

CHECK OUT OUR LARGE SELECTION OF FOOD PLOT SEED INCLUDING RED CLOVER, WHITE CLOVER, BRASSICA, TETRAPLOID RYE GRASS & MUCH MOR

PURINA

## ANTLERMAX



Formulated for what free range deer require to support:

- Overall Health
- Reproductive Performance
- Antler Growth

# **EASY PLOT FOOD** PLOT SEED

- No Tilling
- Fast Growing



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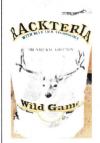
- Over 65 Naturally Balanced Trace Minerals
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- · Available In A Rock Or Crushed In A Bag







30 lb. bag with field handle



# **RACKTERIA** WILD GAME **FEED**

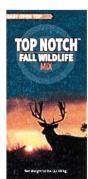
- The Natural Addiction
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# ANTLER **KING® HONEY HOLE** MIX

- Food Plot Mix
- Fast Growing
- Easy to Establish
- Helps you attract & harvest trophy bucks



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Volume 18 Issue 3
Fall 2018

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# Boone County Beaver Reservoir Watershed Project Ends

The Boone County Beaver Reservoir Watershed Project was a voluntary effort for landowners that provided financial assistance to install practices to conserve and improve soil and water resources while providing economic advantages. BCCD recognized that focusing on installing voluntary Best Management Practices (BMPs) was the best method of controlling nutrient, sediment, and bacteria runoff from entering our waterways.

Operators were district cooperators, and agreed to implement specific eligible conservation practices as part of a conservation plan to protect water quality. Cost share funds were provided at a maximum of 40% of the total cost of practice implementation—not to exceed \$7500. Practices were started after the contract was approved. Upon completion, the practices were inspected to ensure they meet NRCS guidelines.



Cost Share Paid to Operators \$60,000.00 Match Generated by Operators \$99,136.11



# **Our Mission:**

TO WORK WITH OTHER ORGANIZATIONS & LAND OWNERS HAVING SIMILAR GOALS TO PROMOTE THE CONSERVATION OF OUR NATURAL RESOURCES.

### **Board Directors**

Bill Burns Wayne Crunkleton
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Randy Williams

District Staff: Jack Hensley Lisa Widner

NRCS Staff: Rick Adams James Black Colby Smith Linda Warren

### From the Desk of Rick Adams, NRCS District Conservationist.....

# **Tire Tank Pointers**

The following ideas are given to assist you in installing your water system. These are tips gained from past experiences and shared to help you make your system more flexible and easier to maintain in the future.

- •Tanks should be located on sites with solid ground, good drainage, and the ability to handle overflow. Sites should be accessible to tractors or other heavy equipment.
- •Install tanks in the open sun. This allows the sun on the tank in the winter, reduces leaves, etc. in the tank and prevents the dominant cow from standing in the shade over the water in the summer.
- •It is best to excavate site for heavy use areas (gravel pad around tanks) prior to installing pipelines and tank. This will lessen work involved in trenching for pipelines. The area should be excavated a minimum of 6-8" and should extend 5' in all directions that livestock have access to. Filter fabric should be installed, prior to setting tank. Cut hole in filter fabric where tank is to be set.
- •It is recommended to offset all attachments (tanks, hydrants, etc.) from the main pipeline with a 'T'. This prevents having to tear up the tank and pad to gain access to the line.
- •Install pipes in the ground before placing tires, leaving an extra length of inlet pipe that can be cut later to the desired height. Tires should have an incoming line and an outflow line. Once these are in position, thoroughly tamp or compact the trenches as they are filled in the area where the tank and pad are located to minimize settlement and the pos-

