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As the weather warmed up and plants started to grow we stayed busy in the Extension office .

Water Festival season wrapped up this month, and I was able to teach the soils lesson at four festivals in April (Clinton County, Mercer/Harrison County, Grundy County, Cameron). The 5th graders at these events always seem to learn a lot, and it's fun to see the surprised looks on their faces when I explain how alive the soil actually is.

On April 11th I taught the Soils lesson to the Master Gardeners class in Plattsburg. Master Gardeners is a program that provides in-depth horticultural training to individuals who are then asked to teach others in their communities about gardening and environmental education. The courses are taught by various Extension personnel and cover all of the most relevant topics pertaining to fruit and vegetable growth and production.

On April 17th I taught a class on Straw bale gardening at the North Central Career Center in Bethany. Seven participants showed up to learn about this unique way to grow your own produce. Straw bale gardening is a combination of raised-bed and container gardening, with the straw acting as both the raised bed and the container. It's a great option for people who don't have room for a traditional garden or who are only interested in having a few plants.

Jenna Monnig, Livestock Specialist in Mercer County, held a Pasture and Beef Cattle meeting on April 22nd in Princeton and invited me to give a presentation. I spoke about pasture renovation, repair and reseeding after the drought and long winter that we had. Those in attendance had many questions about fertilizing their pastures, summer annual forage options and pasture weed control.

I completed two Extension Connection radio programs in April. On April 5th I talked about cover crop termination dates and methods. For my program on April 19th I talked about soil temperatures and how if soil temperatures are too low around corn and soybean planting, there is a greater risk for poor germination and early season seedling diseases.

Questions coming into the office were generally dealing with early season row-crop issues or ways to make up for forage shortages in the area. With anhydrous ammonia shortages and long lines at the fertilizer dealers, several producers were looking at different ways to meet their nitrogen needs in corn. There were also questions about different herbicide programs and when to burn down cover crops before planting corn or soybeans. Many also asked if it was too late to plant spring oats (by now it is) and how to incorporate summer annuals into their operation. I also had farm visits to look at poor pasture growth (cool weather, will grow with warmth) and disease in alfalfa (phytophthora root rot), among other issues.

Upcoming Events

May 2, 2019

Harrison County Extension Council Meeting, Bethany

May 2-3, 2019

Safety Acres– Northwest Technical School, Maryville

May 9-10, 2019

Safety Acres– St. Joseph

May 21, 2019

Regional Extension Staff Meeting, Hamilton

May 29-30, 2019

Soil Health Nexus Training, Columbia

June 20, 2019

Master Gardener Pesticide Course, 6:00 pm, Plattsburg

June 25-27, 2019

Regional Grazing School, Savannah

Programs in Planning

- Harrison County Farm Tour
- Hundley-Whaley CCA Day
- Herbicide Mode of Action Short Course
- 2020 NWMO CCA Workshop

If you have any questions, feel free to reach out to me at LukeA@missouri.edu or (660) 425-6434.