

Agri-News Monthly

Volume 2, Issue 2

November 2009

Macon FFA Ag Communications

Making Your Habitat Better for Wildlife and Hunting Around Your Land

By: Cody Bisch

Would you like to see an increase of wildlife on your land or have better spots to hunt the game that you enjoy to hunt? Making your land better for wildlife is a lot easier than it sounds. The best way to start is to look at a topographical map of your land and walk your land. Find out where there are ditches or draws, hills or flats. If you want to make your habitat better for birds and small game you can plant small trees such as

cedar trees and other evergreens. You can also cut brush and make small piles for them to have cover. You can also plant native grasses for feeding and cover as well. If you are wanting to make your land better for bigger game such as whitetail deer it's a little more work but the reward is well worth it. A great way to increase the wildlife on your habitat is to have a good food source and/or water source. Food plots

are easy to prepare for wildlife. Clover, corn, beans, turnips and wheat are great foods that deer love. If you increase food source you will have more game on your land. You can always ask your local conservation agent and they will help you improve your land for wildlife if you have any questions or need help with your project. Increasing food sources, water and cover will improve your land for all game species.

Macon Wins 2009 NE District Trapshoot By: Leah Fuller

The Northeast District FFA Trapshoot was held on October 3, 2009, at the Macon 63 Gun Club. In order to participate, the teams had to place in the top seven at their respective area contest. There were 20 teams that participated at districts. Teams started shooting at 10 a.m. and had to shoot 100 rounds. All the teams did a very good job

shooting. 1st place went to Macon, 2nd Troy, 3rd Brookfield, 4th Silex, 5th Bowling Green, 6th Paris, 7th South Shelby, 8th Milan, 9th Schuyler County, 10th Elsberry, 11th Keytesville, 12th Clopton, 13th Green City, 14th Putnum County A, 15th Ashland, 16th Audrain, 17th Salisbury, 18th Centralia, 19th Van-Far, and 20th Madison. The male with the most clay pigeons

hit was Lucas Parks from Brookfield and the female was Allison Riepe from Brookfield. Lucas shot a 98 out of 100 and Allison 94 out of 100. The top five shooters were Lucas Parks (Brookfield), Matt Mudd (Silex), Ben Morris (Macon), Nick Hoelting (Troy), and Travis Weiberg (Macon). Everyone did an excellent job and had a great time.

Special points of interest

- National FFA Convention
- Star Member: Dalton Green
- College of Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources



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Crop Problems By: Dalton Green



Although Texas was having a huge drought, there were far more problems in the Midwest. In the Midwest the temperatures stayed in the 40s until late spring. As results the ground temperatures remained in the 30s and some even remained frozen.

The reason that this affects the crops is

that if the crop is still green and wet it will freeze and die. These conditions are very unusual for this time of year. Even though the farmers are able to get into the field, not much is going to germinate with those soil temperatures.

We really can't do much about Mother Nature but what we can

do is get everything ready and get ready for spring to come and start again. This year has been very tough for the farmers, but they still manage to get by and do what they have to do. Hopefully we have a better year for the crops in the coming year.

The Newest Animal Hit By: Melissa Wilson

Fun Fact:
One bale of cotton can produce 1,217 men's t shirt.

Teacup pigs, also called micropigs, are the newest animal hit both here and in England. Jane Croft, a breeder in England, quit her day job and started breeding these teacup pigs five months ago. The teacup pigs are a mix between potbellied pigs with Tamworth, Kune Kune, and Gloucester Old Spot breeds.

They got their name from their birth weight which is about 9

oz. Two years later they will be full grown at 12 to 16 inches and weigh about 65lbs. They are good pets for those people who have an allergy to fur because they have hair.

These pigs are normally sold in pairs and cost \$ 1,100. Jane Croft has strict qualifications for the potential owners, such as: they have to have company at all times, have to have a gar-

den, and the owners have to be home most of the day. She was selling five to ten a week. She got 500 inquiries about the pigs. So there is currently a waiting list for them.

These are the type of animals that just want to be loved. So if you are a stay-at-home person and have \$ 1,100 then you should get a tea cup pig.

Bald Eagle Population By: Trever Cunningham



The Bald Eagle population was decreasing in the early 1990's. The species was on the brink of extinction. The bald eagle was officially reclassified from "Endangered" on July 12th, 1995. On July 6th, 1999, a proposal was initiated "To remove the Bald Eagle in the Lower part of the

United States." It was de-listed on June 28, 2007.

