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Mark Peters	Project Coordinator

NRCS

Debbie Sumner	District Conservationist
Bob Allen	Conservation Technician

Mar. 2010

Auxiliary Advisors: Annalee Nelson, Dolly McCallop, Nettie Vickers, Mary Ann Eggleston, Linda Meinig

PRESCRIBED BURNING SAFETY

Mark Peters, Program Coordinator
Miami County Conservation District

On March 13, 2010, Celia, an acquaintance of mine was helping her brother burn their CRP on their home place in Labette County. They had invited a group of friends down for the weekend to have plenty of help, and enjoy some time in the country on one of the few nice days we have had. All of the proper arrangements had been made. Mowed strips around the perimeter, notification of all the right people, and the right weather conditions.

However, with all the correct preparations unexpected things can happen. Celia and a friend were working together when they noticed that the wind had changed, which is not unusual during a prescribed burn. It appeared that there was only one thing to do, and that was to run. The friend had drawn ahead, and turned to see how Celia was doing. Celia had fallen, and there was nothing the friend could do but watch as the fire overtook her while she was down. The friend could only continue running to save her own life.

This is a tragedy that we hate to hear about, but it can still happen with all the preparation and planning. Along with the usual planning it would be helpful, and maybe life saving, if all helpers would travel over the landscape before the burn. That way they can all be more familiar with the area in case an emergency should come up.

There are many conditions that need to be considered before burning either cool or warm season grasses. The right permits need to be acquired, the right weather conditions, the right people to notify ahead of time, the right equipment on hand, and several other things to consider. If you are thinking of burning your grass, but have some questions about what to do ahead of time, it would be very worthwhile for you to contact the local NRCS/ Conservation District office at 913-294-3751 extension 3, or the KSU Extension office at 913-294-4306.

Burning grass is nature's way of controlling many of the unwanted species of vegetation that compete for everything the grass needs. However, planning is needed and there is a burning etiquette that needs to be considered. So instead of just lighting a match to the grass and letting it go, PLEASE, give some thought to the items mentioned earlier.

No Till Drill

The drill is ready for rent! We fully expect a busy spring, so get your name on the list early to rent the District's Truax Drill.

**Call Miami County Conservation District at 913-294-3751
Ext. 3 to get your name on the list today!**

MIAMI COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT
Water Wisdom

2011 Cost Share Sign-Up

The Miami County Conservation District administers two cost-share programs designed to conserve soil and protect water quality. The initial sign-up for these cost share funds is June 15th to July 15th. It is important landowners make application during the initial sign-up period for all practices they plan to construct during the period of July 1, 2010 – June 30, 2011. Funds are limited. The applications will be ranked as to their benefits to water quality beginning at the July board meeting and each monthly meeting thereafter. To be eligible for cost-share assistance, landowners must receive approval prior to starting construction.

In addition to funding for erosion control projects on cropland, the funds are available for livestock waste projects, plugging abandoned wells, upgrading failed septic systems, clean up of abandoned dumpsites, pasture management, brush management and riparian area protection.

Funds for the Non-Point Source Cost-Share and Water Resources Cost Share programs are provided by the State Conservation Commission through a grant from the State Water Plan Fund.

The watershed you live in can make a difference on the cost-share funding available to you. Special funds have been allocated to manage certain pollutants in the high priority areas of the county. Using your legal description we can quickly identify what cost-share funds are available to you.

Program Requirements

- *There are specific requirements to be eligible for cost-share.
- *You must have a signed and approved contract before construction begins.
- *All practices must be completed to required specifications.
- *Practices for water supply or cross fencing for pasture management must be on pastures of at least 40 acres with a grazing management plan developed.
- *Cost share for septic upgrades is only available if the failed system is within 500 feet of a stream or near a well used for household water supply.

This would also be a good time to get signed up for the Continuous Conservation Reserve Program (CCRP). If you are having issues with erosion in your fields because of all this rain we have been getting you might want to sign up for buffer strips. You could sign up for filter strips or a riparian strip along field edges adjacent to streams. You could also plant Contour Grass buffer strips along your terraces. There are several programs that help with erosion and top soil reduction.

