



Morgan County Soil
and Water
Conservation District
100 S. Burke Street
Versailles, MO 65084
573-378-5822 ext. 101

Soil Conservation News



Morgan County Soil and Water Conservation District Annual Meeting and Dinner

The Morgan County Soil and Water Conservation District cordially invites you and your family to our annual meeting and dinner on Tuesday evening March 19, 2013. This years meeting will be held at the Stover Community Center, in the Stover Park. The evening will begin with a meal, provided by the district, being served at 6:30 p.m.

Following the meal we will have a presentation by, Ron Dent. Ron is an MDC Biologist who has worked extensively with the Elk Reintroduction Program. Ron will give a presentation showing the highlights of the program. There will be drawings for great door prizes donated by area businesses.

So that we will know how many dinners to plan for, please contact our office no later than March 13th, 2013 with the exact number that will be attending the meeting.

We are looking forward to seeing you and your family on March 19th.

From: _____

Please Print Name

_____ Number attending the dinner. Please include both adults and children. To participate in the dinner we must have your reservation no later than March 13, 2013.

FY 2014 Cost-Share Funds Available SOON

The Morgan County Soil and Water Conservation District is currently holding a sign-up for cost-share assistance. Cost-sharing is authorized for structures that provide erosion control benefits and protect water quality. These structures may also provide agricultural uses including livestock water, irrigation, permanent vegetation cover or fire protection. Cost-sharing can be paid for 75% of the actual or the county average cost, whichever is the lowest cost, of each eligible component. If you think you have an area that would benefit from assistance please sign up as soon as possible.

Ponds: Used to stop gully erosion.

Terrace Systems: Used to build terraces on cropland.

Diversions: Used where normal terraces will not work.

Sediment Retention Erosion or Water Control Structure: Used to stop gully erosion. This is meant to be a "dry" structure.

Sod Waterways: Used for terrace outlets-new or existing systems.

Permanent Vegetative Cover Enhancement: Used to promote no-tilling legumes into existing pastures. This practice does not require an erosion problem, but does require a four pasture rotation for grazing.

To protect the soil and reduce the pollution of water, air, or land from agricultural non-point sources by controlling erosion.

Planned Grazing System: Used to promote rotational grazing based forage system. Assist landowner with cost of changing management on pasture land. This practice does not require an erosion problem.

Woodland Protection Through Livestock Exclusion: Used to protect soil and plant resources from grazing livestock.

Animal Waste Management: Manage waste from agricultural production in a manner that prevents or minimizes degradation of soil and water resources. Assists in providing cost-share for stacksheds, composters and incinerators.

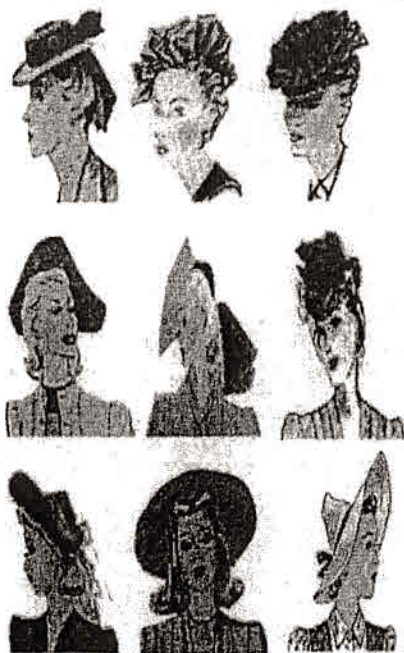
Streambank Stabilization: Protect streambanks from accelerated erosion, provide adequate streambank vegetation, improve water quality by cost-sharing on the implementation of structures such as rock weirs, cedar tree revetment, and willow-staking.

Pond Management Workshop

Do you have questions about building a new pond or managing an existing pond on your property? If so, this workshop is for you. The Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC), Morgan County Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) and Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) will be hosting a Pond Management Workshop on Tuesday, March 26, 2013 from 6:30 – 9:00 p.m. The workshop will be held at the Morgan County Public Library in Versailles.

The workshop will cover a wide variety of topics including, pond site selection, pond construction, pond stocking, fisheries management, aquatic vegetation management, pond watershed management and wildlife. Professionals from MDC, NRCS and SWCD will give presentations and will be available to answer questions. There will also be some very useful literature and brochures on pond management available as well as snacks and refreshments.

If you are interested in attending this free workshop, please call Scott Williams with the Missouri Department of Conservation and register at (573) 796-0286 ext 24.



