

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

Vol. 27 Issue 1

Inside this issue:

Saving energy Pg.
Strengthening Agri- 2
culture

July 31st marks End Pg.
'319 Project 3

District Pg.
Calendar 4



Soil Conservation News

Dear Cooperator,

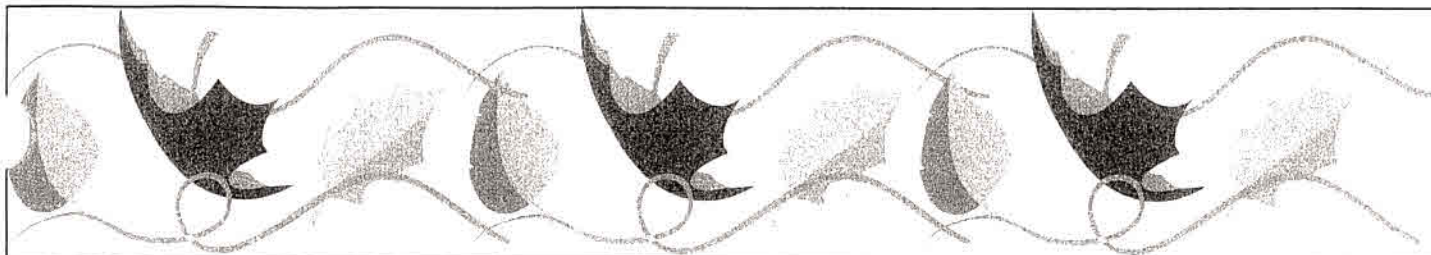
Morgan County has been declared a Natural Disaster Area due to the large amount of rain we received this spring. In response to this unprecedented weather we are trying to determine the extent of the damage sustained to agricultural lands and completed cost-share practices. This information will be used to assist us to ask for funding to assist in supporting the conservation needs of landowners who have been detrimentally impacted by these events.

If you have a completed cost-share practice that has been damaged by a weather event this spring or have agricultural land that has sustained damage and you would like cost-share assistance to assist with repairing the damage please contact our office no later than August 19, 2011. If your cost-share practice is still under a maintenance agreement you are required to repair damages to maintain the practice.

We will visit your property and complete a brief assessment of the damages and forward this information to our program office. We are hoping our Commission will provide funding to help us assist landowners repair damage they have received.

Sincerely,

Morgan County Soil and Water
Conservation District
Board of Supervisors



SAVING ENERGY. STRENGTHENING AGRICULTURE.

Energy saving technologies must be installed no later than November 30, 2012.

MAESTRO TEAM (800) 732-1399 | MoAgEnergySavings.org

Funding is provided by the U.S. Department of Energy through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

When the MAESTRO program first launched it was a loan based program. As representatives from the program reached out to Missouri livestock farmers the farmers spoke about the economic hardships they have been facing. Farmers wanted incentives, not loans. We heard the farmers and we took action. The Missouri Department of Agriculture, the University of Missouri and EnSave, Inc. put together a proposal and presented it to the U.S. Department of Energy. The outcome was very positive.

The MAESTRO program now offers incentives up to 75% of the total project cost, not to exceed \$5,000 as well as a loan buy down to 3%, up to \$50,000. The program offers Energy Management Plans (EMP's) which looks at the whole farm operation and technical assistance which focuses on one farm measure. The farmer cost for the EMP is \$250 but will be reimbursed once the farmer installs energy efficient equipment recommended in the report and reaches a 15% energy savings. The technical assistance, which was not offered in the original program, is free to the farmer and is valued at \$500. Farmers can also receive a home audit for \$125. The home audit cost will also be reimbursed to the farmer if you install the recommended equipment.

Department of Agriculture Opens New Incentives for On-Farm Energy Savings Program

(JEFFERSON CITY, Mo.) – New financial incentives are available for Missouri livestock producers who install qualifying energy efficient equipment. The Missouri Agricultural Energy Savings Team—A Revolutionary Opportunity program, also known as MAESTRO looks at ways to save energy on the whole farm including the farm residence through the installation of energy efficient equipment.

