

# Gasconade County SWCD

January 2024—Volume 34, Issue 2

**The Gasconade County SWCD Board of Supervisors  
Invite you to attend the  
2024 Annual Meeting**

**On  
March 21, 2024, at 6 p.m.  
Owensville Middle School**

**CELEBRATING 60 YEARS OF CONSERVING  
SOIL & WATER RESOURCES**

**Come help us celebrate and recognize all the  
past and present  
Board Members, District Staff, NRCS Staff, and MDC Staff!**

**We will be recognizing the 2024 "May the Forest Always Be With You" Poster Contest Winners as well as our Volunteer, Partnership and Conservation Family Award winners.**

**A catered meal will be provided, compliments of the District!**

**Please call 573-437-3478 x 3 to make your reservations to attend, no later than March 15th.**

**Board of Supervisors:**

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

**NRCS Staff:**

Mark Brandt—District Conservationist  
Megan Brown—Resource Conservationist  
April Aholt—Soil Conservation Technician

**District Staff:**

Manager Diana M Mayfield—District Specialist IV  
Technician Sarah Berkemeyer—District Specialist IV

**MDC Staff:**

Ryan Westcott—Private Lands Conservationist  
Scott Williams—Fisheries Biologist  
Aaron Holsapple—Forester  
Tracey Prenger—Public Lands Conservationist

This newsletter is partially funded  
by the  
**1/10th of 1%**  
**Parks and Soil and Water Sales  
Tax.**

# 2024 BOARD ELECTION CANDIDATES

The Gasconade County Soil & Water Conservation District (GCSWCD) will be holding an election for the Area I-Richland and Boulware Townships and the Area III—Third Creek, Clay, and Bourbois Townships from February 1st through February 20th at the USDA Service Center, 316 S Olive Street, Owensville, during the hours of 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Every agricultural landowner in Gasconade County (no matter which Township) has the right to vote for one representative in each area listed below. The landowners must be listed on the Title of Deed, but there is a limit of one vote per farm.

A self-nomination period for candidates interested in running was hosted during the month of November 2024. Those candidates that agreed to run are listed below in their respective areas.

## **Area I—Richland & Boulware Township:**



Brian Rost—Brian and his wife Rebecca, have two sons. They are farming 320 acres, running a cow/calf operations, raising replacement heifers, feeder calves and fat cattle. They currently calve twice a year in the spring and fall. They raise alfalfa for their own use and to sell to a local dairy farmer. Brian works off the farm at Oakley Professional Products. They have utilized district cost-share to build an Animal Waste Storage Facility, establish a WQ10 (Stream Protection) & DSP-3.2/3.3 (Grazing System) to provide water and cross fencing on their property, while protecting the stream. Brian would like to help farmers become more aware of the conservation practices and programs that are available through the Soil & Water Districts.

## **Area III—Third Creek, Clay, and Bourbois Townships:**



Luke Mangrum—Luke currently serves as the Vice-Chairman of the GCSWCD Board. Luke and his wife, Melissa, have one son. They own 220 acres. Luke has been farming for approximately 20 years. He has a grain farm, growing corn and soybeans, and utilizes cover crops to protect the soil. Luke has utilized the Federal Environmental Incentive Quality Program (EQIP), Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) and State Cost-share to address the resource concerns on his property. He would like to continue to serve the producers of Gasconade County by promoting conservation of the land and water.



**Friday, March 1, 2024**



**Central Missouri  
Forage & Beef  
Conference**

Knights of Columbus Hall  
206 6th St., Vienna, MO

***\$15/Person - DINNER INCLUDED***

Registration & Trade Show - 12 PM  
Speaking Starts - 1 PM | Dinner at 6:15 PM

*Topics*

Farm Succession Planning • Market Outlook • Black Vultures  
Forage Options for Year Round Grazing • Comparing Common Feed Options

Producer Panel: *Direct Marketing Beef*

Bill McLaren, Pacific  
Steve Falter, Freeburg  
Jim Protiva, West Plains

RSVP: February 20

Online: <https://extension.missouri.edu/events/central-missouri-forage-beef-conference-2024>

