

Upcoming Events

- ◆ July 1, 2023 Beginning of FY-24 District Cost Share Program
- ◆ July 4, 2023 Office Closed in Observance of Independence Holiday
- ◆ July 11, 2023 TBD/Zoom or Regular Business Meeting @ 8:30 a.m. in the USDA Service Center, 10820 Hwy 21, Ste 200, Hillsboro, MO.
- ◆ August 8, 2023 TBD/Zoom or Regular Business Meeting @ 8:30 a.m. in the USDA Service Center, 10820 Hwy 21, Ste 200, Hillsboro, MO.
- ◆ September 4, 2023 Office Closed in Observance of Labor Day Holiday
- ◆ September 12, 2023 TBD/Zoom or Regular Business Meeting @ 8:30 a.m. in the USDA Service Center, 10820 Hwy 21, Ste 200, Hillsboro, MO.

The Jefferson County SWCD does not endorse or recommend any Vendors/Contractors advertised in this Newsletter. All interested Vendors/Contractors are eligible to place an Ad in our Newsletter and/or have their names added to our Resource List of Conservation Contractors. This list is available to all landowners or anyone who requests it.

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Conservation District
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Jefferson County Soil & Water Conservation District Newsletter

SUMMER (JULY 2023)

Newsletter Changes

Beginning in July of 2023, there will be some changes regarding our Quarterly Newsletter. We will be switching to a Bi-Annual publication. For those of you who have purchased a year's worth of Ads to run in our Quarterly Newsletter, we will extend those out until they have been published and distributed four times as you have purchased.

We want to ask those who do receive our Newsletter to consider an electronic copy. This would save a considerable amount of postage, toner, paper, and printing expense. As everyone is well aware the postage rates keep climbing. The cost of our newsletter printing, toner, paper and postage is reaching levels that are pushing our budget to allocated limits. So we have to consider what is affordable for our budget.

Therefore, we looked at each of our outreach options and considered what is important, affordable, and reaching the most people? Realistically, we don't have a lot of choices. The funds that we do have for outreach have met their maximums.

Currently, we have the Newsletter to the landowners, Poster Contest with the youth, and our Annual Meeting with the county. These are the three main outreach expenses that had to be considered. After careful review, the Annual Meeting Ag Conference seems to get a lot of responses to "please continue", then the Poster Contest with the schools youth came in second, and lastly the Newsletter. It seems most people are going to electronic communications, however some do still prefer a hard copy in the regular mail.

If you are one of the landowners who prefer hard copy, you don't have to do any changes, we will still mail out the hard copy to you two times a year. However, if you do prefer electronic communications, please call the office so we can switch you to that preferred method.

We sincerely thank all those who have purchased an Ad for their patronage and we want to assure you that if your company purchased an Ad with us, we will guarantee that your Ad will still run in four issues based on the date of your purchase.

So to recap, instead of our newsletter going out in July, October, January and April, it will now begin this July (FY24) as our first of two newsletters. Which means it will be sent this July (calendar 2023) and then again in January 2024.

Again, please don't forget to call the office with your email address if you would prefer to receive your Newsletter electronically at **636-789-21441 ext. 3**.

Thank you for helping us to reduce our postage expenses and for all your understanding.

Sincerely,
Jefferson County SWCD

Jefferson County Newsletters Via Email

Are you ready to receive your newsletter through email? We have been signing up our landowners for several quarters now, and would like more to join the list on email. To receive the newsletter via email, please contact Cyndi or Krystin at 636-789-2441 Ext 3, or email at cyndi.rousan@swcd.mo.gov or Krystin.blanford@swcd.mo.gov. You can elect to receive just the emailed copy or both the emailed and hard copy. We will not share your information with anyone, this is considered "Personal & Confidential Information" and is handled with strict privacy and confidential requirements in place for this office.

JCSWCD
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District Specialist III

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Vacant
District Conservationist
Paul Lee
Shared FOSA Technician
Vacant
District Soil Conservationist

Partial funding for this newsletter is through the 1/10 of 1% soils and park sales tax.

All programs of the SWCD are offered on a non-discriminatory basis without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, sex, age, marital status, or disability.

**BE SURE
TO LET US KNOW
IF YOUR
MAILING ADDRESS
CHANGES**

Take Time to Thank a Farmer Today!

A farmer is a person who runs and works on a farm. Some farmers raise a variety of food crops, while others keep dairy cows and sell their milk. Farmers work in some aspect of agriculture.

We have the security of a plentiful food supply because of our farmers, ranchers and modern agricultural practices—like science, biotechnology, conservation practices and more.

