

# Gasconade County SWCD

August 2020—Volume 31, Issue 1

## Starting Small.... The Path to Soil and Water Conservation

A Spring rain falls on a hillside and a drop of water begins to follow the path of least resistance, gravity propelling it down the slope. It makes its way first to a natural drain, maybe it soaks into the ground and comes out through a spring or into a creek...into a river.. Finally, making it's way to the Gulf of Mexico, by way of the mighty Mississippi. Are you picturing a familiar hillside as the starting point? In your backyard or within your pastures? It very well could have.

We ALL live in what is called a "*watershed*"; an area drained by a river and its tributaries or an area characterized by all runoff being conveyed to the same outlet. Smaller watersheds are a part of larger watersheds. For example, the Gasconade River Watershed is just one small part of the Missouri River Watershed, which is a small part of the Mississippi River Watershed. What happens in our watershed has a ripple effect (pun intended) on the subsequent watersheds.

Conservation practices are designed to reduce soil erosion and improve water quality. Remember that raindrop on the hillside? If it falls on bare ground, it and all the other raindrops will take some of the precious soil with them. There are several conservation practices that can help you to hold on to your soil.

For pastures, a rotational grazing system will improve your forages and ground coverage. By rotating livestock, you can better maintain your grass heights and promote better root growth and stabilization that will help hold your soil. The practices available for grazing systems are water development, water distribution, cross-fence, overseeding legumes and lime. Protecting your woodlands by controlling livestock access will protect the forest's delicate ecosystem and prevent soil erosion, as well.

For crop fields, any practice that covers bare soil or diverts/slows water will negate erosion, conserve water, and improve water quality. Practices to implement on crop fields include, but are not limited to, vegetative cover establishment/enhancement, terrace systems with or without tile, diversions, sod waterway, contour buffer strips, and cover crops.

Gully erosion can be addressed through water impoundment reservoirs and sediment retention structures. These practices may be implemented in either crop or pastureland.

Water quality practices may be used to slow the run off of sediment and nutrients and to stabilize and protect the streambank and the water table.

You don't have to be a big time farmer to be concerned about our natural resources. Whether you have 1 or 1000 acres or if you live in an urban area, there's always something you can do to improve/protect our soil and water. Something as simple as planting a tree in your backyard to cover a bare spot or planting a flower garden to feed our pollinators. Whatever you do will have an effect on the watershed area.

***So start small—your change will matter.***

### **Board of Supervisors:**

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Luke Mangrum—Vice-Chairman  
Joel Wehmeyer—Treasurer  
Harvey Hesemann—Member  
Matt Herring—Secretary

### **NRCS Staff:**

Gary Applegate—District Conservationist  
Mark Brandt—Lead Resource Conservationist  
Adam Gottemoeller—Soil Conservationist  
DJ Schroeder—Soil Conservation Technician

### **District Staff:**

Manager Diana Mayfield—District Specialist IV  
Technician Sarah Berkemeyer—District Specialist III  
Shared Technician April Duedeoeffler—District Specialist II  
Shared Pest Management Specialist—Amy Neier, District Specialist IV

### **MDC Staff:**

Seth Barrioz—Private Lands Conservationist  
Scott Williams—Fisheries Biologist  
Aaron Holsapple—Forester  
Clayton Light—Public Lands Conservationist

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# **RESOURCE CONCERN COST-SHARE SPOTLIGHT**

## **Sensitive Area**

**County Maximum is \$20,000 per year/per landowner unless otherwise stated.**

**N574, Spring Development** - The development of a spring through natural gravity flow. This development will include one tank and 300 ft of trenching and pipe. Maintenance Agreement – 10 years.

**N351, Well Decommissioning (Incentive)** – This applies to any drilled, dug, driven bored, or otherwise constructed well. This does not apply to wells that have contaminated levels that exceed state levels or cisterns. Closure will be reported to the USGS Well Head Commission. This is an incentive payment of 100% of \$400 per well. Maintenance Agreement – 10 years.

