

July 2026

Dent County Soil and Water Conservation District

Important Dates

May 15th - all projects need to be
completed by this date

Seeding Dates

Fall Practice

August 16th - Sept 30th (legumes)

August 16th - October 15th (cool season grasses)

Seed must be applied by this date

Lime applied by: March 30th

Dormant Practices

December 16th - February 29th

Seed must be applied by this date

Lime applied by August 29th

Office closed

July 3rd - Independence Day

September 7th - Labor Day

Board of Supervisors

Drew Johnson, Chairman

James Crocker, Vice Chairman

Katie Steelman, Treasurer

Paul Heithold, Member

Eric Meusch, Secretary

District Personnel

Chris Jones

Myra Swyers

Debbie Plank

[Link US Drought Map](#)

[Link MO Forage and Grassland
Counsel](#)

Parks, Soils and Water Sales Tax

The Soil and Water Conservation Cost-Share Program was developed to provide financial incentives to help cooperators install erosion-control and water quality protection practices. The program has helped conserve and assure the continued productivity of Missouri's soil and water resources, saving an estimated 176 million tons of soil and preventing many tons of excess nutrients from entering streams. Common Cost-Share Practices include rotational grazing systems, exclusion fence and stream protection.

Funds for the program come from the one-tenth-of-one-percent Parks, Soils and Water Sales Tax, which is voted on by Missourians every 10 years. The revenue generated by the sales tax are split equally, with half going to support Missouri 93 state parks and historic sites, and half going to soil and water conservation practices.

First approved by voters in 1984 as a constitutional amendment, it now appears on the ballot every 10 years to reaffirm the voters' support of the park system and soil and water conservation efforts. It will expire in 2028 if it is not renewed in 2026.

Half of the revenue from the sales tax is used for preserving soil and protecting water resources of Missouri for future generations. The majority of the soil and water portion of the tax is used to assist agricultural landowners through a voluntary cost-share program that provides incentives to implement soil and water conservation practices. The cost-share program is administered by the Department of Natural Resources' Soil and Water Conservation Program through soil and water conservation district boards in each of the 114 counties. The program provides partial reimbursement for the implementation of soil and water conservation practices that prevent or control excessive erosion and improve water quality.

Since 1984, Missouri farmers have implemented more than 288,000 structural and management conservation practices on cropland, hayland, pastureland and woodlands. Through these conservation efforts, Missouri has stopped more than 193 million tons of soil from eroding, enough to fill the lanes of I-70 from St. Louis to Kansas City over 52 feet high.

Who qualifies for cost-share? With a few exceptions, you must be the legal owner of private farmland within the established soil and water conservation district to be eligible for cost-share funds.

The portion of the Parks, Soils and Water Sales Tax that supports state parks averages \$10 a year per Missourian. Missouri is one of only eight states that does not charge entrance fees into its parks and historic sites. Other states charge \$10 or more for a one-time visit. Missouri State Parks is committed to updating facilities while also preserving historic structures. The sales tax enables parks and historic sites to operate, welcoming nearly 20 million visitors and more than one million overnight guests annually. The park system consistently receives a 97% approval rating from guests.

Footprints in the Grass

July

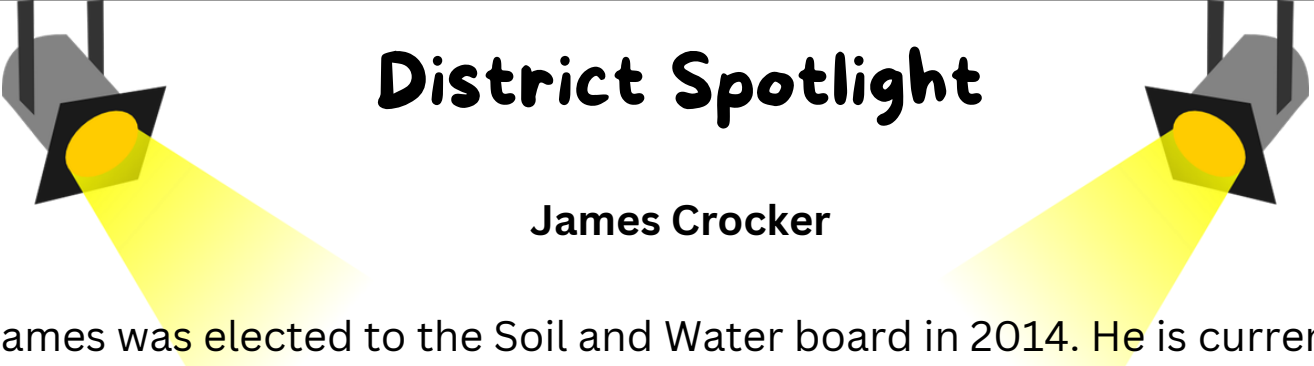
- Monitor the weather. Look for critical heat index days and provide some paddocks with shade.
- Watch grazing heights, as longer rest periods are needed to feed the herd. Grazing height and rest periods are critical for legume survival.
- Evaluate fields for brush and weed control needs. Make notes on invader species.
- Take soil samples for fall seedings.

August

- At mid-month apply nitrogen fertilizer to fescue for stockpiled forage.
- Complete fall seedings as planned or needed in order to improve the forage base.

September

- Start winter annual planting for maximum forage production.
- Inventory winter feed supplies to avoid deficiencies. It may be necessary to purchase hay, plant additional annuals, stockpile more fescue or sell some livestock to reduce forage needs.
- Rest fescue that will be used for stockpiled winter feed. Remember: this is the best quality forage that will be produced all year.



