

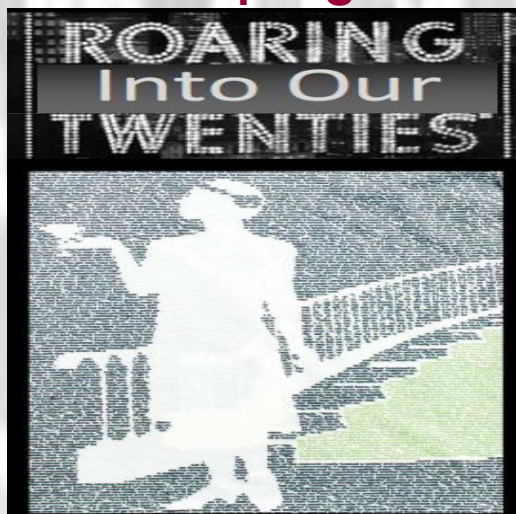
# Grundy County Conservation Connection

July 2015 – September 2015

Volume 8 Issue 1

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

## State Women In Agriculture Conference Set for Excelsior Springs



Mark your calendars for September 21 - September 23 for the 21<sup>st</sup> Annual State Women In Agriculture Conference at The Elms Hotel & Spa in Excelsior Springs.

Call The Elms Hotel & Spa at 800-843-3567 to book your room. Please be sure to book your room by August 1<sup>st</sup> to lock in the special rate of \$106 (plus tax) per night. Mention Missouri Women In Ag.

This year's theme...Roaring into our Twenties

An exciting venue of vendors, workshops, banquet, hospitality and silent auction will be your Monday. You can live on the edge and wear your 20's apparel to the banquet if you like 😊

Tuesday venue will take you to Platte-Clay Electric, Mule Berry Farms, view Buffalo Intensive Grazing and visit the beautiful Watkins Mill State Park. Your tour committee has also set up evening entertainment with dancing on the lawn & limited space to paint a canvas with a local artist. There will also be movies & games on the lawn as well as a Ghost Tour of The Elms. Don't forget to visit downtown Excelsior, many shops will be open for your convenience. And as always the hospitality room and silent auction will be open.

Wednesday will end with workshops, speaker and closing brunch.

**Registration deadline is August 1<sup>st</sup>**

Visit our website at <http://wwwswcd.mo.gov/grundy/2015WIA.htm>. To access the registration brochure ([pdf](#)).

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# 2015 Grundy County Poster Contest Winners



4<sup>th</sup> Grade – 1<sup>st</sup> Place Jillian Voorhies



4<sup>th</sup> Grade – 2<sup>nd</sup> Place Jarek Habelitz



4<sup>th</sup> Grade – 3<sup>rd</sup> Place Ava Simpson



5<sup>th</sup> Grade – 1<sup>st</sup> Place Jenna Reeter



5<sup>th</sup> Grade – 2<sup>nd</sup> Place Lilly Berti



5<sup>th</sup> Grade – 3<sup>rd</sup> Place Teya Cooksey



6<sup>th</sup> Grade – 1<sup>st</sup> Place (Tie) Abigail Mathews & Chase Otto



6<sup>th</sup> Grade – 2<sup>nd</sup> Place Eric Hines



6<sup>th</sup> Grade – 3<sup>rd</sup> Place Emily Owen





## 2015 State Envirothon

The 2015 State Envirothon Competition was held at the Christian Church Event Center in Jefferson City on Friday, May 1st. Norborne, Missouri Academy A, Missouri Academy B, Smith Cotton, Jamestown, Camdenton, Parkway North A, Parkway North B, McKinley, Cape Girardeau, Glendale, Licking, Houston, Pembroke Hill, Blue Springs & Smithville High Schools made up the 16 teams that were eligible to compete this year.

This was another great venue to host the state competition. Below are the top 10 that placed in the event:

1 <sup>st</sup> Place	Pembroke Hill High School	6 <sup>th</sup> Place	Houston High School
2 <sup>nd</sup> Place	Parkway North High School	7 <sup>th</sup> Place	Jamestown High School
3 <sup>rd</sup> Place	Licking High School	8 <sup>th</sup> Place	Smith Cotton High School
4 <sup>th</sup> Place	Glendale High School	9 <sup>th</sup> Place	McKinley High School
5 <sup>th</sup> Place	Camdenton High School	10 <sup>th</sup> Place	Blue Springs High School

The Envirothon is an amazing program for the youth of our communities. To find out more about the Envirothon you can visit the following links:

Grundy County website <http://www.swcd.mo.gov/grundy/Envirothon.htm>

Missouri State website <http://www.moenvirothon.org>

NCF National website <http://www.envirothon.org>



## Missouri to host 2015 National Envirothon Competition

Missouri will host the 2015 National Envirothon Competition at the Missouri State University Campus in Springfield from July 27, 2015 – August 2, 2015.

The current topic for 2015 is Urban/Community Forestry.

### 2015 Learning Objectives – Urban/Community Forestry

#### Key Topics

1. Understand what sustainable urban & community forestry is and why it is important.
2. Understand of the numerous benefits of urban/community forests to society, often referred to as ecosystem services.
3. Understand the costs associated with urban/community forests.
4. Understand what an urban forest management plan is and why it is an essential tool.