**N391, Riparian Forest Buffer** – Establishment of trees and/or shrubs as a buffer along a Streambank. There is a \$1200 per acre, one-time out-of-production incentive payment along with 75% cost-share to establish the protection area. Maintenance Agreement – 10 years.

**WQ10: Stream Protection** - \$500 incentive per acre to control livestock access to both sides of the stream and 75% cost-share to establish 25 – 150 feet buffer to control surface runoff. Incentives are not authorized for stream segments within heavily wooded areas that exceed 10 or more acres. Payment may be received to establish additional watering source for livestock in the adjacent fields. Maintenance Agreement – 10 years.

**C650, Streambank Stabilization (DNR Maximum of \$25,000.00 per landowner per year)** - MDC or NRCS is the technical authority on this practice, unless a private engineer is hired. The commission has approved a \$5,000 allocation to pay for a private engineer, which is included in the cost-share maximum. Livestock will be excluded from the stream and the associated corridor. The corridor width will be a minimum distance of 50 feet from the top of the streambank.

## **Special Notice**

- ✓ Due to COVID-19, the landowner requirement to attend Grazing School before qualifying for any Grazing System Practice has been waived, at this time. Once you receive cost-share for any Grazing System Practice, you will have one year to attend a certified school or be required to pay back all funds received.
- ✓ If you are thinking about establishing warm season grasses and qualify for a vegetative practice through the Soil and Water Cost-Share Program, there may be an additional cost-share allotment through the *MDC/MASWCD Native Grass Partnership Program*. Contact your local office for more details.

## *Gasconade County SWCD Highlights FY20, July 2019—June 2020*

The Gasconade County Soil and Water Conservation District has completed a successful cost-share year assisting landowners putting conservation on the land. Here is a breakdown of the assistance provided.

◆ Nutrient/Pest Management	\$ 3,008.00
◆ Grazing Management -	\$ 62,009.76
◆ Sensitive Areas -	\$ 13,657.25
◆ Sheet/Rill and Gully Erosion -	\$111,468.55
◆ Woodland Erosion -	<u>\$ 3,807.00</u>
◆ <b>Total</b>	<b>\$193,950.56</b>

Through the Federal Programs, Gasconade County landowners have been awarded \$155,454 (17 contracts) through the Environmental Incentive Program (EQIP) and \$88,565 (25 Contracts) through the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) and \$3,618 (6 contracts) through the GCI-CSP for a Grand total of \$247,637 (6680 acres) being awarded in FY20.

The District hosted the following events in FY20:

- ◆ 4th Grade Field Days - 181 students, 5 Schools (19th Year)
- ◆ Forage & Beef Conference, Cuba, MO, 174 attendees
- ◆ 2020 Annual Poster Contest - 236 participants from 7 schools
- ◆ Sponsored the Central Region Envirothon (16 Teams, 80 Students) and the OMG-WIA Event (265 attendees—6th year)
- ◆ The District conducted 10 Board meetings.
- ◆ The District has mailed 2 newsletters during the Fiscal Year and updates it's website (<https://mosoilandwater.land/gasconade>) and FaceBook frequently. **You may sign up for e-alerts (e-mail or text messages) on our new website.**

## **FY20 GCSWCD APPRECIATION AWARDS**

Since we were unable to host our Annual Meeting, we would like to recognize the outstanding accomplishments of some cooperators who assist us in our mission of information/education and putting conservation on the land.

