

Grundy County Conservation Update

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EQUIPMENT FOR RENT AT THE SWCD OFFICE

- * 12' Great Plains No-Till Drill
- \$7/acre (\$50/minimum)
- * 24' Krause Cultipacker
- \$6/acre-2 passes (\$50/min)
- * Vermeer Big Bale Mulcher
- \$75/day or \$200/5-day wk
- * 4' Plotmaster Seeder
- \$25/day
- * 24' Ogden Harrow
- \$100/day
- * Toreq Scraper (6 cu. yd.)
- \$100/day or \$75/day (2 days)
- * 15' Rhino Rotary Cutter
- \$150/day or \$900/7-day wk
- * Root Plow (18" – 24" Deep)
- \$10/day
- * 80" Rotary Tiller
- \$50/day
- * Survey Equipment - \$15/day
- * Burn Equipment - \$25/day

6th Annual Customer Appreciation Date Set

FRIDAY MARCH 20, 2009

First Baptist Church

2421 Oklahoma Ave

11:00am to 1:00pm

LUNCHEON

DOOR PRIZES

2009 COOPERATOR OF THE YEAR

BOARD ELECTION



Mark your calendars for the 2009 Customer Appreciation Day to be held on Friday, March 20, 2009.

This event will be held at the First Baptist Church and the luncheon will kick off at

11:00 am.

We appreciate all efforts put forth by the Grundy County landowners, operators and contractors.

Your efforts, large and small, make the difference for soil and water conservation.

Our 2009 Cooperator of the Year is Lyndell and Janice Clevenger of Laredo.

Board Members Up For Election

Once again it is time to elect representatives for the Soil & Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors. Area II and Area III will be on the ballot this year.

The SWCD Board consists of 5 members. One member is appointed, which is the current MU Extension employee. The other 4 members are elected by county landowners. The Board terms are for four years and there is no limit

on the number of times a board member can be re-elected.

The terms up for election are:

Area II (Northeast portion of the county) currently represented by Mike Trump and Area III (Southeast portion of the county) currently represented by Kendall Foster.

If you would like to nominate someone or wish to run yourself,

please contact the SWCD office at 660-359-2006 x3 to find out the contact person for the area.

You must own property within the area you would represent. All landowners in the county are encouraged to vote for board members.



2009 Stewardship Week April 26 – May 3

Is soil an important ingredient in your every day life?

The answer is yes, and here are a few reasons why:

Last night you slept in a building built on soil.

You drink water that flows through soil and is cleaned by the soil.

You breathe air that comes partly from plants growing in the soil.

You even wear clothes made from plants that grow in the soil.

NACD has partnered with the Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History and the Soil Science Society of America in order to use this year's theme... "Dig It! The Secrets of Soil".

Soils make our lives possible. We build on them, play on them, drive on them, eat food grown in or raised on them, take medicines from them, wear clothes we wouldn't have without soils, drink water that wouldn't be clean without soils, breathe air we wouldn't have without the plants and trees growing in soils. The entire earth—every ecosystem, every living organism—is dependent upon soils.

A Few Facts about Soil

Soil makes up the outermost layer of our planet.

Topsoil is the most productive soil layer.

Soil has varying amounts of organic matter (living and dead organisms), minerals and nutrients.

Five tons of topsoil spread over an acre is only as thick as a dime.

Natural processes can take more than 500 years to form one inch of topsoil.

Soil scientists have identified over 70,000 kinds of soil in the United States.

Soil is formed from rocks and decaying plants and animals.

An average soil sample is 45 percent minerals, 25 percent water, 25 percent air and five percent organic matter.

Different-sized mineral particles, such as sand, silt,

and clay, give soil its texture.

Fungi and bacteria help break down organic matter in the soil.

Plant roots and lichens break up rocks which become part of new soil.

Roots loosen the soil, allowing oxygen to penetrate. This benefits animals living in the soil.

Roots hold soil together and help prevent erosion.

