



SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT OF PERRY COUNTY

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**Meetings Date
and Time Posted**

1003 North Main

547-4077

Extension 3



OUR SOIL ★ OUR STRENGTH

NEWSLETTER

Perryville, MO 63775

May 2016

Vol. 48, No. 1

DISTRICT STAFF

Karen Lukefahr,
District Manager

LaVern Taylor,
District Technician

NRCS STAFF

James Hunt,
District Conservationist

Dana Seibel,
Resource Conservationist

Scott Crumpecker
Soil Conservationist

Derek Miesuer,
Program Assistant

Helping People Help the Land

An Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer

For information on programs, sign-up deadlines and more, check out the

Perry SWCD Website at <http://www.swcd.mo.gov/perry/index.html> and the Missouri NRCS Website at <http://www.mo.nrcs.usda.gov/>

Perry SWCD Funding for Fall 2016 Cover Crops

Cover crops are planted in the fall immediately after the cash crop is harvested and terminated in the spring prior to planting. They provide cover, which reduces weed pressure and reduces erosion, as well as increases the organic matter and nutrient cycling of your soil.

If you are interested in a payment per acre for planting a cover crop next fall, contact the SWCD office. Your name will be placed on a list to contact in July so that your application can be completed and cover crop seed can be purchased while seed supplies are higher and prices are lower. This will also allow for you to be able to plant as soon as crops are harvested.

Cover crops contracted through the SWCD must be no-tilled or broadcasted and the following cash crop must be no-tilled as well. Cover crops cannot be harvested for hay, seed or grain.

Perry SWCD Cost-Share Sign-up

The sign-up process for erosion control structures, such as dry structures, grassed waterways, ponds, and critical area treatments, is on a first-come, first-serve basis. This process assures that if an owner signs up, they will get cost-share. However, the list is continually growing. Only owners may sign an application.

Cost-share Practice Maintenance

Spot checks are being conducted. Make sure your practices are up to specs. Vertical drain buffers must be adequate in grass/size and any break-outs must be addressed. Assure risers on terraces and dry structures are in place and functioning. Address sprouts growing on pond dams.

Perry County

Women in Ag Tour

BRING A FRIEND AND JOIN US FOR A DAY OF FUN AND GOOD FOOD!

When: Wednesday, June 8, 2016

- 8:30 am meet at Perryville City Parking Lot (Main Street)
- 8:45 Board Buses
- Gremaud Seed Cleaning
- Beef Feeding Barn
- Great Lunch
- Speakers
- Attendance Prizes
- The Hope Therapeutic Horsemanship Center
- Tour will end around 3:00 p.m.

A \$12 registration fee is requested to defer costs.

Program is being sponsored by:

- Perry County Soil and Water Conservation District
- Natural Resources Conservation Services
- Department of Natural Resources

Registration for the Women In Ag Tour

Please register by calling the Perry County SWCD office at 547-4077 (ext.3) or by mailing the form below to the Perry Soil and Water Conservation District, 1003 North Main, Perryville, MO 63775 by June 3, 2016.

Name(s) _____

Number Attending _____

X \$12.00 = _____

Address _____

Phone Number _____

Make Checks payable to Perry SWCD

Helping People Help the Land
An Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer

THE PARKS, SOILS AND WATER SALES TAX

The Soil and Water Conservation Program works to conserve Missouri's soil and water for future generations. The program includes several voluntary programs that provide agricultural landowners with incentives for using soil and water conservation practices.

- The Parks, Soils and Water Sales Tax is statewide one-tenth-of-one percent sales tax that provides funding for Missouri state parks and historic sites and soil and water conservation efforts. The tax is divided equally between the two efforts.
- The Parks, Soils and Water Sales Tax was first approved by voters in 1984, and has since been reapproved by voters three times. In 1988, 1996 and 2006, the tax was renewed by more than two-thirds majority of Missouri voters.
- The Soil and Water Conservation Program is funded by Parks, Soils and Water Sales Tax.
- The portion of the Parks, Soils and Water Sales Tax that supports soil and water conservation averages about \$7 a year per Missourian.
- The Parks, Soils and Water Sales Tax is placed on the ballot every 10 years to reaffirm the voter's support of the park system and soil and water conservation efforts. The Park, Soil and Water Sales Tax is set to expire if not renewed by voters this year.

