

*Morgan County Soil
and Water
Conservation District
100 S. Burke Street
Versailles, MO 65084
573-378-5822 ext. 3054*

Soil Conservation News

Meeting Planned to Provide Input into Federal Conservation Programs

A local working group charged with identifying local priority resource concerns and providing input about program criteria to the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) will meet at 1 PM, Thursday, July 7 at the Morgan County Library at 600 N Hunter in Versailles.

The working group is comprised primarily of representatives of various local, state and federal agencies with knowledge of natural resource concerns. Specifically, the group will help prioritize selection criteria for NRCS' Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) and Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) applications in Miller and Morgan counties. The meeting is open to the public and will include time for comments from residents of the represented counties. While final decisions will be made by NRCS leadership, local input is requested. Anyone needing accommodation to participate in this meeting should contact at 573-392-5667 ext 3, seven days prior to the meeting.

For more information, contact Michael Morris at (573) 392-5667 ext 3 or email at michael.morris@mo.usda.gov.



Sign Up Underway for FY2017 Cost-Share Practices

July 1st marks the beginning of a new fiscal year (FY 2017) for our conservation district. In FY 2016 we were able to complete 44 practices for a total of \$250,916.05. We are currently signing landowners up for FY2017 practices. If you are already on our Commitment List, great. If you are not and would like to implement a cost-share practice between July 1st 2016 and May 31st, 2017 now is the time to let us know. We service our requests in the order they are received within each resource concern. We provide reimbursement for cost-share practices up to 75% of the State Average Cost.

Practices available include:

DSL-1 : Permanent Vegetative Cover Establishment

Purpose: To prepare seedbed and seed permanent ground cover. To reduce erosion and improve water quality.

Criteria: Land must show signs of erosion, all State and Federal regulations must be followed, and legumes must be maintained for 5 years.

DSL-5 Diversions

Purpose: Divert excess surface water from farmland.

Criteria: An eroding gully must be present, protection from overgrazing must be done until grass is established, all State and Federal regulations must be followed, and area must be maintained for 5 years.

DSL-11—Permanent Vegetative Cover on Critical Areas

Purpose: To reduce erosion on critical area gullies by stabilizing the soil loss, this includes grading, shaping and filling, mulching, and establishing a permanent vegetative cover.

Criteria: An eroding gully must be present, protection from overgrazing must be done until grass is established, all State and Federal regulations must be followed, and the area must be maintained for 5 years.

DSP-2 –To improve the productive cover of existing pastureland and hayland by interseeding legumes with no-till seeding, adequate fencing and water distribution must be in place to insure proper rotational management.

Criteria: Cover must be in poor conditions with less than 30% legumes present and meet erosion requirement; or fescue endophyte levels of 30-70% present. Must follow all NRCS standards; all State and Federal regulations must be followed, and must be maintained for 5 years.

DSP-3—Planned Grazing Systems

Purpose: To increase land management on pastureland by using rotational grazing. Environmental benefits include erosion control and/or prevention and water quality protection.

Criteria: Landowner must attend an approved grazing school prior to receiving approval to begin, a minimum of 4 paddocks will be used to rotate livestock, costs include pipeline, tanks, pump, development of a water source, (well/pond) and fencing for interior fence. Must follow all NRCS standards and must be maintained for 5 years. Incentive: Cost-share is provided at 75% of the state average cost with per acre limits on various portions of the practice. Note: This practice has various portions that can include water development, water distribution, paddock fencing, lime and a one-time interseeding of legumes with per practice limits.

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N316– Incinerator

Purpose: To incinerate livestock and poultry carcasses as part of a waste management system to decrease non-point source pollution of surface and groundwater resources.

Criteria: Animal carcass disposal must be addressed as part of a waste management system for a livestock or poultry operation; only livestock carcasses may be incinerated; completed practice must meet NRCS Standards; all State and Federal regulations must be followed, and the system must be maintained for 10 years.

N312– Waste Management System

Purpose: To manage waste from various agricultural production in a way that prevents or minimizes harming of soil and water resources by building lagoons or stack houses.

Criteria: Waste must be produced on the farm; landowner must follow a nutrient management plan; completed practice must meet NRCS Standards; all State and Federal regulations must be followed, and the system must be maintained for ten years.

N317- Composting Facility

Purpose: To treat carcasses biologically to produce a material that can be used as fertilizer.

Criteria: Composting must be needed to manage waste organic material properly; landowners must follow a nutrient management plan; completed practice must meet NRCS Standards; all State and Federal regulations must be followed, and the system must be maintained for ten years.

N312–Well Decommissioning

Purpose: To treat and fill unused wells that are subject to contamination from agricultural production.

Criteria: Treatment of well, usually with bleach, is required before decommissioning; completed practice must meet NRCS Standards; all State and Federal regulations must be followed, and decommissioning must be maintained for ten years.

Incentive: Cost-Share is \$400.

N472–Exclusion

Purpose: To protect, maintain, or improve plant, soil and water resources in areas that are in need of protection.

Criteria: Area must be fenced off to exclude livestock; completed practice must meet NRCS Standards; all State and Federal regulations must be followed, and area must be maintained for ten years.

