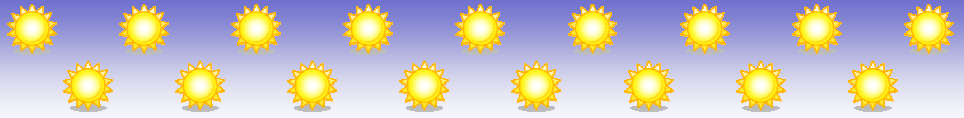
Program Specialist Sandy Stratman recently traveled the state attending eight area meetings as president of the Missouri SWCD Employees Association. She also serves on the national employees association board and was proud to present two scholarship checks for \$1,000 each on behalf of the national board. In the photo on the left is Lafayette County District Technician Phillip Boydston and in the photo on the right is Tanner Gotthardt, son of Angie Cole, Osage County Program Specialist.

MDC Seeking Public Comments On Protecting Missouri Deer

MDC Runge Nature Center
Hwy. 179, Jefferson City, MO
Monday September 23, 2013
6:30 to 8:30 PM

The Missouri Department of Conservation is hosting the above public meeting to provide information on Missouri deer and CWD (Chronic Wasting Disease) and to get comments about limiting the spread of the disease among captive and free ranging deer.

For more information, go online to mdc.mo.gov and search Chronic Wasting Disease.



Cover Crops for Pasture Renovation

By Megan Rudroff, NRCS Soil Conservationist

We have all heard about the benefits of cover crops in row crop fields. But have you ever considered using them to renovate those old, worn out, under-producing pastures? Rather than tilling them up and sowing soybeans, maybe consider using a cover crop mixture this time. Not only will you get the multiple benefits cover crops provide, but you can still utilize the field for grazing.

The key is in the mixture. Diversity equals stability. Instead of investing all your money in one species that may not respond well in whatever weather conditions Missouri throws at us this year,

diversify to off-set these fluctuations. By using a mixture you can maximize the various benefits cover crops can provide, including improved infiltration, added fertility, increased organic matter, and balanced soil biology. And after all that, you can still utilize these fields as part of your grazing system, rather than taking them out completely. Keep in mind that you will want to graze half the forage and leave the remaining half of plant material behind to add organic matter to the soil. A warm season mix could include sorghum-sudan, millet, soybean, crimson clover, radish, and

sunflower, among others. And a cool season mix could include rye, oats, turnip, radish, hairy vetch, red clover and so on. A year or two of a cover crop mix would improve site conditions for re-establishing perennial forages.

If you are interested in cover crops and would like more information, contact the Linn NRCS at 1-800-811-4649 or 1-573-897-3797 Extension 2 or the district office at 573-422-3342.



Pearls of PRODUCTION

WOMEN IN AGRICULTURE

November 8 – 9, 2013

Bradford Research Center | Columbia, MO

Pearls of Production: Women in Agriculture is an innovative and exciting new program designed to provide leadership and hands-on training opportunities for women livestock producers in Missouri. The program is designed to reach women who are playing larger roles and making key decisions on the farm.

Conference Early Registration is \$75 by October 8 or \$100 beginning October 9

Lodging at Courtyard Marriott, 3301 Lemone Industrial Blvd., Columbia, MO—573-443-8000 (\$94 + tax double or king)

Registration and agenda for this exciting new event can be found at <http://muconf.missouri.edu/womenandagriculture> or by calling 866-682-6663 or 573-882-4349.

Final Grazing School This Year

If you have not had the opportunity to attend one of our grazing schools, the last one in the area will be held at the Wurdack Farm in Crawford County on September 26 & 27. Attendance is a requirement to receive cost-share assistance to install or improve a rotational grazing system.

Contact the Crawford County Extension office at 573-775-2135 if you are interested in receiving more information and getting on the list to attend.

Photo Contest Reminder

It's not too early to be thinking of what pictures you want to enter into the 2014 Photo Contest sponsored by the district. With autumn right around the corner, there could be some fall foliage that you just have to take a picture of! And if you enter your photo and win, you could take home \$25 and also have a chance to be selected the People's Choice winner at the 2014 Annual Meeting.

The contest is divided into two Divisions: Youth (up to and including high school seniors) and Adult (residing or owning land in Maries County). They will be judged in only one Category: Wildlife; Trees or Plants; or Landscapes.

Entries should follow these guidelines when entering:

➤ Each participant may enter five photographs no larger than 8x10. Photos will not be returned.

➤ All entries become the property of the Maries County SWCD, Entrants should keep extra prints of their photographs. Previous entries will not be judged for the 2014 contest.

Judges will select one winner in each of the three categories in each division. County winners will receive \$25 and a framed print of their winning photo from the district. Honorable mentions will receive certificates. *Deadline to enter is February 28, 2014.*

For complete rules and guidelines, contact the district office at 573-422-3342.



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Helping People Help The Land

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Office Hours: 7:30 am to 4:00 pm**



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