

Kerr County Soil & Water Conservation District

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<https://www.facebook.com/kerrcoswcd>



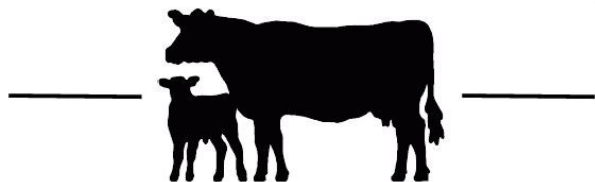
Meet Sid! I've hidden him inside this
Newsletter. The first person to find him and
post it on the Kerr County SWCD's
Facebook page gets a prize!

~Missie Dreiss, Kerr County SWCD District Technician

Save The Date!



COW POKES & LAND FOLKS



TEXAS A&M
AGRI LIFE
EXTENSION

Conference

Friday, May 5, 2023 8:00am - 4:00pm

Hill Country Youth Event Center ~ 3785 Hwy. 27 Kerrville, TX 78028

\$30.00 Early Bird Special ~ \$45.00 At The Gate

5 CEU's (Pesticide Lic.)

Please make checks payable to Kerr County SWCD and Mail to: 2104 Memorial Blvd. Ste. 103, Kerrville, TX 78028

KERR CO. SWCD NEWS

Kerr County Soil & Water Conservation District April 2023 Volume 13, Issue 2



Invest in our Planet on Earth Day

On Earth Day, we remember how closely we are connected to the earth, as well as our responsibility to protect it. This year, Earth Day is on Saturday, April 22, 2023. The 2023 theme is **"Invest in Our Planet."** Participating in this global event raises awareness of the importance of protecting our planet and its natural resources. In addition, it encourages people to engage in conserving the environment.

The History of Earth Day Citizens today recognize and understand the need to protect and sustain our environment. However, that wasn't always the case. In the 1960s, there were limited environmental laws protecting our air and waters and the Environmental Protection Agency had not yet been established. Because of the lack of laws protecting the environment, Industries were polluting the land, water and air without legal repercussions. Thankfully, there were a few people who were working on promoting environmental protection. One such man was Gaylord Nelson, the former Governor of Wisconsin, and the acknowledged "father" of Earth Day. After serving two terms as the Governor of Wisconsin, Nelson was elected to the U.S. Senate in 1962, and for 18 years he worked to bring environmental issues to the national stage. He had an idea that has now grown into a worldwide celebration for the planet.

The Idea Nelson was intrigued by how successful the anti-war "teach-ins" were on mobilizing college students to protest the Vietnam War in the 60s. He wanted to harness the energy from the student movement to raise the public's awareness about environmental issues. Nelson envisioned, a "national teach-in on the environment" that could put these issues in the national spotlight. In September 1969, Nelson called for Americans to come together that spring for a day dedicated to environmental education. His idea was met with great enthusiasm, so much so that Nelson had to

establish a separate organization called Environmental Teach-In, Inc. to help people prepare for the nationwide event. Nelson also established a steering committee of scientists, academics, environmentalists, and students. Because there were unique ecological problems facing different parts of the country, Nelson thought that each community should celebrate Earth Day in its own way. The national office served to promote the grass-roots activities taking place across the country.

The Day On April 22, 1970, Americans marched and demonstrated in the streets for a healthy, sustainable environment in massive rallies across America. It was estimated 20 million people participated in that first Earth Day. Even more impressive, the organizing for the event was done without emails, cell phones, the internet, or even fax machines, making the success of the first Earth Day even more incredible.

Invest in our Planet on Earth Day Participating in this global event raises awareness of the importance of protecting our planet and its natural resources. In addition, it encourages people to engage in conserving the environment. Rallies, concerts, and tree-planting activities are among the many activities and events that take place on Earth Day. The first Earth Day gave environmental issues national and political attention. It influenced the creation of the Environmental Protection Agency and numerous laws that protect our environment including: • the Clean Air Act • the Water Quality Improvement Act • the Water Pollution and Control Act Amendments • the Resource Recovery Act • the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act • the Toxic Substances Control Act • the Federal Environmental Pesticide Control Act • the Endangered Species Act • the Safe Drinking Water Act • the Federal Land Policy and Management Act • the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act In 1990, Earth Day went global, mobilizing more than 200 million people in 141 countries. This put environmental issues on the world stage. Ten years later, Earth Day 2000 focused on climate change and clean energy. Approximately 5,000 environmental groups and 184 countries participated, reaching hundreds of millions of people. Gaylord Nelson died in July 2005, but his legacy still lives on. The first Earth Day started a movement of people whose common goal is keeping our planet healthy. Today, it is estimated that Earth Day is celebrated by more than one billion people worldwide.



District Directors:

Zone 1

Barbara Oates

Zone 2

Jack Thorn, Vice-Chairman

Zone 3

Paula Russ, Secretary

Zone 4

David Symm

Zone 5

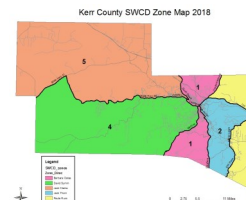
Jack Clarke, III, Chairman

District Clerk

Denise Griffin

District Technician

Missie Dreiss



Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

Resource Team Leader

Cole Jacoby

Programs Assistant (Farm Bill)

Katy Meador

Soil Conservationists

Nathan Orsack

Preston Stull

Rangeland Specialist

Christian Hopkins

OFFICE HOURS:

NRCS 8:00-4:30 Mon-Fri

SWCD 9:00-3:00 Tues-Thurs

(830) 896-4911x3

Spring Planting Season Is Here!

