

Ste. Genevieve County Soil and Water Conservation District

711 Pointe Basse Dr. ~ Ste. Genevieve, MO 63670 ~ 573-883-3566



Soil and Water Conservation District
Amanda Horstmann - District Technician
Kinley Wilkerson - District Manager
Michael Hermann - Equipment Manager
Natural Resources Conservation Service
Dana Seibel - District Conservationist
Eugene Lewis - Resource Conservationist
Heather Hegel - Soil Conservationist

SOIL CONSERVATION NEWS



Missouri Department of Conservation
Luke Wehmhoff
Private Land Conservationist
Pheasants Forever, Inc and Quail Forever
Emaily Lear
Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist II
National Wildlife Turkey Federation
Justin Ferguson NWTf - Forester

Summer 2023

Meeting Date & Time Posted

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS Chairman - Janet Braun - Vice Chairman - Kenneth Naeger - Secretary - Katie Kammler
Treasurer - Betty Vogt - Member - Paul Arnold

Helping People Help the Land

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.

For information on programs, sign-up deadlines and more, check out the Ste Genevieve County SWCD website at <https://mosoilandwater.land/ste-genevieve> or the Missouri NRCS website at <http://www.mo.nrcs.usda.gov/>.

If you would like to update your address or discontinue receiving the newsletter, please call 573-883-3566 Ext 3.

Save the Date - Women In Agriculture Tour Thursday, September 7th, 2023

If you're interested in attending, please contact Kinley or Amanda at the SWCD office by August 7th to get on the mailing list for full details.

August 1st Deadlines Fast Approaching

If you're interested in Fiscal Year 2024 SWCD funds for planting a fall 2023 cover crop, the sign-up deadline is August 1st. Stop by the office and ask for Amanda or Kinley to sign an application and indicate which fields you are interested in planting to a cover crop this fall. Note: only owners are allowed to apply.

If you're interested in converting cool season grass (Ex. fescue) hay or pasture to warm season grass (Ex. Indian grass, Big Bluestem, Little Bluestem mix) OR applying fertilizer according to soils test recommendations for realistic yield goals, please stop by the office and talk to Eugene, Heather or Emaily. The deadline for the ACT NOW Native Forage Initiative and Nutrient Management is August 1st.

SWCD Website

Ste. Genevieve County SWCD is always looking for ways to expand how we get information and news out to you. If Facebook is not for you that's okay, we have a website. On our website, you will find a variety of information pertaining to everything that is going on with the Ste. Genevieve County Soil & Water Conservation District such as: rental equipment, important dates, staff, contact information, newsletter, etc. Check it out at: <https://mosoilandwater.land/ste-genevieve>.

Newsletters Via Email

Are you tired of waiting for your newsletter to arrive in the mail? Well, the wait is over! Starting with this newsletter, the Ste. Genevieve County SWCD is offering their newsletter via email. To sign up for newsletter via email, contact Kinley at 573-883-3566 Ext 3.

<p style="text-align: center;">Ste. Genevieve County Surveyor Gerald Bader Missouri RLS.</p> <p>16255 Sugar Bottom Road Ste. Genevieve, MO 63670 Phone: 573-483-2777</p>	<p>Place Your Advertisement Here</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">HSB ADVISORS <small>Certified Public Accountants</small></p> <p>21450 Highway 32 1516 Edgemont Blvd., Suite 110 P.O. Box 248, Ste. Genevieve, MO 63670 Perryville, MO 63775 (573) 883-3508 (573) 547-1770 Fax (573) 883-7331 Fax (573) 547-7727</p>
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Before You Break Out New Ground, Ensure Your Farm Meets Conservation Compliance

The term “sodbusting” is used to identify the conversion of land from native vegetation to commodity crop production after December 23, 1985. As part of the conservation provisions of the Food Security Act of 1985, if you’re proposing to produce agricultural commodities (crops that require annual tillage including one pass planting operations and sugar cane) on land that has been determined highly erodible and that has no crop history prior to December 23, 1985, that land must be farmed in accordance with a conservation plan or system that ensures no substantial increase in soil erosion.

Eligibility for many USDA programs requires compliance with a conservation plan or system on highly erodible land (HEL) used for the production of agricultural commodities. This includes Farm Service Agency (FSA) loan, disaster assistance, safety net, price support, and conservation programs; Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) conservation programs; and Risk Management Agency (RMA) Federal crop insurance.

Before you clear or prepare areas not presently under production for crops that require annual tillage, you are required to file Form AD-1026 “Highly Erodible Land Conservation and Wetland Conservation Certification,” with FSA indicating the area to be brought into production. The notification will be referred to NRCS to determine if the field is considered highly erodible land. If the field is considered HEL, you are required to implement a conservation plan or system that limits the erosion to the tolerable soil loss (T) for the predominant HEL soil on those fields.

In addition, prior to removing trees or conducting any other land manipulations that may affect wetlands, remember to update form AD-1026, to ensure you remain in compliance with the wetland conservation provisions.

Prior to purchasing or renting new cropland acres, it is recommended that you check with your local USDA Service Center to ensure your activities will be in compliance with the highly erodible land and wetland conservation provisions.