Information provided by U.S. Dept. of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service and listed on the Environmental Protection Agency website at

<http://epa.gov/gmpo/edresources/soil.html>

This excerpt found at <http://nacdnet.org/education/resources/soils/>

ACH/Vendor Input Forms

Change is here! Well, when it comes to receiving monies for conservation practices.

In the past a landowner would receive a check in the mail. Now everything is going electronically. All practice monies will be direct deposited into the landowner's checking or savings account.

We have 2 forms that need completed as soon as possible.

Vendor ACH/EFT Application – This form will be completed by the landowner AND the banking institution. This guarantees the accuracy of routing and checking/savings account numbers in order for the practice monies to be direct deposited into the account.

Vendor Input – This form needs completed by the landowner. The purpose of this form is to have correct name, TIN/SSN, mailing address, etc in order for the State to issue 1099's for the current tax year.

If you have not received these forms or have questions, please contact the SWCD Office at 660-359-2006 x3.

Celebrate Earth Day & Arbor Day in April 2009

Earth Day (April 22, 2009), a day dedicated to the environmental health of our planet. Programs & activities are designed to educate people about Earth's environment and threats to the environment.

This excerpt found at <http://encarta.msn.com/encnet/refpages/search.aspx?q=Earth+Day>

Arbor Day (April 24, 2009), annual observance dedicated to the planting and conservation of trees. On Arbor Day, many people plant trees and bushes in their communities. Arbor Day educational programs provide information about trees, tree care, and the natural environment. This excerpt found at <http://encarta.msn.com/encnet/refpages/search.aspx?q=arbor+day>

Using Wood Ashes in the Garden

A question I am occasionally asked is if it is ok to use wood ashes in the garden. The homeowner typically has a fireplace or wood stove which produces a large amount of wood ashes each winter. This can become a disposal problem. Is it acceptable to put them on the garden?

I always answer that with a guarded "Yes." Wood ashes can benefit your garden. But overuse will cause problems which are not easily corrected. Caution is in order.

First, the good news. If you have an acid soil, you may use some wood ashes without problems. Wood ashes are alkaline, and will raise your soil's pH. Some wood ashes have a neutralizing equivalent up to around half of that of limestone. Thus, if a soil test called for five pounds of limestone per 100 square feet, you could use around ten pounds of wood ashes to get the same effect.

But this is only approximate. If you use wood ashes regularly, you will want to keep a close eye on your soil's pH, since you don't want to raise it too high. Once you get up to 6.5, you need to be careful, and will probably need to discontinue adding wood ashes until the pH starts to decline again.

And that's the bad news; you can actually apply too many wood ashes to your soil, and raise its pH to a level which is too high for most plants. Sometimes I get a soil test back with a very high pH level. The first question I ask is, "Did you apply wood ashes?" Quite often, they have. If it's too high, they may have to apply sulfur to bring the pH back down to an acceptable level.

Wood ashes do contain some nutrient value. So as long as your soil is acid, they can be beneficial.

Typically, wood ashes contain from one to two percent phosphate, and from four to ten percent potassium. They also contain calcium. The levels will depend on the type of wood being burned, and the completeness of combustion. If wood ashes have been rained on before spreading on your garden, many of the nutrients may have been leached out.

So should you apply wood ashes to your garden?

First, get a soil test, to see what your soil's pH is. If it is acid, feel free to add a light sprinkling of wood ashes. Avoid heavy applications in small areas. But by using a reasonable amount under the right conditions, you'll be adding some nutrient value and eliminating the need for lime.

**Article Courtesy of
Tim Baker
Northwest Region
Horticulture
Specialist
University of Missouri
Extension**

"So should you apply wood ashes to your garden?"