There are a few requirements:

- *has to have a cropping history of 4 out of the 6 years between (1996-200)
- *The landowner must have had ownership for 1 Year
- *the land must be cropland

If you are interested in any of these services please come by the office:
100 Angela Suite 3, Paola, KS, 66071



COOL SEASON GRASS SEEDING DATES

The Natural Resources Conservation Service recommends seeding dates for brome and fescue start December 1st and run until April 15th. There are always the weather conditions to consider, but if conditions allow, get ready to seed.

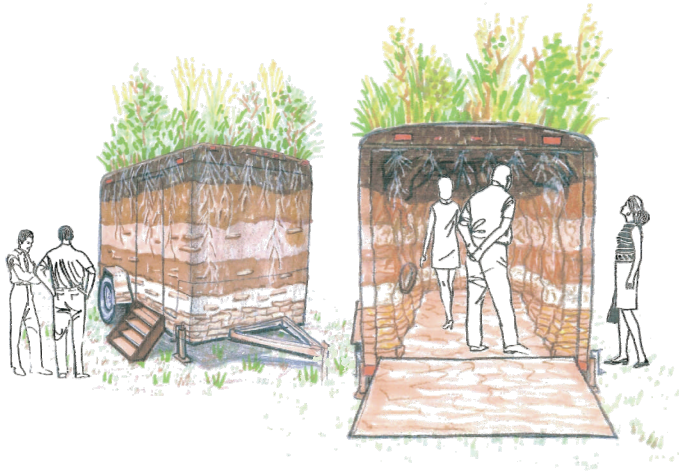
If you do have plans to drill a cool season grass, the Miami County Conservation District has a Truax No-Till drill that is available to rent. If you would have an interest in renting the drill call the Conservation District office for Mark or Jenny at 913-294-3751 ext. 3 for more information.

Coming Soon to an area near you!

The Soil Tunnel Trailer

The Soil Tunnel Trailer is

- Educational
- Hands-on
- Virtual Experience
- Three Dimensional
- Museum Quality
- Mobile
- Walk Though Display
- Handicap Accessible



For more information contact the
Conservation District office at
913-294-3751 Ext. 3

**Equipment
Available:**

300 Bushel Manure Spreader

\$60/day

10ft No-Till Drill

\$8/acre, \$50 minimum

Construction Fabric

\$2.50/linear ft

Tree Tubes—Call For Current Price.

Drip Torches— No Charge

Root Plow-No Charge

Soil Probe— No Charge

Volunteer!

The Conservation District is always looking for Volunteers.

Some upcoming opportunities to Volunteer

April 22nd, 2010-Miami County E.A.R.T.H. Festival

We are also always on the look out for Volunteers that are willing to come to the office to perform simple office duties, i.e. filing, education prep work, folding newsletters, etc.

For More Information about becoming a Volunteer

Contact:

**The Miami County Conservation District
100 Angela St. Ste. 3
Paola, KS 66071
913-294-3751 Ext. 3
mi.co.conservation@gmail.com**



Feyh Farm Seed Company
 26401 Fairfield Road-Alma, KS 66401
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 Cathy A Leaver Agency
 210 N. Hospital Dr.
 PO Box 353
 Paola, KS 66071-1504
cleaver@amfam.com
 (913) 294-3203

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 Home Office - Madison, WI 53783
 BC-216130 - 9/09

IG Elliott Insurance Group
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 913-837-5125 913-294-2110

www.elliottinsurancegroup.com
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ALPACAS 'R DIAMONDS

Glenn & Robin Alpert
 15163 W. 323rd St.
 Paola, KS 66071

Phone: 913-849-3738
 Cell: 360-241-3622
 Email: ardalpert@cs.com

WOW WHAT A DEAL!
 NO Monthly fees WHAT DO YOU HAVE TO LOSE?
 Minimum balances

4.0% APY* **1.0% APY*** **.25% APY***
APY* based on \$1,000 APY* based on \$1,000 APY* based on \$1,000

CITIZENS HIGH FREE
 STATE BANK OF INDIANA INTEREST CHECKING NATIONWIDE ATMs

1 E. Main, #112-2942111 100 E. Main, #112-2944112 citizensbankofindiana.com

FARMERS UNION
 306 Baptiste 110 S. Frank
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 913-294-2004 913-902-2199

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 Lawn Science "Low" to "No"
 Phosphorus Fertilizer!