#### Learning Objectives

1. Describe the economic, social, and environmental benefits of urban/community trees to local communities.
2. Comprehension of the effects of urban/community trees on air quality and water quality.
3. Knowledge of research showing that trees contribute to our health, well-being and quality of life.
4. Understanding of threats to urban/community forests such as invasive species, insect and diseases, climate change, fire, air pollution, lack of management capability and development pressures.
5. Understand what a tree inventory is and what it is used for.
6. Understand the components of an urban/community forest management plan.
7. Basic knowledge of models and tools used to calculate the value of tree canopy functions.

The learning objectives can be viewed at <http://www.envirothon.org/current-competition.html> as well as registration cost, a link to 2015 Resources and Study Material – Urban/Community Forestry and additional information on Urban and Community Forestry.

## FSA News

### Grundy County FSA Committee Election

Every eligible agricultural producer should participate in Farm Service Agency (FSA) county committees elections - - whether you are a beginning or longtime producer, or whether you have a large or small operation - - because FSA county committees are your link with the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA).

Agricultural producers of legal voting age may be eligible to vote if they participate or cooperate in any FSA program. A person who is not of legal voting age but supervises and conducts the farming operations of an entire farm also may be eligible to vote.

Agricultural producers who participate or cooperate in an FSA program may be nominated for candidacy for the county committee. Individuals may nominate themselves or others as a candidate. The 2015 Grundy County Committee election will be held in LAA-3. This includes townships Myers, Liberty, Marion, and Wilson. To become a nominee, eligible individuals must sign nomination form FSA-669A. The form includes a statement that the nominee agrees to serve if elected.

Ballots will be mailed to voters by Nov. 9, 2015, and must be returned to the FSA county office or postmarked by Dec. 7, 2015. Eligible voters must contact their local FSA county office before the final date if they did not receive a ballot.

### Election Period

**June 15, 2015** – The nomination period begins. Request nomination forms from the local FSA county office or obtain online at [www.fsa.usda.gov/elections](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/elections).

**Aug. 3, 2015** – Last day to file nomination forms at the local FSA county office.

**Nov. 9, 2015** – Ballots mailed to eligible voters.

**Dec. 7, 2015** – Last day to return voted ballots to the FSA county office.

**Jan. 1, 2016** – Newly elected county committee members take office.

## CRP & ARC/PLC Programs

### CRP Acreage Eligibility Requirements

If you are considering enrolling or re-enrolling acreage into the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) General Sign-up, the acreage **MUST** be free of trees, ditches, and gullies. It must be capable of being farmed with conventional equipment prior to making a bid into the program. Producers are encouraged to take time to prepare for future CRP sign-ups. Mowing dates are July 16-Sept 1. There should be no disturbance during the primary nesting period of May 1 to July 15.

Producers wanting to clear existing trees and brush from CRP contract acreage should request permission from their local COC **prior** to beginning the process. Spot treatment of CRP acreage is allowed.

A 1-year extension signup is authorized beginning June 22, 2015 through August 28, 2015 for certain eligible general signup CRP contracts expiring on September 30, 2015. A general signup is scheduled to begin December 1, 2105 and run through February 26, 2016.

### ARC/PLC

U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) announced that eligible producers may now formally enroll (sign contracts) in the Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC) and Price Loss Coverage (PLC) programs for 2014 and 2015. The enrollment period begins June 17, 2015, and will end Sept. 30, 2015.

The new programs, established by the 2014 Farm Bill, trigger financial protections for agricultural producers when market forces cause substantial drops in crop prices or revenues. More than 1.76 million farmers have elected ARC or PLC. Previously, 1.7 million producers had enrolled to receive direct payments (the program replaced with ARC and PLC by the 2014 Farm Bill). This means more farms have elected ARC or PLC than previously enrolled under previously administered programs.



## Welcome Summer Intern – Casey Turley



Casey Turley was hired by the Grundy County SWCD as a summer intern. Please welcome Casey to the District family!

Casey was born in Kirksville and raised in Spickard where her dad works as a farm hand. Casey enjoys raising show cattle and has showed cattle for the past 11 years. She is currently completing her AGNR degree at North Central Missouri College then will transfer to Northwest Missouri State University to pursue her Bachelor of Technology degree. After receiving her Bachelor degree Casey plans to return home and work at a local Soil and Water Conservation District office and raise cattle.

## Composting Benefits

**Soil conditioner:** With compost, you are creating rich humus for lawn and garden. This adds nutrients to your plants and helps retain moisture in the soil.

**Recycles kitchen and yard waste:** Composting can divert as much as 30% of household waste away from the garbage can.

**Introduces beneficial organisms to the soil:** Microscopic organisms in compost help aerate the soil, break down organic material for plant use and ward off plant disease.

**Good for the environment:** Composting offers a natural alternative to chemical fertilizers.

**Reduces landfill waste:** Most landfills in North America are quickly filling up; many have already closed down. One-third of landfill waste is made up of compostable materials.