9th Annual Mid-Mo

Women In Agriculture Conference

March 28, 2013

California High School at 1501 West Buchanan

California, MO
CONTACT

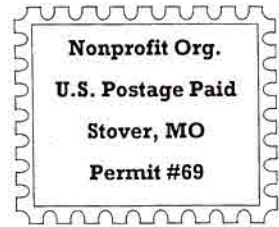
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Hats We Wear . . . Memories We Share

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Board of Supervisors

- Rita Bellich, Chairperson
- Brian Schwartz, Vice-chairperson
- Brian Lehman, Treasurer
- Joni Harper, University Extension
- Bob Witte, Board Member

District Personnel

- Patty Wittrock, District Manager
- Colby Lehman, Technician

NRCS Personnel

- Mike Morris, District Conserva-
tionist
- Johnetta Yeager, Soil Conserva-
tionist
- Kevin Franken, Resource Conser-
vationist
- John Draffen, Soil Conservation
Technician

DISTRICT CALENDAR

- March 13 RSVP's for Annual Meeting
- March 15 Women in Ag
- March 19 Annual Meeting
- March 26 Pond Workshop
- April 10 Board Meeting
- April 19 Earth Day
- May 27 Memorial Day Holiday



An Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer



healthy, productive soils checklist for growers

unlock the
SECRETS
IN THE
SOIL

Managing for soil health is one of the easiest and most effective ways for farmers to increase crop productivity and profitability while improving the environment.

Results are often realized immediately, and last well into the future. Using these four basic principles is the key to improving the health of your soil.

1. Keep the soil covered as much as possible
2. Disturb the soil as little as possible
3. Keep plants growing throughout the year to feed the soil
4. Diversify as much as possible using crop rotation and cover crops

Use the checklist on the back of this page to determine if you're using some or all of the core Soil Health Management System farming practices.

It is important to note that not all practices are applicable to all crops. Some operations will benefit from just one soil health practice while others may require additional practices for maximum benefit. But these core practices form the basis of a Soil Health Management System that can help you optimize your inputs, protect against drought, and increase production.

Soil Health Management Systems Include:

What is it?

What does it do?

How does it help?

Conservation Crop Rotation

Growing a diverse number of crops in a planned sequence in order to increase soil organic matter and biodiversity in the soil.



- Increases nutrient cycling
- Manages plant pest (weeds, insects, and diseases)
- Reduces sheet, rill, and wind erosion
- Holds soil moisture
- Adds diversity so soil microbes can thrive

- Improves nutrient use efficiency
- Decreases use of pesticides
- Improves water quality
- Conserves water
- Improves plant production

Cover Crop

An un-harvested crop grown as part of planned rotation to provide conservation benefits to the soil.



- Increases soil organic matter
- Prevents soil erosion
- Conserves soil moisture
- Increases nutrient cycling
- Provides nitrogen for plant use
- Suppresses weeds
- Reduces compaction

- Improves crop production
- Improves water quality
- Conserves water
- Improves nutrient use efficiency
- Decreases use of pesticides
- Improves water efficiency to crops

No Till

A way of growing crops without disturbing the soil through tillage.



- Improves water holding capacity of soils
- Increases organic matter
- Reduces soil erosion
- Reduces energy use
- Decreases compaction

- Improves water efficiency
- Conserves water
- Improves crop production
- Improves water quality
- Saves renewable resources
- Improves air quality
- Increases productivity

Mulch Tillage

Using tillage methods where the soil surface is disturbed but maintains a high level of crop residue on the surface.



- Reduces soil erosion from wind and rain
- Increases soil moisture for plants
- Reduces energy use
- Increases soil organic matter

- Improves water quality
- Conserves water
- Saves renewable resources
- Improves air quality
- Improves crop production

Mulching

Applying plant residues or other suitable materials to the soil surface to compensate for loss of residue due to excessive tillage.



- Reduces erosion from wind and rain
- Moderates soil temperatures
- Increases soil organic matter
- Controls weeds
- Conserves soil moisture
- Reduces dust

- Improves water quality
- Improves plant productivity
- Increases crop production
- Reduces pesticide usage
- Conserves water
- Improves air quality

Nutrient Management

Managing soil nutrients to meet crop needs while minimizing the impact on the environment and the soil.



- Increases plant nutrient uptake
- Improves the physical, chemical, and biological properties of the soil
- Budgets, supplies, and conserves nutrients for plant production
- Reduces odors and nitrogen emissions

- Improves water quality
- Improves plant production
- Improves air quality

Pest Management

Managing pests by following an ecological approach that promotes the growth of healthy plants with strong defenses, while increasing stress on pests and enhancing the habitat for beneficial organisms.



- Reduces pesticide risks to water quality
- Reduces threat of chemicals entering the air
- Decreases pesticide risk to pollinators and other beneficial organisms
- Increases soil organic matter

- Improves water quality
- Improves air quality
- Increases plant pollination
- Increases plant productivity