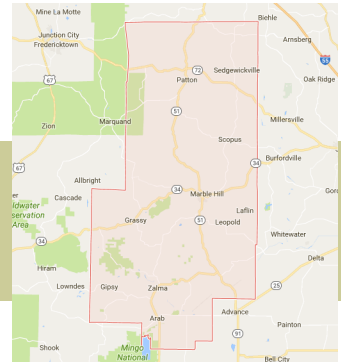


SUMMER/FALL 2023

BOLLINGER COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT



OFFICE STAFF

Megan Baker, SWCD
District Technician

Beth Eeftink, SWCD
District Manager

Shane Bess, NRCS
District Conservationist

Erin Roseberry, NRCS
Resource Conservationist

LaVern Taylor, NRCS
Soil Con. Technician

Conner Oldsen, NRCS
Resource Conservationist

Alicia Sullinger, NRCS
Soil Conservationist

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Ronald Reagan
Chairman

Tammy Peters
Vice Chairman

Lance VanGennip
Treasurer

Donna Aufdenberg
Secretary

Tyler Brune
Member

Local Reporting by Public Key to Accurately Assessing Drought Conditions

JEFFERSON CITY, MO, JUNE 16, 2023 - State agencies are accelerating drought response efforts in Missouri and developing resources to assist those at greatest risk of serious impacts. Reports of local conditions are a key tool in assessing the changing drought situation. The public can assist local, state and national decision makers better understand conditions in their area by submitting a survey form via the Condition Monitoring Observer Reports (CMOR) service at droughtimpacts.unl.edu/fools/ConditionMonitoringObservations.aspx.

CMOR is an online collaborative effort to crowdsource data on ground-level drought conditions as they develop. Reports and photographs submitted through CMOR are used by state and federal officials to ensure the national drought map accurately portrays conditions in Missouri and other states. By ensuring the map's accuracy, federal resources can be made available as soon as possible for drought-affected areas.

Governor Mike Parson, on May 31, issued a Drought Alert for 60 counties from mid-Missouri to northwestern Missouri. The continuing hot, dry weather means drought conditions are expected to further degrade heading into summer. Other counties will be added to the alert and be eligible for assistance as they reach established drought thresholds.

A variety of helpful online resources are available at dnr.mo.gov/drought. The one-stop drought information website features current drought-related news, a series of Missouri drought maps and current condition reports, U.S. Drought Monitor, Missouri Drought Plan and other resources, including information on past droughts.

D2 (Severe Drought) or Higher Policy Variances In Response to Executive Order 23-05

The Soil & Water Districts Commission granted policy variances for Soil & Water Conservation Districts that reach a minimum of D2 (severe drought) status or higher in response to Governor Parsons Executive Order 23-05. The variances are effective until the executive order expires December 1, 2023, unless terminated or extended by subsequent order. The county will remain eligible for the variances even if the level of drought is reduced below D2. Bollinger County reached D2 status on June 29, 2023.

The variances approved by the commission are:

DWC-02 Water impoundment Reservoir Cleanout Practice

The practice is only available in D2 or higher drought designated counties; only available for ponds that were constructed with state cost-share; the sediment in the pond must be completely removed; a flat rate of \$1500 per half acre (up to 2 acres) the maximum for the cleanout part of the practice is \$6,000; and fence and water supply components are available as needed, and do not fall under the \$6,000 limit.

Variance to Grazing Practices- Water Development and Distribution, and Grazing School

Deferred the Grazing School Requirement for 12 months after contract payment/or the Water Development (DSP 3.1) and Water Distribution (DSP 3.2) Grazing System practices. The contracts will be for only one watering tank and pipeline and the water source development. The rest of the system can be designed and installed after the landowner has completed an approved grazing school. It is important that producers understand managed grazing prior to designing their systems. A landowner may utilize this variance on two grazing systems that are not contiguous.

Any landowner that has already attended a grazing school that needs assistance with water does not have to be limited to one tank. The district can plan a grazing system through the routine planning process.

Variances to Cover Crop Practice-Lifetime Maximum and Haying

Granted a variance to the N340 Cover Crop practice allowing the cover crops to be harvested for livestock feed at termination to provide additional forages and waive the two production crop rotation requirement for the next planted production crop.

A temporary removal of the N340 Cover Crop Practice maximum for the operators planning to harvest the forage for feed which would allow assistance to anyone that has reached the \$20,000 lifetime maximum. Landowners over the \$20,000 maximum will receive \$30 per acre for any additional acres enrolled. To exceed the \$20,000 lifetime maximum, the landowner or operator must be intending to harvest the additional acreage in cover crop for livestock feed.

