

# Grundy County Conservation Connection

October 2013 – December 2013

Volume 6 Issue 2

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

## Women In Agriculture Down Under

By HeatherK

Yet another great Women In Agriculture Conference! Monday venue hosted many vendors, silent auction, and hospitality room and kicked off with an opening session and Flag Presentation by Air Force Junior ROTC Color Guard and the National Anthem. Ladies were able to enjoy workshops on Backyard Beekeeping (to which we had a bee keep joining us for the presentation), Using Fresh Greens & Fence Row Finds to Decorate or the Christmas Holidays and there was a wonderful presentation given on Pumpkins, Squash & Gourds. The evening banquet speaker was Susie O, motivational speaker & humorist, followed by the Lady Landowner award presentation.

Tuesday the ladies were loaded onto 3 buses that made way to the Bonne Terre Mines & Boat Tour, St. Joe Museum Tour & Gift Shop, a nice luncheon at the Twin Oaks Winery with guest speaker Colleen Meredith followed by the beautiful Paso Fino Equestrian Center at Hacienda de Molinero. The evening ended with entertainment by Good Time Oldies Band.

Wednesday closing ceremony began with guest speaker, Gary Wheeler Missouri Corn Growers Association and a very special lady, Liz Brown, passed the torch to Northeast area for the 2014 Women In Ag Conference. A special presentation was made to Liz Brown.

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## The NW Regional Envirothon Competition will be held on Thursday, November 7, 2013 at MDC Regional Office in St. Joseph

The NW Regional Missouri Envirothon is striving to do its part in increasing the environmental educational opportunities available to today's youth and help mold tomorrow's leaders. The Envirothon is a natural resource education program for high school students, grades 9-12. Each Envirothon team, consisting of 5 students, are challenged to use critical thinking & problem solving skills, as well have a hands on activity to test their knowledge in 5 Environmental Eco-stations: Soils, Aquatic, Forestry, Wildlife & Current Environmental Issue. In addition to these site specific written tests, an oral component is in place where students present their solution to the problem given to them concerning the current issue topic for the year. The top 3 scoring teams of each of the 7 Regions will advance to State Competition. The majority of students who participate in the Envirothon are seeking fields of interest in the Sciences, Agriculture, and Conservation, Natural Resources and Environmental areas.

The Northwest Region encompasses the following 17 Counties: Atchison, Holt, Nodaway, Andrew, Buchanan, Worth, Gentry, DeKalb, Clinton, Harrison, Daviess, Caldwell, Ray, Mercer, Grundy, Livingston and Carroll.

To find out more about the Envirothon please visit the Grundy County Soil & Water District site <http://www.swcd.mo.gov/grundy/Envirothon.htm>, Missouri Envirothon site <http://www.moenvirothon.org/> or North American Envirothon site <http://www.envirothon.org/>.

The screenshot shows a website page with a yellow and green floral background. At the top left, it says "Missouri Soil and Water Conservation Districts". At the top right, there are links for "Home" and "Contact", and a search bar with a "Search" button. On the left side, there is a vertical navigation menu with the following items: District Home, Board Members, Contact Us, Upcoming Events, Landowner Assistance, Rental Equipment, News, Links, Needs Assessment, Local Projects, Cooperator Spotlight, and History. The main content area has the title "Grundy County Soil and Water Conservation District" and "Teacher/Student Training for Envirothon". Below the title, there is a paragraph of text: "This is a compilation of tips and resources to assist all envirothon teams with the materials to study in preparation for the competition day. These materials are received directly from the actual test writers. The competition tests over 5 resource areas: Forestry, Wildlife, Soils, Aquatics and Current Environmental Issue. The Oral Presentation link will not have the Oral Question posted, but will list the Regional Rules for Oral Presentation." Below this text are several blue hyperlinks: "Forestry", "Wildlife", "Soils", "Aquatics", "Current Environmental Issue", and "Oral Presentation".



## 2014 Poster Contest and Stewardship Week Theme revealed



In 1955, the National Association of Conservation Districts began a national program to encourage Americans to focus on stewardship. Stewardship Week is officially celebrated from the last Sunday in April to the first Sunday in May. It is one of the world's largest conservation-related observances.