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Sign Up Underway for FY2017 Cost-Share Practices

N574—Spring Development

Purpose: To protect and enhance water quality in areas where livestock has free access to a spring and provide a dependable supply of suitable water.

Criteria: Spring or seep collection area should be fenced, if needed, to prevent future damage to either vegetation or spring area; completed practice must meet NRCS Standards; all State and Federal regulations must be followed, and development must be maintained for ten years.

N590—Nutrient Management

Purpose: To demonstrate and reduce improper application of commercial fertilizer by using a soil analysis to determine proper application of nutrients on lands where commercial fertilizers are over applied.

Criteria: A complete nutrient management plan must be written; soil amendments (lime) shall be applied to adjust the soil pH to satisfy the crop being grown at the operator's expense; completed practice must meet NRCS Standards, and all State and Federal regulations must be followed.

WQ-10 Stream Protection

Purpose: To improve water quality of stream by providing an alternative water source for livestock.

Criteria: Streams, branches, and ponds must be protected from livestock by permanent fencing; maximum width for financial incentive is 150 feet; completed practice must meet NRCS Standards, all State and Federal regulations must be followed, and must be maintained for ten years.

Other practices available:

DWC-1 Water Impoundment Reservoir

DWP-1 Sediment Retention Structure

DWP -3 Sod Waterway

C650 Streambank Stabilization

N340 Cover Crops

N595 Pest Management

For more information or for the incentive rate on any of these practices please call the office at 573-378-5822 ext. 3.

All practices must be approved by the Soil and Water District Board prior to any work being done. Starting the work prior to approval will make us unable to pay for your practice.

County Producers Embrace Cover Crops

Our District began offering Cover Crops as a permanent conservation cost-share practice this fiscal year, beginning in July 2015. The response has been wonderful. We cost-shared on a total of 767.30 acres with a payment amount of \$25,030.50 to landowners. This represents a huge benefit to everyone in our county as we begin to see the benefits of cleaner stormwater runoff and healthier more productive soils.

The cost-share program serves as an incentive to get farmers to try something “new” or different. At one time, no-till was a new idea that farmers would just add another layer of risk to their already risk-laden profession. Over time, no-till has proven to be extremely beneficial to soil health and has saved our counties waters.

Similar benefits are being seen with cover crops. Producers have seen increased biological activity, specifically the return of great numbers of earthworms; and have reported that root activity in the soil has greatly improved surface soil structure. In addition producers across the United States who have been in a cover crop program for 2 to 5 years are reporting increased yields on their cover cropped fields.

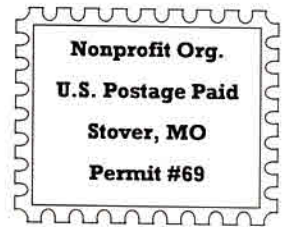
Some highlights of the cover crop practice are:

- Contracted acres must currently be in a minimum of a two species crop rotation.
- Cover crops must be no-tilled or broadcast seeded with either ground equipment or aerial.
- Production crop following the cover crop must be planted using a no-till system on contracted acres.
- All Cover Crop mixes **MUST** include at least 25% cool season grass or small grain.
- Cover crops may not be harvested for grain, seed or hayed.
- Tillage cannot be used to terminate cover crops.
- **MAXIMUM COST-SHARE:** Payment of \$30/acre/year for a 1 or 2 species mix, or \$40/acre/year for 3 or more species mix. Lifetime maximum per operator of \$20,000.
- Soil samples must be taken on each field prior to seeding cover crops.
- The Cover Crop practice is intended to be a demonstration practice. In order to keep with this intent and for landowners' to see the full benefit of the practice we are requiring landowner's only be allowed to use \$10,000 (1/2 of the maximum allowed per Commission policy) the first year they participate in the practice. Should the landowner decide to participate in future years they will only be allowed to participate on land they participated on in the first year. Landowners will be required to take and submit the second soil test to receive payment in the second or subsequent year so data may be gathered and analyzed.

Landowners will be allowed to enroll new acres into the program only after they have participated on previously enrolled acres for two years.

If you are interested in signing up for Cover Crops or any of our cost-share practices please call 573-378-5822 ext. 3 to get your name on our Commitment List.

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"Return Service Requested"

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NRCS Personnel

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

CONSERVING SOIL AND WATER FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS

The Soil and Water Conservation Program works to conserve Missouri's soil and Water for future generations. The program includes several voluntary programs that provide agricultural landowners with incentives for using soil and water conservation practices.

The Park's Soils and Water Sales Tax is a statewide one-tenth-of-one percent sales tax that provides funding for Missouri state parks and historic sites and soil and water conservation efforts. The tax is divided equally between the two efforts.

The Soil and Water Conservation Program is funded by the Parks, Soils and Water Sales Tax.

The Parks, Soils and Water Sales Tax is placed on the ballot every 10 years to reaffirm the voter's support of the park system and soil and water conservation efforts. The Park's, Soils and Water Sales is set to expire if not renewed by voters in 2016. The issue will be on November's ballot.

USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer. To file a complaint of discrimination, write: USDA, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Ave., SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (866) 632-9992 (Toll-free Customer Service), (800) 877-8339 (Local or Federal relay), (866) 377-8642 (Relay voice users).