U.S. President Thomas Jefferson once stated, "Cultivators of the earth are the most valuable citizens. They are the most vigorous, the most independent, and the most wedded to its liberty and interests, by the most lasting bonds."

Thank You Farmers for Proudly Serving Us Three Times A Day!

U.S. President Ronald Reagan [once stated](#), "You know, 'amazement' is the word for how most of the rest of the world views American agriculture. As recently as 1940, a single American farmer could feed 19 people per year." Today, one American farmer [feeds 166 people per year](#). That's more than ever before!

Plus, where would our American classics be without the American farmer? Did you know that an acre of Kansas wheat produces enough bread to feed 9,000 people a day? Or that a single steer can produce about 720 hamburgers? Or that 60% of Idaho's potatoes are processed into french fries and other fried favorites.

Simply put, thank you farmers for serving us three times a day!

Thank You Farmers for Strengthening Our Economy!

In 2018, agriculture and other related industries contributed [\\$1.05 trillion to the U.S. GDP](#). That puts agriculture's contribution to the overall economy at about 6%. According to [one study](#), members of the food and agriculture industries, and their employees, pay about \$900 million in taxes, helping to support their communities and our nation.

Plus, agriculture employs about [25 million Americans](#). That is approximately 17% of the U.S. workforce.

Thank you for keeping our economy moving!

Thank You Farmers for Protecting Our Environment!

Did you know that about [25% of emissions](#) have been captured by Earth's forests, farms, and grasslands? American farmers are increasing their ability to capture emissions by improving the health of their soils.

Practices such as cover crops, no-till farming, regenerative farming, and other soil health-promoting practices continue to gain in popularity. According to data from the Agricultural Resources Management Survey, 21% of American growers producing corn, cotton, soybeans, and wheat use either no-till farming or strip-till farming every year. Additionally, 51% of growers used one of these practices at least once over a 4-year period.

In addition to helping capture emissions, farmers also protect our wildlife. Did you know 2020 was the 16th consecutive year that North Dakota ranked first in the U.S. for honey production? [This state has almost](#) 500,000 bee colonies, which produced 38.6 million pounds of honey valued at over \$61 million. Plus, in Wyoming, farmers and ranchers provide winter habitats for 75% of the state's wildlife.

Thank you Farmers for being good stewards of the land!

Subscribe to Farm Service Agency (FSA) Updates

FSA provides electronic news on programs direct to your email inbox. It can help you remember important program announcements, deadlines and requirements so you can effectively utilize FSA programs in your farm operation. In addition to the newsletter, you also can sign up to receive information through our Farmers.gov text messaging service from your County FSA office. Our offices will only issue text messages to remind subscribers of timely, important program deadlines or other information.

Visit farmers.gov/subscribe to sign-up and receive email and text message alerts from your Missouri County FSA office.

Missouri Association of Soil & Water Conservation Districts

[The Road to Conservation Starts at Home](#)

The Missouri Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts (MASWCD) serves as the voice for Missouri's 114 soil and water conservation districts on state legislative issues. It also provides a forum for training, policy-making and the exchange of information.

MASWCD Mission is to promote the conservation of soil and water resources, and assume active leadership in promoting conservation education in the state.

"Sockless Jerry" Simpson, an early day Kansas Senator, is credited with the statement that, within a two hundred fifty mile circle with Kansas city the center, a greater variety of crops could be grown than in any other similar spot on earth. His boundary does not take in the Missouri Bootheel, but should, as the vast fertility of that region with its crops of cotton and rice, could only add to the statement.

The economics of a booming wheat market and the notion that soil was an inexhaustible resource had pushed agriculture to its limits in the 1920's. Through the Twenties and Thirties, the hillsides were becoming denuded of top soil, scarred by gullies, and production sharply declined. Some land was abandoned to broom sedge, elm sprouts and tickle grass. To top it off, we had the big, black dust blows of hot, dry 1934 and 1936. The wind lifted that inexhaustible resource in dark, billowing sheets that blotted out the sun. The biggest of all dust storms arrived on "Black Sunday," April 14, 1935, and stayed for about 50 seconds. The Dust bowl is much more than a geographic area, the term itself has become synonymous with poverty, waste, and despair. But, it has come to symbolize more, something positive as well. The Dust Bowl was the catalyst behind a 60-year endeavor in farming: soil conservation.

To read the full story about Missouri and how we are funded and why, please click on the link below and look for the History option on the left side of the page, and it will take you to the article entitled:

Missouri Association of Soil and Water Conservation District Our Districts' History 50 Seconds of Darkness



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Assistance for Private Land Owners

Selling timber is done only occasionally by most private landowners. Many request the knowledge and aid of a forester in marketing their timber. Department foresters can help landowners with marketing and selling timber under these guidelines:

- Provisions under Management Services are met.
- Property boundaries must be located and marked on the ground.
- The land must not be listed or advertised for sale.
- The timber sale area is not being converted to a non-forest use.
- The sale specifications must be within the allowable limits of the management plan.
- The landowner must agree to the terms of a Timber Sale Assistance Agreement.