Schools are invited to help fight litter through "No MOre Trash!" contest

MDC and MODOT sponsor the 2009 "Yes You CAN Make Missouri Litter Free Trash Can Decorating Contest"

JEFFERSON CITY, MO – Missouri elementary and middle schools are invited to help in the fight against litter -- and to have some creative and educational fun -- by participating in the 2009 "Yes You CAN Make Missouri Litter Free" Trash Can Decorating Contest. The annual contest is sponsored by the Missouri Department of Conservation and the Missouri Department of Transportation as part of their ongoing "No MOre Trash!" campaign to raise awareness about Missouri's litter problem and to discourage littering. Through the contest, classes are encouraged to join in the fight against litter by decorating and displaying a large trash can with the "No MOre Trash!" logo and a litter prevention message using a variety of creative mediums. There is no entry fee and participating classes simply need to submit an entry form and a photo of the completed can. Schools may submit one entry in each competition category. The competition categories are grades K-2, 3-5 and 6-8. Entries will be judged based on creativity, adherence to the contest rules and effective use of theme and logo.

The deadline for entries is March 16, 2009. Winning entries will be notified in early April.

In addition to the educational value of teaching children about the impacts of litter on their lives and the environment, participating classes have a chance to win a grand prize of \$500 and a trophy, along with three \$100 prizes from competition grade categories. Complete contest rules, entry forms, the "No MOre Trash!" logo, 2008 contest winners, facts on litter and educational information are available online at www.nomoretrash.org. For more information, call 573-522-4115, ext. 3362, or email nomoretrash@mdc.mo.gov.

Soil Series by Encarta.msn.com

Introduction

Soil, the loose material that covers the land surfaces of Earth and supports the growth of plants. In general, soil is an unconsolidated, or loose, combination of inorganic and organic materials. The inorganic components of soil are principally the products of rocks and minerals that have been gradually broken down by weather, chemical action, and other natural processes. The organic materials are composed of debris from [plants](#) and from the decomposition of the many tiny life forms that inhabit the soil.

Soils vary widely from place to place. Many factors determine the chemical composition and physical structure of the soil at any given location. The different kinds of rocks, minerals, and other geologic materials from which the soil originally formed play a role. The kinds of plants or other vegetation that grow in the soil are also important. Topography—that is, whether the terrain is steep, flat, or some combination—is another factor. In some cases, human activity such as farming or building has

caused disruption. Soils also differ in color, texture, chemical makeup, and the kinds of plants they can support.

Soil actually constitutes a living system, combining with air, water, and sunlight to sustain plant life. The essential process of [photosynthesis](#), in which plants convert sunlight into energy, depends on exchanges that take place within the soil. Plants, in turn, serve as a vital part of the food chain for living things, including humans. Without soil there would be no vegetation—no crops for food, no forests, flowers, or grasslands. To a great extent, life on Earth depends on soil.

The study of different soil types and their properties is called soil science or pedology. Soil science plays a key role in [agriculture](#), helping farmers to select and support the crops on their land and to maintain fertile, healthy ground for planting. Understanding soil is also important in engineering and construction. Soil engineers carry out detailed analysis of the soil prior to building roads, houses,

industrial and retail complexes, and other structures.

Soil takes a great deal of time to develop—thousands or even millions of years. As such, it is effectively a nonrenewable resource. Yet even now, in many areas of the world, soil is under siege. Deforestation, over-development, and [pollution](#) from humanmade chemicals are just a few of the consequences of human activity and carelessness. As the human population grows, its demand for food from crops increases, making soil conservation crucial.

Next Newsletter the Soil Series continues with Composition of Soils - Inorganic Material, Organic Material and Water.

“Soil actually constitutes a living system...”



Kid's Corner – Fun Food Facts

It takes about 10 pounds of milk to make one pound of cheese!

The average cow produces 2,100 pounds of milk in a month or 210 pounds of cheese. By the way, that same cow can produce about 46,000 glasses of milk in a year.

Did you know that in Japan, the most popular topping for pizza is squid?

In the United States the most popular pizza topping is pepperoni. Americans eat approximately 100 acres of pizza EACH DAY, or about 350 slices per second.

The average kid in America eats about 46 slices of pizza a year!