For additional information on highly erodible land conservation and wetland conservation compliance, contact your local USDA Service Center.

SWCD Board Member Spotlight – Paul Arnold

- Q1: What is your position on the board?** Member. This is my first year serving as board member on the SWCD board. I previously served on the Farm Service Agency board for 9 years.
- Q2: What are your responsibilities as a member of the board?** I enjoy serving on the SWCD board. I, along with the other board members are responsible in making decisions on how the district’s cost share funding is distributed. Our top priority is for the conservation and preservation of our soil.
- Q3: How did you get involved with the district?** As a farmer myself, I know the importance of the programs the district offers. We have used the programs to build ponds, fencing and dry basin structures. We have put some of our acres in the CRP program and plant cover crops each year to control erosion and add nutrients to the soil.
- Q4: What is the best part of serving on the board?** I enjoy serving on the SWCD board knowing that I am doing my part in educating producers the importance of conserving and preserving our soil and water. I retired from Mississippi Lime Company after 44 1/2 years of service. I worked as Property Manager for the company when I retired. As manager, one of my duties was to oversee 2,500 acres of crop ground in which our top priority was to follow SWCD programs when possible.
- Q5: What are some of your hobbies, or interest?** I operate our family farm, we raise corn, soybeans and wheat. We have a cow/calf operation. We also background and fatten our calves, many of which we sell locally. I enjoy spending time with my wife, Linda, 3 children, Nichole, Brad and Brittany. I also enjoy spending time with our 8 grandchildren.

 <p>13551 Hwy 32 Ste. Genevieve, MO 63670</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Phone: 573-883-1006</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">KERTZ SALES & SERVICE</p> <p style="text-align: center;">STEVE KERTZ</p> <p style="text-align: center;">7944 Hwy 61 Bloomdsdale, MO 63627 573-535-4172 Service after the sale</p>  	 <p style="text-align: center;">AUBUCHON Excavating</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Ponds • Lakes • Clearing</p> <p>2250 State Rt. HH Farmington, MO 63640</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Clark AuBuchon, Owner 573-431-2702</p>
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SWCD Practice Spotlight: Spring Development

Do you have a spring or seep in a pasture field that is always a nuisance, with livestock stomping up the ground where the field is constantly wet? Let's make the water work for you, not against you! Ask us about our Spring Development practice. This cost-share practice helps with the installation of a pipe system to capture the spring/seep water underground and pipe the water to a livestock watering tank (usually a tire tank). This practice's cost-share is limited to 75% of the state average cost. Contact the Soil & Water Conservation District office for more information on spring development!

MU Extension Specialists Report Thin Pasture Stands, Low Yields

Thin pasture stands and low yields are being reported statewide in the wake of re-emerging dry conditions.

PUBLISHED ON JUNE 6, 2023 by MU EXTENSION

COLUMBIA, Mo. – University of Missouri Extension agronomists are reporting thin pasture stands and low yields statewide in the wake of re-emerging dry conditions. “Most barns are empty. Most fence rows are empty,” says Terry Halleran, an agronomist in Hickory County in southwestern Missouri. “Farmers are getting nervous.

“Valerie Tate in north-central Missouri reported the same. “Hayfields that usually make 100 bales made 30,” she says. She reported that hay is selling for about \$100 per bale in the Linneus area. With May rainfall at 1.03 inches lower than normal statewide, there is reason for concern. Historically, May is the wettest month of the year. The June 1 U.S. Drought Monitor shows D3 extreme drought intensity in central Missouri and a small pocket of northeastern Missouri. Most of the top half of the state is already in moderate to severe (D2) drought.

In its most recent Crop Progress and Condition Report, USDA reported that only 24% of Missouri's forage crop is in good to excellent condition – about where it was by mid-July last year. USDA also reported that 35% of Missouri pastures are in poor to very poor condition, with 61% of the state experiencing short to very short supplies of hay. MU Extension state forage specialist Craig Roberts says he expected thin pastures and low yields this spring. Producers were often reluctant to cull herds even as forage supplies dwindled last fall and winter. Left on pastures too long, cows grazed to the dirt. Stressed pastures then failed to grow well at spring green-up. Pastures need relief from overgrazing to regrow. If too many cattle are left on stressed pastures, grasses will continue to perform poorly.

Until it rains, Roberts recommends that producers consider two short-term options to deal with short forage supplies: 1) Cull herds now to lower stocking rates, and 2) Look for emergency supplemental feed. Producers can drill emergency forages such as sorghum x Sudangrass or pearl millet into existing pastures when it rains, he says. These summer annuals perform well in high temperatures and provide quick forage for grazing, chopping or baling. Roberts also suggests that producers consider a long-range plan to convert some fields to native warm-season grasses and novel-endophyte fescue. Learn more about converting pastures to novel endophytes from the Alliance for Grassland Renewal at www.grasslandrenewal.org. Also consider nitrogen needs to boost fall stockpiles.