Project Summary

- Charged with managing Missouri's forest resource, MDC is sometimes called upon to provide information and justification of management activities on more than just biological grounds. What is the economic impact of Missouri's forest products? To answer this, MDC undertakes periodic assessments of the economic impact of the forest products industry on the state as a whole by working with data collected by the Federal government

Project Updates

- **Timber Price Trends Jan.-Mar. 2023**
- Jan.-Mar. 2023, the latest on timber prices in Missouri. Quarterly timber prices trends, based on a rolling average of reports received from state and private foresters over the previous 12 months. TPT should only be used as a general guide for determining market value of timber. General market and economic conditions, as well as local considerations such as accessibility, terrain, sale size, and tree size and quality also affect the price paid. Remember that one of the most valuable sources for information on log and timber markets is the local Missouri Department of Conservation Resource Forester or your Consulting Forester.

For more information on Timber Price Trends go to the Missouri Department of Conservation website or follow this link below for the latest information:

<https://research.mdc.mo.gov/project/forest-economics-missouri>

Available SWCD Cost-Sharing Practices

Cost Share Assistance is available to Jefferson County landowners.

Here is a list of practices you can apply for with JCSWCD Cost-Share Program:

- | | |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Sensitive Areas ♦ Streambank Erosion ♦ Woodland Erosion ♦ Vegetative Cover Establishment ♦ Permanent Vegetative ♦ Cover Improvement ♦ Terraces ♦ Diversions ♦ Permanent Vegetative Cover on Critical Areas ♦ Permanent Vegetative Cover on Confined Animal Feed Lots ♦ No Till Systems | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Woodland Protection through Livestock Exclusion ♦ Permanent Vegetative Cover Establishment ♦ Intensive Management Grazing System ♦ Water Impoundment Reservoirs ♦ Sediment Retention, Erosion or Water Control Structure ♦ Sod Waterway |
|--|--|

The Environmental Quality Program (EQIP)

EQIP provides technical and financial assistance to agricultural producers and forest landowners to address natural resource concerns, such as:

- Improved water and air quality;
- Conserved ground and surface water;
- Increased soil health ;
- Reduced soil erosion and sedimentation;
- Improved or created wildlife habitat; and
- Mitigation against drought and increasing weather volatility.

NRCS works one-on-one with producers to develop a conservation plan that outlines conservation practices and activities to help solve on-farm resource issues. Producers implement practices and activities in their conservation plan that can lead to cleaner water and air, healthier soil and better wildlife habitat, all while improving their agricultural operations. EQIP helps producers make conservation work for them. Financial assistance for practices may be available through EQIP. Some producers may also qualify for advance payment.

Benefits

- Reduced contamination from agricultural sources, such as animal feeding operations.
- Efficient use of nutrients, reducing input costs and reduction in nonpoint source pollution.
- Improved soil health, which mitigates against increasing weather volatility, improves drought resiliency and can positively affect climate change.
- Implementation of climate-smart practices that improve carbon sequestration and reduce greenhouse gas emissions while building resilient landscapes.

For more information, or to obtain an EQIP Application, please call the local Hillsboro USDA Service Center at 636-789-2441 ext. 3.



All programs of the Jefferson County SWCD are offered on a non-discriminatory basis without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, sex, age, marital status, or disability.



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Native Forages Initiative

The Missouri USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is now accepting applications for accelerated Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) ACT NOW funding to help grazing operations diversify their operations and build climate resiliency.

Through this unique opportunity, producers and landowners can receive technical and financial assistance for the establishment of native forages by either renovating existing non-native forage for haying or grazing or converting cropland to native forage for haying or grazing. Native grasses can increase daily weight gain during the summer slump, improve conception rates and are resilient to drought.

NRCS in Missouri will accept applications until August 1, 2023, for the EQIP Climate Smart Agriculture-Native Forages Initiative. Applications submitted prior to August 1, 2023, will be assessed and ranked as soon as the applicant has made treatment decisions through a conservation plan.



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Based on fund availability, applications that meet a minimum threshold will be preapproved immediately, allowing the applicant to ACT NOW. NRCS is offering \$459 to \$511 per acre for this initiative. To speak with an NRCS representative and request an application for the NFI, please call Rhonda Davault at 636-583-2303 ext. 3 or Brandon Delgado at 636-466-9294.