The program relies on locally-led conservation districts sharing and promoting stewardship and conservation activities. Districts provide conservation and stewardship field days, programs, workshops and additional outreach efforts throughout their community to educate citizens about the need to care for our resources. Many district activities extend beyond the one week observance to include an entire year of outreach.

The Stewardship concept involves personal and social responsibility, including a duty to learn about and improve natural resources as we use them wisely, leaving a rich legacy for future generations.

One definition of Stewardship is "the individual's responsibility to manage his life and property with proper regard to the rights of others." E. William Anderson suggests stewardship "is essentially a synonym for conservation."

Stewardship Week helps to remind us all of the power each person has to conserve natural resources and improve the world. When everyone works together with their local conservation district, that power continuously grows. We have seen these good deeds multiply across the nation's network of conservation districts and the results are spectacular!

*When the land does well for its owner, and the owner does well by his land—when both end up better by reason of their partnership—then we have conservation. - Aldo Leopold*

### Upcoming Stewardship Topics

The Stewardship and Education Committee has developed a 5 year rotation for stewardship topics. NACD's Stewardship and Education Committee determines the specific theme, based on that year's topic. The five-year rotation of topics are as follows:

- 2014: "Dig Deeper: Mysteries in the Soil"
- 2015: Wildlife/Habitat
- 2016: Forestry

## Time to Treat Fescue and Brome

Fall is a great time to eliminate brome and fescue. Fall chemical (glyphosate) treatments work well because plants are naturally moving energy into underground root storage and happen to take the chemical ingredients with them. Treat fescue and brome after a hard frost (typically by the end of October). Wait for a day above 60 degrees and then spray under edge feathered areas, native shrub thickets and shrub plantings. Take caution when spraying around shrubs like blackberry and raspberry as glyphosate can severely stunt or kill them even after leaf drop.

Know where you will be edge feathering this winter? Spray adjacent to these trees now and let the trees drop into the treated area. Below is a picture of some edge feathering completed in January 2013. The adjacent brome was sprayed using an ATV-mounted boom-less sprayer before the trees were dropped in early November 2012. The brome was almost eliminated and ragweed and many other annual weeds were stimulated adjacent and within the edge feathering. This new habitat will provide good food and cover within walking distance for quail. It is also excellent rabbit habitat. Fescue and brome are prolific seed producers and it may be necessary to complete a second treatment in early spring or again the following fall.



### Covey Headquarter Management Calendar

#### September

Begin burning prairie or native grass plantings to encourage wildflowers and set back rank grass

Till firebreaks and new food plots

Finish treating sericea lespedeza

Broadcast alfalfa and wheat into tilled firebreaks

#### October

Conduct quail covey counts 45 minutes before sunrise on clear calm mornings

Most USDA Conservation Programs will announce new ranking periods after October 1

Spray native grass plantings for invading brome and fescue after a killing frost

Prepare ground for spring shrub plantings

#### November

Basal spray undesirable trees according to herbicide label now through March

Order your covey headquarter shrubs from the MDC nursery through May - blackberry, grey/roughleaf dogwood, and wild plum, are best for quail

Begin edge feathering operations and construct downed tree structures

### Interested in Receiving the Covey Headquarters Newsletter?

The Covey Headquarters Newsletter is published 4 times per year. We post it to the MDC website and send a copy to our e-mail list about a month earlier than the printed version gets delivered in the mail. Go to the following website - [http://mdc.mo.gov/user\\_mailman\\_register](http://mdc.mo.gov/user_mailman_register) to subscribe to the Covey Headquarters Newsletter via e-mail and get your issue delivered faster. Folks on the e-mail list received this issue by September 1. There are several news releases, newsletters and periodicals listed on this website. Be sure to click "yes" on "Covey Headquarters" to start receiving your issue by e-mail. If you would like to be taken off the print version, please send an e-mail to the address listed at the top of this newsletter.

## Time to Consider Waterways..... Again!

There was a time when building and establishing grass waterways was considered common in our part of the world. Waterways were used as terrace outlets and to control gully erosion.

With the growth in use of corrugated plastic pipe as the outlets in terraces the use of grass waterways diminished. Other reasons often cited for the decrease in waterway use were herbicide damage to the grass and the accumulation of silt in the grass causing the waterway to become higher than the field. The herbicide damaged grass often allowed gullies to form down the waterway and the siltation problem usually resulted in gullies down each side of the waterway.