- \* **FY20 PARTNERSHIP AWARD** GOES TO LEANN MEYER AND THE LEGENDS COUNTY BANK. LEANN HAS BEEN AN ACTIVE MEMBER OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE FOR THE OSAGE, MARIES, AND GASCONADE (OMG) AGRIPRIDE WOMEN IN AGRICULTURE EVENT SINCE IT BEGAN. SHE HAS BROUGHT MANY WONDERFUL IDEAS AND HAS SERVED IN DIFFERENT POSITIONS ON THE COMMITTEE. THIS EVENT IS CONSIDERED TO BE ONE OF THE LARGEST SINGLE EVENT IN OUR COUNTY AND CONTINUES TO GROW EACH YEAR WITH TWO WORKSHOPS AND A MAIN SPEAKER BEING OFFERED FOR LADIES TO LEARN AND NETWORK WITH OTHER FEMALE LANDOWNERS. LEGENDS BANK HAS NOT ONLY PROVIDED LEANN THE OPPORTUNITY TO SERVE, BUT THEY HAVE SUPPORTED THIS EVENT AND OTHERS THROUGH MONETARY DONATIONS AS WELL AS LOANING US THEIR GRILL WHEN WE NEED IT. WE ARE GREATFUL FOR ALL OF THE SUPPORT THAT LEGENDS BANK AND LEANN MEYER GIVE TO OUR MISSION.
- \* **FY20 EARTH TEAM VOLUNTEER AWARD** GOES TO JEROME AND CAROLYN WINTHORST. JEROME BECAME A MEMBER OF THE GASCONADE COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT BOARD OF SUPERVISORS IN 2006. AS A MEMBER, HE AND HIS WIFE, CAROLYN, BECAME ACTIVE IN OUR 4<sup>TH</sup> GRADE FIELD DAYS. THEY ASSISTED WITH COOKING AND SERVING THE MEALS TO OVER 250+ CHILDREN AND CAROLYN HAS ALSO ASSISTED WITH THE FARM SAFETY SIGHT ON NUMEROUS OCCASSIONS. EVEN THOUGH JEROME LEFT THE BOARD IN 2010, HE AND CAROLYN HAVE CONTINUED TO COME AND SUPPORT THE 4<sup>TH</sup> GRADE FIELD DAY EVENT EACH YEAR. CAROLYN HAS ALSO SERVED ON NUMEROUS ELECTION JUDGE PANELS. THEY ARE ALWAYS READY TO OFFER A HELPING HAND AT OUR EVENTS.
- \* **FY20 CONSERVATION FAMILY OF THE YEAR AWARD** GOES TO RICHARD AND CONNIE GRELLNER. RICHARD HAS BEEN AN ACTIVE COOPERATOR SINCE 2001, WORKING ALONGSIDE HIS LATE FATHER, JOSEPH GRELLNER. HE, AND HIS WIFE CONNIE, HAVE BEEN INSTRUMENTAL IN ESTABLISHING A HUGE GRAZING SYSTEM WITH 18 WATERING FACILITIES RUNNING OFF OF TWO WELLS, SPANNING OVER 185 ACRES. THIS PAST YEAR, THEY WERE ABLE TO ADDRESS SOME STREAMBANK STABILIZATION ISSUES THROUGH MDC AND OUR C-650 STREAMBANK STABILIZATION PRACTICE INSTALLING 3 ROCK WEIRS AND THEN USING OUR N-391 RIPARIAN FOREST BUFFER PRACTICE TO PLANT TREES AND SHRUBS TO PROTECT THE FIELDS FROM FURTHER EROSION. THEY ARE CURRENTLY ENROLLED IN THE CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM (CSP) TO IMPROVE THEIR EXISTING WATERING FACILITIES, PLANTING POLLINATOR HABITAT AND TO IMPROVE THEIR SOIL HEALTH THROUGH A LIME/LEGUME OVERSEEDING PROGRAM.

**CONGRATULATIONS EVERYONE AND THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT**

# 2020 Annual Poster Contest Awards

## "Where would we BEE without Pollinators"

2nd Grade Winners: 1st Place-Brynn Meyer, St. George; 2nd Place-Myah Angell, Immanuel Lutheran; 3rd Place-Aknika Stone, Immanuel Lutheran

3rd Grade Winners: 1st Place-Makayla Nicholson; 2nd Place-Evie Roth; 3rd Place-Holden Schales all from Hermann Elementary

4th Grade Winners: 1st Place-Jahnvi Patel, Hermann Middle; 2nd Place-Abbey Quilacio, Gerald Elementary; 3rd Place-Kabren Kelley, Owensville Elementary

