

Grundy County Conservation Connection

April 2014 – June 2014

Volume 6 Issue 4

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

NW Regional Envirothon, Missouri State Envirothon & North American Envirothon

The NW Region includes 17 counties in the northwest part of the state. The first Thursday of November the Regional competition is held, with the most recent at the MDC Regional Office in St. Joseph. Our Region includes 155 cities, villages and unincorporated towns. A majority of these communities are rural-based, hosting numerous livestock producers, cropland producers of corn, beans, wheat, hay, pasture and CRP lands. The goal of the Northwest Region is to increase awareness and promote the Envirothon to the 65 high schools that reside in our area. Envirothon students have the opportunity to visit state parks and conservation areas within our region. A variety of landscapes and habitats can be studied at Missouri Department of Conservation's Designated Natural Areas including – Star School Hill NA (Atchison County), McCormick Loess Hill Prairie (Holt), Little Tarkio Prairie (Holt), Pawnee Prairie (Harrison), Chloe Lowry Marsh (Mercer) and Yellow Creek Bottomland Forest (Chariton). Students can also learn about the federally endangered and threatened species in their region. These are pallid sturgeon, Indiana bat, Eastern and Western Prairie Fringed Orchids and Meads Milkweed. State protected species are the Greater Prairie Chicken and Eastern Massasauga. The Northwest Region has major support from the Missouri Department of Conservation, University of Missouri-Master Naturalists, NRCS, Soil & Water District Staff/Board and the Soil & Water Program Office Staff. The top three teams that place at the Regional Envirothon Competition will advance to State Competition, held the first Thursday in May.

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The Missouri Envirothon is a problem-solving, natural resource education program for high school students. In the field, teams of students are challenged to hone critical thinking skills as they answer questions and conduct hands-on investigation of environmental issues in five categories – Soils, Aquatics, Forestry, Wildlife and Current Issues. In addition to the written tests the teams also prepare an oral presentation solving a specific natural resource issue. The top 3 teams from each of the 7 Regions advance to the State Competition. The winner at State Competition will advance to the North American Envirothon National Competition, typically held in July/August.

Missouri has stepped up and will host the 2015 North American Envirothon in Springfield at the Missouri State University Campus from July 27, 2015 thru August 2, 2015. Approximately 54 teams of high school students from across the United States and Canada will come to Missouri to test their knowledge of wildlife, forestry, aquatics, soils and current issue. The current issue topic for 2015 is Urban Forestry.

47 Years of the Grundy County Soil & Water Conservation District & Customer Appreciation Day

For 47 years the Grundy County SWCD Board of Supervisors and Staff have recognized the landowners, contractors and patrons with an annual customer appreciation day luncheon.

The décor that graced the Barton Farm Campus was created by the 1st and 2nd grade class of Miss Murphy at Pleasant View R-6 . A huge thank you to the students and teacher for their hard work and participation in the annual luncheon and Stewardship Week ☺

John Rice, Board Treasurer, gave the blessing for the wonderful meal that was provided by PW Catering of Humphreys. Around noon John Rice, Board Treasurer, read a short biography and presented a plaque to the 2014 Cooperator of the Year, Al and Marilee Trump. The Trump's also received an embroidered coat in appreciation of their continued efforts in soil and water conservation.

At the end of the day District employees began the drawing for equipment rental. The one day free equipment rental winners were: Ken Bower - Harrow, Gary Dolan - Mulcher, Jon McAtee - 6yd Scraper, Richard Morris - Brush Cutter, Rod Jermanovich - Drill, Bill Strine - Box Scraper, Jermanovich Family Tractor and Sally Morris - Cultipacker.



2014 Cooperator of the Year



Photo Courtesy of Diane Lowrey, Trenton Republican Times

Al and Marilee Trump along with son, Mark, own and operate a row crop and cattle operation east of Trenton. They have farmed in the Trenton community for the past 40 years. Marilee has taught several years in area schools. They are parents of three children and proud grandparents of 6 grandchildren.

The Trumps's have participated in conservation programs through the years. Those practices include terraces, water/sediment basins, grass waterways, straightening creeks and cover crops.

Al and Marilee will continue to use conservation methods in their farming operations. Hopefully their conservation programs will benefit the next generation as a source of livelihood and a way of life.