It may be time to consider installing grass waterways again in North Missouri. There are numerous reasons why grass waterways may now be a better fit than in the past. The following facts about grass waterways may hopefully lead producers to this same conclusion:

- Most crop systems today include crop rotations and no-till resulting in less sheet and rill erosion but still need gully control for concentrated flow areas. Terracing an entire field may not be needed.
- Most spray equipment used today has technology that will shut off the boom when crossing waterways and areas not planned to spray. This results in less herbicide damage to waterways.
- Less sheet and rill erosion also leads to less siltation in the grass waterway. In most no-till fields the run-off carries less soil but still concentrates in draws and drainage ways.
- The cost of treating a gully site with a grass waterway vs. a system of berms with underground pipe is much less. Even if terraces are added later the size and cost of the berms are less when drained into a waterway.
- Lack of cost share assistance for berms and pipe may point to a lower cost alternative like grass waterways. The competition for cost share funds has grown to the point where producers must look for other alternatives to fix gully erosion to remain in compliance.
- Grass waterways provide a benefit to upland wildlife. Grass mixes may be used in waterways that provide habitat for many wildlife species in our area.
- Water quality is improved with grass waterways. Run-off must move across the grass before exiting the field leaving nutrients in the field instead in the stream.

For these and other reasons it may be time to consider grass waterway construction again in our area. For more information about grass waterways or other resource concerns contact your local USDA – NRCS office.

## FSA Updates

### 2014 Crop Reporting Deadline

The 2014 crop reporting deadline for hay and pasture is November 15, 2013 and for wheat December 15, 2013. These deadlines coincide with the crop insurance deadlines for the same crops and have been put in place to provide consistency between the two agencies. If these deadlines are missed and not reported until next spring, a late file fee will apply for each farm.

### CRP Mid-Contract Management Reminder

October 1, 2013 is the beginning of our fiscal year 2014. Management can be completed and considered done for the 2014 year. Please take the time review the table below as to what practices can be used on each type of grass. If you wait until the end of the fiscal year, there aren't as many options available so start planning you management today!

Food plots should also be completed for the 2014 year as well. Please contact our office for options according to your conservation plan.

If you have any questions concerning these management practices contact your local FSA office. Penalties for non-compliance will be applied.

Below are the Mid Contract Management (MCM) dates.

Management should be completed between 10/01/2013 and 09/30/2014

Cool Season Grass - Burning	March 15 - April 30
Cool Season Grass - Spraying	October 1 - December 1 OR March 15 - April 30
Warm Season Grass - Burning	October 1- March 15 OR July 16 – Sept 30
Warm Season Grass - Spraying	July 16 - September 15
Disc - Cool Season or Warm Season	October 1-March 31 OR July 16 – Sept 30

### Ownership Changes

If you have purchased/sold a farm please contact our office with the information and bring in recorded deeds showing the land transactions. Doing this in a timely manner, will help things run smooth during program enrollment and payment times. Reviewing program implications with your local FSA staff before completing a sale of farmland is always a prudent precaution.

### Bank Account Updates

If you have made changes to your bank account information, please be sure to let us know. We will need a copy of a voided check to the new account in order to update your records. Have your records updated prior to October 1<sup>st</sup> will help payments be deposited in a timely manner.

## Kids Corner – PUMPKIN TRIVIA

There are 21 people in the U.S. listed on whitepages.com with the last name 'Pumpkin' (Mark Morton, 'Gastronomica', Fall 2010)

99% of all pumpkins are sold for decorations.

Pumpkins are about 90% water.

Pumpkins were once recommended for removing freckles and curing snake bites!

An average pumpkin weighs 10-20 pounds, though some varieties can weigh 600-800 pounds.

New Hampshire designated the Pumpkin (*Cucurbita mixta*) as its Official State Fruit in 2006.

Illinois led the country by producing 542 million pounds of the vined orange gourd.

The value of all pumpkins produced by major pumpkin-producing states was \$117 million.

One of the first published recipes for pumpkin pie ([Pompkin Pudding](#)) was in Amelia Simmons' 1796 cookbook, 'American Cookery'. The first cookbook to be written by an American and published in the United States.

The winner of the 2003 biggest pumpkin contest weighed 1,140 pounds.