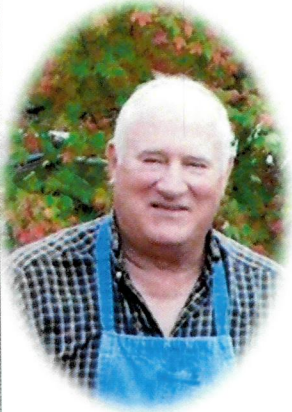
In-Person: Maries County SWCD (573)422-3342



**Extension**  
*University of Missouri*  
An Equal Opportunity Provider



## ***Retiring from the GCSWCD Board of Supervisors***



After 12 years of Service to the Board, Mike Haeffner is hanging up his Board Supervisor shoes. Mike has served as the Chairman of the group since 2017. He also served as an Area Representative on the Missouri Association of Conservation Districts Board for 4 years as well. Thank you for your devotion to our District, Mike!

## **Help wanted**

The Gasconade County Soil & Water Conservation District is accepting applications for our District Specialist, Manager position. This person will train with the current Manager for 90 days. This is not a Federal or State position.

### **Skills Required:**

- ⇒ High School Diploma or GED equivalent
- ⇒ College, helpful but not necessary
- ⇒ Clean Driving record and able to pass a background check
- ⇒ Office Work
  - ⇒ Proficient Computer Literacy—Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Publisher
  - ⇒ Able to learn new skills and programs efficiently
  - ⇒ Attention to detail
  - ⇒ Organizational and planning skills
  - ⇒ Accounting skills
  - ⇒ Customer Service skills
  - ⇒ Public Relations/Speaking
- ⇒ Field work might be required in all kinds of weather.
- ⇒ Attendance at evening, monthly Board Meetings and other training events
- ⇒ Salary is based on experience with room for advancement
- ⇒ Employee health insurance and retirement benefits available
- ⇒ Paid holidays, sick leave, and annual leave

Applications and position descriptions are available at the SWCD Office, 314 S Olive Street, Owensville, on-line at <https://mosoilandwater.land/gasconade> or call 573-437-3478 x 3.

**The closing date to receive application is February 20, 2024.**

*An Equal Opportunity Employer, Provider, and Lender*

**Warm Season Grass Establishment Workshops held in February at 8 locations**

by Lucas Brass, Area 2 Soil Health Conservationist

In February, come learn about how you can integrate Warm Season grasses into your pasture/hay fields. We are partnering with Ducks Unlimited, Heartland Seed, Missouri Department of Conservation, and MFA to bring you three experts that will give you information about all aspects of Warm Season grasses. We will take you from establishment to management and discuss the benefits and economics of adding warm seasons to your operation. We are offering meetings listed below with addresses.

These meetings are FREE to attend and will include a lunch. The workshops will run from 10am to 1:30pm. Doors will open at 9:30am. There will be funding again through EQIP in 2024 to help producers and landowners establish warm season grasses on their farms. We will discuss those opportunities at the meetings and what type of support you can expect from NRCS.

If you have questions about the events or would like to register, you can either email [lucas.brass@usda.gov](mailto:lucas.brass@usda.gov) or call 573-326-3030 or [luke.skinner@usda.gov](mailto:luke.skinner@usda.gov) or call 660-663-9381. We look forward to seeing you at the meetings, if you want to learn more about the benefits of warm season grasses. Please share this with others that may be interested in learning about planting warm season grasses on their farms.