The Trump's would like to thank the staffs of the Grundy County Soil and Water Conservation District, NRCS, FSA and their programs for their help through the years and their consideration for this award.

Federal EQIP Program Now Offers Wildlife Fund Pool

For several years Ag operators have utilized the Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP), administered by the Natural Resources Conservation Service. The EQIP program has been instrumental in assisting both crop and livestock production farmers with cost share assistance to help implement agriculture practices such as terraces, cover crops, nutrient management, grazing systems and manure management facilities to name a few. As the face of the typical farm landowner has changed over the years to include absentee landowners, who also have an interest in forestry or wildlife management, so has the EQIP program adjusted to best meet the needs of this dynamic.

Four years ago EQIP added a Forestry Fund Pool to accommodate landowners interested in managing their woodland resource. Ten percent of the state's EQIP funding was set aside for landowners with this area of interest. The process is two-fold. Landowners first apply for funding to hire a consulting forester to conduct an inventory and develop a management plan. The next year they can apply for funding to implement the plan recommendations. The forestry funding has been well received.

This year EQIP has added a new Wildlife Fund Pool. This program takes the place of the old Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program or WHIP which was popular for many years under the previous farm bill. This program will run very similar to the old WHIP program with all the familiar wildlife practices available for use. The EQIP-Wildlife program will focus on quail/grassland bird habitat, pollinator's, and declining communities (prairie, glade, savanna, bottomland hardwoods). There will also likely be a priority for work done within Comprehensive Conservation Strategy areas. Farm Bill language requires at least five percent of EQIP funds will be directed to the wildlife fund pool. At this time it is unsure if there will be an Area fund pool or if all applicants will compete statewide as program policies are still being worked out.

A sign-up is currently underway for interested landowners. Landowners will need to stop by their local county NRCS office and sign a 1200 form by April 18th. The next step is to contact their local Missouri Department of Conservation Private Land Conservationist for a site visit and plan development. From that point, applications will be ranked and landowners notified if they were successful.

For more information pertaining to the EQIP forestry or wildlife programs contact your local NRCS office or MDC Private Land Conservationist.

~Scott Roy
MDC, PLC

2014 Photo Contest

The theme for the 2014 Photo Contest is: ***Farm Life in Grundy County***

The photo contest is open to all ages of photographers who reside in Grundy County. Photo entries will be accepted now until December 15th. First & Second place will be notified December 31st and will be recognized in March 2015 at the annual luncheon. First place will receive a plaque and \$50 and second place will receive \$25. Both photographs will be showcased on the District Website, District Newsletter and/or additional publications. As well both photographs will be displayed in March at the annual luncheon.

For rules & guidelines on the 2014 photo contest please visit the district website at:
<http://www.swcd.mo.gov/grundy/2014PhotoContest.htm> or call Heather at 660-359-2006 x101.

2014 Photo Contest Farm Life in Grundy County



Photo Contest is open to all ages in Grundy County. Photos must be taken of Farm Life in Grundy County. Crops, Equipment, Animals, Family, Bonfires, Barns, Fence, Nature, etc. Entries will be accepted until December 15th. The winner will be notified December 31st. First Place will receive \$50 and a plaque and Second Place will receive \$25. Both individuals will be recognized in March 2015 during the Annual Customer Appreciation Day and receive their cash prize and photos will be showcased on the District Website and District Newsletter.

NRCS Announces Email Alerts

The USDA NRCS in Missouri is now offering an email and/or text alert system through GOVdelivery. The purpose of this system is to alert interested customers and partners about timely events and receive up to date information.

The process to sign-up for this service is simple and can be done on-line or by completing a request at your local USDA NRCS office.

For more information contact the USDA Service Center nearest you. To register for NRCS email alerts go to the following web site.

<https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/USDANRCS/subscriber/new>

2014 Spring Planting Dates

SPRING PLANTING DATES 2014

Plantings w a dominance of:	
Cool Season Grasses and Legumes in Northern MO:	
Acceptable Dates:	Mar 16 -- May 31
Optimal Dates:	Mar 16 -- Apr 30
Warm Season Grasses, Legumes and Forbs in Northern Missouri:	
Acceptable Dates:	Mar 16 -- June 30
Optimal Dates:	Apr 16 -- June 15

N554 Drainage Water Management Practice

New for Grundy County in 2014

Fiscal year 2014 brings a new Cost-share practice to Grundy County along with a new opportunity for land owners to assist in protecting our freshwater supply and also taking advantage of maximum nutrient use and moisture levels.

