

# CAPE GIRARDEAU COUNTY

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Soil Conservation Technician: LaVern Taylor

Quail Forever: Wes Buchheit

Phone: (573)243-1467 ext. 3



**January 2018**

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*NRCS District Conservationist*

**Monica Siler**

*NRCS Soil Conservationist*

**Scott Crumpecker**

*NRCS Soil Conservationist*

**Brad Pobst**

*Private Lands Conservationist  
Missouri Department of Conservation*

*Lend a Helping Hand to  
Conservation of Land*

SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

## NEWSLETTER

*Mark Your Calendars!*

### Special points of interest:

- Open House / Election
- Prescribed Burn

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The Cape Girardeau Soil and Water Conservation District cordially invites you to their Annual Appreciation Dinner.



**Thursday, March 22, 2018**

**Doors Open at 5:30 p.m., meal at 6:00 p.m.  
Knights of Columbus Hall—Jackson, Lower level  
Landowner Awards and Program to follow.**

**RSVP to: 573-243-1467 ext. 3  
Kacie.Hulshof@swcd.mo.gov  
with the number attending in your party**

**Election of Supervisors  
Polling Places**

Farm Service Agency  
Jackson, MO  
From 11:30-4:30

Knights of Columbus Hall  
Jackson MO  
From 5:30-6:30

## New Cost Share Sign Up

Important  
Information

Beginning January 1st, 2018 the Cape Girardeau County Soil and Water District enacted a new policy for adding your farm to the waiting list for Cost Share practices.

For better record keeping and improved accuracy the landowner or operator must fill out a simple form to be added to the Cost Share waiting list and be eligible for receiving financial assistance through the cost share pro-

grams. We are keeping the current running list. If you are currently on our cost share list you will remain on the list in your current position, this policy is for anyone being added after Jan. 1st.

If you are interested in adding a farm to the waiting list you can stop by the office or visit our website <https://mosoilandwater.land/cape-girardeau> and print the form off, fill it out, and mail it or scan it and email it back to us.

To sign up you will need to know the name in which the farm is legally owned and have the farm registered with the Farm Service Agency. If you would like to check and see if you are currently on the Cost Share waiting list or discuss the programs and services the Soil and Water District has to offer please feel free to contact the office at 573-243-1467 ext3.

## New Employees

LaVern Taylor, previous Perry Soil and Water Conservation District technician, has accepted a "Soil Conservation Technician" position with NRCS (Natural Resources Conservation Service). She will still be stationed in Perry County but will be shared with Cape Girardeau, St. Francois and Ste. Genevieve counties. Her first day in the new position was September 5<sup>th</sup>. LaVern will still be assisting the district staff, as

needed, but will also work with the federal programs NRCS offers.

Wesley Buchheit has been hired as the Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist with Quail Forever servicing Bollinger, Cape Girardeau and Perry Counties. Wes is stationed in the Jackson NRCS office, but will make regular visits to his other counties as his workload demands. Wes comes to us from the Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) as a Private Lands

Conservationist for Bollinger and Madison Counties. If you have the desire to improve the quail or other wildlife habitat on your farm, Wes would be happy to meet with you to discuss your habitat opportunities and also help you locate financial assistance through federal and state cost-share programs to help get habitat on the ground. Contact Wes at 573-243-1467 Ext. 6096 or [wbuchheit@quailforever.org](mailto:wbuchheit@quailforever.org).

### Wildlife Ways did you know.....

*Male and female bobwhites select a nest site and build a nest together. Both sexes are also known to incubate eggs and brood young chicks.*

## Essay Contest Winner

Every year the Cape Girardeau County SWCD holds an essay contest in which the winner receives money to go towards their education and expenses.

This year's essay contest winner was awarded to Andrew Puchbauer. Puchbauer is a student at Southeast Missouri State University majoring in Agribusiness: Agriculture Industry. Andrew will graduate soon with bachelors in May of 2018. In addition to school, Andrew farms with his dad, has his own livestock, and also works for Hemmann Farms LLC. Congratulations, Andrew!