District Spotlight

James Crocker

James was elected to the Soil and Water board in 2014. He is currently serving as Vice Chair. James and his family are great stewards of their animals and land. James takes time to be involved in the community and attends workshops to continue to learn new ways to leave the land better than they found it on their cattle ranch. James is a great asset to our board, and we are grateful to have him serving along with us.



Upcoming events

Grazing School

August 5-7

Gainesville, Ozark/Douglas County

Douglas County Extension Center, Judy Curry; 417-683-4409

August 19-21

TBD, Montgomery County SWCD 573-564-7217

August 25-27

Williamstown, Lewis County

Brenda Schreck: 573-767-5273 or Katie Vahle; 660-727-2955

August 25-27

TBD, Benton County, Tina Dulaban; 660-547-2351 ext. 3007

August 26-28

Dexter, Stoddard County, Anthony Ohmes; 573-243-3581

August 26-28

Richland, Pulaski County, Sarah Decker; 573-765-2595

September 8-10

Hermitage, Hickory County

Hickory County MU Extension Center; 417-745-6767

September 9-12

West Plains, Howell County

Howell County Extension Center; 417-256-2391

September 14-16

Jefferson City (LU Carver Farm), Cole County

Cole County SWCD; 573-893-5188

September 16-18

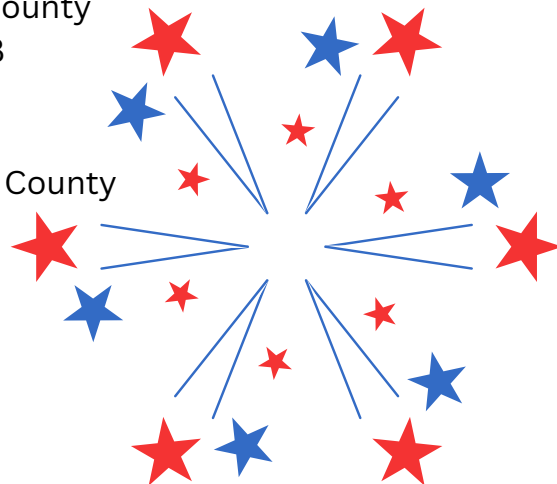
Wurdack Farm in Cook Station, Crawford County

Rylee George; 573-775-5020

September 28-30

TBD, Shannon County

Melissa Welch; 573-226-5663





Free pesticide collection for Missouri
farmers and households

MISSOURI WASTE PESTICIDE COLLECTION EVENT

Saturday, October 3, 2026

8:00 a.m. to noon

MFA Agri Services
110 MO-17, Houston, MO 65483



Accepting all pesticides including: herbicides, insecticides, fungicides, rodenticides, dewormers, fly tags and fertilizer containing pesticides.

Pesticides from businesses will not be accepted.

Quantities limited to 8,000 lbs per participant.

Rinsate will not be accepted.

For questions, call 573-526-3910 or visit dnr.mo.gov/env/hwp/pesticide

Creamy BLT Pasta Salad

Nothing screams summer quite like this pasta salad recipe. We took the popular potluck favorite, creamy pasta salad, and tossed in bacon, lettuce, and tomato to liven it up even more for the season.

By Anna Kovel | Published on May 17, 2019, Better Homes and Gardens

Total Time: 25 mins Servings: 6 Yield: 12 cups

Ingredients:

4 cups dried gemelli or cavatappi pasta
12 oz. sliced bacon
2 cloves garlic, minced
 $\frac{3}{4}$ cup sour cream
 $\frac{1}{2}$ cup mayonnaise
 $\frac{1}{3}$ cup chopped fresh chives or green onions
2 Tbsp. cider vinegar
2 Tbsp. milk
 $\frac{1}{4}$ tsp. ground black pepper
3 cup chopped heart of romaine lettuce
 $1\frac{1}{2}$ cup cherry tomatoes, halved
1 cup shredded cheddar cheese (4 oz.)

Directions

Step 1 Cook pasta in boiling salted water according to package directions; drain. Rinse with cold water; drain and cool.

Step 2 Meanwhile, in a 12-inch skillet cook bacon over medium heat until crisp. Drain on papertowels, reserving 1 tsp. drippings in skillet. Coarsely chop bacon. Add garlic to reserved drippings. Cook and stir 1 minute or until golden and fragrant.

Step 3 For dressing, in an extra-large bowl combine sour cream, mayonnaise, chives, vinegar, milk, pepper, and garlic.

Step 4 Add pasta, bacon, lettuce, tomatoes, and cheese to dressing; toss to coat. If needed, stir in additional milk to reach desired creaminess. If desired, sprinkle with additional chives.

To Make Ahead Transfer dressing to a small airtight container. In a large airtight container combine pasta, bacon, lettuce, tomatoes, and cheese. Store in refrigerator up to 24 hours. To serve, combine salad ingredients and dressing as directed.

Nutrition Facts Per serving: 558 calories; total fat 32g; saturated fat 11g; cholesterol 57mg; sodium 525mg; total carbohydrate 48g; total sugars 4g; protein 19g; vitamin c 9mg; calcium 196mg; iron 3mg; potassium 442mg



Cost Share program - Spotlight

DSP 3.4 LIME

- one-time pH correction
- Determined by soil test requirements
- Maximum: \$75/acre
- Life span - 5 years

Purpose: to increase land management on pastureland by using rotational grazing.

Environmental benefits include erosion control and/or prevention and water quality protection.

Criteria: Landowner must attend an approved grazing school prior to receiving approval to begin.

Incentive: Cost-share is provided at 75% of the state average cost with per acre limits on various portions of the practice.

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

Rhino Gas Powered Post Driver

Rental Item Price:\$75/Day



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

If you no longer want to receive this newsletter,
please contact our office