Variance to Livestock Exclusion Requirements

Granted a variance allowing immediate grazing in any of the livestock exclusion areas for the DFR-5 Woodland Protection Through Livestock Exclusion, DWC-1 Water Impoundment Reservoir, N386 Field Border, N393 Filter Strip, N472 Livestock Exclusion, and WQ10 Stream Protection practices. Provided the area is established in forage that can withstand grazing.

Variance to Reseeding Policy

The commission also granted a variance to their reseeding policy to assist seeding practices impacted by the drought. The variance allows districts to provide assistance to reseed a practice anytime during the maintenance life of the practice in which the grass stand failed due to the drought of 2022 or 2023. The variance applies to the DSL-01 Permanent Vegetative Cover Establishment, DSL-02 Permanent Vegetative Cover Improvement, DSP-02 Permanent Vegetative Cover Enhancement and DSP-3.5 Grazing System Seed practices.

For more information or to determine if you qualify for any of the variances listed above, call the Bollinger County Soil & Water Office at 573/238-2671 ext. 3.

Updated drought information, including a link to the national drought conditions reporting survey and a U.S. Drought Monitor map of Missouri and much more, is available at [Drought | Missouri Department of Natural Resources \(mo.gov\)](https://drought.missouri.gov/). Local drought conditions can be submitted to the [Condition Monitoring Observer Reports \(CMOR\)](https://drought.missouri.gov/cmor/).

2023 Bollinger County Poster Contest Winners

The Bollinger County Soil & Water Conservation District (SWCD) held their annual poster contest for 4th, 5th and 6th graders in the county. The theme for 2023 is “Watersheds – One Water.” A total of 205 posters were submitted from all four county schools: Leopold, Meadow Heights, Woodland and Zalma schools. Three grand prize winners from each grade were selected to win cash prizes.



Winners from Leopold School Top Row L – R: Peyton Van de Ven - 5th Grade, 2nd Place; Audrey Langston – 5th Grade, 3rd Place; Brook Beussink – 6th Grade, 3rd Place; and Patrick Polanczyk – 6th Grade, 1st Place. Bottom Row L – R: Jaxon Fluchel – 4th Grade, 3rd Place; Addison Arnzen – 4th Grade, 2nd Place; and Olive Deck – 4th Grade, 1st Place.



Winner from Woodland School: Keira Melendy - 5th Grade, 1st Place.



Winner from Zalma School: Ciara Burkman – 6th Grade, 2nd Place.

Missouri Climate-Resilient Crop and Livestock (CRCL) Project

Incentive payments that support adoption of climate-smart practices for Missouri producers

The Center for Regenerative Agriculture at the University of Missouri has received a [\\$25 million grant from the United States Department of Agriculture \(USDA\)](#) to lead the Missouri Climate-Resilient Crop and Livestock (CRCL) Project. Over the course of five years, this project will assist Missouri producers by providing incentive payments that encourage the adoption of a wide range of climate-smart practices to create more resilient crop and livestock systems. To reach a wide range of farmers, we're introducing eight tailored incentive payment initiatives.

The Missouri CRCL Project is led by the Center for Regenerative Agriculture at the University of Missouri, in collaboration with [14 partners from across the state](#). This joint effort will increase access to technical assistance and resources to help farmers adopt climate-smart practices.

Learn about the eight incentive payment programs by visiting the website

<https://cra.missouri.edu/mo-crcl/>

The eight incentive payment programs offered:

- Incentive payment for producers to graze livestock on cover crops – Payment per acre \$20 Sign-up Period: July 19 – August 31, 2023.
- Incentive payment for soybean producers to fall plant cereal rye prior to soybeans – Payment per acre \$30. Sign-up Period: July 19 – August 31, 2023.
- For row crop producers (corn, sorghum, cotton): Fall plant diverse cover crops with at least 3 species, including an overwintering species – Payment per acre \$40. Sign-up Period: July 19 – August 31, 2023.
- Incentive payment for producers to do late termination, where a cover crop is left alive until planting a cash crop (e.g. planting green) – Payment per acre \$15. Sign-up Period: July 19 – August 31, 2023.
- Incentive payment for livestock producers to plant trees on pastures to expand Missouri woodland area and provide shade for livestock – Payment per acre \$250. Sign-up Period: Open July 19th and will accept applications on a rolling basis through Year 1.
- Incentive payment to implement regenerative grazing with biodiverse forage species, managed intensive grazing, and low-cost watering and fencing approaches – Payment per acre \$50. Sign-up: TBD.
- Incentive payment to implement appropriate nutrient management practices that include use of the 4R nutrient stewardship approach, and split-nitrogen application – Payment per acre \$20 Sign-up: TBD.
- Program for small and underserved farmers to implement climate-smart fieldscapes, comprised of at least three stacked climate-smart practices that will serve as demonstration sites \$10,000 spread across 3-year contract. Sign-up Period: TBD.