N554 Drainage water management

This practice assists in reducing nutrient, pathogen, wind erosion, and/or pesticide loading from drainage systems into downstream waters on farms where planned drainage is required from increased utilization of nutrients applied.

Cost-share for this practice is available for installation of main and lateral lines, pipes and appurentances, water control structures, animal guards, and trenching/backfill.

As this is a new practice for Grundy County our staff is compiling new information weekly. If you, a renter, or landlord is interested in this practice please stop by our office at 3415 Oklahoma Avenue to pick up the most recent data or call 660-359-2006 Ext. #3

For an informative video on the basics of this practice use the following link, provided by NRCS, in your web browser. <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j4mYch4RFsY>

MO Woods App

Get advice on your forest with MO Woods App

By Brian Schweiss, MDC

Hey, landowners, grab your smartphones. There is a new app ready for landowners with woods and forests.

It was developed specifically to assist Missouri landowners in an initial evaluation of their woodlands for forest health, wildlife habitat and timber sale potential.

In the app there are links to other resources that may be of use too, such as: insect and disease issues for Missouri woods, wildlife habitat improvement options and timber sale guidance (from the Call Before You Cut website). Landowners now can email their results along with a picture of their woods and even request assistance from a forester.

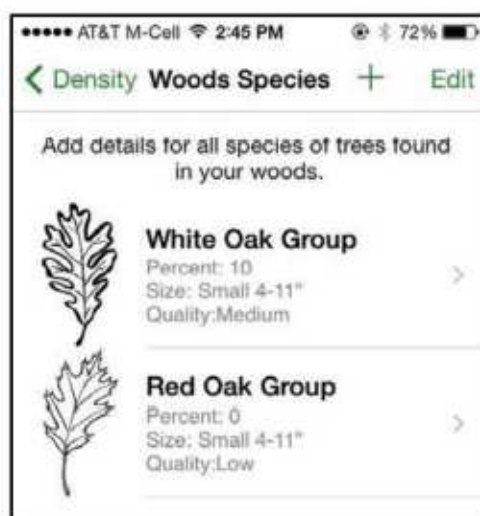
Both iPhone and Android users can download this app, as it is available in both app stores. Start by searching for "Missouri Forestkeepers" or "MO Woods." Once downloaded on your phone, head to the woods. The app will guide you through some steps to gather information. A series of pictures will help determine details about the woods.

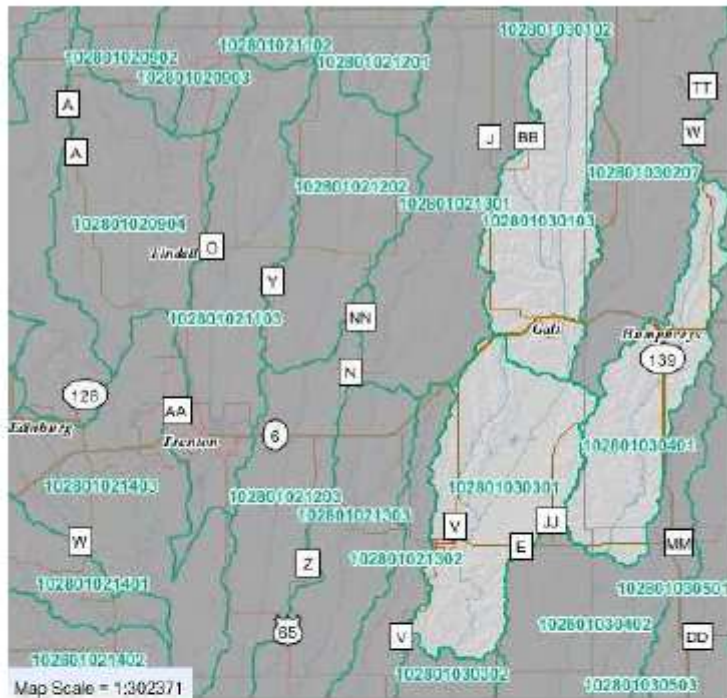
One of the first questions asked is about forest density. The app requires a visual estimate of the density using low, medium and high as references. Next up is tree species identification. Identify the primary species in your forest that make up the main canopy of trees. Leaf pictures are provided to assist in identification.

