

# SOIL AND WATER Resources

August 2015

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This publication is  
produced by the Missouri  
Department of Natural  
Resources Soil and  
Water Conservation  
Program. Funds for this  
publication are provided  
by Missouri's Parks, Soils  
and Water Sales Tax.

### Cover Crop Soil Testing Procedures

The Missouri Department of Natural Resources is working with staff at the University of Missouri Soil Health Assessment Center (SHAC) on instructions for doing soil samples as required in the N340 Cover Crop practice. This information is available on the SHAC website at <http://cafnr.missouri.edu/soil-health/>. If you received a draft copy, please discard the previous version and use the documents from the SHAC website.

Also available is a Cover Crop Soil Health Information sheet that will need to be completed and submitted to SHAC with the sample. The sheet gathers information about the landowners cropping and tillage history to assist SHAC with the analysis. There is also a label form. The soil and water district and landowners can print labels to stick on the bags of samples. The labels are developed to print on Uline S-3196 self-adhesive labeling sheet. If a search is done on the Web for the label, there are several brands available compatible with the Uline S-3196.

The SHAC has also purchased bulk density rings needed to take the soil samples. Rings are being distributed to soil and water conservation districts.

### Cover Crop Variance

The Soil and Water Districts Commission approved to allow a variance to the no-till and broadcast requirements within the N340 Cover Crop Practice policy for 2015 summer/fall plantings due to weather conditions. The following guidelines were developed to implement the variance and are based on the Natural Resources Conservation Service's conservation practice standard 345 for Residue and Tillage Management, Reduced Till:

Mowing/spraying should be used when possible to avoid tillage, residues must be uniformly distributed over the entire field, residues must not be burned, no primary inversion tillage implements (e.g. moldboard plow) shall be used, shallow soil disturbance with light tillage is allowed, planting with a single-disk opener no-till drill must be used instead planting with a wide point-point hoe/chisel opener air seed drill, due to releasing less CO<sub>2</sub>.

This variance from the N340 Cover Crop Practice policy went into effect on Aug. 3, 2015 and expires at the end of the fall cover crop seeding dates.

### There's No Place Like Home - Pembroke Hill High School Wins NCF-Envirothon

With the theme for the 2015 national Envirothon competition being Welcome to the OZarks—a spin-off of the Wizard of Oz, the five-member Envirothon team from Missouri quickly realized the saying "There is no place like home" was true. Missouri hosted the 2015 NCF- Envirothon,



Pembroke Hill High School team and their NCF-Envirothon awards. DNR photo by Van Beydler

North America's largest high school environmental competition and Missouri's team took first place at home. They also received the top resource awards for current issue, aquatics, and oral presentation. Each student received a \$3,000 scholarship provided by Smithfield Foods.



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Two hundred sixty students from 44 states, seven Canadian provinces and one Canadian territory made their way to the campus of Missouri State University in Springfield on July 27 for the week-long event. Pembroke Hill High School from Jackson County represented Missouri at the 2015 NCF-Envirothon. They competed against 16 teams to win the state Envirothon competition in early May. Team members are Eric Koch, Domenico DiMare, Saurabh Goel, Francesco DiMare and Devon Dietrich. Their advisors are SueAnn and Rick Wright.

Like Dorothy in the Wizard of Oz, all 260 students that participated in this national Envirothon event took a journey that provided them with numerous life lessons along the way.



**Pembroke Hill High School at the NCF-Envirothon**  
DNR photos by Van Beydler

They learned the value of friendship they found with students from other states/provinces and territories. They found themselves tested all week mentally and physically and finally they learned to trust their teammates and realize that the end score they received required their ability to all work together. For the five Missouri students, their advisors, and all the Missouri folks involved in the week-long national competition, everyone realized, like Dorothy, that there is no place like home!

An expanded article about the NCF-Envirothon will be in the Winter 2016 issue of *Missouri Resources* magazine.

