

Lincoln University of Missouri

The Renewable Resources Extension Act (RREA) At Lincoln University of Missouri

Less than 1/10th of 1 percent of tallgrass prairie remains in Missouri. This loss of habitats is correlated with declines in wildlife populations. Most Central Missouri pastures are covered with non-native fescue, a cool season grass with limited value for livestock and wildlife. Lincoln University (LU) will honor its status as a land grant University striving for sustainable land management by restoring and preserving 15 acres of native warm season grasses. The restored pasture will provide improved habitat for wildlife and the opportunity to educate local farmers about the value of native grasses for livestock and for wildlife.

In 2006, the first year of our grassland restoration program, RREA funds were used to initiate the restoration of native warm season grasses and forbs on a 15 acre plot. Staff and students applied herbicides, used prescribed fire, and seeded more than 30 species of native plants. In 2007, after establishment of native plants on the restored plot, we will initiate a series of grassland restoration workshops aimed at farmers interested in increasing cattle production and improving habitats for wildlife. To promote the importance of native grasslands to young people, we are in the process of contacting science teachers and science education coordinators and discussing potential activities such as field trips and science fairs. Our program will also create and maintain a web site about native grasslands restoration.



Landowners and students learn about the effects of prescribed fire during restoration of native warm season grasses.

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