

# Grundy County Conservation Connection

<http://www.swcd.mo.gov/grundy>

*Merry Christmas  
from District Staff*

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## Women In Agriculture

*By HeatherK*



Please visit <http://www.swcd.mo.gov/grundy/2010WIAConference.htm> to view photos of the conference, Dixie stampede and College of the Ozarks Tour. This was yet another amazing Women In Ag Conference. The 2011 WIA Conference will be held in Mid-Missouri in September.

Please see *Women In Ag* on page 2

## Welcome Greg Snyder aka Mr. MRBI

*By HeatherK*

Greg Snyder started his career in Natural Resources Conservation Service in 2005 as an intern. He is a North Central Missouri College graduate with a degree in Natural Resources. Greg joined the NRCS Staff as the Soil Conservation Technician on September 27<sup>th</sup>. Greg resides in Green City with his wife, Barb and his son, Tate. Greg is very happy to put conservation on the ground for Grundy County.

In the office Greg is fondly referred to as “Mr. MRBI”.

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*Greg Snyder, aka “Mr.  
MRBI”, welcome to  
Grundy County ☺*

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Please see *MRBI* on page 3

## Fall Open House is Set

*By HeatherK*

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*Fall Open House  
October 21, 2010*

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**Heya:** Mark your calendars for Thursday, October 21, 2010 for our Fall Open House at the Soil & Water Office from 9:00am – 11:00am.

Please join us for great food and a visit with District Staff, MDC and NRCS personnel. And meet Greg Snyder, the new Soil Conservation Technician.

### ***Women In Ag from page 1***

Our website will have details and registration closer to conference time next year. Any events we are aware of will be posted on our website at <http://www.swcd.mo.gov/grundy/events.htm>



Above the tuckered out momma and to the right the oh so awesome and gorgeous Nico!

MRBI from page 1



Greg Snyder, Soil Conservation Technician and Corey Walker, Soil Conservationist working on an MRBI Terracing Project.



**MRBI Fast Facts by Kevin Stover**

The Medicine and Muddy Watershed Conservation Initiative Project for the Mississippi River Basin Initiative

Did you know?

The project encompasses 126.6 square miles of watershed.

That accounts for 80,000 acres of ground to be protected, of which

- 30% in row crops
- 50% in grass or grazing
- 10% in forest or woodlands
- 3% is classified wetlands
- 7% in other classifications

Includes 500 miles of perennial and/or intermittent streams.

This project is in joint efforts with; The Grundy County Soil and Water Conservation District, USDA/NRCS, and Missouri Department of Natural Resources

## FY2010 Statistics

### Grundy County SWCD FY2010 Statistics

Tons of Soil Saved – 35,320

Feet of Terrace Installed – 42,150

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Cubic Yards of Earthwork – 43,993

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Acres Served – 433.52

PRACTICE TYPE	ACRES SERVED	TONS OF SOIL SAVED
TERRACE SYSTEMS	151.82	21280
GRAZING SYSTEMS	228	0
PONDS	15	4930
BASINS	22.2	8330
SOD WATERWAYS	0.5	780
STREAM PROTECTION	16	0
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>433.52</b>	<b>35,320</b>



## Conservation Series by Encarta.msn.com

### SOIL CONSERVATION

[Soil](#), a mixture of mineral, plant, and animal materials, is essential for most plant growth and is the basic resource for agricultural production. Soil-forming processes may take thousands of years, and are slowed by natural erosion forces such as wind and rain. Humans have accelerated these erosion processes by developing the land and clearing away the vegetation that holds water and soil in place. The rapid deforestation taking place in the tropics is especially damaging because the thin layer of soil that remains is fragile and quickly washes away when exposed to the heavy tropical rains (*see* [Desertification](#)). Globally, agriculture accounts for 28 percent of the nearly 2 billion hectares (5 billion acres) of soil that have been degraded by human activities; overgrazing is responsible for 34 percent; and deforestation is responsible for 29 percent.

In addition to reducing deforestation and overgrazing, soil conservation involves reforming agricultural [soil management](#) methods. Some of the most effective methods include strip-cropping, alternating strips of crop and uncultivated land to minimize erosion and water runoff; contour farming, planting crops along the contours of sloping lands to minimize erosion and runoff; terracing, which also reduces erosion and runoff on slopes; growing [legumes](#), such as clover or soybeans, to restore essential nitrogen in the soil (*see* [Nitrogen Fixation](#)); and minimizing tillage, or plowing, to reduce erosion.

### WATER CONSERVATION

Clean freshwater resources are essential for drinking, bathing, cooking, irrigation, industry, and for plant and animal survival. Unfortunately, the global supply of freshwater is distributed unevenly. Chronic water shortages exist in most of Africa and drought is common over much of the globe. The sources of most freshwater supplies—[groundwater](#)

(water located below the soil surface), reservoirs, and rivers—are under severe and increasing environmental stress because of overuse, [water pollution](#), and ecosystem degradation. Over 95 percent of urban sewage in developing countries is discharged untreated into surface waters such as rivers and harbors.

About 65 percent of the global freshwater supply is used in agriculture and 25 percent is used in industry. Freshwater conservation therefore requires a reduction in wasteful practices like inefficient irrigation, reforms in agriculture and industry, and strict pollution controls worldwide.

In addition, water supplies can be increased through effective management of *watersheds* (areas that drain into one shared waterway). By restoring natural vegetation to forests or fields, communities can increase the storage and filtering capacity of these watersheds and minimize wasteful flooding and erosion. Restoration and protection of wetlands is crucial to water conservation. Like giant sponges, wetlands stabilize groundwater supplies by holding rainfall and discharging the water slowly, acting as natural flood-control reservoirs.

