



### Upcoming events

“Before you sell your timber” meeting, March 26, 2009  
Booth at SIUC Ag Day, April 17, 2009  
“Honeybee’s 102”-June

## *Grazing School for Livestock Producers*



The District co-sponsored the Grazing School for Livestock Producers held at SIU Carbondale. Those attending had operating systems from several acres in size, to very large dairy operations, and their livestock varied from cattle, sheep, to goats. The tour included both classroom activities and site visits.



## *Conservation Tours*

The District hosted a warm season grass and wildlife food plot tour. Those attending traveled approximately 30 acres by tractor and wagon to seven different stops along the route. Guest speakers spoke on equipment needed to establish and maintain wildlife food and grass plots; the different types of



grasses; which grass or food plot is better suited for what type of wildlife; noxious and invasive species and their control.

After lunch, Shawn Hirst, Fish Biologist, conducted a pond shocking to show the overall health of a pond, fish id and pond weed control.



## *Erosion Control Practices*

Through the Department of Ag’s Conservation Practice Program, the District cost shared on fifteen projects. Completed projects included; 60.5 acres of pasture/hayland conversions, grassed waterways, terraces, dry dams, and grade stabilizations. Completed projects will save over 535 tons of soil from being eroded each year.

To protect water quality, two abandoned wells were sealed and one streambank stabilization project was completed. The project protected 1310 ft. of streambank and will save approximately 223 tons of soil, per year, from being eroded.

Several more erosion control projects are in the process of being completed and two more abandoned wells are being filled. Two Streambank projects have been sent to state for consideration.



*We are currently working with local sustainable land owners to expand our program outreach to smaller land owners.*