What is the application and award process?

Each practice will have its own annual deadline and application process. Farmers who meet the eligibility criteria can apply for their program of interest using the Missouri CRCL application powered by [FarmRaise](#). FarmRaise is a digital platform that connects farmers to funding opportunities and financial tracking services.

The general application process includes:

1. **Application:** Use the Missouri CRCL application powered by FarmRaise to create an account and apply for the incentive program you are interested in.
2. **Decision:** Some practices operate on a first-come, first-served basis. The respective team responsible for each practice will review each application and send you a response to the registered email address.
3. **Implementation:** The timeline for implementation and payments will be communicated to you if you are approved for the incentive payment.
4. **Confirm practice implementation and provide reporting information.** Once the practice is implemented, you must provide the following prior to being issued a payment:
 - Upload a photograph of the practice implemented in the field OR a receipt of the materials purchased to implement the practice (for a list of materials that are appropriate for each practice can be found on each incentive payment program website) through their application account.
 - Complete the reporting information (required by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)). A subset of all participants may also be asked to have soil samples taken on their field.
 - A subset of all participants will receive a site visit for verification.
5. **Receive payment.** Once you have provided all of the requested information, the University of Missouri will issue their payment.

Do You Qualify?

This project is for Missouri producers wanting to implement climate-smart practices. Some incentive payment programs may have eligibility criteria, but in general, you can apply for the Missouri CRCL Project if:

- ⇒ The farm/fields you wish to enroll are in Missouri.
- ⇒ You have a Farm Service Agency (FSA) Farm Number. (A FSA farm number from the USDA identifies where your farm is located.
- ⇒ You are a current citizen of the U.S. or a lawful alien possessing a valid I-551 (Form I-551 is the formal designation of a permanent resident card (also known as a green card).
- ⇒ The fields you wish to enroll in are not currently enrolled in any other financial incentive program for the same practice, such as Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) or Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP). (Note: although you cannot have duplicate payments for the same practice, you may be eligible for a complementary practice payment!).
- ⇒ You have full operational control of the field you wish to enroll, which grants you the capacity to independently implement the desired practices and engage in farming activities.
- ⇒ If you are approved, you must be prepared to supply additional information required by USDA about your farm before the incentive payment is issued to you.

Apply now! Use the Missouri CRCL web-based application powered by FarmRaise to create an account and apply for the incentive program you are interested in. <https://www.farmraise.com/mo-crcl>.

Emergency Release of CRP acres for Haying and Grazing

Bollinger County has been approved to release CRP for emergency haying and grazing. The CRP contract holder will need to complete the necessary paperwork before the request to hay or graze can be approved. All emergency haying and grazing requests must be approved with your local FSA office prior to starting the activity.

The specific rules for haying and grazing will be discussed with the contract holder. A modified conservation plan will need to be completed containing the specific rules to be followed. The specific rules depend on the county's drought monitor status.

Full details on the haying and grazing regulations based on the varying stages of the drought monitor will be provided to the CRP participant by the FSA staff at the time the forms are completed.

Contact the Bollinger County FSA office at 573-238-2671 ext. 2 for full details.

A Few Reminders...

- **NRCS accepts applications for conservation programs, including EQIP & CSP, year-round. Producers may submit a signed and dated application via the mail, fax, scan, email, or submit through the agency approved Client-Gateway at <https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/cgate/> or make an appointment to fill out an application at the office by calling (573)238-2671 ext. 3.**
- **SWCD & NRCS completes random spot checks on practices still under maintenance agreements. Maintenance life varies from 5 to 10 years depending on the practice.**
- **To get important dates and the most up-to-date information from the Bollinger County SWCD, visit our website at <https://mosoilandwater.land/bollinger>.**

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.



Equipment Rental

The Bollinger County SWCD & Missouri Department of Conservation have the following equipment available for completing your farming practices:

7' No-till Drill—\$12.00/acre

10' No-till Drill—\$15.00/acre

Wildlife Food Plot (1 row) Planter

Burn Spray Trailer