

GREENE COUNTY SOIL AND WATER

Greene Lines

HEY, HOW'S THE WEATHER?

Record Dry Summer



2025 started out with a very wet spring, and has progressed to a very dry summer. August 2025 was actually the driest August on record for the Springfield area, with only 0.19 inches of rain recorded (NWS, 2025). A big difference from our last Greene Lines issue with April 2025 bringing in 13.29 inches of rain!

The current Missouri Drought Monitor shows Greene County in a D2 – Severe Drought (as of December 4, 2025). Landowners are encouraged to submit drought reports to keep the information updated and accurate. The link to the reporting system can be found [here](#).

Announcements

OFFICES OPEN AFTER SHUTDOWN

After a 44 day long government shutdown, the Greene County SWCD office is finally open again. Staff will be working our regular hours, M-F, 8 AM – 4:30 PM. Come in and see us!

IN THIS EDITION

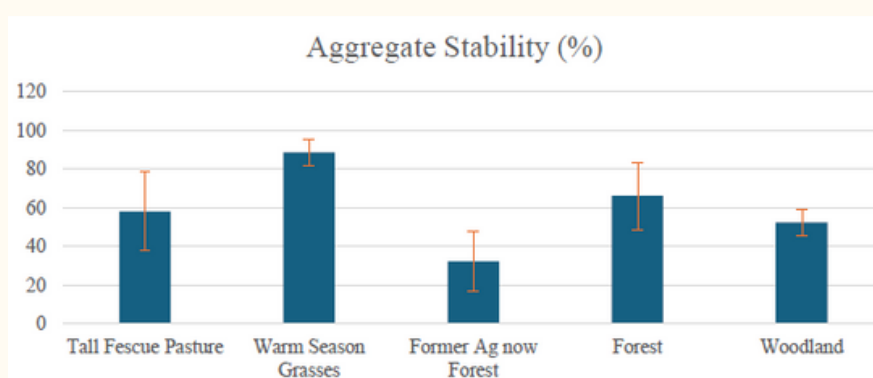
- Land Use Impact on Soil Structure & Compaction on Tonti Soil
- Well Decommissioning
- FFA Update – Fair Grove, MO

Land Use Impact on Soil Structure and Compaction on Tonti Soil

LINDSEY ANDERSON, NRCS SOIL SCIENTIST

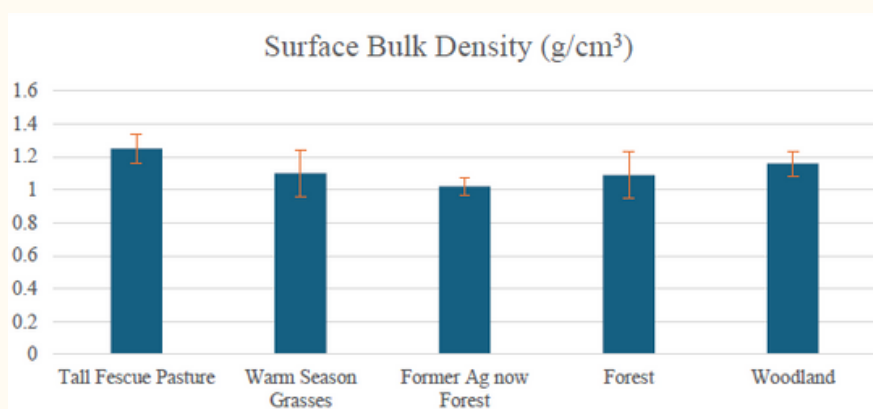
Tonti soil is a fairly productive soil in the Ozarks. Historically, these soils developed under forest vegetation but are used today for pasture, hay, and some crop production. Below are results from a project to evaluate land use impacts on Tonti soil.

Soil Aggregate Stability



Aggregate stability was significantly higher in the warm season grass field than other sites, most likely due to the deeper, thicker root systems of warm season grasses.

Soil Compaction



Soil surface bulk density is a measure of compaction and shows no significant difference between land uses. There's a trend towards lower bulk density in the warm season grass site and former agricultural and now forested site. This could be due to the increased root production at both these sites. The former agricultural and now forested site had more vegetative understory and therefore more roots than the other two forested sites.

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Land Use Impact on Soil Structure and Compaction on Tonti Soil, cont.

LINDSEY ANDERSON, NRCS SOIL SCIENTIST

Where you evaluate soil health matters



A soil slice from within the tall fescue pasture (left) versus a soil slice from the same pasture but near a field road/heavy use area (right). The soil slice to the right has platy, compacted surface structure and is lighter in color, indicating less organic matter.



