

# Grundy County Conservation Connection

January 2013 – March 2013

Volume 5 Issue 3

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

## 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Customer Appreciation Day Set

*By HeatherK*

The 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Customer Appreciation Day has been set for Friday, March 22<sup>nd</sup>.

The 2013 year marks 46 years of conservation efforts put forth by the Grundy County Soil & Water Conservation District.

The District hosts an annual appreciation day every March to thank landowners for their conservation efforts, contractors for their work, and the partnership with NRCS, MDC and FSA.

## Farmland Foods Environmental Team Hosts World Water Monitoring Day

*By HeatherK*

The 6th Annual World Water Monitoring Day was held at a local county school on Thursday, October 25. This yearly event is hosted by the Farmland Foods Environmental Team in Milan, Mo.

The environmental team demonstrates testing of turbidity, dissolved oxygen, temperature and pH from local lake waters. Students are divided into teams so they can achieve hands-on experience of sample preparation and testing set-up of turbidity, dissolved oxygen, temperature and pH.

After students complete their water testing they were able to enjoy pizza, chips and soda. After students finished their soda they were encouraged to recycle their aluminum cans by using the monster can crusher :)

I would like to thank the Farmland Foods Environmental Team for their efforts to provide environmental education, with hands on learning to the youth of the community.

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WWMD from page 1



**Farmland Foods Environmental Team  
Mike Keith, James Garr, Ken Dunlap & Dave Taylor**





**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
December 12, 2012**

**Contact: Katura Wright  
(573) 876-0900**

**NRCS Announces January 18 Deadline for EQIP Funding in Missouri**

COLUMBIA, MO – The U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) has set January 18, 2013, as the next cut-off date for ranking applications for about \$25.6 million available through its Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP).

EQIP is the agency’s largest Farm Bill conservation program. It helps producers of agricultural products improve water quality, build healthier soil, improve grazing and forest lands, conserve energy, enhance organic operations, and achieve other environmental benefits.

State Conservationist J.R. Flores says that while NRCS accepts applications for EQIP on a continuous basis, producers must file applications by the January 18 deadline to be considered for the next round of application funding. Applications filed after January 18 will be considered in the next ranking period if funds remain available.

Flores says EQIP offers farmers, ranchers and forestland managers a variety of options to conserve natural resources while boosting production on their lands.

“The nearly \$26 million that we have available for use in Missouri this fiscal year will go a long way toward improving the environment and the economy of Missouri’s rural communities,” he says.

EQIP provides financial assistance for a variety of conservation activities, such as irrigation water management, reduced tillage, field buffers, rotational grazing systems, animal waste management systems and much more.

Additionally, NRCS offers special initiatives through EQIP, including:

- On-Farm Energy Initiative: helps producers conserve energy on their operations.
- Seasonal High Tunnel Initiative: helps producers install high tunnels designed to extend the growing season into the cold months, increase productivity, keep plants at a steady temperature and conserve water and energy.
- Organic Initiative: helps producers to install conservation practices on certified organic operations or those working toward organic certification.

Applicants can sign up at their local NRCS service center. To find the service center nearest you, look in the telephone directory under, “U.S. Government, Department of Agriculture” or go to this website: <http://offices.sc.egov.usda.gov/locator/app?agency=nrcs>.

NRCS employees in county offices can provide more information about EQIP and how to apply for benefits offered by NRCS through the program.

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## MDC offers cash for CRP enrollment, enhancements

*Some Missouri farmers could qualify for payments of more than \$300 per acre.*

**JEFFERSON CITY**—Farmers in 54 Missouri counties can receive \$300 per acre in incentive bonuses for enrolling new land in the federal Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), and those with existing CRP contracts could receive payments exceeding \$200 for management practices that enhance the value of CRP acres for wildlife. The approximate 1.1 million acres of CRP on the Missouri landscape serves an essential role in the protection and enhancement of Missouri's water quality, soil quality and wildlife habitat. In the past two years alone, Missouri has lost over 200,000 acres of CRP to contract expirations and land use conversions.

Starting Dec. 1, in effort to increase and enhance the amount of quality wildlife habitat in Missouri, the Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) is offering \$100 to \$150 per acre for new land enrolled in certain federal farm bill practices. The MDC incentives are in addition to \$100 to \$150 incentive payments from the U.S. Department of Agriculture Farm Services Agency (FSA) for new enrollments. Qualifying CRP practices include CP33 (Habitat Buffers for Upland Birds), CP38 (State Acres for Wildlife Enhancements), CP42 (Pollinator Habitat) and CP23 (Wetland Restoration).