**Locations & Map Links:**

- Feb 13<sup>th</sup>-**Higginsville**, Higginsville Community Building, 801 W. 29<sup>th</sup> St., Higginsville, MO
- Feb 14<sup>th</sup>-**Clinton**, Henry Co. USDA office, 1306 N. 2<sup>nd</sup> St, Clinton, MO
- Feb 15<sup>th</sup>-**California**, Centennial Hall, Moniteau Co. Fairgrounds, 610 E. South St.
- Feb 21<sup>st</sup>-**Shelbina**, First Baptist Church, 125 W. Chestnut St., Shelbina, MO;
- Feb 22<sup>nd</sup>-**Elsberry**, NRCS Plant Materials Center, 2803, MO Hwy 79, Elsberry, MO
- Feb 27<sup>th</sup>-**Milan**, Milan Community Center, 205 N. Market St., Milan, MO
- Feb 28<sup>th</sup>-**Chillicothe**, Litton Agri-Science Center, 10780 Liv 235, Chillicothe, MO



**2024 Plat Books**

*Celebrating 60 Years  
of the  
Gasconade County  
Soil & Water  
Conservation District*

**arriving in the spring**

**They will be a tri-fold book  
featuring the current Aerial  
and Plat, and a  
Plat from 1960.**

**Watch for more details.**



**2024 Gasconade County  
SWCD**

**MAY THE  
FOREST  
BE WITH YOU ALWAYS**

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICTS STEWARDSHIP WEEK 2024

**Open to 2nd—8th Grade  
Due March 8, 2024  
For more information call  
573-437-3478**

GASCONADE COUNTY, MISSOURI  
SUPERVISOR ELECTION  
February 1—20, 2024

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**Area I - Richland & Boulware  
(4 Year Term)**

Brian Rost

**Area III - Third Creek, Clay, Bourbois  
(4 Year Term)**

Luke Mangrum

Vote for one supervisor in each Area  
by placing an "X" in the square after his  
name.



## Signup Periods are now open!

**The Gasconade County SWCD Board of Supervisors announced the annual signup periods for the following cost-share programs!**

**Pest Management—January 1 through April 15**, this includes herbicide and pesticides. Cost-share is \$10 per acre with a lifetime maximum of \$5,000. Payments are made after October 31st.

**Dormant or DSP-3.4/3.5 Lime/overseeding legumes—March 15—June 15**, to receive the Lime/Overseeding Legumes through the Grazing System (DSP3) you must have attended grazing school and have an established grazing system following the 528 standard. The DSL-2 (dormant seeding of Legumes) does have to meet the soil loss criteria.

**Fall Seedings—April 15—July 15**, The DSL-1 must meet the soil loss criteria and will cover 75% of the state average cost for Lime, Fertilizer, Seed and seedbed prep and delivery. Warm season grasses may also be established, however, they have a longer maintenance life requirement.

**Cover Crops—May 15—September 15**, If you wish to apply legumes, turnips or radishes, they must be on the ground by September 25, so apply early. You must have a two crop rotation and no-till is required for the following production crop. A soil health analysis is also required on new acreage being addressed.

Be On the Look Out!



SWCD Has New Wheels!



# Federal Funding Opportunities through the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

By Megan Brown, Resource Conservationist

The USDA-NRCS offers several federal cost-share programs to improve the soil, water, air, plant, and animal resources on your property. One commonly used program is the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), which offers cost-share to implement resource conservation practices such as grazing systems, wildlife/ pollinator habitat, forest management, and cover crops. Another program available is the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP). This program is tailored for producers who have already implemented conservation practices on their property and would like to enhance what they already have or incorporate additional practices into their operation. EQIP and CSP, unlike state cost-share, are competitive programs. The sign-up period is always open, but applications are only reviewed and ranked during limited batching periods.

For inquiries stop by the office at 316 S. Olive St, Owensville, MO 65066 or call 573-437-3478 x3 and ask for Megan.

## FSA News

On behalf of the Gasconade County FSA office, we would like to wish you and your families a Happy New Year! I have included some information about current programs below, but please reach out if you have any questions, 573-437-3478 extension 2 or email: [moowensvil-fsa@usda.gov](mailto:moowensvil-fsa@usda.gov).

The **Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP)** provides payments to eligible livestock owners who suffered grazing losses during the drought and are physically located in a county rated by the US Drought Monitor as having a D2 (severe drought) drought for at least eight consecutive weeks or a D3 (extreme drought) drought at any time during the normal grazing period. Please call our office to initiate the signup process.