10' John Deere—\$9/AC \* 10 AC minimum  
Requires a 80 HP tractor



7' Great Plains Drill—\$8/AC \* 10 AC minimum  
Requires a 60 HP tractor



Offset Disk —\$30/day or \$75 /weekend  
Requires a 60 HP tractor



8' Truax Drill —\$10/AC  
Requires a 60 HP tractor

## Prescribed Burn Workshop

Tuesday February 13th, the Missouri Department of Conservation is holding a Prescribed Fire Workshop.

The workshop is being held twice on Tuesday in hopes more landowners will be able to attend. The first workshop goes from 1:00– 4:30 p.m. and the second from 6:00—9:30 p.m. The workshop will be held at the Southeast Regional Conservation Office. Located at 2302 County Park Drive, Cape Girardeau, MO 63701.

This workshop will include classroom discussions on methods, equipment, safety, and why and when you would use fire as a management tool. Emphasis will include how to conduct a safe and effective burn to control sprouts, encourage beneficial plants and create better quality quail habitat. Participation will qualify landowners to have a prescribe burn plan prepared for their fields and use available loan equipment.

Attendees will also be invited to optional demonstration burns which will be conducted at a later date around the region to demonstrate the use of tools and techniques.

To register for one of the workshops, please contact the Missouri Department of Conservation at 573-290-5730.

Prescribed fire is a low cost way for landowners to manage grasslands, CRP and old forage production and/ or improve wildlife habitat. For more information about prescribed burning, contact Wes Buchheit, Wildlife Biologist.



Return Service Requested

Jackson, MO 63755  
480 W. Jackson Trail  
Cape Girardeau County SWCD



## Mark Your Calendars!

- Feb. 13** Prescribed Burn at Missouri Department of Conservation Southeast Regional Office
- Feb. 19** Offices closed in observation of Presidents Day.
- March 22** Open House . Doors open at 5:30 p.m.

*Exciting Women in Agriculture News!*

*September 2018 the State Women in Ag Conference will be held here, in Cape Girardeau! More details to come in the next newsletter. Pencil in September 17-19, 2018.*

## Have an Ephemeral Gully? Now is the Time to Fix It, Don't Disc It

This a good time for farmers to control erosion and remain eligible for USDA farm program payments and crop insurance premium subsidies.

To remain eligible for USDA benefits, farmers are required by law to control erosion on fields that are classified as highly erodible. Programs such as Agriculture Risk Coverage, Price Loss Coverage, the Conservation Reserve Program, and Farm Service Agency disaster programs all require farmers to be in compliance with highly erodible land and wetland conservation requirements. NRCS conducts compliance reviews on highly erodible fields to determine if erosion has been adequately controlled.

Two factors are measured for conservation compliance: sheet-and-rill erosion, and ephemeral gully erosion. Ephemeral gullies are the smaller ditches in fields or at the edges of fields that farmers often smooth with a disc before planting crops. However, discing or smoothing gullies does not fix the problem, and it puts farmers at risk of losing USDA benefits. NRCS encourages farmers with ephemeral gullies to "Fix it, Don't Disc it."

One of the most effective ways to control ephemeral gullies, and sheet-and-rill erosion, is by seeding cover crops after harvest to keep the soil covered between fall harvest and spring planting. Crop rotations that include high-residue crops like corn and wheat also help minimize soil erosion. The most erosive time in a crop rotation is the fall and spring following soybeans. Whether planting a cover crop or planting wheat for grain after soybean harvest, having cover on the ground through the winter reduces erosion significantly. In addition to reducing erosion, utilizing no-till and cover crops improves soil health.

Farmers should visit the NRCS office and speak with a conservationist before performing any tillage that is not part of their conservation plans on highly erodible land.