- sibility of leakage. The finished surface shall be level.
- •Pipelines should be buried below the frost line, a minimum of 15-18" for most of Arkansas. If tire is to be partially buried, pipeline may need to be deeper. The outflow pipe shall not be smaller than the inflow pipe. Minimum two inch outflow is suggested.
- •Avoid steel belted tires if possible, because they have small cables in the side walls that make it difficult to cut out the sides of the tires. The cables can also injure livestock. Bias ply tires are best.
- •Tires should be a minimum of 24" tall. Shallow tires may not have enough depth for the float to operate properly and are more prone to freezing. Cattle may also try to climb into shallow tires to cool off and break plumbing fixtures. Tires may be much taller and can be partially buried, which will also help keep them from freezing. Keep the top edge of the tires 20-24" out of the ground for cattle and horses.
- •Large combine tires are very durable and are thinner, and therefore easier to cut than thicker skidder/excavation tires. Some have found that when cutting thick tires it is easier to cut only half way through on the first pass and make a second pass to complete the cut.
- •Clean tires thoroughly before using them as water tanks for livestock because they may have been filled with chemicals such as ethylene glycol or calcium chloride.
- •Float valves should be full flow to allow fast re-fill of tanks. Check psi rating on floats. Some floats have a range starting at O

- psi. These work best on springs, or other gravity systems where there is little change in elevation between source of water and tank. Many floats are rated 5-150 psi and are good for pressurized systems.
- •The drain pipe and float can be protected from livestock by placing tank in fence lines, or protecting by placing a board over the top of the fixtures. The board can be bolted or screwed to the tire.
- •Water in tire tanks may freeze, but it does not harm the tank. Breaking water in tanks is much easier and safer than breaking water on a pond. They normally do not freeze to the inside of the tank, and therefore cattle can push on them and tilt them to get water.
- •Do not drain tanks when not in use. Heat and cold may cause tire to shrink and swell and could cause leakage. If this occurs, marine caulking can be place between bead and concrete to seal it.
- •There are other ways to install tire tanks and many websites available that have installation instructions and videos. If receiving cost share assistance, contact your NRCS office for requirements.
- •Tires put waste products to good use and save producers the costs of purchasing tanks. Tires are frequently available free of charge, although some charge a small handling fee. Tires can usually be located from big tire supplier, timber/logging industry, rock quarries, large equipment dealers, etc.

For more information contact the District at 741-8600, Ext 3.

—article by LeVonna Uekman

# **Musk Thistles**

There is one thing that everyone will agree on this year is that thistles are a major problem! Also referred to as the nodding thistle, these noxious weeds grow from two to more than six feet in height. Musk thistles are spread by seed with average production of 3,500 seeds per plant. Some large plants are capable of producing up to 10,000 seeds! Wind can carry these seeds for several miles; however, most seeds land within 100 yards of the mother plant. Contaminated hay or other farm equipment can be responsible for the spread of these weeds also. Understanding the life cycle of this weed is the key to controlling infestations. In this article, we will briefly discuss methods of control. For more detailed information, please contact our county extension agent, Mike McClintock at (870) 741-6168.

### **Plant Characteristics:**

Generally the musk thistle is referred to as a biennial, but it has been observed as an annual, biennial or winter annual. Seeds usually sprout any time during sufficient moisture but most commonly in the fall or spring. Thistle seed will usually germinate within one year; however, some seed may remain dormant for five to seven years in viable soil conditions. The plant is in the rosette stage in the winter, and seed stalks form in the spring. In early-

Photo: Musk Thistle Rosette mid May the plant will begin to flower. However, we have observed some thistles flowering in August in our area. The plant will die after the seeds have matured.

Musk thistles can be found just about anywhere: fence borders, roadsides, yards, pastures, and hay meadows. It has been estimated that pasture yields are reduced by an average of 23% with a moderate infestation!

One must be consistent with scouting for thistles every fall and spring.

### **Cultural Control Methods:**

One reason that musk thistles seem to be such a problem is due to the drought we suffered in previous years. Thistle seedlings became established in the bare spots left by the shrinking / dying forages in our fields. This scenario is similar to seeing an over grazed pasture. Maintaining good forage practices of preventing over grazing and maintaining proper soil fertility will reduce thistle potential. Also cutting hay before seed production of thistles will reduce on / off farm movement of thistle seed.

### **Chemical Control:**

During the fall or early spring herbicides should be applied to



the rosette stage of the thistle. If you make an application after the plant flowers, it is too late for adequate control. It is possible for plants to produce viable seed after being treated and flowering has began. Contact our extension agent for rates and herbicide information.