**New Doyle 5 Ton Lime Spreader
is Available for Rent**

**At the Jefferson County
Soil & Water District Office**


We now have a 5 Tone Doyle Lime Spreader available to our county for renting, besides the three No-Till Drills

It has been hard for several years now to get lime spread by the quarries. Currently they will deliver a load to the farm, but it is up to the landowner to figure out how to get it spread. Without the proper equipment it has been almost impossible for many of our producers. There are some distributors in other counties that have been willing to assist us, however it is very hard to get on the schedule.

So, if you would be interested in renting the New 5 Ton Lime Spreader you can call the office for more details and get on the schedule. Just call the office between 7:30 a.m.- 4:00 p.m. for the details at 636-789-2441 ext. 3. Someone will be glad to assist you with your questions.

**ROBERTS, WOOTEN
& ZIMMER, L.L.C.**

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10438 Business 21
Hillsboro, Missouri 63050
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**Park the Plow:
No-Till Drills a Better Option
for Soil Health**

The drills are rented out on a first-come, first-serve basis. If you would like to know more about the drills or would like to rent one, please contact Cyndi at 636-789-2441 ext 3. No-till planting is a great first step in the direction of improving your soil health, we will be more than happy to help get you started!

Benefits of Using Native Forage

If you're new to the term *native forage*, it simply means a mix of native grasses like big bluestem as well as native legumes and broadleaf plants.

Better Summer Gains

For the producer, one of the greatest benefits of using native forages is increased weight gain among livestock during late spring and throughout summer. Most pastures contain introduced cool-season grasses (CSG), and it is a challenge to keep them actively growing during the summer to maintain livestock weight. Native warm-season grasses (NWSG) grow well during summer, and they will improve average daily gain on stocker cattle by one pound per day compared to tall fescue (Figure 1).

Spring calves on cows will gain 60 to 80 pounds more on NWSG than on CSG by the end of the summer grazing season. Management of the

Animal Grazed	Forage	Summer-Long Average Daily Gain Pounds
Fall stocker cattle	Big bluestem-Indiangrass mixture	1.81-2.12
Fall stocker cattle	Endophyte tall fescue	0.8-1.5

Figure 1: Native warm-season grasses like big bluestem and Indiangrass can put more gain per day on each stocker during the summer than cool-season grass like Kentucky-31 tall fescue. Sources: University of Tennessee – Center for Native Grasslands Management.

grazing system with proper stocking rate and rotation is critical.

Deeper Roots for Better Soil and Water Conservation

Another benefit of grazing natives is improved soil health, which boosts the diversity of plant roots that occupy the space underground. With proper grazing, levels of organic matter have increased in pasture systems.

From a water-conservation standpoint, deep roots and plenty of soil organic matter mean

better water absorption following rain events. And in a state where farmers and ranchers can experience both flood and drought in the same year, native forage can help keep rainwater where it falls. In turn, deep-rooted native forage will stay in good condition longer if drought conditions occur later on.

Fewer Inputs

Using NWSG and forbs in your grazing system could alter the amount of mineral supplement needed, which may lower input costs.

Why Native Warm-Season Grass Beats Cool-Season Grass for Summer Grazing

A plant's biggest source of energy is the sun. Photosynthesis is a process where plants gather sunlight and convert it into plant products, such as stems, leaves, root exudates, etc. NWSG are much more efficient at photosynthesis than CSG. It is important to understand that CSG and NWSG are chemically and physically different. CSG actively grow at cool temperatures during the spring and again in the fall (Figure 2).

Tall fescue, orchardgrass, bluegrass, ryegrass, timothy, and smooth bromegrass need nights

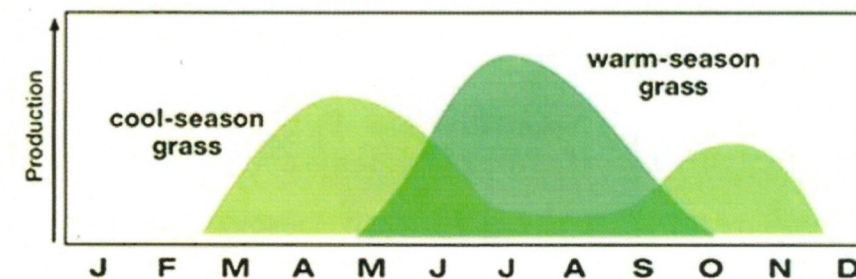


Figure 2: Seasonal production rates of cool- and warm-season grasses. Source: Natural Resources Conservation Service – Kansas.

above 50 degrees F and days below 80. NWSG, such as big bluestem, Indiangrass, switchgrass, or little bluestem, need nights above

60 degrees F and days above 70. NWSG will make optimum production when the temperatures are between 85–95 degrees F.