MDC also is offering an additional \$18 to \$60 per acre for mid-contract management activities, such as prescribed burning, disking, herbicide application and legume or native forb interseeding on existing cool-season grass (CP1) and warm-season grass acres. These payments are in addition to FSA payments for required mid-contract management activities.

Besides all of the foregoing incentives, MDC is offering farmers incentive payments of \$100 to \$200 for planting or enhancing shrubby cover within or adjacent to CRP land.

Mid-contract management incentives are available Dec. 1. However, incentives for new CRP acres will not be available until Congress passes or extends the federal farm bill.

Counties included in the offer are: Adair, Andrew, Atchison, Bates, Bollinger, Buchanan, Butler, Caldwell, Cape Girardeau, Cass, Carroll, Chariton, Clark, Clay, Clinton, Dade, Daviess, DeKalb, Dunklin, Franklin, Gentry, Grundy, Harrison, Holt, Knox, Jackson, Johnson, Lawrence, Lewis, Lincoln, Linn, Livingston, Macon, Mercer, Mississippi, Monroe, New Madrid, Nodaway, Pemiscot, Pike, Platte, Putnam, Randolph, Ray, Ripley, St. Charles, Schuyler, Scotland, Scott, Shelby, Stoddard, Sullivan, Vernon and Worth.

More information is available from local MDC private land conservationists (PLCs). To find your PLC, click on the "Local Contact" box at [www.mdc.mo.gov](http://www.mdc.mo.gov).

## NW Regional Envirothon Teams State Bound May 2nd

*By HeatherK*

We could not have asked for a more gorgeous day at Crowder State Park in Trenton on Thursday, November 1, 2012. Joining the NW Regional Envirothon Experience this year was Missouri Academy (2 teams), Norborne (3 teams), Plattsburg (2 teams), Gallatin and West Nodaway, making up a 9 team competition. All teams were on a rotation schedule that led them to 6 ecostations. Teams competed in Wildlife, Forestry, Aquatics, Soils, Current Issue and Oral Presentation.

We are so proud of each team that competed this year. Scores were very competitive with only a couple points separating 3rd and 4th place! **Out of the 9 teams participating 75% of the students were first time Envirothon participants!!** Many thanks to the NW Region Committee, MDC staff, SWCD staff, NRCS staff and the Missouri Master Naturalists.

Local Soil & Water Districts that donated and supported this competition were Daviess, DeKalb, Holt, Nodaway, Andrew, Caldwell, Clinton, Grundy, Buchanan & Harrison! Thank you for your support!

Local Companies/Organizations that donated and supported this competition was Terry Implement Company, Inc, Farmer's State Bank, Missouri State Envirothon, Farmer's Electric Cooperative & Missouri Master Naturalists. Thank you for your support!

After tests were scored the following 3 teams will advance to the Missouri State Envirothon Competition on May 2<sup>nd</sup>. The results are: 3<sup>rd</sup> place - Team 2 West Nodaway, 2<sup>nd</sup> place - Team 1 Missouri Academy and 1<sup>st</sup> place goes to Team 3 Missouri Academy.

The NW Regional Envirothon Committee looks forward to the return of all schools to participate next year and hopes of increasing more school participation. Next year the Regional event will be held at the St. Joe MDC Regional Office.



## NW Regional Envirothon Pics



## MRBI – Matt Miller, Soil Technician

### MRBI Sign-up 2013

The NRCS has notified the Grundy County USDA office that the Mississippi River Basin Initiative (MRBI) has finalized an ending date to sign up for this fiscal year's money.

Parties interested in signing up for the 2013 MRBI cost share need to have all application material in by **February 15<sup>th</sup> 2013** to be considered for this sign ups allotted money. Applications can be picked up and filled out at the Grundy County USDA office.

To all applicants this is a competitive sign up and you will be ranked against other applicants from our designated MRBI area.

For more information you can contact the Grundy County NRCS at (660) 359-2006 X3.

## Welcome David Dudley, SWAT District Technician



David Dudley joined the district staff November 13, 2013 as MRBI SWAT District Technician I. He is a University of Missouri – Columbia graduate and holds bachelors' degree in Animal Science. He has a small farm centered around a cow-calf operation. David resides in Meadville and has two sons Zane and Kellyn. David is excited to start putting conservation on the ground for Grundy County.

