



Franklin County Conservation District Newsletter



VOL. 30 NO 3

FALL 2016

Grazing School to be held October 5 & 6



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What is a Management Intensive Grazing System?

Management intensive grazing (also known as rotational grazing management) is a system where grazing is managed for both the benefit of the livestock and forage. Livestock graze in each pasture long enough to harvest the forage, but are removed before too much leaf area is consumed. A basic system may have 4 or 5 pastures while a more management intensive system will have 8 to 10 pastures.

Why should I attend this school?

The single most important management factor in determining the profitability of a livestock operation is keeping feed cost low. So why buy forage when you can grow high quality feed yourself through a management intensive grazing (MIG) system? Cost Control, not the amount of production, separates profitable from unprofitable operations. Through a MIG system you can keep your cost down and production in most cases will increase, all while helping out the environment.

The grazing school will feature information on these topics and more: Inventorying Farm Resources, Soils & Topology, Plant Growth and Species, Grazing Basics, Livestock Water, Extending the Grazing Season, Fencing, Economics of Grazing, Layout and Design of a MIG system, Meeting Nutritional needs of Livestock, Forage Estimates, Grazing Heights, Farm Visit, Soil Health.

In addition to profits to your pocket book and environmental benefits you may be eligible to receive cost share assistance to help establish your MIG system. Check with your local SWCD or NRCS office for further information on cost share opportunities.

The Natural Resources Conservation Service and University of Missouri Extension will present topics in Union, MO on October 5th & 6th. The cost to attend will include donuts/ coffee, lunch, refreshments, speaker fees, materials and references. Registration for the school is limited to 25 slots. Don't wait to make reservations - slots will fill quickly. See registration form on page 3 for tentative schedule and registration form.

**SECTION
OMITTED**

GRAZING SCHOOL

Wednesday, October 5, 2016

Thursday, October 6, 2016

7:00-7:30—Registration

7:30-7:45—Welcome

7:45-8:15—Art and Science of Grazing Management

Mark Kennedy, NRCS

8:15-8:45—Soils

Matt Herring, Extension

8:45-9:45—Livestock Nutrition

Wayne Shannon, Extension

9:45-10:00—Break

10:00-11:30—Fencing and Water Facilities

Mark Kennedy, NRCS

11:30-12:00—Lunch

12:00-12:30—Forage Quality and Availability

Mark Kennedy, NRCS

12:30-1:00—Graziers Calculations

Wayne Shannon, Extension

1:00-4:00—Visit Planned Grazing System (Field)

7:00-7:30—Registration

7:30-8:15—Forages for Grazing

Matt Herring, Extension

8:15-9:15—Economics of Grazing Management

Ken Bolte, Extension

9:15-9:45—Nutrient Cycle

Matt Herring, Extension

9:45-10:00—Break

10:00-11:00—Layout and Design of Grazing System

Mark Kennedy, NRCS

11:00-12:00—Soil Health

Rhonda Davault, NRCS

Teresa Morris, NRCS

12:00-12:30—Lunch

12:30-2:00—Inventory Farm (Field)

2:15-3:45—Group Plan Preparations/Presentations

3:45-4:00—Closing Comments/Present Certificates

Lori Nowak, SWCD

Mark Kennedy, NRCS

Rhonda Davault, NRCS

LUNCH & REFRESHMENTS WILL BE PROVIDED EACH DAY

WILL BE VISITING FARMS ON BOTH DAYS—RAIN OR SHINE

REGISTRATION FORM

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____

STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

PHONE: _____

1 Person at \$105

2 People at \$160

(1 set of materials)

Please enclose a check made payable to the Franklin County SWCD. The deadline to register is September 22, 2016. Space is limited to 25 participants.

Registration is not complete until fees are paid!

PLEASE RETURN TO:

Franklin County Soil & Water
Conservation District
USDA Service Center
1004 Vondera Ave
Union, MO 63084
Phone: 636-583-2303 ext. 3096

Detach Here

COVER CROP

State Cost Share Practice

Sign up time for the State Cost Share Cover Crop practice is underway. This practice will provide an incentive to encourage the adoption of cover crops for reducing soil erosion, improving water quality and soil health.

The landowner/operator will be eligible for an incentive payment of \$30 per acre per year for a 1 or 2 species cover crop mix or \$40 per acre per year for 3 or more species cover crop mix and 75% of the cost for a soil health assessment test with a lifetime maximum of \$20,000 per landowner/operator.

