

Kerr County Soil & Water
Conservation District

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www.kerrcountyswcd.com



<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



Kerr County SWCD Scholarship Program

Honoring Mr. Charles Flach

Deadline for applications

Monday, April 1, 2024

Do you have a graduating senior interested in pursuing a career in agriculture?
The Kerr County SWCD offers a **\$1,000 Scholarship** for students that reside in or
attend/attended school in Kerr County.

Download the application from our website today!

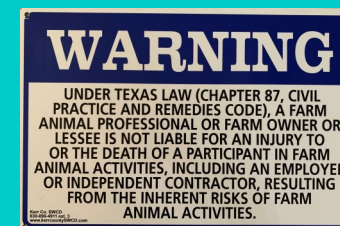
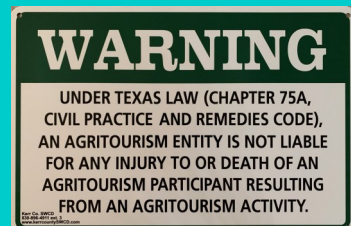
www.kerrcountyswcd.com

KERR CO. SWCD NEWS

Kerr County Soil & Water Conservation District October 2023 Volume 13, Issue 4



WARNING SIGNS \$25



**IF YOU ARE A TEXAS LANDOWNER, YOU SHOULD POST THESE WARNING
SIGNS AT EVERY ENTRANCE TO YOUR PORPERTY**

Available at the Kerr County SWCD located in the USDA / NRCS field office

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!



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

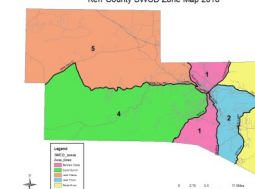
District Clerk

Denise Griffin

District Technician

Missie Dreiss

Kerr County SWCD Zone Map 2018



Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

Resource Team Leader

Cole Jacoby

District Conservationist

Nathan Orsack

Programs Assistant (Farm Bill)

Katy Meador

Rangeland Specialist

Christian Hopkins

OFFICE HOURS:

NRCS 8:00-4:30 Mon-Fri

SWCD 9:00-3:00 Tues-Thurs

(830) 896-4911x3



NATIVE TREE & PLANT SALE

Orders due by: Nov. 1st

<https://kerrcountyswcd.com/events>

American Beauty Berry	Button Bush
Esperanza	Texas Sage
Anacacho Orchid Tree	Desert Willow
Goldenball Leadtree	Mexican Plum
Texas Redbud	Mexican Buckeye
Flame Leaf Sumac	Cedar Elm
Montezuma Cypress	Burr Oak
Chinquapin Oak	Live Oak
Native Pecan	

FISH RESTOCKING SALE

Orders due by: Oct. 23rd

<https://kerrcountyswcd.com/events>

Bass	Catfish
Copper Nose Bluegill	Sun Perch
Red Ear Perch	Crappie
Fathead Minnow	
Golden Shiner Minnow	

CONSIDER SOCIAL HABITS OF CATTLE TO SOLVE A PROBLEM

~Catherine Keblinger

Eighty-six years of ranching on the Divide in West Kerr County gives a person more experience than the rancher wants with trying to handle livestock during a severe drought. Being 86 years old makes you figure out the solutions from the front porch while you watch cattle eat molasses from tubs located just outside your front yard. Being an old widow means you're deciding what you're going to ask your three younger generations of wonderfully, cheerful, generous, and kind nieces and nephews to carry out for you. They also live on parts of the original ranch our many great grandfathers homesteaded. And like my husband John and I did when we were young enough, work outside the ranch to make money enough to stay here.

In the summer of 2022, they worked very hard to sort through the cattle and put them in the patch next to the front yard so I can look them over. Yes, they had picked out the right ones. Those were the older cows and the first to sell to bring the numbers down. In April of this year, we did another drastic scale of the long yearling replacement heifers. That left me with the absolute minimum necessary to keep our blood lines going. May brought frequent little drizzle that kept the shallow-rooted grass looking green. My plan was to keep out molasses during the hot summer months hoping that so few cattle on so many acres could keep finding some brown grass with enough nutrition to keep them healthy. Three months of temperatures hot enough to cook an egg added to the drama, but the cattle kept looking strong enough to make it, only not filled out like they should've been.

NOW HERE COMES THE REASON I THOUGHT THIS WAS WORTH SHARING WITH YOU!

I watched all through the day and kept lists and

realized that the cattle were all located on the east side of pastures, never coming from, nor heading out towards the west side of my land. Hundreds of acres on each side, all the gates and pins open so they could go where they wanted to. Troughs on the east side, a good dirt tank on the west side. I would always ride around and check on the water for livestock before I got so disabled I could not even get into the truck. After a month or so I asked the family to check the water for me to see if the dirt tanks still had a little trickle of water running into it and enough water for livestock and deer to drink. They did so faithfully. Not until I finally crawled into the truck with my niece and looked at the dirt tank myself did I discovered that a dead tree located in the dirt dam had fallen and broken the barrier holding the water in the tank to such an extent it was just a puddle. Yes, enough water for the livestock to drink from, but not the wide, beautiful lake of water shaded all around by live oak trees.

It is located in an out-of-the-way place where the kinfolks never went by in their driving before, so they did not realize what had happened and saw that it had enough water according to my description. They assumed the dam had already been gone while I was looking at it earlier. I panicked and asked them to build the dam back up. Immediately my nephew, Jimmy got out his wonderful machine and built the dam back better than it had ever been. Pictures of it now show a beautiful, cool, resting place for all the livestock. A little lake, full of water, surrounded by live oak trees, and all the cattle have been located there during the middle part of the day ever since it filled up.

NOW, the cattle have picked up weight and slicked off because they are rummaging around on the other side of the ranch and finding bits and pieces of grass in an area where nothing has been grazing this year. It is sometimes necessary to take into consideration the social habits of the cattle to solve a problem.