Soil Profiles from (A) Tall Fescue field, (B) Warm Season Grasses field, (C) Forested site, and (D) Full Soil Pit.

Soil and Water Conservation Program Practice: Well Decommissioning

AINSLEY FRIELING, DISTRICT SPECIALIST II

The Missouri Soil and Water Conservation Program offers a Well Decommissioning practice to Missouri landowners. This practice is meant to prevent entry of contaminated surface water into the ground water, as well as preventing vermin, debris, fertilizer, pesticides, or other foreign substances from entering the well / well bore hole.

The Greene County SWCD can assist landowners with implementing this practice on their land. State law requires abandoned wells to be properly plugged. By definition, a well is considered abandoned when “it can no longer produce water, transport water to its point of use, and has not been used for two or more years.” (DNR, 2023)

In the state of Missouri, it is estimated that there is one abandoned well/cistern every 80 acres, according to the Missouri Department of Natural Resources (DNR). These abandoned wells not only pose a hazard for the ground water, but can provide a physical hazard of someone falling into the well. While some wells in Missouri can run less than 30 feet deep, some are drilled up to 1,800 feet deep, posing a great hazard if the well is abandoned and not decommissioned properly (DNR, 2025).

The Well Decommissioning Practice (N351) offered by the Soil and Water Program applies to any “drilled, dug, driven, bored, or otherwise constructed vertical water well subject to agricultural nonpoint source contamination.” (SWCP, 2025). Wells that have been used for waste disposal or have evidence of contamination are not eligible for this practice.



The maximum state cost-share for this practice is \$800 per decommissioned well. Plugging a well is estimated to cost around \$300 to \$1,200, dependent on well type and depth (FarmProgress, 2015).

If you are interested in decommissioning a well on your property, contact the Greene County Soil and Water Conservation District today!

Picture 1: Abandoned wellhead of a N351 Well Decommissioning contract in Dallas County, Missouri.

FFA Update: Fair Grove, MO

REGAN CLINES, FAIR GROVE FFA REPORTER

The Fair Grove FFA has been busy these past few weeks with the AG Sales class planning a Thanksgiving Craft Workshop and live turkey lesson. Fair Grove elementary school students took a trip down to the Agriculture Building where the AG Sales class made little turkey snack bags for the kids and hand-painted turkeys.

The elementary kids painted their hands to create turkey feathers for the turkey's body that we made to give to their teachers for Thanksgiving. Along with that, we also made a District-wide gratitude chain and hung it at the Fair Grove Price Cutter for everyone to see.



Picture 1: Fair Grove AG Sales students speak to elementary students during their Thanksgiving Craft Workshop.



Picture 2: Fair Grove students with the gratitude chain at the local Price Cutter grocery store.

Another class that the Fair Grove FFA Advisor, Mr. Cole Johnston, teaches is Conservation, where students have learned a lot in the last semester. Some of the things that they have learned in class over the last five months is wildlife, like mammals, turkeys, and waterfowl. Students also got to ID wildlife in Missouri and learn about ecology and trapping animals (the good and the bad things).

To finish off the semester, Conservation students had to learn about Hunters Education and the safe and proper ways to hunt. Afterwards, students took the Missouri Hunter Safety Education Course to receive their Hunters Licenses.

SWCD Rental Equipment

The Greene County Soil and Water District has No-Till Drills, a broadcast seeder, and several other pieces of equipment available to rent! Please contact us to schedule a drill in advance – the drills rent out very quickly during planting season. Here are some quick FAQs about our equipment rentals:

Who can rent equipment from Greene SWCD?

- We only rent to Greene County residents, as per board policy.

How much does it cost to rent the No-Till Drills?

- All of our drills are \$12/acre and have a \$250 minimum that is due upfront.

What kind of hitch do the drills take?

- The drills take a pintle hitch (provided by the district) with a 2" receiver hitch. A 3/4 ton truck is required to pull the drills.

How do I reserve the drill? Can I rent multiple times a season?

- Yes – you can rent with us any time! Please call our office to reserve the drills. Keep in mind that scheduling during the busy season can be difficult, so you may not get the exact drill or date you want without scheduling in advance.



Contact us today!

HAVE ANY QUESTIONS FOR THE DISTRICT?

Our office is open from 8:00am-4:30pm, Monday – Friday, located in the Springfield USDA Service Center.

417-831-5246 EXT. 3

Check out our website, and follow us on [Facebook](#) for district updates!

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