



**Kerr County Soil & Water
Conservation District**



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**The Kerr Co. SWCD offers
camp scholarships to
conservation-oriented camps
such as the Texas Youth Range
Workshop or Texas Brigades
Camps for youth!**

**Teacher scholarships are also
available for the "Studies in
Natural Resources" Workshop!**

**Please contact us for more
information!**

Sponsor This Newsletter!

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this conservation
publication and
support your county's
SWCD!*

*Contact Deanna at :
deanna.pfeffer@tx.nacdnet.net
or 830-896-4911 x 3
for more
information!*

Native Tree Sale Coming!

Watch for more news on a Native Tree Sale that the Kerr Co. SWCD will be holding this fall! Fall/winter is the best time to plant trees and we will be offering a variety of native trees for sale to the public. Why try to water a transplanted tree through the hot, dry summer during water restrictions to keep it alive? When planted in the fall or winter months, trees have ample time to establish their root system while the tree is dormant, and need much less water in the months following transplanting. The drought was hard on our area in 2011, and many trees did not make it. So replace those trees

this winter with native, drought-resistant trees from our tree sale! Watch this newsletter or our website for details as they emerge!

www.kerrcountyswcd.com



Photos from :
nativesoftexas.com

KERR CO. SWCD NEWS

Kerr County Soil & Water Conservation District April 2012 Volume 3, Issue 2

**Kerr County SWCD's Annual Range &
Wildlife Field Day**

KERR COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT



Conservation District

**RANGE & WILDLIFE FIELD DAY
APRIL 27, 2012**

Topics to Include:

- Managing Range Conditions After A Drought
- Chemical Control of Brush Species
- Range Insurance Options & FSA Programs
- Laws & Regulations for Pesticide License Holders

Field Tour of the Kerr WMA : Mechanical Control of Brush, Prescribed Burning, & Grazing Management

Demonstrations by our Sponsors (see below)

Registration starts at 9:30 a.m. and Programs will end around 5:00 p.m.

Cost: \$15/person or \$25/couple in advance, or \$20/person at the door

RSVP as follows by April 13th:

deanna@kerrcountyswcd.com

830-896-4911 x 3

**3
CEU's
AVAILABLE**

**Lunch
Provided!**

Watch Our Website for More Details: www.kerrcountyswcd.com

OUR SPONSORS INCLUDE:



In this issue:

Range & Wildlife Field Day	1
Pecan Grafting Field Day	2
Youth Range Workshop	2
Hill Country Land Use Expo	2
NRCS Programs	2
UGRA's River Clean Up	3
Water Well Screening	3
Conservation Tip	3
Native Tree Sale	4

Dates of Interest:

- April 17 : Pecan Grafting Field Day
- April 27 : SWCD's Range & Wildlife Field Day
- May 5 : Hill Country Land Use Expo
- May 7 : Private Pesticide Applicator Training, Contact Kerr Co Extension Office, 257-6568 for more details
- May 31 : Sheep & Goat Risk Mgmt Workshop, Contact William Thompson, 325-653-4576 or <http://sanangelo.tamu.edu/events/>
- June 9 : Kerr Co SWCD Fish Sale Delivery
- July 9-10 : Water Well Screening & Seminar

Pecan Grafting Field Day - April 17

A Pecan Grafting and Production Workshop is scheduled for April 17th at 9:00 a.m. at Bill Hathaway's Orchard. This will be an informative and educational opportunity for those pecan producers interested in learning the grafting of pecans. Early season insect and fertilization management will also be discussed by Dr. Larry Stein, Extension Horticulturist from Uvalde.

The orchard is located on Texas Highway 173, approximately 4.5 miles from Kerrville-Schreiner State Park. Turn left on Center Point River Road and enter the 1st gate on the right; signs will be posted. Three hours of CEU's will be offered to Private, Commercial, and Non-Commercial Applicators. A \$10 registration fee will be charged for this educational program.

Youth Range Workshop—Texas Section of the Society for Range Management June 25 - 29 Junction, Texas

The YRW will continue taking applications for their camp until 40 applicants are selected. Send in your application as soon as possible!

www.rangelands.org/texas/youtheducation.htm

From their website:

"Youth, age 14 - 18, are eligible to participate in this week-long, hands-on workshop. Participants are exposed to actual land management practices and decisions through field trips to ranches and a wildlife management area. These field trips bring out facts on goals of land ownership and the response of vegetation to practices conducted for livestock, wildlife, recreation, and rangeland restoration. The camp is headquartered on the Texas Tech University's Junction campus."

Hill Country Land Use Expo - May 5

Through a collaborative partnership with the Texas Forest Service, Texas Parks and Wildlife, Texas AgriLife Extension, and Natural Resource Conservation Service, a Hill Country Land Use Expo will be held in Kerrville, Texas at the Cailloux Theater on May 5 from 8:30 - 4:00. This program is open to all landowners in Kerr and surrounding counties free of charge. The purpose of this expo is to provide new landowners an opportunity to learn valuable information regarding land use in the Hill Country as well as to learn the many resources that are available for landowners across the state. Registration for the program will be from 8:30 - 9:00 with programs starting

at 9:00. Agency booths will also be available for participants to meet agency representatives. 3 CEU's will also be available to those who need them.