SOIL EROSION IN MISSOURI

- Due to the efforts of the Missouri Soil and Water Conservation Program, Missouri has saved more than 177 million tons of soil over the past 30 years.
- Of Missouri's 44.6 million acres of land, 14.8 million are considered cropland. With almost half of Missouri's cropland soil classified as highly erodible, controlling and minimizing erosion is a significant challenge for Missouri's farmer.
- Erosion can cause problems by washing away the productive topsoil, which adversely affects local and national food supplies and economics.
- Soil erosion caused by stormwater runoff carries fertilizers away from the fields and into the waterways. The soil entering the waterway can cause water quality problems that continue far downstream.
- Eroded soil settling along the shores and beds of streams, lakes and rivers can lead to the destruction of valuable aquatic habitat such as fish spawning areas.
- Soil and contaminated water entering drinking water supply systems each year can increase water treatment costs, which raises utility bills for Missouri households.
- Revenues from the Parks, Soils and Water Sales Tax have resulted in Missouri having the greatest soil erosion reduction rate of any other state with more than 10 million acres of cultivated cropland.



GREAT PLAINS NO-TILL DRILL

10 ft. - 7 1/2 inch spacing

(will do soybeans, milo, wheat, alfalfa, clover, fescure, orchard grass)

\$9.50 AN ACRE

(\$100.00 Minimum Charge)

or

7 FT. GREAT PLAINS NO-TILL DRILL

with warm-season grass box

\$9.50 AN ACRE

(\$35.00 Minimum Charge)

TAILGATE MULCHER

Trailer mounted, ideal for yards, conservation practices and road cuts.

\$75.00 - 1/2 Day • \$100.00 - 1 Day

To schedule call Karen at
Perry County Soil & Water Conservation District
547-4077

Ready or Not...Compliance Status Review Letters Will Be Mailed Soon

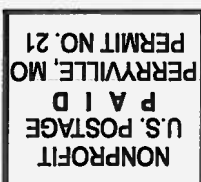
The randomly selected list of tracts to review from the National Office has been distributed to NRCS field offices. Letters will soon be mailed to the owners and operators of these tracts. Someone from another county will be coming to Perry County to review the tracts listed. They will measure the residue left after planting, review at the previous cropping history and tillage, check for ephemeral gully erosion and determine if any tract is "out of compliance." It is not that person's fault if they find a tract "out of compliance." They are not hoping to find someone "out of compliance."

Drive around the county and you will see fields worked up like gardens, either planted or ready to plant. Some were even worked up last fall. You will also see some, though not near as many, no-till fields. Bottomland fields located along the creeks or in the river bottoms are not as susceptible to sheet and rill and gully erosion like the HEL fields (highly erodible land) in the upland. While bottomland fields can be tilled on an annual basis and still be in compliance, upland fields cannot.

The sobering truth is that farms are being eroded away by repeated tillage and lack of crop rotation. Tillage erases the signs of erosion (rills and gullies that form as soil is being washed off your farm). Recent acceptance and willingness to try cover crops is beneficial as they provide cover during the erosive winter and early spring months. To gain the full benefits of improved soil structure, increased infiltration and improved soil tilth (less compaction) that cover crops help achieve, however, no-till must be utilized along with the cover crops.

Commit to less tillage or no-till on one field or better yet, one tract. Try no-till corn and wheat . . . for more than one rotation. With the past years' experiences with wheat, some are saying "never again." Be aware that taking wheat out of your rotation will increase your erosion rate and possibly be the difference between being in or out of compliance.

Ultimately, it is your risk to take. Be prepared that if you utilize annual tillage and/or do not keep concentrated flow areas in grass, you may be jeopardizing your farm program benefits or crop insurance subsidies.



PERRY COUNTY
SOIL AND WATER
CONSERVATION DISTRICT
1003 North Main St.
Perryville, MO 63775
(RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED)