You will need to provide your grazing livestock inventory numbers as of June 6<sup>th</sup> for Osage and Gasconade County and inventory numbers as of June 20<sup>th</sup> for Maries County, as well as any livestock sold due to the drought conditions in the 60 days prior to the county trigger date (April 7-June 5 for Osage and Gasconade, April 21-June 19 for Maries).

Inventory and mitigated livestock numbers will be sorted into categories:

\*Head count of Adult livestock

\*Head count of **weaned** non-adult livestock 500lbs or more

\*Head count of **weaned** non-adult livestock under 500lbs.

\*Beef and Dairy head count need to be separate. Other grazing animals also eligible.

\*If livestock graze on land you do not own, we will need a copy of a current written lease agreement or we have forms (CCC -855) you can have the landowner sign. Even if you completed this form last year, we will need a new one this year.

\*Please note that the LFP application requires 2 steps. Step 1 - The pasture that you graze livestock on must be reported to the office on an aerial map. The deadline to do this each year to avoid paying a late file fee is normally July 15, and we recommend that you do this each year so that it stays up to date with our office. Step 2 - The office needs your cattle inventory/sales. These items are used to generate your drought application.

**Make an appointment ASAP if you are interested in participating in this program, January 2024 is the deadline!**

**Emergency financial assistance for livestock is available through ELAP** to Osage, Maries and Gasconade counties. ELAP provides financial assistance to eligible producers to help cover the cost of transporting feed for livestock that is in excess of normal years. An online tool is now available to help ranchers document and estimate payments to cover feed transportation costs caused by drought. If you have questions, a demonstration video is available.

**2022 Emergency Relief Program** - See details below. ERP Track 1 applications were mailed to producers, but if you did not receive one and believe that you had crop insurance or NAP losses on file in 2022, then feel free to contact the office.

**ARC/PLC Election and Enrollment:** Enrollment is now open and elections can be revised for the 2024 program year. All producers who share in the base acres must sign their contracts by the **March 15, 2024 deadline**. We have a short 3-month window to complete enrollment, so please take care of this as quickly as possible.

**Farm Storage and Equipment Loans:** As part of our Price Support Program, we can loan 85-95% cost on grain bin facilities, haybarns and more. You would be required to provide tax returns, balance sheet, cash flow, & project bids to the Farm Loan Team to get the process started. Rates are fixed for the life of the loan and can range from 3-12 years depending on the loan amount. Current rates are 4.125%- 4.375%.

# Gasconade County SWCD

314 Olive Street  
Owensville, MO 65066  
(573) 437-3478 ext. 3  
FAX: 855-842-7890

STD  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Owensville, MO  
Permit No. 8

## 2024 Dates to Remember

<b>Jan 1—April 1</b>	<b>Pest Management Signup Period</b>
February 6	Independence Day, Office Closed
March 1	Forage and Beef Conference, Vienna
March 5	Board Meeting, USDA Service Center, 6:30 p.m.
<b>Mar 15—June 15</b>	<b>Dormant or DSP-3.4/3.5 Seeding Signup Period</b>
March 21	Annual Meeting, Owensville Middle School 6 p.m.
April 2	Board Meeting, USDA Service Center, 6:30 p.m.
April 10	Central Region Envirothon—Runge Center
<b>April 15-July 15</b>	<b>Fall Seeding Signup Period</b>
May 1	State Envirothon—Location TBD
May 7	Board Meeting, USDA Service Center, 6:30 p.m.
<b>May 15—Sept 15</b>	<b>Cover Crop Sign-up Period</b>
May 27	Memorial Day Holiday, Office Closed
June 4	Board Meeting, USDA Service Center, 6:30 p.m.
June 15	End of Cost-share Year
June 30	End of Fiscal Year 2024

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

## Gasconade County SWCD Equipment

**A NEW LEASE AGREEMENT MUST BE SIGNED  
EACH 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.**

- ◇ 2019 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.
- ◇ 2022 706NT Great Plains 7 ft no-till drill with warm season box is located at the SWCD office. \$12 acre. To schedule call **573-473-3478 x 3**.

### 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