A main reason why the bald eagle population has been declining the past few years is because of the thinning of the shell. In the 1700's there was only 412 nesting pairs in the contiguous

states. In 1992 the conservation reported around 100,000-110,000 bald eagles with Alaska having 40,000-50,000 of the total population.

Hitch Hiking Pests By: Travis Noyes

Most everyone has gone on a camping trip before and brought your own firewood, but did you know that you could be carrying a killer in your firewood.

Over the years unsuspecting people have been bringing a new and unwanted pest to areas they have never been before, and the local vegetation can not adapt to the pest quickly enough to

survive.

The emerald ash borers are the little boogers that are causing all the problems in our area. It is believed that the pest came over to America, from their native land of China and eastern Asia, in wooden packing materials such as a wooden crate or pallet. So these pests have proved that they can survive through harsh living

conditions and adapt quickly to the new environment without problems.

To avoid spreading the pests, buy your wood from a local source or cut the wood when you get there. If you do bring your own firewood you should burn your wood first in order to kill any pest that could be hiding in the firewood.



College of Agriculture, Food & Natural Resources

By: Nancy Jackson

Everyone has heard the chant M-I-Z...Z-O-U! When looking into the University of Missouri-Columbia you find there is over 30,200 students enrolled, 13 colleges and schools within the university, and is known nationwide for its commitment to education. One college within Mizzou is the College of Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources. CAFNR offers 15

degree programs along with multiple minor opportunities. Also available is 18 graduate programs for those interested in pursuing further education.

There are currently about 2,100 students and 400 graduate students attending the College of Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources. Following

graduation, 94% of students enrolled in CAFNR will be employed. Agriculture students are invited every fall to attend Preview Mizzou to give them an insight to what the college is all about. I encourage every student to attend, you never know what you will learn or decide after 5 hours on campus!

Fun Fact:
A hive of bees fly over 55,000 miles to get one pound of honey

Missouri Fishing By: Zach McElhane

On the water, there are no cars, no rush hour; you get the chance to just relax. For a vacation or a quiet Saturday morning, fishing gets you away from it all. Fishing is a great way to spend time with family and friends, creating memories that will last a lifetime.

If you want an

outdoor experience, plan a fishing trip in one of Missouri's great parks or one of our lakes. Here you can fish for bass beneath the towering limestone bluffs that are part of Missouri lakes and rivers. Missouri is home to over two hundred fish species, including several bass species, channel catfish, blue and flat-

head catfish, sunfish, bluegills, bullheads, muskellunge, walleye, shiners, lamprey, shad, pickerel, perch, trout, gar, sturgeon and more. Missouri has more fish species than any other state in the entire United States. So if you like Missouri, try fishing for our numerous amounts of fish.



National FFA Convention By: Shelby Dunseith



On October 21, 2009 seventeen Macon FFA members, Miss Milligan and Keith Maloney traveled to Indianapolis, Indiana for an eventful 82nd National FFA Convention. It took seven hours to make it to Indianapolis. Upon arriving we checked into our hotel and then went to watch the hypnotist, Jim Wand, perform.

We enjoyed listening to Mike Rowe speak at the opening session of the 82nd National FFA Conven-

tion. The National FFA Chorus and the National FFA Band made their grand entry at the opening session. After touring the career show we attended the second session of the 82nd National FFA Convention. The National Secretary, Nessie Early, gave her retiring address and the national chapter awards were given. We then attended the Bulls and Broncs Championship at the Indiana State Fairgrounds.

The next two days

were filled with touring the Trader's Point Creamery and the Children's Museum. We listened to Josh Sundquist and Andrew McCrea inspire us to lead through their motivational speeches. Hannah Crossen, the Eastern Region Vice President and Paul Moya, the National FFA President, gave their retiring address at the 7th and 9th sessions. The last thing on the itinerary was to watch the election of the 2009-2010 National Officer Team.

Fun Facts:

A pig can run a mile in 7 minutes

There are about 600 corn kernels on an ear of corn

Star Member: Dalton Green

What do you plan on doing after high school?

I am going to a Tech School to get my operators license, and then going into road construction.

What is your SAE?

I have laying hens & raise their young. I'm also in the process of starting a pheasant operation.

What are your hobbies?

I like to go hunting, fishing and hanging with friends.

What is your favorite FFA activity?

National FFA Convention or Battle of the Chapters would have to be my favorites.

What do you want to be when you grow up?

I want to be a very skilled construction worker

World's Largest Cow By: Ben Morris



Have you ever seen a cow that was 6ft 6in tall? The cow's name is Chili. He is a black and white bulllock. He's also 6ft 7in long. Chili weighs almost one ton.