Some of the guidelines are: Contracted acres must currently be in a minimum of a 2 species production crop rotation. Cover crop must be no-tilled or broadcast seeded with either ground equipment or aerial. Production crop following the cover crop must be planted using a no-till system. Cover crops will not be harvested for grain, seed or hayed. Cover crops may be grazed once the forages have reached a minimum height. Tillage cannot be used to terminate the cover crop. A soil health sample must be taken. Cover crops may not be seeded in a pasture or hay field. For more guidelines or information regarding the Cover Crop practice, contact the Soil & Water Conservation District office at 636-583-2303 ext 3.



Courtesy of University of Missouri

FY17 COST SHARE ALLOCATION FUNDS FOR FRANKLIN COUNTY

RESOURCE CONCERN	ALLOCATION
Animal Waste Management	\$50,000
Grazing Management	\$14,963
Nutrient & Pest Management	\$5,938
Sensitive Areas	\$25,398
Sheet/Rill & Gully Erosion	\$63,020
Woodland Erosion	\$16,538
TOTAL ALLOCATION	\$175,857

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Daniel Brunjes, Chairman
 Bernard Laune, Vice Chairman
 Carl Danz, Treasurer
 Matthew Herring, Secretary
 John Helling, Member

1004 Vondera Ave. • Union, MO 63084
636-583-2303 • 855-535-5203

The Franklin County Conservation District was organized in 1944 with a primary objective to solve soil and water conservation problems. The District, upon request, aids in planning and applying appropriate land use and conservation treatment measures.

OFFICE STAFF PERSONNEL

Lori Nowak, District Clerk, FCSWCD
 Stephen Sparks, District Technician, FCSWCD

Renee Cook, District Conservationist, NRCS
 Rhonda Davault, Lead Resource Conservationist, NRCS
 Kervin Bryant, Soil Conservationist, NRCS
 Teresa Morris, Soil Conservationist, NRCS
 Jerry Busch, Area Soil Technician, NRCS

Lia Heppermann, Private Land Conservationist, MDC
 Ryan Diener, Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist

THE PARKS, SOILS AND WATER SALES TAX *extension to be on November ballot.*



BEFORE THE PARKS, SOILS AND WATER SALES TAX

- In the 1930s, Americans realized how devastating soil erosion could be as the Dust Bowl swept across the nation, relocating an estimated 300 million tons of soil. Missouri had the highest rate of erosion in the nation, which led to the creation of the Missouri Soil and Water Conservation Districts in 1943.
- In 1982, Missouri was losing soil at a rate of 10.8 tons per acre each year on cultivated cropland.

SOIL EROSION IN MISSOURI

- Due to the efforts of the Missouri Soil and Water Conservation Program, Missouri has saved more than 177 million tons of soil over the past 30 years.

- Of Missouri's 44.6 million acres of land, 14.8 million are considered cropland. With almost half of Missouri's cropland soil classified as highly erodible, controlling and minimizing erosion is a significant challenge for Missouri's farmers.
- Erosion can cause problems by washing away the productive topsoil, which adversely affects local and national food supplies and economies.
- Soil erosion caused by storm water runoff carries fertilizers away from the fields and into the waterways. The soil entering the waterway can cause water quality problems that continue far downstream.
- Eroded soil settling along the shores and beds of streams, lakes and rivers can lead to the destruction of valuable aquatic habitat such as fish spawning areas.
- Soil and contaminated water entering drinking water supply systems each year can increase water treatment costs, which raises utility bills for Missouri households.

HOW THE SALES TAX HELPS

- The Soil and Water Conservation Program works to conserve Missouri's soil and water for future generations. The program includes several voluntary programs that provide agricultural landowners with incentives for using soil and water conservation practices.
- The tax has provided over \$660 million to Missouri agricultural landowners to implement more than 220,000 conservation practices using the revenue from our Parks, Soils and Water Sales Tax.
- Revenues from the Parks, Soils and Water Sales Tax have resulted in Missouri having the greatest soil erosion reduction rate of any other state with more than 10 million acres of cultivated cropland.
- **Cost-Share Program:** This program shares the cost of implementing conservation practices between the state and land owners. It provides partial reimbursement of the cost for the installation of soil and water conservation practices that prevent or control excessive erosion and improve water quality. These practices include buffers, grazing systems, cover crops and sediment basins.
- **Grants to Districts:** Each of the 114 soil and water conservation districts in Missouri receive district grants. These grants are used by local district boards to fund technical assistance for landowners and provide information and educational programs.
- **Research and Monitoring:** The program provides funding for research and water quality monitoring. These efforts identify new methods for soil and water conservation practices that produce the best results for preventing erosion and protecting water quality.