Kerr SWCD can take care of your seed needs! From custom grass mixes, wildlife/deer/dove mixes, tank dam mixes or specific species seed, we can order exactly what your needs call for! Call the office to discuss what you are looking for and get your seed in time for the Spring planting season! (830) 896-4911x3

Tips To Planting Seed

- *Always plant on fresh disturbed soil
- *Establish a firm seedbed
- *Don't plant too deep
- *Develop a root system

One of the most common mistakes when planting is not planting the seed into freshly disturbed soil. There have been several field plantings that farmers would begin planting and be rained out before finishing. Some would go back into the field and continue planting without disturbing the un-sown part of the field. The part of the field that was not disturbed after the rain would never have the stand that the freshly disturbed seedbed would have. The only exception to this is when the seed is planted with a no-till grass drill. The second problem that occurs when planting small seed is having a firm seedbed. When most fields are plowed, air pockets are placed in the soil by the plow. During limited rainfall times, these pockets can allow the seed to germinate and then die when the roots grow into air pockets. With adequate moisture, the "raindrop splash" effect will firm the seedbed where there aren't any air pockets. Through years of planting it has been found that a seedbed can never be too firm. In fact, the firmer the seedbed, the better the stand. Some people will firm the seedbed by rolling it before planting the seed. Others will plant the seed then roll the seedbed. Both ways work in establishing a crop. We feel that rolling the seedbed before planting is more important than after and rolling before and after is best. The third problem in planting is the depth in which the seed is planted. The old timers had a saying that seven times the diameter of the seed is the maximum depth that any seed should be planted. The state of Oklahoma did a study, and found out that up to fifty percent of the wheat seed planted in Oklahoma never came up because it was planted too deep. Considering the size of wheat in comparison to grass and flower seed makes depth of planting critical to success. If a grass seeder with disk openers is used, then make sure that each disk has a depth band on it to insure proper depth placement. If the seed is broadcasted, firming the seedbed by rolling it will insure that the seed is not placed too deep. The fourth problem in planting seed is the amount of time that the stand needs to establish itself. The Government recommends one full growing season before grazing. This is a wise management practice. Perennials, unlike annuals, need to establish a root system before being grazed. Few stands, if any, have ever died during the winter of the first year if they were allowed to develop their root system. Several stands have been wiped out by grazing or haying the first season due to lack of root development.

Kerr County Blend \$45
per bag (5lbs. bag covers

1acre)

Little Bluestem

Sideoates Grama

Switchgrass

Green Sprangle top

Plains Bristlegrass

Sweet Clover– Yellow Blossom

Sweet Clover—Silver River

Burr Medic Clover

Native Sunflower

Foxtail Millet

I try to keep this mix in my office at all times!



Bermudagrass \$55
per 5lbs bag (Seeding
rate is 2lbs per 1000)

This is great for your yard !

**Ask me about Turner Turf
(Timeless)**

Soil Stewardship Week

Kerrville –Kerr County SWCD has partnered with the Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board (TSSWCB) and the Association of Texas Soil & Water Conservation Districts to highlight Soil and Water Stewardship Week and the importance of voluntary land stewardship in Texas. The statewide campaign is April 30 through May 7, 2023, and the focus this year is “One Water.”

Watersheds come in all shapes and sizes, covering every inch of the Earth. A watershed is an area of and that channels rainfall and snowmelt to creeks, streams, and rivers, eventually leading to outflow points such as reservoirs, bays, and oceans. Those bodies of water are all connected, so every drop that falls on Earth becomes a part of *One Water*.

At 268,597 square miles, Texas is the second largest state in the nation. Within Texas’ massive acreage, there are approximately 191,228 miles of streams and rivers, more than 8 million acres of inland and coastal wetlands, and more than 3 million acres of reservoirs and lakes. Every inch of land that makes up our great state is part of a watershed, which means we all live in a watershed. We are all a part of *One Water*.

Of all the water used in Texas, roughly 40 percent is drawn from surface water sources and 60 percent from groundwater sources. We share the water in our watershed with our neighbors, livestock, wildlife, forests, and cropland, as it is all *One Water*.

By 2070, the population of Texas is expected to nearly double, with the demand for water increasing by 17 percent. The supply of water from existing sources in Texas will be 11 percent smaller than it is today. If we do nothing, approximately four out of five Texans will face a water shortage in their cities and residences. There is no natural resource with greater significance for the future of Texans than *One Water*.

Since 1939, the TSSWCB and Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCD) across Texas have been working to encourage the wise and productive use of natural resources. It is our goal to ensure the availability of those resources for future generations, so that the needs of all Texans can be met in a manner that promotes a clean, healthy environment and strong economic growth.

Your local SWCD can work with you to develop a conservation plan for your farm or ranch to improve water quality and quantity while providing resources on responsible natural resource management. These voluntary plans can be tailored to meet the conservation needs and goals of each individual landowner.

TSSWCB, SWCDs and our conservation partners are committed to working with farmers, ranchers, and forest landowners to conserve and protect the natural resources of Texas. As the population of the state continues to grow, maintaining the productivity of our soil and water resources becomes increasingly vital in meeting the food, fiber, and water needs for all Texans. We must do our part to protect *One Water*.

This campaign aims to bring more awareness and support to voluntary land stewardship because the way we manage our resources on private lands directly impacts our natural resources. Kerr County SWCD is proud to collaborate with conservation partners across Texas to promote the importance of natural resource conservation.

For more information on “*One Water*”, please visit www.tsswcb.texas.gov.