## Kids Corner – St. Patrick’s Day Fast Facts

St. Patrick’s Day is an annual feast day celebrating the patron saint the day is named after.

St. Patrick’s Day is the national holiday of Ireland and is usually celebrated on March 17.

St. Patrick’s Day has become a popular holiday in the United States. People wear green and eat corned beef and cabbage.

Most people, whether they are Irish or not, wear green on this day. One of the Irish traditions is to pinch anyone who is not wearing green on St. Patrick’s Day.

The shamrock, pot-of-gold and leprechauns are also associated with St. Patrick’s Day. The shamrock was worn as a badge on the lapel. Three is Ireland’s magic number and the three petals that make up the shamrock are supposed to bring good luck.

The leprechaun is a small Irish fairy. He is dressed like a shoemaker, with pointed shoes and hat. He also wears a leather apron. Leprechauns are supposed to be unfriendly little men who live alone in the forest, spending all of their time making shoes and guarding their treasures. If someone catches a leprechaun, he will be forced to tell where he hides his pots of gold. However, the leprechaun must be watched at all times. If his captor looks away, the leprechaun will vanish along with his treasure.

St. Patrick’s Day has become a holiday all around the world and for one day out of the year anyone can be Irish and join in the celebration.

This excerpt was found at: <http://www.kidskonnnect.com/subjectindex/32-categories/holidaysseasons/129-saint-patricks-day.html>

## Kids Corner – Recipe SUGAR HEART SANDWICH COOKIES

### Ingredients

- 1 recipe Sugar Cookie Dough, at room temperature
- 6 ounces cream cheese, at room temperature
- 4 tablespoons unsalted butter, at room temperature
- 1/2 cup confectioner's sugar
- 1 tablespoon pomegranate juice
- Small red sugar hearts, for decorating
- Equipment: 2 1/4-inch round cookie cutter, 1 1/2-by-1-inch heart-shaped cookie cutter

### Directions

Start with [Alton's Sugar Cookie dough recipe](#).

Prepare dough as directed and chill for 2 hours.

Preheat the oven to 375 degrees F.

Sprinkle a work surface and rolling pin with confectioner's sugar and roll out dough to 1/8-inch thick. Move dough frequently to prevent it from sticking and add more confectioner's sugar to the work surface and rolling pin as needed. With a 2 1/4-inch round cookie cutter, cut 72 dough rounds, re-rolling dough as needed. With a small heart-shaped cookie cutter (about 1 1/2-by-1-inch),

cut hearts from the center of half the dough rounds. Place the rounds and cutouts about 1 inch apart on parchment-lined baking sheets. Bake until just set but not brown, about 6-8 minutes. Let cool on the pan slightly before transferring to a rack to cool completely.

Meanwhile, make the filling: In a small bowl, whisk together the cream cheese, butter, confectioner's sugar, and pomegranate juice until smooth and fluffy. Spread about 1 teaspoon filling on each round cookie and top with a cut-out cookie. Place a red candy heart in the center of each. Leftover filling can be used to sandwich the small hearts together.

Please visit: <http://www.foodnetwork.com/recipes/alton-brown/sugar-cookies-recipe/index.html> to find Alton's Sugar Cookie dough recipe ☺



This recipe was found at <http://www.foodnetwork.com/recipes/sugar-heart-sandwich-cookies-recipe/index.html>



**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.

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**2013 Upcoming Events**

**Holiday Closings**

**January**

- 1<sup>st</sup> – New Year's Day
- 21<sup>st</sup> – Martin Luther King Day

**February**

- 18<sup>th</sup> – President's Day

**EVENTS**

**March 22<sup>nd</sup>**

Customer Appreciation Day

**SWCD Board Meetings**

January 22<sup>nd</sup> – 9:00am

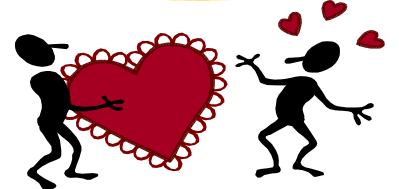
February 19<sup>th</sup> – 9:00am

March 22<sup>nd</sup> – 1:00pm

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

**Happy Holidays to you from the Staff!**



**Grundy County SWCD**  
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Trenton, Mo 64683