For each species chosen, the app asks for an estimate of the percent present in the forest. It also asks for an average size of tree for each species. Three categories are there to give guidance on how to measure trees. Then, figure out the average quality of your trees in the species. Pictures are provided to serve as a guide.

Continue on to the next step and three different prescriptions will be given: one for timber sale potential, one for forest health, and one for wildlife value. Interested landowners can then send an email to request further assistance or to simply ask a question about their forest.

The MO Woods app is not a substitute for a forester. It is meant to be a starting point, and is written to capture statewide scenarios in broad categories. It will not identify specific market conditions or forest health issues. When in doubt, send an email to a local forester.



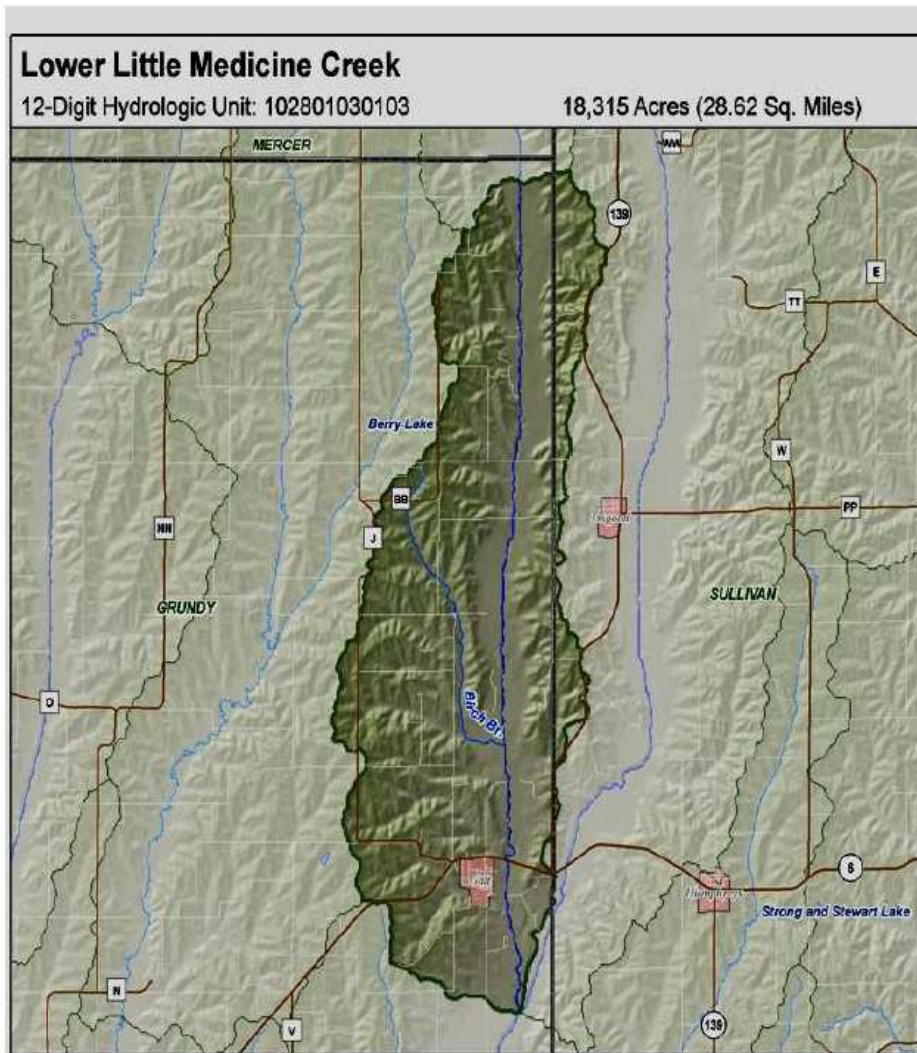


MRBI

Federal Assistance Continues in MRBI

Once again the area highlighted above including parts of Grundy, Linn, and Sullivan counties that make up the Medicine & Muddy Creek Watershed are eligible for federal funding for the 5th consecutive year. The Mississippi River Basin Healthy Watersheds Initiative (MRBI), provides financial and technical assistance to help farmers implement conservation practices that target runoff from agricultural land. The object of the MRBI is to improve the health of the Mississippi river Basin, including water quality and wildlife habitat. The main focus of the technical and financial assistance in the Medicine & Muddy Creek watershed will be on improving water quality by controlling erosion on cropland. MRBI helps farmers and ranchers improve water quality throughout the Mississippi River basin. It uses a conservations systems approach to manage nitrogen and phosphorous. Its main goal is to minimize runoff and reduce downstream nutrient loading. For more information about the Mississippi River Basin Healthy Watersheds Initiative (MRBI), visit <http://www.mo.nrcs.usda.gov> or contact the NRCS office in Trenton.

