

SOIL AND WATER *Resources*

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Gov. Nixon Appoints Ausfahl to Soil and Water Districts Commission

On Sept. 20, Gov. Jay Nixon appointed Charlie Ausfahl to the State Soil and Waters Districts Commission.

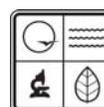
Ausfahl owns and operates Ausfahl Farms, a cow/calf operation in Callaway County. His background includes a wide variety of management experiences in the livestock industry, including working as a farm operations manager and serving as a board member for a beef plant in Granite City, Illinois. He is a past executive secretary and longtime advisor to the board of the Missouri Cooperative Feeder Livestock Association.

Ausfahl twice worked for the Missouri Department of Agriculture, first working for MDA in the 1960s at the office of the State Veterinarian and then as manager of the state's livestock program. He returned to MDA from 1994-2001 as a division director, for the agency's Division of Grain Inspection and Warehousing.

Ausfahl has also been involved in his county and community. He served as presiding commissioner on the Callaway County Commission from 1982-86, and more recently served as the project director for the construction of a new Callaway County Senior Center in Fulton.

Ausfahl has been married for 51 years to his wife, Joyce. They have a daughter, a son and two grandchildren. He enjoys hunting, especially for quail, pheasant and deer. Ausfahl attended Lincoln University in Jefferson City in the 1950s and served in the U.S. Army from 1957-1961.

"I hope I can play a role on the Commission to help more conservation practices be more widely adopted," said Ausfahl. "It's always been my aim for us to leave the land to others in better shape than it was when we received it."



Missouri Department
of Natural Resources
Soil and Water Conservation Program

Missouri team takes 11th place at 2010 Canon Envirothon

High school students from Pembroke Hill High School in Kansas City pose with their award for 11th place at the 2010 Canon Envirothon, a weeklong North American environmental education competition. The competition, sponsored by Canon U.S.A. Inc., was held Aug. 1-6 at California State University in Fresno, CA. with 54 teams competing. Each student on the Missouri team won a digital camera and an award plaque.



Pembroke Hill High School Envirothon Team (Left to right: Jeffrey Rubel, Austin Caldwell, Riley Sloan, Foster Honack, Richard Wright, and Advisor SueAnn Wright.)

WQ-10 Stream Protection Practice Review

During the Sept. 21 SWCD Commission meeting, the commission directed program staff to perform a policy review of the WQ-10 Stream Protection Practice.

The WQ10 Stream Protection Practice is used to exclude livestock from streams to reduce sediment and nutrient loading. Components of the practice that are eligible for cost share include fence, water source development, water distribution, watering facilities and out of production incentives.

Since the WQ-10 was first adopted in 2007, 167 practices have been completed statewide. More than \$1.7 million has been reimbursed on the practice by districts, in amounts ranging from \$1,278 for 1.1 acres to \$56,630 on 49 acres. The cost shares have averaged \$10,577. In 2010, a total of 57 practices was funded, fencing off more than 143,000 feet of stream.

During a practice policy review, staff collect information from the districts on suggestions for policy clarifications and enhancements for a particular cost share practice. The program is seeking information on issues related to this

practice that districts feel should be addressed. This is an opportunity for the district to voice concerns or applaud the positive use of the WQ-10 Stream Protection practice. This practice review is open for comments to Dec. 1, 2010.

If you should have any questions, please contact Alan Freeman by phone at 573-751-1373.

2011 Health Insurance Options and Costs

In 2011, the Soil and Water Districts Commission will continue to provide health insurance grant allocations to soil and water conservation districts, for select plans offered through Missouri Consolidated Health Care Plan, or MCHCP.

Open enrollment for SWCD employees ended Nov. 9. Missouri Consolidated Health Care sent open enrollment forms to each district. Below is a summary of the costs and reimbursements for each available plan.

District boards with employees that are employed at least 1,000 hours from state funds are eligible to participate in the MCHCP PP0600 or PP02000 plan. The PP0300 that was available to SWCD employees in 2010 was not offered by MCHCP as an available option for 2011.

One significant 2011 change to the health insurance is that district employees will no longer be reimbursed for any deductible or out-of-pocket expenses. These expenses will be the responsibility of the district employee. Monthly premiums (excluding premium co-pays) for the district employee are the only health insurance expenses that will be allowed from the health insurance grant funds. MCHCP strongly cautioned the program and asked us to inform district supervisors to refrain from covering the cost of district employees' portion of the monthly premium, deductible or out-of-pocket expenses, due to increased use of the health insurance. Such an approach will drive up the cost of health care for all the districts. If a district's supervisors decided to pay employee expenses, then the health insurance monthly premiums would have to be renegotiated at a higher cost for all 114 districts.

The cost of the PP0600 plan is \$601.08 per month for employee-only coverage. The program will provide \$560.08 per employee per month or \$ 6,720.96 per year to the district board, in semiannual allotments. The district board can

then use these grant funds to supplement a district employee's health insurance premium. District staff electing to participate in the PP0600 plan will pay a \$41 per month premium copay.

The other option available to SWCD employees is the PP02000. The cost of the PP02000 plan is \$467.31 per month for employee-only coverage. The program will provide 100 percent, or \$467.31 per employee per month or \$5,607.72 per year to the district board in semiannual allotments. The district board can then use these grant funds to pay the health insurance premium for those district employees who choose the PP02000 plan. This plan has typically been offered to district employees to make a less expensive premium option available for those employees that wish to purchase family coverage (coverage for family insurance is not an allowable expense from the state grants). As mentioned above for calendar year 2011, the program will not provide reimbursement for the deductible or out of pocket expenses associated with the PP02000 plan.

For specific information regarding the PP0600 and the PP02000 plans, please refer to the MCHCP website at mchcp.org.

FY 2011 Cost-Share Allocations - Nov. 3, 2010

Resource Concern	Allocated	Obligated	Obligated %	Paid	Paid %
Animal Waste Management	\$573,210.80	\$228,294.69	40 %	\$63,499.74	11 %
Grazing Management	\$3,791,602.31	\$2,049,051.05	54 %	\$443,840.62	12 %
Irrigation Management	\$1,054,836.64	\$563,723.06	53 %	\$114,748.35	11 %
Nutrient Management	\$488,459.50	\$482,435.50	99 %	\$75,572.50	15 %
Pest Management	\$204,721.81	\$201,196.81	98 %	\$4,509.00	2 %
Sensitive Areas	\$2,516,080.98	\$892,244.54	35 %	\$217,380.48	9 %
Sheet and Rill/Gully	\$17,515,484.07	\$12,390,065.14	71 %	\$4,671,583.66	27 %
Woodland Erosion	\$1,067,713.82	\$327,611.38	31 %	\$69,643.35	7 %
TOTAL	\$27,212,109.93	\$17,134,622.17	63 %	\$5,660,777.70	21 %

FY 2011 SALT Allocations

	Allocated	Obligated	Obligated %	Paid	Paid %
TOTAL	\$3,170,027.96	\$1,643,370.36	52 %	\$310,702.69	10%



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Editor: Kerry Cordray

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