



SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT OF PERRY COUNTY

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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Jeff Haertling, Perryville

AREA 2

Steve Huber, Perryville

AREA 3

Willis Koenig, Perryville

AREA 4

Ralph Reisenbichler, Perryville

SECRETARY

Frank Wideman

**Meetings the First
Monday Night
of Each Month**

1003 North Main

547-4077

Extension 3



OUR SOIL★ OUR STRENGTH

NEWSLETTER

Perryville, MO 63775

MARCH 2011

Vol. 43, No. 1

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District Manager

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District Technician

NRCS STAFF

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District Conservationist

Dana Seibel,
Resource Conservationist

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PERRY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT ANNUAL MEETING SET FOR MARCH 29th

The Perry Soil and Water Conservation District's annual meeting will be held on March 29th starting at 6:30 p.m. at the American Legion Hall in Perryville. The Board of Supervisors wishes to extend an invitation to all landowners and producers in Perry County to come and enjoy the delicious chicken dinner.

The guest speakers for the evening will be Steve Hefner from the South Missouri Water Quality Project Office, NRCS. He will be speaking on Soil Health.

The Conservation Farmer of the Year Award will be presented to a deserving farm family. Winners of the coloring and poster contest will be awarded as in the past years.

This meeting is how we would like to thank you, the landowners of the district, for making a strong soil and water conservation program possible in Perry County.

Hope to see you on the 29th!

Reservations for the meeting need to be returned by March 25th. Please send the attached to the Perry SWCD office or call Karen at 547-4077, ext 3.

Name _____

Number planning to attend _____

Perry SWCD Office
1003 North Main St.
Perryville, MO 63775

FAMILY FOREST LEGACY WORKSHOPS TO BE OFFERED ON APRIL 2ND IN JACKSON

If you own and care for forest land, you probably have strong feelings about leaving your land in good condition for the future. But, have you shared your passion, your vision, with anyone, particularly those loved ones you intend to pass your woodland onto? A smooth transition takes not only passion, but preparation and planning.

MU Forestry Extension is offering a low-cost, one-day workshop designed to give landowners *and their heirs* the tools to make a successful transition. The first half of the workshop focuses on communication; the *why's* and *how-to's* in conducting family meetings. After lunch, we get into assembling your succession planning team, and the tools and steps you will use in preparing your plan.

Our financial planner assisting in the workshops, David Watson (CLU, ChFC, RHU, REBC) is also a Missouri Tree Farmer, so he knows the nuances of putting together a forest legacy plan.

The workshop will be Saturday, April 2nd at the Cape Girardeau County MU Extension Center in Jackson. The cost of the workshop is \$10.00. Space is limited, so sign up early! Call 573-243-3581 for questions or to register.

ELECTION NOTICE:

The Perry County Soil and Water Conservation District will hold an election for one supervisor, each in Area 1 (Saline and Bois Brule Townships) and Area 3 (Brazeau and Union Townships) on March 29, 2011 from 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the NRCS office at 1003 North Main in Perryville and from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. at the American Legion at 98 Grand Ave in Perryville.

Nominating Committees for the election have submitted names of the following qualifying candidates:

Area 1: Jeffrey Haertling, Perryville
Mark Wengert, St Mary

Area 3: Willis Koenig, Perryville

Any qualifying candidate not nominated by the committee may have their name added to the ballot if they reside in one of the two areas where an election is to be held and have secure, at least ten (10) signatures of land representatives in the territory they wish to represent on a petition and submit the petition to the Perry County Soil and Water Conservation District board of supervisors, at least 10 days before the election.

Supervisors manage the administration of district policies, programs, personnel and funds. The district is supported by the one-tenth-of-one-percent parks, soils and water sales tax, and other sources. For additional information on the district election, contact Karen at 573-547-4077 ext. 3 or by coming by the office at 1003 North Main in Perryville.

SOIL STEWARDSHIP WEEK

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 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



Farming Smart for a Sustainable Future

Increasing profits by improving soil conditions

Part II of 4-part Series

In Part I, you learned a little about the main thoughts and ideas behind changing the way we think about farming from using conventional methods to turning our attention toward soil health. Let's build a little on that thought process and dive a little deeper into the mechanics of *biological farming* for improved soil health.

Skilled biological farmers learn how to take care of soil life – they nurture it, feed it a balanced diet, and use tillage tools and methods to enhance soil life. Farmers must understand proper

There are more individual organisms in a teaspoon of soil than there are people on earth.

use of livestock manure, compost and green manure crops. Learn how to evaluate soil for its health, tillage and soil life. Develop an understanding of fertilizers and soil fertility, the steps and methods to get soils in balance, and the proper use of fertilizers. Learn the “when” and “how” of fertilizer use for

soil correction, feeding soil life, balancing nutrients, and feeding the crop with the proper balance between soluble and slow-release materials.