**You can also add garden soil to your compost. A layer of soil will help to mask any odors, and micro-organisms in the soil will accelerate the composting process.**

**Do not compost meat, bones or fish scraps (they will attract pests), perennial weeds (they can be spread with the compost) or diseased plants. Do not include pet manures in compost that will be used on food crops. Banana peels, peach peels and orange rinds may contain pesticide residue, and should be kept out of the compost. Black walnut leaves should not be composted. Sawdust may be added to the compost, but should be mixed or scattered thinly to avoid clumping. Be sure sawdust is clean, with no machine oil or chain oil residues from cutting equipment.**

**For kitchen wastes, keep a container with a lid and a handle under the sink. Consider using a [stainless steel compost pail](#) with air filter, or the [ceramic model](#). If you don't mind occasional smells, use an old ice-cream pail. Chop up any large chunks before you toss them in. When the container is full, take it out to your composter and toss in the contents.**

**With yard and garden wastes, different composting materials will decompose at different rates but they will all break down eventually. If you want to speed up the composting process, chop the larger material into smaller pieces. Leaves and grass clippings are also excellent for compost, but should be sprinkled into the bin with other materials, or dug in to the center of the pile and mixed. Avoid putting them on in thin layers - they will mat together and reduce aeration, which slows the composting process.**



## What to Compost

Material	Carbon/Nitrogen	Info
table scraps	Nitrogen	add with dry carbon items
fruit & vegetable scraps	Nitrogen	add with dry carbon items
eggshells	neutral	best when crushed
leaves	Carbon	leaves break down faster when shredded
grass clippings	Nitrogen	add in thin layers so they don't mat into clumps
garden plants	--	use disease-free plants only
lawn & garden weeds	Nitrogen	only use weeds which have not gone to seed
shrub prunings	Carbon	woody prunings are slow to break down
straw or hay	Carbon	straw is best; hay (with seeds) is less ideal
green comfrey leaves	Nitrogen	excellent compost 'activator'
pine needles	Carbon	acidic; use in moderate amounts
flowers, cuttings	Nitrogen	chop up any long woody stems
seaweed and kelp	Nitrogen	apply in thin layers; good source for trace minerals
wood ash	Carbon	only use ash from clean materials; sprinkle lightly
chicken manure	Nitrogen	excellent compost 'activator'
coffee grounds	Nitrogen	filters may also be included
tea leaves	Nitrogen	loose or in bags
newspaper	Carbon	avoid using glossy paper and colored inks
shredded paper	Carbon	avoid using glossy paper and colored inks
cardboard	Carbon	shred material to avoid matting
corn cobs, stalks	Carbon	slow to decompose; best if chopped up
dryer lint	Carbon	best if from natural fibers
sawdust pellets	Carbon	high carbon levels; add in layers to avoid clumping
wood chips / pellets	Carbon	high carbon levels; use sparingly

## Kids Corner – Fruit for Butterflies

Habitat loss, climate change and pesticide use have decreased butterfly populations. Unbeknownst to many butterflies do not live on nectar alone, some species prefer, even require, overripe fruit to feed on. Decaying fruits have carbohydrates and minerals, necessary to most butterflies. Supply them with flowers, fruit, water and plants for their caterpillar stage, and you will hopefully have a large and happy, diverse population.



Putting a plate inside a larger plate or saucer that is filled with water will keep ants away from the fruit. Butterflies have a good sense of smell, they have scent receptors at the ends of their antennae, and taste receptors on the bottoms of their feet. [ulocal.wgal.com](http://www.ulocal.wgal.com)

Excerpt found at: <http://www.inspirationgreen.com/fruit-for-the-butterflies.html>

## Kids Corner – Recipe

## All Natural Strawberry Lemonade

### Ingredients

- 8 large strawberries, halved
- 2 tablespoons white sugar
- 7 cups water, divided
- 1 cup white sugar
- 2 cups freshly squeezed lemon juice

- Combine strawberry juice, 6 cups water, 1 cup sugar and lemon juice in a large pitcher; still until blended. Chill before serving.

### Directions

- Place strawberries in a blender; top with 2 tablespoons sugar. Pour 1 cup water over sugared strawberries. Blend until strawberry chunks transform into juice.



This recipe was found at <http://allrecipes.com/recipe/all-natural-strawberry-lemonade/>

**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, parental 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)."

**2015 Upcoming Events**

**Holiday Closings**

**July**

3<sup>rd</sup> – Independence Day  
(observed)

**September**

7<sup>th</sup> – Labor Day

**EVENTS**

**July 27<sup>th</sup> - August 1<sup>st</sup>**  
2015 NCF National  
Envirothon Competition at  
Missouri State University  
Springfield, Mo

**August 27<sup>th</sup>**  
OMG AgriPride Women  
in Ag Event  
White Mule Winery  
Owensville, Mo

**September 21<sup>st</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup>**  
2015 State Women In Ag  
Conference  
The Elms Hotel & Spa  
Excelsior Springs, Mo

**SWCD Board Meetings**

July 20<sup>th</sup> – 9:00am  
August 17<sup>th</sup> – 9:00am  
September 21<sup>st</sup> – 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