In addition, Roberts says this might be a good year to consider planting summer annuals into “killed strips” in existing cool-season pastures such as tall fescue, Missouri's most-grown perennial grass. In a 1995 study, MU researchers Tim Reinbott and Dale Blevins sprayed and killed tall fescue in 12-inch bands on 30-inch centers in research plots in Columbia in mid-Missouri and Mount Vernon in southwestern Missouri. After the fescue died, they planted fast-growing annuals such as sorghum x Sudangrass or grain sorghum into the killed strips. Reinbott says this provided quick growth when cool-season grasses waned due to heat and lack of precipitation. To consider effectiveness without using additional herbicides after the first year, researchers tested strips for three years. The first year produced the most. By the third year, fescue was creeping back into the strips. “This is a great way of interplanting a warm-season grass into a cool-season grass,” says Reinbott.

The full abstract for “Multiyear Use of Killed Strips for Forage and Grain Sorghum Production in a Tall Fescue Pasture,” published in the Journal of Production Agriculture, is at www.doi.org/10.2134/jpa1995.0354. For more information, contact your regional extension agronomist or livestock specialist. MU Extension also offers comprehensive drought resources at www.mizzou.us/DroughtResources.

Grazing System Training

On May 31, 2023, staff from Ste. Genevieve County and surrounding Soil & Water Conservation Districts (SWCD), and Area 3 Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) staff attended a Grazing System Training, taught by NRCS State Grazing Specialist, Jamie Kurtz. The training was held at the junction of two farms in Ste. Genevieve County owned by George & Mary Schilly and Larry & Wanda Herzog.

In the morning, the attendees met at the farms where they discussed farm operations and goals with the grazing system operators, Tom and Missy Schilly. That afternoon, the training moved to the Progress Sports Complex where attendees planned a grazing system layout that could benefit the farms' operation. These types of training days help SWCD and NRCS staff gain valuable knowledge to help them plan grazing systems in their respective counties. Amanda Horstmann, Eugene Lewis, and Emily Lear from the Ste. Genevieve Field Office attended the training and look forward to applying their knowledge in the field.

Thank you to Tom & Missy Schilly, George & Mary Schilly, and Larry & Wanda Herzog for hosting the training!

Highly Toxic Poison Hemlock In Full Bloom

Published by University of Missouri Extension: Wednesday, June 8, 2022

COLUMBIA, Mo. – It is as if a florist painted Missouri roadsides, hillsides and pastures with white spring flowers. But those flowers are poison hemlock, a weed that is highly toxic to humans and animals, says University of Missouri Extension weed scientist Kevin Bradley.

Poison hemlock is one of the first weeds to green up in spring and grows up 6 feet high. Once found primarily in pastures and fence rows and along roadsides, it now appears as a weed in no-till cropping systems. It is a biennial, taking two years to grow and germinate seeds. Poison hemlock produces up to 38,000 seeds per plant.

In its first year, poison hemlock develops as a basal rosette, Bradley says. By the second year, it grows erect vegetative stems. Umbel flowers are 7-15 inches across. All parts of the plant are poisonous.

Nonchemical control options include weeding, mowing and tillage, Bradley says. In crops, growth regulator herbicides and products that contain 2,4-D, dicamba or 2,4-D plus triclopyr are options.

Bradley says research at Purdue University showed that dicamba plus glyphosate may offer more consistency and control than applications of glyphosate and 2,4-D.

The key to control is applying the herbicide when plants are young and still in the rosette stage, he says. Mature plants do not respond to chemical control measures.

The alkaloids in poison hemlock are particularly toxic to cattle and horses, even in small amounts, says Tim Evans, toxicology section head at MU's Veterinary Medical Diagnostic Laboratory.

In relatively small doses, the alkaloids can affect the nervous system like nicotine, with clinical signs including dilation of the pupils, increased or reduced heart rate, coma, trembling, nervousness and respiratory paralysis, suffocation and death.

Remove animals from infected pastures and contact a veterinarian immediately if animals show signs of poisoning, Evans says. Death can occur quickly.

Cattle, sheep, goats and pigs that eat this plant during the first trimester of pregnancy may give birth to offspring with limb deformities, a condition known as crooked calf syndrome in cattle and more generally as multiple congenital contractures.

Immature poison hemlock leaves seem to be most palatable to unsuspecting livestock. Animals usually avoid mature plants, especially when offered other palatable feedstuffs. However, poison hemlock can be part of a hay mixture, Evans says.

When dealing with poison hemlock, wear protective gear including gloves, long sleeves, pants and eye protection. Sap from poison hemlock touching the skin can cause blisters and welts, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. There is no known treatment.

Poison hemlock looks like Queen Anne's lace, another weed that bears white, lacy flowers and fern-like leaves. Both have hollow stems, but poison hemlock's stem is hairless with purple blotches. Queen Anne's Lace, or wild carrot, rarely grows more than 2 feet and poses no danger to humans or livestock.

For more information, see MU Integrated Plant Management's Weed of the Month article on poison hemlock atnizzou.us/PoisonHemlock or the MU Extension guide "Plants Poisonous to Livestock" atnuext.us/G4790. To identify poison hemlock and other weeds, go to weevid.missouri.edu.



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