### **21st Annual Missouri Women in Agriculture State Conference to be held Sept. 21 to 23 in Excelsior Springs**

The 21st annual Missouri Women in Agriculture conference will be held from Sept. 21 through 23 at The Elms Hotel and Spa at 401 Regent Street in Excelsior Springs.

The registration fee includes workshops including smart technology, crop insurance, gardening with cover crops, a rain simulator, financial planning and others. Carolyn Miller will be the guest speaker at the noon opening session.

Tuesday's activities include a tour of Watkins Mill State Park, Platte-City Solar, Mule Barn U-Pick Berries and buffalo intensive grazing.

The conference wraps up on Wednesday with morning workshops from 8 to 10:15 a.m. followed by a brunch with guest speaker Dr. Julie Connor, a goal setting expert, social media strategist and author of *Dreams to Action Trailblazer's Guide*. For more information contact the Caldwell County Soil and Water Conservation District at 816-586-2711 or send email to [wendy.bowen@swcd.mo.gov](mailto:wendy.bowen@swcd.mo.gov).

### **Peggy Lemons and Judy Stinson Inducted into the Envirothon Hall of Fame**



**Judy Stinson (left) and Peggy Lemons (right) with their Envirothon Hall of Fame awards.**

DNR photo by Van Beydler

Peggy Lemons with the Cole County Soil and Water Conservation District and Judy Stinson with Missouri's Soil and Water Conservation Program were both inducted into the Envirothon Hall of Fame. The pair was recognized during the Aug. 1 awards ceremony at the national NCF-Envirothon held in Springfield. Lemons and Stinson have been involved with the state and national Envirothon since 1998.

Lemons is a founding member of the state Envirothon. She spearheaded the efforts to establish the by-laws and a board of directors for the state program. She helped plan and coordinate 17 Envirothons. She was elected to the executive committee of the national Envirothon and served as treasurer. She served as co-chair for the 2005 national Envirothon and chaired the 2015 national NCF-Envirothon. She believes in the potential of young people, commitment to a better environment and promoting learning, honesty and integrity. "I have great partners that helped us have a great state program and the planning committee that helped put on this national competition was fantastic." Lemons is also the executive director of the Missouri Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts.

Stinson is co-coordinator of the Missouri Envirothon state program, assisting with the state regional events and works with the state winning team on their oral presentation at the national level. She served on the Envirothon executive

committee from 2000 to 2003 working tirelessly to ensure the competition continued and to grow the overall program. As a former teacher, she realizes that teaching has the power to perpetuate the success long after the lessons are taught. She served as co-chair when Missouri hosted the 2005 Envirothon.

"We have many great volunteers and people that we work with on the regional levels," said Stinson during her acceptance speech. "We certainly cannot do what we do without all of them. We have wonderful teachers and educators in our state and they are so excited about this program. This was quite a surprise, thank you!"

Videos of the award presentations are available online at [youtu.be/oXR7\\_DtvPuo](https://youtu.be/oXR7_DtvPuo) and [youtu.be/LXnO\\_ifiJrU](https://youtu.be/LXnO_ifiJrU).

### **Soil and Water Conservation Program Welcomes New District Coordinator Tammy Cody**



Tammy Cody joined the Soil and Water Conservation Program as an Environmental Specialist II on June 20. Tammy earned her Bachelor's Degree in Agricultural Science from Truman State University and her Master's Degree in Agricultural Education from the University of Missouri-Columbia. Tammy and her husband, Kenny, spend a lot of time on the family farm helping her parents with their Quarter Horses, beef cattle and sheep. Tammy and Kenny are currently building their Clydesdale breeding herd with plans to raise show and hitch horses. In her free time, she also enjoys horseback riding, hunting, fishing and reading.



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## SOIL AND WATER *Resources*

This publication is produced by the Missouri Department of Natural Resources Soil and Water Conservation Program. Funds for this publication are provided by Missouri's Parks, Soils and Water Sales Tax.

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