More details can be found at:
www.texasconservation.org

Topics will include: Natural History of the Hill Country, Water Management, Natural Resource Management on Small Acreages, Oak Wilt & Drought Assessment, Wildlife Tax Valuation, Brush Control for Wildlife Management, and Landowner Liability.

USDA-NRCS Programs Available

Several programs are available for Kerr County residents to apply for and receive assistance in implementing management practices for agricultural land.

The Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) is designed to assist agricultural producers in enhancing their land with

certain management practices. Practices that address and improve water quantity and domestic animals are given high priority in Kerr County and include such practices as brush management, livestock water systems, fencing, and seeding. The Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program (WHIP) is designed for landowners

who focus more on wildlife management than agriculture and most of the practices involved are the same as EQIP's. The Grassland Reserve Program (GRP) is a program designed to improve grazing management and protect rangeland from development with either rental or easement options.

The NRCS office accepts applications for all of these programs year round and more information can be gained by contacting the Kerrville office at 830-896-4911 x 3 or visit the NRCS Texas homepage at: www.tx.nrcs.usda.gov.

NRCS is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

UGRA's 9th Annual River Clean Up

The Upper Guadalupe River Authority is hosting the 9th Annual River Clean Up at Louise Hays Park on Saturday, July 28th from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. Volunteers can pre-register now or just show up at 8 a.m. on July 28th. The first 200 volunteers will receive a free River Clean Up t-shirt. Refreshments will also be provided and prizes will be raffled off. For more information please contact UGRA at 830-896-5445 or visit www.ugra.org.

Water Well Screening & Seminar - July 9 - 10

Texas Agrilife Extension in partnership with Headwaters Groundwater Conservation District will be hosting a well screening for private landowners in Kerr County on July 9-10

with an educational meeting on July 10. Private well owners will be invited to bring in samples for screening to the Kerr County Extension Office at 3655 Highway 27,

Kerrville, Texas on July 9 before 5 p.m. The cost of the well screening is \$10 per sample. Wells will be screened for fecal coliform, nitrate, and salinity. Contact the Kerr County

Extension Office for more details at 830-257-6568.

Conservation Tip: Toxic Plants

Last year's drought has caused some livestock to eat anything it can find that's green, since they haven't seen green plants in over a year. Local vets have seen and heard of a lot of cases of bloat in animals that have either eaten too many green plants high in protein or gotten hold of a toxic plant this year. Toxic plants can wreak havoc on a herd of livestock if it is not noticed that there is a problem. In fact, some estimates say that toxic plants cause \$50 - 100 million in livestock losses each year in Texas.

If you are a livestock producer, it is very important that you be able to identify toxic plants, their clinic symptoms in animals, and know how to manage these plants. Most toxic plants only affect animals if eaten in relatively large quantities in a given amount of time. Other factors that can influence the toxicity of a plant can include the plant growth phase, plant part digested, livestock species concerned, season of the year, environmental conditions, and type of soil the plant is found in. These may seem like obvious

factors, but each plant is different as to when it may be toxic. A plant like mesquite is mainly toxic to cattle, goats, and horses while sheep seem to be resistant to it. With the plant castor-bean, only the seed is poisonous if broken or ground up. Kleingrass is more toxic when there is green growth after grazing or rain rather than old or dormant growth grass. Oak species can be toxic when they have buds, flowers, young stems and acorns but mature foliage is not toxic. Given the different possibilities, it is important to know your plants and what they can do to your animals.

Toxic plants can give an array of clinical symptoms when consumed, including behavioral changes, body condition changes, and bodily function changes. It can be hard to try to diagnose an animal without knowing exactly what it ate, especially since toxic plants are not the only condition that can impair an animal. If you are aware of toxic plants in your area, you can usually narrow it down. Proper range management is a key factor in controlling

losses due to toxic plants. Some of these plants can be controlled chemically or mechanically if in high concentrations. Other times, good grazing management can be just as effective. Rangelands in good condition provide a variety of forage options for animals and are much less likely to result in a poisoning than those in poor conditions.

If you know you have a high concentration of toxic plants, take action in the form of a management strategy to minimize livestock losses!

Here are a few examples of common plants in the Hill Country that can be toxic to livestock: Tx persimmon, Rainlily, Twinleaf Senna, Silverleaf Nightshade, Bermudagrass, Red Buckeye, Milkweeds, Tx Mountain Laurel, Bitter Sneezeweed, Buttercup, Dallisgrass, Kleingrass, Broom Snakeweed, Chinese Tallow Tree, Guajillo, Johnsongrass, Mesquite, Maple, Hairy Vetch, Live Oak, Shin Oak.

Information in this article on toxic plants was taken from *Toxic Plants of Texas*, Hart, Garland, Barr, Carpenter, Reagor. This great book can be found at: <http://agrillifebookstore.org>.