### ENERGY CONSERVATION

All human cultures require the production and use of *energy*—that is, resources with the capacity to produce work or power. Energy is used for transportation, heating, cooling, cooking, lighting, and industrial production. The [world energy supply](#) depends on many different resources including traditional fuels such as firewood and animal waste, which are significant energy sources in many developing countries. [Fossil fuels](#) account for more than 90 percent of global energy production but are considered problematic resources. They

are nonrenewable—that is, they can be depleted, and their use causes air pollution. In particular, coal plants have been one of the worst industrial polluters since the beginning of the Industrial Revolution of the 19th century. Moreover, mining or drilling for fossil fuels has caused extensive environmental damage.

There is a global need to increase energy conservation and the use of renewable energy resources. Renewable alternatives such as [waterpower](#) (using the energy of moving water, such as rivers), [solar energy](#) (using the energy from the sun), [wind energy](#) (using the energy of the wind or air currents), and geothermal energy (using energy contained in hot-water deposits within the Earth's crust) are efficient and practical but largely underutilized because of the ready availability of inexpensive, nonrenewable fossil fuels in industrial countries.

While some countries, such as France and Japan, depend heavily on [nuclear energy](#) (energy produced by atomic fission, or splitting of the atom), it is still not a major energy source. Excessive production costs, serious safety concerns, and problems with the handling of the dangerous radioactive wastes have virtually eliminated it as a viable energy source in the United States.

In addition to using alternative energy resources such as solar and wind power, energy conservation measures include improving energy efficiency. For instance, transportation accounts for most of the oil consumption in the United States. Encouraging the expansion and use of public transportation systems and carpooling dramatically increases energy efficiency. In the household, energy can be conserved by turning down thermostats, switching off unnecessary lights, insulating homes, and using less hot water.

Next Newsletter the Conservation Series ends with:

- History of Conservation

## Kid's Corner – Fun Food Facts

**Three quarters of all raisins are eaten with breakfast.** California is the heart of the world's largest raisin producing state because of ideal weather conditions for drying freshly picked California grapes into sun-dried raisins. This excerpt was found at:

**It takes between four and five pounds of grapes to make one pound of raisins.** Most raisins are made from the Thompson Seedless variety of grapes. Because you can keep them indefinitely without having them spoil, raisins are a good choice for long trips.

This excerpt was found at [http://content.fsa.usda.gov/fsakids/food\\_facts.htm](http://content.fsa.usda.gov/fsakids/food_facts.htm)

## Kid's Corner – Recipe

### Peanut Butter-Cup Cookies

#### Ingredients:

- 1 ½ cups all-purpose flour
- 1 tsp. baking soda
- ½ tsp. kosher salt
- ½ cup (1 stick) unsalted butter, at room temperature
- ¾ cup dark brown sugar
- ½ cup granulated sugar
- 1 large egg
- 1 tsp. vanilla extract
- 1 12-ounce package small peanut butter cups, coarsely chopped

#### Directions

1. Heat oven to 375°F. Line 2 baking sheets with parchment paper. In a large bowl, whisk together the flour, baking soda and salt.
2. Using an electric mixer beat the butter and sugars until creamy. Add the egg and vanilla and beat to combine. Gradually add the flour mixture, mixing until just incorporated. Fold in the peanut butter cups.
3. Drop tablespoon-size mounds of dough 2 inches apart onto the prepared baking sheets. Bake until light brown around edges, 12 to 15 minutes. Transfer to a baking rack to cool.

#### Nutritional Information:

Calories 90; Fat 4g; Sat Fat 2g; Cholesterol 10mg; Sodium 72mg; Carbohydrate 12g; Fiber 0g; Protein 1g;



Share your recipes!

e-mail recipes to  
[Heather.Keith@swcd.mo.gov](mailto:Heather.Keith@swcd.mo.gov)  
 please include your name!

## Cost-Share Report

By HeatherK

### Cost-Share Report as of 10-8-10

REGULAR COST-SHARE ALLOCATIONS/PRACTICES FY2011			
PRACTICE TYPE	# OF PRACTICES	\$'S OBLIGATED TO DATE	
VEGETATIVE COVER			
TERRACE SYSTEMS	14	\$	137,790.35
PONDS			
BASINS			
SOD WATERWAYS			
TOTAL \$'S OBLIGATED TO DATE		\$	137,790.35
Report Obligated		\$	137,790.35
MoSWIMS Allocation		\$	190,143.00
<b>Unobligated Funds</b>		<b>\$</b>	<b>52,352.65</b>



## World Water Monitoring Day

*By Heather Keith*

It is that time of year for the Farmland Foods Environmental Team to host the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual World Water Monitoring Day Event at a local school. This event will give students the opportunity to test waters for ph, turbidity, dissolved oxygen and temperature.

Our next newsletter will have an article and pictures of this event. KUDOS to the Farmland Foods Environmental Team for their diligent efforts to provide environmental opportunity and education to our youth.

**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.

**Non-Discrimination Statement**

"The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or a part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD). To file a complaint of discrimination write to USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410 or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer."

## 2010 Upcoming Events

**Holiday Closings****October 2010**11<sup>th</sup> - Columbus Day**November 2010**11<sup>th</sup> - Veterans Day25<sup>th</sup> - Thanksgiving Day**December 2010**24<sup>th</sup> - Christmas Day  
(observed)31<sup>st</sup> - New Years Day  
(observed)**Events****10/21/10**Fall Open House  
9:00am-11:00am  
SWCD Office11/29/10-12/1/10  
Soil & Water Training  
Conference at  
Tan-Tar-A Resort**SWCD Board Meetings***October 18<sup>th</sup> - 9:00 am**November 15<sup>th</sup> - 9:00 am**December 20<sup>th</sup> - TBA*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!**

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