MAESTRO is a program funded by the U.S. Department of Energy and operated by the Missouri Department of Agriculture, University of Missouri and EnSave, Inc.

Missouri farmers have continuously shown great interest in both efficiency and innovation, cornerstones of this program, “said Director of Agriculture Dr. Jon Hagler. “Helping farmers get energy audits and upgrades can greatly improve their bottom lines and that is good for all Missourians.”

Program Highlights:

Energy Management Plans – a \$1,500 value for only \$250, Free if you install the recommended equipment
 *Free Technical Assistance *Home energy audit – a \$500 value for only \$125
 *Incentive up to 75% of the total project cost, not to exceed \$5,000.
 *Loan buy down to 3% - up to \$50,000,

OR 75% loan guarantee for loans up to \$50,000

To receive an incentives projects must have 15% energy savings or greater. Energy Management Plans - Once the project(s) are complete the \$250 cost is reimbursed. Home energy audits - Once the project(s) are complete the \$125 cost is reimbursed.

Interested farmers are encouraged to call the MAESTRO team at 800-732-1399 for more information or to enroll. on installation and reaching a 15% energy savings.

July 31st Marks End of 319 Project

On July 31, 2011 the book closed on the Gabriel Streambank Stabilization 319 Project. The grant, a Section 319 Nonpoint Source Implementation Grant, was approved in 2007. The funds awarded by the EPA through DNR supported the project from August 1, 2007 through July 31, 2011. The project focused on creating a nine-element watershed management plan, a streambank restoration plan (with the Missouri Department of Conservation input and approval) and informational workshops.

A large portion of the last three years was spent on compiling information to create the watershed management plan. This process included walking the main channels of both Gabriel Creek and Haw Creek along with a few tributaries, driving throughout the watershed, internet research, and personal interviews. The purpose was to gain a more holistic view of the watershed in its entirety and to understand how it has morphed through the years. Additionally, it was important to gain a first-hand account of present and future issues that need to be addressed in the watershed management plan (i.e. Gravel deposition).

A copy of the complete watershed management plan is available to anyone and everyone at the Morgan County SWCD office in Versailles. We cannot say that it is the final draft of the watershed management plan as the document is an ever-changing document. The plan is tied directly to the watershed and as the watershed changes the need for the watershed management plan to adapt to current issues will increase.

The second portion of the grant was the informational workshop section, we hosted five major workshops over the past four years. Each of the workshops addressed issues that were important to stream mechanics and/or addressed BMP's that would help to preserve the good water quality we currently enjoy. All of the workshops were open to the public and advertised in both the Versailles Statesman and the Morgan County Press.

The final portion of the grant was a streambank stabilization and restoration plan. We recently were able to install two cedar revetments on Gabriel Creek. One of these revetments will serve as a demonstration site; if you are interested to see how well the revetment has served its purpose, please give the office a call so that we may contact you when we get a workshop set up. As the project comes to a close, we are working on getting a rock weir project implemented on Haw Creek...stay tuned to the upcoming newsletters for updates!

We would like to thank the citizens of the Gabriel Creek watershed for their interest and participation in this project. We look forward to continuing to assist you and all of the citizens of Morgan County on your water quality and agricultural needs!



MDC Staff installing the cedar trees on Gabriel Creek.



MDC Staff installing the cedar trees on Gabriel Creek.



The final product!

**Morgan County Soil and Water
Conservation District
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Versailles, MO 65084**

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“Return Service Requested”



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Technician

NRCS Personnel

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Johnetta Yeager, Soil Conservationist
Kevin Franken, Resource Conservationist
John Draffen, Soil Conservation Technician

August 10.....SWCD Board Meeting 8:00
September 5.....Labor Day Holiday
October 10.....Columbus Day Holiday
October 12.....SWCD Board Meeting 8:00
November 11.....Veterans Day Holiday
November 24.....Thanksgiving Day
December 21.....1st Day of Winter
December 25.....Christmas

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