5th Grade Winners: 1st Place-Nathan Menke, Hermann Middle; 2nd Place-Carter Gerlemann, St. George; 3rd Place-Lilly Vogelsang, Hermann Middle

6th Grade Winner: 1st Place-Kealie Lane, Hermann Middle

7th Grade Winners: 1st Place-Karigan Lane, Hermann Middle; 2nd Place-Sophia Binkholder, Hermann Middle

8th Grade Winners: 1st Place-Koeori Butler; 2nd Place-Viridiana Balbontin; 3rd Place-Isabella Prate and Allyson Gooch all of Owensville Middle School

Our State Entries for 2020 are: 2nd—3rd Grade Division—Brynn Meyer, St. George School; 4th—6th Grade Division—Jahnvi Patel, Hermann Middle School; 7th—8th Grade Division—Koeori Butler, Owensville Middle School

Jahnvi Patel of Hermann Middle School was the recipient of the grand prize bicycle, which was donated by the Owensville Walmart. Thank you, Walmart!

Since we were unable to host our Annual Meeting, all prizes were delivered to the students before the school shutdown occurred in March. Congratulations to all of the winners.

A special thanks to our judges, Shirley Landwehr, Sharon Mace, and Nicole Hubbard. Also, big squeeze to Logan Hubbard for keeping us on track!! Thanks to LSC Communications for the donation of the poster board and to the teachers and parents for encouraging participation.

Check out our webpage for more pictures!



Brynn Meyer, St. George School



Jahnvi Patel, Hermann Middle School



Koeori Butler, Owensville Middle School



# New FSA Program Technician

Brooke Bruns joined the Gasconade County Farm Service Agency team on May 11, 2020. She recently became engaged to Matt Mueller and they are residing in Union, MO. She grew up on a farm in Pike County, raising cattle and growing row crops. Brooke recently graduated from Northwest Missouri State University with a degree in Ag Business. While in school, she interned for the Pike County Soil and Water Conservation District.



## 2020 Dates to Remember

Sept 1	Board Meeting, TBD, 6:30 p.m.
Sept 7	Labor Day Holiday, Office Closed
Oct 6	Board Meeting, TBD, 6:30 p.m.
Oct 12	Columbus Day Holiday, Office Closed
Nov 3	Board Meeting, TBD, 6:30 p.m.
Nov 11	Veteran's Day Holiday, Office Closed
Nov 26	Thanksgiving Day Holiday, Office Closed
Nov 30-Dec 2	Annual Training Conference, Tentative
Dec 8	Board Meeting, TBD, 6:30 p.m.

**Due to COVID-19, planning for all field events are on hold at this time. Please feel free to come by our office for any of your conservation needs. We will come out and assist you in any way we can!**

**The GCSWCD is now on Facebook. Search for Gasconade County MO Soil & Water Conservation District. Be sure to like us on Facebook, so you don't miss out on any important updates!**

Visit us on the web at <https://mosoilandwater.land/gasconade>

## Gasconade County SWCD Equipment

**A NEW LEASE AGREEMENT MUST BE SIGNED THIS YEAR AND ON FILE AT THE SWCD OFFICE BEFORE EQUIPMENT CAN BE RENTED.**

**Drills: Minimum of 10 acres applies. Proof of vehicle insurance is required at the time of pickup.**

**NEW**

1590 John Deere 10 ft no-till drill! \$12 per acre charge. Located at 3325 Hwy 19 Owensville. Call Gary Miller at 573-690-9065 to schedule.

◇ Great Plains 7 ft no-till drill with warm season box is located at the SWCD office. \$10 acre, \$9 per acre over 50. To schedule call 573-473-3478

### Located at the SWCD Office:

- ◇ Burn Equipment - \$50 deposit, \$10 use charge
- ◇ ATV Equipment (Seeder, Sprayer) - \$100 deposit, \$20 a day each piece
- ◇ ATV Warm Season Grass Seeder—no charge—Donated by Quail Unlimited
- ◇ Soil Probe - no charge