Three important parts of your soil are (1) the organic particles that serve as a reservoir of plant foods, (2) the soil minerals, and (3) the living portion, consisting of bacteria, fungi, algae and larger organisms such as earthworms. These organisms are alive and need air, water and organic matter (food) and a safe place to live. Work with them, because the productivity of your farm is in direct proportion to the number, activity and balance of soil organisms. In many soils, a good measure is a minimum of 10-25 earthworms per cubic foot of soil. Some insecticides that are harmful to earthworms include, but are not limited to: Temik, Sevin, Furadan, Dursban, Mocap, Mesurool, Lannate, Baygon, Thimet.

Sustainability is the key factor to becoming a biological farmer. Balance is the key, not only for economic, but ecological reasons as well. It is essential to provide all elements to your crops and to soil organisms in the proper balance. An excess of some nutrients can be as limiting as deficiencies of others. Agronomists and soil scientist have written that at least 16 elements are (essential) needed to grow plants. *The productivity of a soil can never be greater than the plant food elements in least supply.* You need to make these nutrients “exchangeable” or available to the roots of the plant. Because nutrients can interact, an excess of some elements can cause a shortage of others, even though it appears there is enough on a soil test. Managing your crops to produce large root systems that will recover the nutrients, plus working with soil organisms so they make nutrients available and exchangeable, can make farming fun and profitable.

Rules for biological farming:

1. Test and Balance Your Soil – plants need more than N, P and K. Test for the following 10 nutrients: phosphorus, potassium, calcium, magnesium, sulfur, zinc, manganese, iron, copper and boron. Adjust calcium first.
2. Use Fertilizers Which Are Life-Promoting and Non-Harmful – use natural, mined fertilizers and small amounts of the highest quality manufactured fertilizers (see part III for suggested products)
3. Use Pesticides and Herbicides in Minimum Amounts and Only when Absolutely Necessary – try non-toxic methods first, if they fail and if crop damage is above the economic threshold, toxic chemicals might be considered. Try reducing the concentration, banding or spot-spraying and adding humic acid to the tank to balance the pH of the tank mix
4. Use a Balanced Crop Rotation – rotate crops regularly and incorporate diverse species of cover crops
5. Use Tillage to Control Decay of Organic Materials and to Control Soil, Air and Water – till raw organic matter (plant residues and animal manures) into the upper layers of the soil. Avoid inverting (turning over) the soil, but rather use equipment that slices and uplifts it. Never till soil that is wet. Consider tillage radishes to break up a hardpan.
6. Feed Soil Life – adding rock phosphate or a little lime to compost piles will produce a more balanced fertilizer. Incorporate green manure crops, like rye, red clover, Australian field peas, alfalfa or buckwheat. Do not apply heavy applications of manure or other raw organic matter (it is better to apply a lighter coat over more acres). Consider biological stimulants like kelp (seaweed), humic acids, enzymes, vitamins and hormones.

DID YOU KNOW?

Cornell University offers a Soil Health Test - which tests not only the traditional Chemical factors, also Physical and Biological.

Follow the four-part series for more tips and techniques for managing for improved soil health. NRCS will soon be offering financial assistance directed toward improving soil health. For more information, please contact your local NRCS office at (STREET and CITY address), (PHONE) or visit us online www.mo.usda.gov.

The weight of all the bacteria in 1 acre of soil can equal the weight of one or two cows!

Helping People Help the Land

An Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer

<p>2 - GREAT PLAINS NO-TILL DRILL 10 ft. - 7 ½ inch spacing (will do soybeans, milo, wheat, alfalfa, clover, fescue, orchard grass) \$8.50 AN ACRE (\$100.00 Minimum Charge)</p> <p>OR</p> <p>7 FT. GREAT PLAINS NO-TILL DRILL with warm-season grass box \$8.50 AN ACRE (\$35.00 Minimum Charge)</p>	<p>FINN MULCHER NEW - TAILGATE MULCHER Trailer mounted, ideal for yards, conservation practices and road cuts.</p> <p>\$75.00 - ½ Day • \$100.00 - 1 Day</p> <p>To schedule call Karen at Perry County Soil & Water Conservation District 547-4077</p>
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NRCS Soil Quality Initiative Sign-up Announced

Missouri NRCS is now accepting Soil Quality Initiative (SQI) applications for potential FY11 financial and technical assistance to producers wanting to adopt conservation practices to improve soil quality and soil health on selected acres. The intent of SQI is to implement select conservation practices concurrently that there will be a synergistic effect: the sum of the parts leads to greater or more significant environmental benefits than practices installed sequentially or not at all. The sign-up deadline for this ranking period is Friday, March 25, 2011. Please contact the NRCS office at 573-547-4077 Ext 3 to apply or for more information.

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CONSERVATION DISTRICT
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