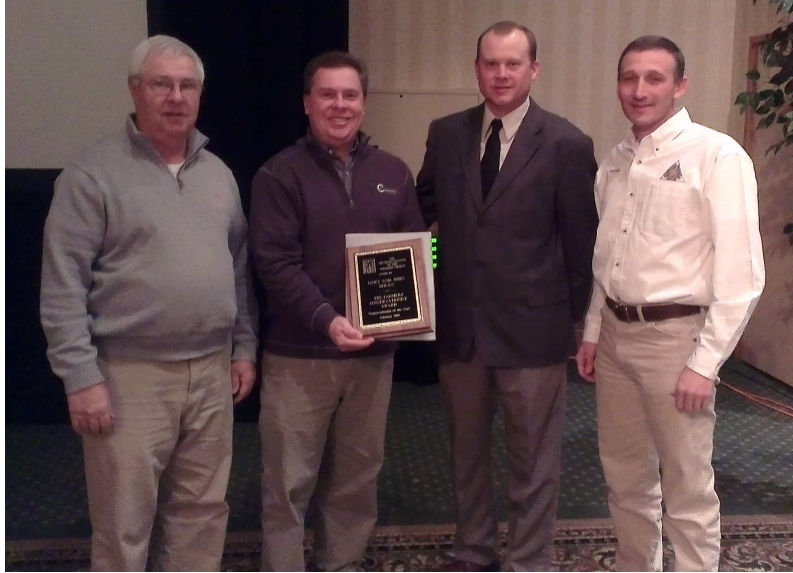
For a copy of the 2014 Planter Checklist please contact Kevin Stover at 660-359-2006 ext. 117



NWQI

Also receiving federal funding again this year is the Lower Little Medicine Creek Watershed NWQI area highlighted above. The National Water Quality Initiative (NWQI) will assist eligible producers to address high-priority water resource concerns in small watersheds with impaired streams and/or waterbodies. Financial assistance is available specifically for implementation of conservation practices addressing surface water resource concerns of excessive nutrient & organics and excessive suspended sediment & turbidity.

Grundy Co Farmers Win State Wildlife Award



left to right: Gary Dolan, John Dolan, MOTWS president Tim Kavan and Scott Roy, MDC Private Land Conservationist.

Gary and John Dolan (father and son) of Grundy County were recognized in February by the Missouri Chapter of the Wildlife Society as the 2013 recipient of the Farmer/Conservationist award. The Dolans were presented a plaque at the MOTWS meeting held in conjunction with the Missouri Natural Resource Conference held at Lake Ozark. The award was established in 1976 to recognize farmers who have made outstanding contributions to wildlife management.

Deep rooted in Grundy County agriculture and farm family history, living on a century farm west of Spickard, MO in the Thompson River bottoms, the Dolan's carved out a livelihood. Even though agriculture was their means of support, it wasn't the only thing that mattered. Wildlife had just as much value as the crops they grew and the livestock they raised, especially small game species.

Gary and John have spent a lifetime to enhance their upland farms for small game. When the conservation reserve program came into existence Gary enrolled the marginal ground into the program and farmed only the most productive. Ten years later when it came time for renewal they converted all but 54 acres to native prairie, realizing this grassland ecosystem had greater benefit to small game animals.