Chili and his twin sister were dropped of at Ferne Animal Sanctuary when

they were six days old. They found them wondering around on the front step. They were both regular size at that point in time. Then Chili just kept growing.

Chili is the same size as a baby elephant. His sister is the size of a normal cow. During the day, Chili grazes on

grass and spends the day with the rest of the herd. He gets fed in the afternoon. Even though he is larger than any other cow he doesn't eat any more than they do. Needless to say he is a very happy cow.

Deer Poachers By: Nick Thrasher

In Missouri poachers kill hundreds of deer every year. Over the years the poacher view has changed drastically. Years ago the poachers went and killed for food. Now people poach deer to get the antlers. As you can see the picture on the bottom right the poachers shoot the deer and cut their heads off.

The conservation department is cracking down on the poachers. The picture to the right is a fake deer the conservation department uses to catch the poachers. The deer is a robot, so the conservation department puts it out in a field and waits for the poachers and when they come it makes the deer's head look at them as if it were real. Last year the conserva-

tion department made a little over 50 arrests using these decoys so the decoys pay for themselves. So if you see someone poaching don't be afraid to call them in. Have a safe hunting season.



Jokes

Q: Did you hear about the farmer you plowed his field with a steamroller?

A: He wanted to grow mash potatoes!

Q: Why did the farmer call his pig "Ink"?

A: Because it was always running out of the pen.

Q: Why can't the bankrupt cowboy complain?

A: He has got no beef.

Q: What do you call cattle with a sense of humor?

A: Laughing stock.

Spring Vs. Fall Calving By: Shelby Dunseith

When farmers are getting into the cattle business the decisions they make can make or break them. The choice between spring calving and fall calving is a choice that all farmers are making; many farmers are even calving during both seasons.

The benefits of having a spring calving season include warmer temperatures for calf growth. Summer grazing helps lower the usage of grain and hay. The downsides of spring calving season in-

clude wet and sometimes icy weather for calving. Studies show that when marketing calves that are born in the spring they tend to bring less than those born in the fall.

The benefits of having a fall calving season include higher weaning weights for calves. Studies show that calf loss is lower in the fall than in the spring. With a fall calving season also comes the possibility of wet and sometimes icy weather for calving. Cows that calve in the fall re-

quire more hay and grain through the winter months because they are lactating. The calves also have to fight the winter months as they are trying to grow.

As you decide which calving season to choose make sure you consider all your options. Many factors, like herd size, herd age, and how you plan to market your calves can all contribute to which calving season you choose.



Fun Fact:
Eggshells have at least 17,000 pores on their surface to absorb odor and flavor.

November 2009

Schedule of Events

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

- 2nd Macon FFA Chapter Meeting
- 2nd at 3:15pm- Fruit Sales Begin
- 12th 4:30pm- Area 3 Fall Public Speaking Contest
- 14th at Daylight- Rifle Season Begins
- 17th 5:00pm- North East District Fall Public Speaking
- 20th- Ag Safety Day
- 24th- Thanksgiving Dinner During your Ag hour
- 25th – 29th – Thanksgiving Vacation
- 30th- Officer Meeting

Are You Smarter Than A Farmer?

1. How much did the biggest turkey weigh in captivity?
2. How long does it take for a hen to make and lay an egg?
3. How long does it take a farmer to plow an acre with a tractor and plow?
4. How much dust and pollutants can one acre of trees remove from the air in a year?
5. How much pizza do Americans eat daily?
6. How much beef does the average American eat every year?
7. How many square feet are in 1 acre?
8. How many different kinds of crops are grown in California?
9. How many kernels are on 1 ear of corn?
10. What percent of pumpkins are water?
11. How many pounds of blueberries are grown every year in North America?
12. About how many tomatoes does it take to make one 14-ounce bottle of ketchup?

We're on the Web!
www..macon.k12.mo.us/ffa

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The **AG Communications** class is a new addition to the high school curriculum

last year! This class is in charge of producing the newsletter each month, informing

FFA members and students in agriculture classes of upcoming events, and updating

our newly established website.

AG Communications can also possibly be taken as an embedded English credit,

since graduation requirements are preventing some students from taking classes

they want to take.

Are You Smarter Than A Farmer Answers



1. The heaviest turkey ever raised weighed 86 pounds
2. It takes 24-26 hours for a hen to produce one egg
3. 12 minutes
4. 13 tons of dust and pollutants
5. more than 100 acres
6. about 68 pounds
7. 43560 square feet.
8. 350 crops
9. 600 kernels
10. 90%
11. 200 million blueberries
12. Less than eight tomatoes