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March brought (slightly) warmer weather and an increase in activity in the Extension office.

Water Festivals for 5th grade students started in March and I have had the opportunity to help teach the Soils session in 3 counties so far (Davies, Caldwell, Dekalb). During this session, I ask the students to think about all of the things that we rely on the soil for. We then do an activity that demonstrates how the soil is an ecosystem and how all life in the soil is connected and important for a healthy soil.

The Hundley-Whaley Advisory board meeting was held on March 21st in Albany. As secretary of the board, I was asked to take minutes at the meeting. We discussed several trials that we would like to see at the research station and heard about some of the events that were held in 2018 as well as what's coming up in 2019. As board members we are asked to help out when we can on the farm, so on March 25th I helped two of the farm's employees put the plot combine back together.

I had two radio recordings for the Extension Connection radio program this month. On March 8th I spoke about options growers have when making spring nitrogen applications on their corn. I discussed different fertilizer sources, application methods and application timings. On March 22nd my radio recording focused on pasture renovation and repair. The weather in the past 12 months has been about as bad as possible for our pastures, so many will be in poor condition this spring. My Extension Connection program talked about the spray-smother-spray method for complete pasture renovation as well as annual crops that work well for inter-seeding into thin stands. I also did a radio interview with KMZU "The Farm" in Carrollton this month about the flooding that many farmers are dealing with.

Along with the NRCS and SWCD of Dekalb County, MU Extension held a pasture renovation and management meeting in Maysville on March 27th. Over 40 producers were in attendance and heard about pasture renovation, seeding of annuals into pastures, incorporating warm season grasses into an operation and the benefits of rotational grazing. I gave a talk about agronomic management steps they could take to improve their pastures, including over seeding legumes and soil testing to ensure their fertility was where it needed to be.

Calls started coming in this month from producers who are looking for ways to diversify their grazing operations this year. Many are curious about planting small grains or summer annual crops. I have also checked several silage samples for nitrates. With feed supplies running short, growers are purchasing silage and want to make sure levels are safe before giving it to their cattle. As the ground continues to dry up we are starting to see more soil samples come in the office as well.

Upcoming Events

April 3, 2019

Lathrop Water Festival

April 4, 2019

Harrison County Extension Council Meeting

April 6, 2019

Bethany Garden Club, Straw-bale Gardening

April 9, 2019

Mercer & Harrison County Water Festival, Princeton

April 10, 2019

Grundy County Water Festival, Trenton

April 11, 2019

Master Gardeners Soils Class, Plattsburg

April 17, 2019

Straw-bale Gardening NCCC, 6:00 pm

April 18, 2019

Cameron Water Festival

April 22, 2019

Beef Cow and Pasture Management Meeting, Princeton, 6:30 pm

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