### **Biological Control:**

Two natural enemies of the musk thistle can be used to slow the progression of these plants. These are the flower head weevil and the rosette weevil. These weevils were established in Arkansas through natural dispersal and controlled releases of weevils collected from populations in Missouri. However, five to seven years may be required before weevil populations are high enough to control significant infestations.

Another biological method of controlling thistles is relatively new. It involves training your livestock to eat thistles. Kathy Voth of Livestock for Landscapes has successfully been training her livestock to eat these weeds. Visit her website:

### livestockforlandscapes.com

You can view videos and read success stories.

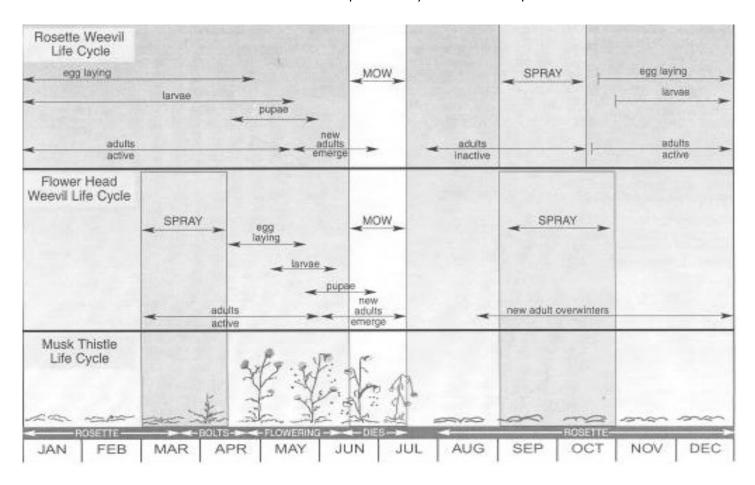
Getting your livestock trained is not achieved overnight. Voth claims that it can be done in 10 hours in 10 days. One would need to diligently follow the steps outlined in the videos.

Article Continues on Page 4

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# Lifecycle of the Musk Thistle

Integrated control schedule matching chemical and mechanical control with the life cycles of musk thistle and musk thistle weevils. Chart and information provided by the U of A Cooperative Extension Service.



# **Nut Sales**

We will be selling nuts once again this year! Order forms will be mailed out in the next few weeks. Nuts will be in for your holiday baking!

Varieties include pecan pieces / halves; peanuts; chocolate covered nuts; almonds; walnuts; and various holiday gift giving tins.

Order forms will also be available on our website www.boonecd.com.



# **Equipment for Rent**

# No Till Drills:

\$100.00 deposit-\$10.00/ac (\$100.00 a day minimum)

Native Grasses No Till Drill: \$100.00 deposit-\$10.00/ac (\$100.00 a day minimum)

# **Smooth Roller:**

\$50.00 deposit-\$25.00/day **Aerator:** \$50.00 deposit-\$35.00/day

# Litter/Lime Spread-

**er:** \$150.00 deposit-\$100.00/day (\$50.00 clean-up)

# **Food Plot Machine:**

\$100.00 deposit-\$30.00 / day

# Gas-Powered Rhino Post/T-Post Driver

\$50.00 deposit-\$50.00/day or \$75.00 a weekend

Contact the District Office at (870) 741-8600 x. 3 if your are interested in renting our equipment.



# **SAVE A TREE**

Do you have an email address? Would you like to receive the Boone County Conservation District Newsletter electronically? Please help us by signing up to receive our newsletter via email to help cut costs for printing, postage, and most of all conserving our natural resources—TREES.

Call (870) 741-8600 x. 3

Or email me at lisa.widner@ar.nacdnet.net.

\*\*We will not share, sell or give your email address to any other organization.

# **Products For Sale**

Boone Cty Plat Books: \$40.00

Topo Maps of Boone Cty: \$10.00 each (sold by quads)

Filter Fabric: \$3.00/ linear foot

Newsletter Ad: \$50.00 a year (mailed out quarterly)

Tree Protectors: 18"-\$1.50 each 36"-\$2.25 each

Come see us at our booth at the Northwest Arkansas District Fair, September 17-22!!!

Remember Wednesday, September 19, is Senior Citizen's Day!

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# **Boone County Conservation District**

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# Brad Matlock Vice President, NMLS# 695924

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