Championship pumpkins today are over 1000 pounds. These pumpkins grow 10 to 15 pounds or more per day!

Pumpkin halves were supposedly used as guides for haircuts in colonial New Haven, Connecticut, giving rise to the nickname 'pumpkinhead'. This excerpt was found at: <http://www.foodreference.com/html/fpumpkin.html>

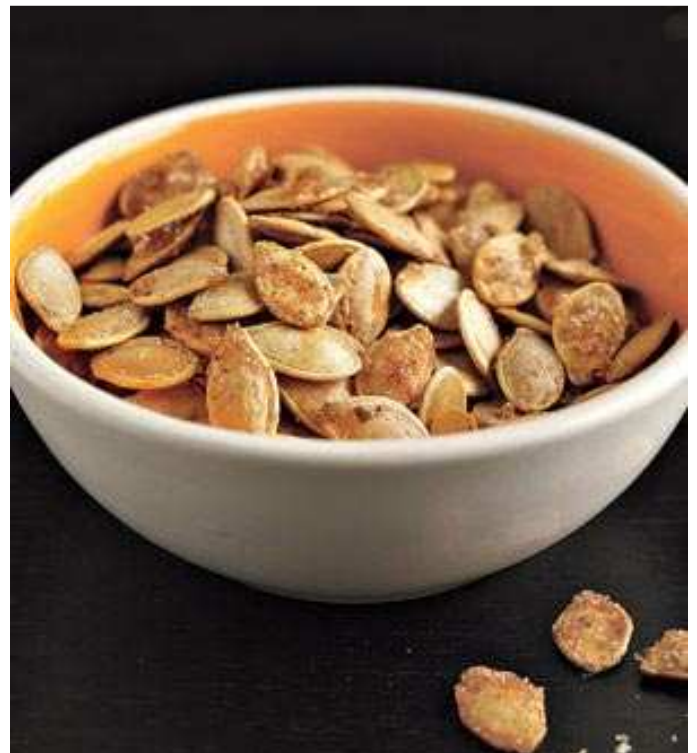
## Kids Corner – Recipe SWEET AND SALTY PUMPKIN SEEDS

### Ingredients

- 2 cups fresh pumpkin seeds (from 2 medium pumpkins), rinsed and patted dry
- 2 tablespoons unsalted butter, melted
- 2 tablespoons granulated sugar
- 1/2 teaspoon kosher salt
- 1/4 teaspoon ground cinnamon

### Directions

1. Heat oven to 300° F. Spread the seeds on a rimmed baking sheet and bake until dry throughout, 50 to 60 minutes.
2. Increase oven temperature to 350° F. In a large bowl, toss the seeds with the butter, sugar, salt, and cinnamon. Return the seeds to the baking sheet and toast, tossing occasionally, until golden brown, 10 to 15 minutes.





**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 against its customers. If you believe you experienced discrimination when obtaining services from USDA, participating in a USDA program, or participating in a program that receives financial assistance from USDA, you may file a complaint with USDA. Information about how to file a discrimination complaint is available from the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights. USDA prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex (including gender identity and expression), marital status, familial status, religion, sexual orientation, political beliefs, genetic information, reprisal, or because all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) To file a complaint of discrimination, complete, sign and mail a program discrimination complaint form, available at any USDA office location or online at [www.ascr.usda.gov](http://www.ascr.usda.gov), or write to USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410 or call toll free (866) 632-9992 (voice) to obtain additional information, the appropriate office or to request documents. Individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing, or have speech disabilities may contact USDA through the Federal Relay service at (800) 877-8339 or (800) 845-6136 (in Spanish). USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD)."

**2013 Upcoming Events**

**Holiday Closings**

**October**

14<sup>th</sup> – Columbus Day

**November**

11<sup>th</sup> – Veteran's Day  
28<sup>th</sup> – Thanksgiving Day

**December**

25<sup>th</sup> – Christmas Day

**EVENTS**

**October 17<sup>th</sup>**  
NW Envirothon  
Registration deadline

**November 7<sup>th</sup>**  
NW Regional Envirothon  
Competition

**December 16<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup>**  
Soil & Water Training  
Conference @ Tan-Tar-A

**SWCD Board Meetings**

October 21<sup>st</sup> – 9:00am  
November 18<sup>th</sup> – 9:00am  
December 23<sup>rd</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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