In the U.S. pepperoni is the number one favorite topping and anchovies are last.

“Squid is a topping for PIZZA!”

These facts were found at http://content.fsa.usda.gov/fsakids/food_facts.htm

Kid's Corner – Black & White Brownies

Ingredients (Makes 36)

- 1 19-20 oz pkg fudge brownie mix
- 1 10-12 oz pkg white baking pieces
- 1 c semisweet chocolate pieces
- ¼ c pecan pieces
- ¼ c butter, melted
- 3 Tbs hot water
- 2 c sifted powdered sugar
- ¼ c unsweetened cocoa powder
- 1 tsp vanilla
- ¾ c pecan pieces

Directions

Pre-heat oven to 350° F. Grease bottom of a 13x9x2-inch baking pan, set aside. Prepare brownie mix according to package directions. Stir in half of the white baking pieces, all of the semisweet chocolate pieces and ¼ cup of pecan pieces. Spread the batter in the prepared baking pan.

Bake about 30 minutes or

until center is set. Sprinkle with the remaining white baking pieces, bake for 1 minute more. Cool.

For frosting, in a small bowl combine melted butter and hot water. Stir in powdered sugar, cocoa powder, and vanilla. Beat by hand until smooth. Spoon over top of brownies. Sprinkle with the ¾ cup pecan pieces. Cool about 1 ½ hours or until frosting is set. Cut into bars. **Enjoy!**



Do U have a recipe U want to share? E-mail your recipe to Heather.Keith@swcd.mo.gov and see it published in one of our newsletters!

New Ways to Help the Planet

Farmers and ranchers provide food and habitat for 75% of the nation's wildlife.

Plant and animal biotechnology have resulted in new antibodies for immunizations.

Agriculture has also contributed to research that has helped develop surgical techniques and pharmaceuticals that help save lives.

Ethanol and new bio-diesel fuels made from corn,

soybeans and other grains are beneficial to the environment and helps contribute to energy independence for the U.S.

This excerpt was found at http://www.agday.org/education/fun_facts_fauna.php

USDA Service Center
Grundy County Soil & Water
Conservation District
3415 Oklahoma Avenue
Trenton, MO 64683

Phone 660-359-2006 x3
Fax 660-359-3249
E-mail Questions or Comments
Heather.Keith@swcd.mo.gov



District Staff

Marggie Scott –
Watershed Manager

Heather Keith – District
Program Specialist II &
Web Maintainer

Kevin Stover – District
Technician I

NRCS Staff

Scott McClure
District Conservationist

Corey Walker
Soil Conservationist

MDC Staff

Scott Roy - Private
Lands Conservationist

County Board Members

Kendall Foster – Chairman

Mike Trump – Vice-Chairman

John Rice – Treasurer

Tim Baker – Secretary

Paul Johnson - Member

Mission Statement

The purpose of the Grundy County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) is to construct and carry out a complete soil and water conservation program on all lands within Grundy County, Missouri. The district supervisors will work with all individuals, organizations and agencies interested in saving, maintaining and improving soil and water resources within the district.

2009 Upcoming Events

Holiday Closings

January 2009

1st – New Year’s Day

19th – Martin Luther King Jr Day

February 2009

16th – President’s Day

Events

March 20th

Customer Appreciation Day

11am-1pm

Daylight Saving Time Begins
March 8th

SWCD Board Meetings

January 20th – 9:00 am

February 17th – 9:00 am

March 16th – 9:00 am

Board Meetings are held at the
USDA Service Center
3415 Oklahoma Avenue

All meetings are open to the public with the exception of executive sessions. If you wish to be on the agenda please notify the District prior to the meeting.

Happy Holidays to you from the Staff!



We're on the Web!
www.swcd.mo.gov/grundy

RECEIVE GRUNDY COUNTY SWCD QUARTERLY NEWSLETTERS ELECTRONICALLY.
SIGN UP @
Heather.Keith@swcd.mo.gov