The past two years the Dolans have taken an aggressive approach to management. Tilled burn lines were installed around each field and allowed to vegetate in seed producing broadleaves and weedy grasses. They have maximized the number of food plots that are allowed on CRP, planting a combination of corn, soybean and milo, which are allowed to become weedy. Most recently they have utilized the MDC CRP Incentive cost share to improve the quality of shrubby cover by creating two acres of edge feathering and using herbicide to set back grass dominance to promote of quality edge. Gary recently remarked to me the other day that he has seen quail coveys and rabbits in places he hasn't seen them in years.

While Gary and John very much enjoy a day in the field in pursuit of game, they have always placed higher value in the satisfaction of knowing a covey of quail lives in the old hog lot, hearing a rooster pheasant cackle way off in the bottom or watching a doe and her fawn browse food plots from the window of the house. From the songbirds that visit the shrubs to the occasional otter in the pond robbing fish or the wood ducks in the old river slough they take it all in with a reverence and understand the privilege.

Gary and John Dolan are true conservationist and epitomize the statement in Teddy Roosevelt's address to the citizens of Dickinson in the Dakota territory on July 4, 1886, "We have fallen heirs to the most glorious heritage a people ever received, and each one must do his part if we wish to show that the nation is worthy of its good fortune."

Kids Corner – Celebrate Mom – Green Tea, Sugar & Honey Scrub

Step 1: Brew a mug of extra-strength green tea. Green tea is said to have anti-aging effects when applied to the skin. It reduces wrinkles and blemishes, and even repair scar tissue.

- For best results, use loose green tea and a tea ball or strainer, rather than using a bag of green tea.
- If you're using bagged green tea, go with plain tea, rather than flavored. This will give you a more concentrated result.

Step 2: Pour a tablespoon or two of brewed tea into a bowl. Allow the tea to cool.

Step 3: Pour a tablespoon of sugar into the tea. Keep adding sugar until the mixture has a consistency that's gritty enough to scrub your skin, but still wet enough to apply easily.

Step 4: Stir in a tablespoon of honey. Make sure it's thoroughly mixed in. Honey has great moisturizing and antibacterial properties.

- To store this scrub for later, put the mixture in a jar sealed with a lid. Keep it in a cool, dry place. It should last for several weeks.

Step 5: Apply the scrub to a freshly washed face. Rub the scrub all over your face, concentrating in spots that are dry. Use a wet washcloth to remove the scrub and splash cold water over your face when you're finished.

This excerpt was found at <http://www.wikihow.com/Make-a-Basic-Homemade-Facial-Scrub>

Kids Corner – Recipe Baked Ziti

Ingredients

- 1 (16 oz) box ziti pasta
- ½ medium onion, chopped
- 1 Tbsp olive oil
- 2 garlic cloves, minced
- 1 lb lean ground beef
- 1 (26 oz) jar tomato-basil pasta sauce
- ¾ tsp salt, divided
- 3 Tbsp butter
- 3 Tbsp all-purpose flour
- 3 cups milk
- 1 cup grated Parmesan cheese
- ½ tsp pepper
- 1 (8 oz) package shredded mozzarella cheese

Directions

1. Cook pasta in large Dutch oven according to package directions. Drain & return to Dutch oven.
2. Meanwhile, sauté chopped onion in hot oil in a large skillet over medium-high heat, 5 minutes or until tender. Add garlic & sauté 1 minute. Add beef and cook until no longer pink. Drain beef mixture & return to pan. Stir in pasta sauce & ½ tsp salt. Set aside.
3. Melt butter in heavy sauce pan over low heat; whisk in flour until smooth. Cook & whisk 1 minute. Gradually whisk in milk; cook over medium heat until thickened & bubbly. Stir in Parmesan cheese & remaining ¼ tsp salt & pepper. Pour sauce over pasta in Dutch oven, stir until pasta is coated.
4. Transfer pasta mixture to lightly greased 13 x 9 baking dish. Top evenly with beef mixture. Top evenly with mozzarella.
5. Bake 350 degrees F for 20-25 minutes or until cheese is melted. Let stand 10 minutes before serving.

Make this a perfect meal by adding a salad and garlic Texas toast ☺

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, 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)."

2014 Upcoming Events

Holiday Closings

May

26th – Memorial Day

EVENTS

May 1st

Missouri State Envirothon

SWCD Board Meetings

April 21st – 9:00am

May 19th – 9:00am

June 16th – 9:00am

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
3415 Oklahoma Avenue
Trenton, Mo 64683

