

Greene Lines

Greene County Soil & Water Conservation District Newsletter | Spring 2025

Greene County SWCD has New Employees!

The Greene County SWCD is excited to announce that two new employees, Ainsley Frieling and Jeff Clines, have started with the district. Ainsley is a recent Missouri State graduate with a passion for conservation. She earned her bachelor's degree in Wildlife Conservation and Management last spring, and started with the district in September 2024. Jeff has been a local dairy/beef farmer and owner of a custom haying business for 20+ years. He started with the district in February 2025. They are both excited to take on these new roles and further conservation efforts in Missouri!

Greene County SWCD Board of Supervisors

David Hall, Chairman
Farmer, Attorney

Eric Bowers
Farmer

Tom Huff, 1st Vice Chairman
Farmer

Kelly McGowan, Secretary
UMC Extension - Appointed Member

Randy Corner, 2nd Vice Chairman
Farmer

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Management Intensive Grazing – What is it?

Ainsley Frieling, District Specialist I
Greene County SWCD

Management Intensive Grazing, also known as rotational grazing, prescribed grazing, etc. is a grazing system that provides multiple benefits for livestock, forage, and soil. The purpose of these systems, in NRCS standards, are to:

- Improve and maintain desired species composition and vigor of plant community
- Improve and maintain surface and subsurface water quality/quantity
- Improve and maintain riparian and watershed function
- Reduce accelerated soil erosion and maintain and improve soil condition

The Management Intensive Grazing programs we offer at the district focus on the conservation of the soil and water. These programs have a 10 year maintenance life, and any landowner interested in state cost-share for these programs must attend a Grazing School put on by MU Extension & NRCS. These schools run from April - October every year, and the schedule can be found [here](https://www.missourifgc.org/grazing-schools) or at the following web address: <https://www.missourifgc.org/grazing-schools>.

Please contact the Greene County SWCD with any questions related to these programs. We are here to assist you in any way that we can!

Contacting Greene County SWCD

District Phone: (417) 831-5246, ext. 3

District Cell: (417) 616-1541

Please leave a message with your name and number and we will get back to you as soon as we can!

Upcoming Board Meetings

Board meetings are held in the Springfield USDA Service Center conference room. These meetings are open to the public unless closed session is necessary. All upcoming meetings will take place on the third Thursday of the month unless otherwise notified. The next meeting is on May 16th. Hope to see you there!

Tips for New Vegetable Gardeners

**Kelly McGowan, Field Specialist in Horticulture
University of Missouri Extension**

Vegetable gardening is more popular than ever and for those new to this endeavor, welcome!

Gardeners are a wonderful community of people eager to share their knowledge with others. Connecting with other gardeners is my number one tip. This can be done by joining volunteer organizations such as the Extension Master Gardener program, attending classes and events in your area, or just by talking with people you already know. Gardeners are also typically generous with plant starts for their gardening friends!

Another tip is to start small. While a large, in-ground garden may be nice in theory, few have the time to care for a large garden properly and can become discouraged. Try growing in large containers. Livestock mineral tubs, buckets, and many other types of large containers work well if they have drainage holes in the bottom and are filled with quality soil. Raised beds are also a great option and can be purchased as kits or can be built with materials already on hand.

Shopping for plants can be a fun time for vegetable gardeners. The choices can also be overwhelming. Focus on vegetable varieties that you and your family will eat. For example, do you like to make salsa? Focus on tomatoes, a variety of peppers, garlic, onions, cilantro and other favorites. Do you like grilled vegetables? Grow types that hold up well to grilling. Do you have children? Try growing sugar snap peas or cherry tomatoes that can be picked and eaten raw. Also, keep in mind that many vegetable plants can become quite large taking up valuable space in a small growing area, so choose your plants wisely.

Quality soil is essential for growing vegetables. Container mixes, compost, and other healthy soil options are readily available at gardening supply centers. Healthy plants need healthy soil, so don't skip this important step. In addition, vegetables need to be grown in a full-sun location and will need soil moisture monitored daily.

The last tip is to have fun! Gardening is a life-long learning venture. Everyone has successes and failures and that's ok. If some plants die, try again. Also, consider growing flowers for pollinators, such as bees and butterflies. This can also be a fun companion to vegetable gardening.

Have further questions about vegetable gardening? Visit www.extension.missouri.edu or called the Master Gardeners of Greene County gardening hotline at 417-874-2963 or email at hotline@mgreene.org.

Watch Out for Grass Tetany

Ashley Springer, Soil Conservationist
Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

Grass tetany is a metabolic disease of ruminant livestock, where magnesium is deficient. Grass tetany occurs during the early spring when cool season grasses grow rapidly as temperatures rise and rainfall increases. Under these conditions, potassium is taken up by plants more readily than magnesium.

Older and lactating cows are more susceptible to grass tetany. Low magnesium causes rigid paralysis and dysfunction of nerves and muscles. This causes symptoms of incoordination, stiffness, collapse, thrashing, and sudden death. Death can occur within hours of clinical signs.

Prevention of grass tetany can be managed by taking soil tests and applying the proper amount of nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium. Over application of potassium may increase the risk of grass tetany. High levels of potassium in the grass inhibits the rumen's ability to absorb magnesium.

Application of dolomitic lime will add magnesium to the soil, adjust the pH of the soil over time, and allow plants to better take up magnesium. Mineral supplements may also be used to prevent grass tetany.

Contact your local extension specialist, veterinarian, or ruminant nutritionist for the best way to meet your animal's magnesium requirement this spring!

Greene County SWCD Equipment for Rent

Greene County SWCD has four Haybuster No-Till Drills available for rent: two 7 footers and two 10 footers. All of the district's No-Till Drills rent for \$12/acre with a \$250 minimum. Please contact for scheduling in advance – *the drills rent out quickly during planting time!*

A 3/4 ton truck with a 2" receiver hitch is required to pull the drills. The drills must be towed with a pintle hitch (provided by the district). Fertilizer cannot be used in the drill. If you are interested or have any questions about the rental equipment, please call the office at (417) 831-5246 ext. 3.



SPRINGFIELD PLATEAU PRESCRIBED BURN ASSOCIATION



The newly formed " Springfield Plateau PBA " is holding our first General Membership meeting this April (see details below).

PBA's in Missouri are formed to overcome obstacles to implementing prescribed fire on private lands, and to restore the native open and diverse character of Missouri Woodlands. It is based on a neighbor helping neighbor model.

Whether you need help applying fire to your land or want to gain hand on experience our PBA is available to help.

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING LOCATION

**SPRINGFIELD CONSERVATION
NATURE CENTER AUDITORIUM**
4601 Nature Center Way
Springfield, Missouri

TUESDAY, APRIL 22nd
6:00 - 7:30pm



MEMBERSHIP CRITERIA

Pay an annual \$25 membership fee; have once completed a wildland or prescribed fire training course;

Participate two times in a combination of PBA Activities each year.

CONTACT

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