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 Stop by or give us a call today.

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 Mobile: 785-979-1109

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Free Soil Test!

The purpose of a soil test is to supply adequate plant nutrients for optimum forage and crop yields, lawn maintenance and garden production; minimize entry of nutrients to surface and ground water; and to maintain or improve chemical, physical, and biological condition of the soil. The assistance provided is targeted toward educating producers to change management practices that will improve water quality and impact favorably on future landowner environmental stewardship.

The Miami County Conservation District partners with Miami County Extension Office to provide soil test free of cost, with the understanding that the landowner will apply chemicals within the recommended amounts. You may contact the Extension Office at 913-294-4306.



Happy Birthday!

NRCS Approaching 75 Years

(Salina, KS, January 14, 2010)—U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) will turn 75 on April 27, 2010.

"During these years, the NRCS has led the nation in protecting our natural resources," said Eric Banks, State Conservationist in Kansas.

"We have followed the lead of the first chief of our agency, Hugh Hammond Bennett, who envisioned the agency's soil conservationists to work one on one with producers on private and tribal lands and to walk the land to develop a conservation plan," he said.

"Programs and technology have provided many changes in delivering our services, but working with the producer/landowner and getting conservation on the ground remains NRCS's number one priority," said Banks.

"That priority is reflected in our agency's mission, 'Helping People Help the Land,'" he said.

Conservation practices carried out by farmers, ranchers, and other landowners in Kansas have improved the quality of life and built stronger rural communities. Agency statistics show dramatic improvements in Kansas's natural resources because of conservation practices such as crop rotations, terraces, waterways, windbreaks, wetlands, no-till farming, buffers, watershed dams, rangeland management, ponds, nutrient and pest management, to name a few.

"The 75 years of success of NRCS can be attributed to dedicated producers, agency employees, local county conservation district board supervisors and staff, and partners, all of whom worked together to accomplish the goal of protecting our natural resources—soil, water, air, plants, and animals," said Banks.

"This agency's rich conservation legacy has resulted in many benefits to the state's citizens—abundant food and fiber, clean water, clean air, productive soils, and open spaces to use and enjoy," he said.

NRCS was created as the Soil Conservation Service within USDA on April 27, 1935, in response to the devastation of the Dust Bowl on the nation's agricultural land. The agency's primary mission then was to conserve soil on agricultural land. It became NRCS in 1994 to better reflect its expanded role of servicing other natural resources such as soil, water, air, plants, and animals on private and tribal lands.

For more information about NRCS in Kansas, visit <http://www.ks.nrcs.usda.gov> or stop by the Paola USDA Service Center at 100 Angela St., Paola, KS 66071.



Open House



May 13, 2010



Miami County Conservation District

100 Angela St. Ste. 3

Paola, KS 66071



3:00 p.m.—6:00 p.m.



*Come See what the District has to Offer!
This will be a great opportunity for ALL
Miami County Residents.!*

*** District Equipment will be available to view and reserve!***

The BRAND NEW "SOIL TUNNEL TRAILER" will be set up!

Staff will be on hand to answer any questions you may have!

A Limited number of Rain Barrels will be available!

*** Hands on activities for Kids!***

Miami County Conservation District

Miami County Conservation District
100 Angela Ste. 3
Paola, KS 66071

Phone: 913-294-3751 Ext. 101
Fax: 913-294-3386
E-mail: jenny.jasper@ks.nacdnet.net

It's Your District!
The Miami County Conservation District is a tax supported sub-division of State Government. The service it provides is governed by the board of supervisors elected by you, the voting public.



**Miami County
Conservation District**

Friends of the Earth!

"Water Wisdom" is financed by a grant from the State Conservation Commission Non Point Source Pollution Control Fund and the State Water Plan Fund.

2010 Stewardship Week

April 25–May 2, 2010



The following non discrimination provision is being complied with and has been included in revisions of basic memorandums of understanding between the District and the United States Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service. "The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, and marital or family status. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD).

To file a complaint of discrimination write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 14th and Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (202) 720-5964 (voice or TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer."