

January 2026

Dent County Soil and Water Conservation District

Important Dates

Seeding Dates:

Dormant Practice - December 16th -
February 29th
Spring Practice - March 1 - May 15th

The office will be closed:


January 18, 2026 - MLK Day
February 12, 2026 - Lincoln's Birthday
February 16, 2026 - President's Day

Board of Supervisors

Paul Heithold, Chairman
Cindy Mannis, Vice Chairman
James Crocker, Treasurer
Drew Johnson, Member
Eric Meusch, Secretary

District Personnel

Chris Jones
Myra Swyers
Debbie Plank



In accordance with the district election policy,
elections for district supervisors will be held in
designated areas II and IV this year.

Stop by the office anytime between
February 1 - 20, 2026 to vote.

Footprints in the Grass

January

- Get fields in shape for overseeding legumes by grazing to within two inches or less.
- Inventory feed supplies and utilize stockpiled forage to the best advantage
- Review grazing system and make needed changes for improvements

February

- Start over-seeding of legumes on pastures. Continue to graze or feed hay in order to tread-in seed.
- Install changes needed in grazing system.
- Attend Spring Forage Conference and other soils and crops meetings to stay on top of technology.

March

- Apply fertilizer to cool season pastures
- Finish over-seeding legumes.
- Continue to graze over-seeded pastures for grass growth control.
- Consider the addition of magnesium to mineral mixes to offset possible grass tetany.
- Apply lime according to soil test. Lime can be applied any time of the year.



District Spotlight

Paul Heithold is currently serving as chairman of our board. Paul has served on the Dent County Board for a total of 25 years.

Paul's knowledge and support have been a great asset to our District. Paul has a broad knowledge of the programs available in our District and is willing to talk to landowners in our area and share the benefits of the programs offered. Paul also makes it a point to attend workshops and events in our area in an effort to continue learning and be involved in the community.

Paul's farm is a display of his family's hard work and dedication. Beyond the investments into the land, Paul can be seen pouring into the younger generation. Working to pass on a legacy, caring for the land and putting in an honest day's work. We are beyond thankful to have Paul Heithold as a Supervisor.

Upcoming events

Prescribed Burning: Prescribed Burn Demonstration Field Day

Registration period: December 4 - January 16

Date: Saturday, January 17, 2026 9:00 am - 2:00 pm

Location: Private Property - Dent County

The online "Official Missouri Prescribed Burn Course" must be completed before attending this event. You can register for the online portion here: <https://www.hunter-ed.com/prescribedburn>

The online course has a \$25 charge to a third-party host (not MDC) and can be completed in approximately 2 – 4 hours.

Missouri Forage and Grassland Council Grazing Lands Conservation Initiative

Annual Conference
Friday, March 20, 2026
Lake Ozark, MO

Please remember to establish and maintain your farm records with
the Farm Service Agency
6726 Highway 63, Houston, MO 65483
Phone: 417-967-2028



Quick and Easy Chili Recipe

This easy chili recipe has been a tried-and-true favorite for decades. Make this quick chili recipe stand out by piling on extra cheese, onions, and sour cream.

Prep Time: 15 mins

Cook Time: 20 mins Servings: 4

By Sheryl Geerts

Ingredients

- 1lb. lean ground beef

- ½ cup chopped green sweet pepper (1 small)

- ½ cup chopped onion (1 medium)

- 4 cloves garlic, minced

- 1(15-oz.) can tomato sauce

- 1(15-oz.) can red kidney beans, undrained

- 1(14.5-oz.) can diced tomatoes, undrained

- 2 to 3 tsp. chili powder

- 1/2 tsp. salt

- 1/2 tsp. dried basil, crushed

- 1/4 tsp. ground black pepper

- Shredded cheddar cheese (optional)

- Chopped onion (optional)

- Dairy sour cream (optional)

- Crushed red pepper (optional)

Step 1 In a 3-quart saucepan cook and stir ground beef, sweet pepper, ½ cup chopped onion, and the garlic over medium heat until meat is brown and onion is tender. Drain fat.

Step 2 Stir in tomato sauce, undrained beans, undrained tomatoes, chili powder, salt, basil, and black pepper. Bring to boiling; reduce heat. Simmer, covered, for 20 minutes.

Step 3 To serve, ladle chili into bowls. If desired, top each serving with cheese, chopped onion, and/or sour cream and pass crushed red pepper. Makes 4 main-dish servings.

Kids Corner



Spend the day with Missouri farmers Diane, Scott and Skippy.

- Join Diane as she starts her day bright and early in the field.
- Later that morning, Diane and Scott work in their high tunnel picking vegetables to sell at their local farmers market.
- In the afternoon, Scott attends the county fair to celebrate the hard work of a youth animal project, while Diane brings the cows in from the pasture.
- Diane spends that late afternoon planting native flowers that support pollinator habitat.
- Diane and Scott enjoy the evening at a local corn maze.

Stay Tuned for more with Diane, Scott and Skippy

Rental Equipment



300 Gallon Sprayers

Rental Item Price: \$125/day

2 Sprayers available. 1 with PTO and 1 with a Honda motor.

No-Till Drills

Rental Item Price: \$18/acre - 10 acre minimum

3 No-Till Drills available



Soil Probes, Spinning Jenny, Burn Equipment - can be borrowed at no cost

Contact District office for more information

573-729-4442

Office hours: M-F 8:00 - 4:30

Cost Share program - Spotlight

C650 - Streambank Stabilization

- Purpose: To protect streambanks from accelerated erosion, provide adequate streambank vegetation, and improve water quality.
- 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 10 years.
- Not to exceed \$50,000 per landowner annually.

What topics would be of interest to you for a workshop?
Would you be interested in attending an annual meeting?
Please let us know your thoughts as we are planning for this
year.