PUBLIC INPUT

- The Soil and Water Districts Commission holds meetings, usually six times a year, that are open to the public. The commission develops statewide policies in accordance with the Department of Natural Resources and the Soil and Water Districts input and helps local landowners with their soil and water conservation efforts.
- County Soil and Water District Boards usually hold monthly meetings that are open to the public.

ABOUT THE PARKS, SOILS AND WATER SALES TAX

- The Sales Tax is a statewide one-tenth-of-one percent sales tax that provides funding for Missouri state parks and historic sites and soil and water conservation efforts. The tax is divided equally between the two efforts.
- The Parks, Soils and Water Sales Tax was first approved by voters in 1984, and has since been reapproved by voters three times. In 1988, 1996 and 2006, the tax was renewed by more than two-thirds majority of Missouri voters.
- The Soil and Water Conservation Program is funded by the Parks, Soils and Water Sales Tax.
- The portion of the Parks, Soils and Water Sales Tax that supports soil and water conservation averages about \$7 a year per Missourian.
- The Parks, Soils and Water Sales Tax is placed on the ballot every 10 years to reaffirm the voter's support of the park system and soil and water conservation efforts. The Parks, Soils and Water Sales Tax is set to expire if not renewed by voters in November 2016.

For Rent

7 foot NO-TILL DRILL

One located at MFA Agri Service
35 N. Commercial Ave.
St. Clair, MO 63077

One located at New Haven Farm & Feed
9659 Highway 100
New Haven, MO 63068

To Schedule Rental Call 636-629-2822

To Schedule Rental Call 573-237-3831



SECTION OMITTED

Area II – Marvin & Carolyn Ley



Our Area II Outstanding Farmer Award goes to Marvin and Carolyn Ley. The farm is estimated to be 115 acres and is located in the Washington area.

This farm has woodland, cropland and pasture land. Roughly, 70% of the farm is cropland, where a corn/soybean/wheat rotation is used. The farm is home to mix breed cow/calf pair operations. Crops and cattle have been present for most of the life of the farm.

For about 50 years Marvin help the previous owner of the farm with crops and livestock. The farm was once a dairy farm. In 1990 Marvin purchased the farm from that owner.

Marvin has installed terraces, waterway, concrete drop boxes, and WASCOS to protect their farm from soil erosion under State Cost-Share. Marvin also participated in the Emergency Drought Program in 2012 and was able to receive Cost-Share to help install a well and watering tank to get water to his cattle.

Marvin has two sons, one daughter and seven grandchildren. The ones of age help out on the farm.

Keep up the great conservation work and Congratulations to Marvin and Carolyn!



FRANKLIN COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT
1004 Vondera Avenue
Union, Missouri 63084-3132
636-583-2303 • 1-800-538-3584
RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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COMING EVENTS

Monday, September 5, 2016
USDA Service Center closed
Labor Day Holiday

Tuesday, September 13, 2016
SWCD Regular Board Meeting
8:00 a.m., USDA Service Center

Monday, October 10, 2016
USDA Service Center closed
Columbus Day Holiday

Tuesday, October 11, 2016
SWCD Regular Board Meeting
8:00 a.m., USDA Service Center

Tuesday, November 8, 2016
SWCD Regular Board Meeting
8:00 a.m., USDA Service Center

Friday, November 11, 2016
USDA Service Center closed
Veteran's Day Holiday

Call to confirm meeting date and times. All regular meetings are open to the public.



Quarterly Quote

*"I bequeath myself to the dirt, to grow from the
grass I love; If you want me again, look for me
under your boot-soles."*

– Walt Whitman

THANK YOU

The District Board appreciates the cooperation of the businesses that advertise in our newsletter and hope that our readers patronize these advertisers. The Board especially appreciates the financial assistance of the Franklin County Commission. Thanks also to our partners in conservation: NRCS, FSA, DNR, University Extension, MDC, Quail Forever. Assistance from the Soil and Water Conservation District is available to all county residents regardless of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, gender identity, reprisal, political beliefs, marital status, familial or parental status, sexual orientation or individual's income. State Cost-Share funds are available for agriculture landowners that have active erosion and are approved to complete practices that solve the erosion problem and for practices that protect our water quality.