



Kerr County Soil & Water Conservation District



420 Water Street
Suite 101
Kerrville, Texas 78028
Tel: 830-896-4911 x 3
Fax: 830-896-3336
E-mail: kerrcountyswcd@tx.nacdn.net
www.kerrcountyswcd.com

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!

2012 Presidents' Award

On October 24, 2012, George Holekamp was posthumously awarded the Presidents' Award from the Texas State Soil and Water Conservation District for outstanding contributions, loyal dedication, and continuous support of the Soil and Water Conservation Districts of Texas.



Please visit our Website!

www.kerrcountyswcd.com

It includes: Important updates on upcoming events, review of past events, District information, links to other websites, and more!

Our newsletter (and past newsletters) can be found on our website in PDF form. You can also request to be added to our email list!

Find information on our fish sales, tree sales and annual workshops!

Our Annual Fish Sale is here! We're taking orders now until April 19 and delivery will be May 3, 2013. Please contact the office for an order form!

KERR CO. SWCD NEWS

Kerr County Soil & Water Conservation District April 2013 Volume 4, Issue 2

KERR COUNTY AGRILIFE EXTENSION OFFICE & KERR COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT PRESENT A

PRESCRIBED BURN WORKSHOP APRIL 25, 2013

Topics to Include:

Burn Pile Management

Burning Conditions

Prescribed Burning Following A Drought

Role of Livestock Management in Planning a Prescribed Burn

Plant Response From Prescribed Fire

2 CEU's and 2 CFT's will be available!

Registration starts at 5:00 p.m. and Dinner served at 5:30 p.m. Programs to end at 8:00 p.m.

Cost: \$15/person or \$20/person at the door

RSVP as follows by April 22nd:

deanna@kerrcountyswcd.com

830-896-4911 x 3

Location: Hill Country Youth Exhibit Center, 3655 Hwy 27, Kerrville, TX



Conservation District

OUR SPONSORS INCLUDE:



In this issue:

SWCD Field Day 1
Youth Range Workshop 2
Pecan Grafting Workshop 2
NRCS Programs 2
Conservation Tip 3
Backyard Poultry Workshop: 3
2012 Presidents' Award 4
Website Info and Fish Sale! 4

Dates of Interest:

- April 13 : Backyard Poultry Workshop
- April 16 : Pecan Grafting Workshop
- April 19 : Deadline for Fish Orders
- April 25 : Prescribed Burning Workshop
- May 3 : Fish Sale Delivery
- June 24 - 28 : Youth Range Workshop, Junction

**WE PROVIDE SCHOLARSHIPS TO THE FOLLOWING CAMPS!
PLEASE CONTACT US FOR DETAILS!**

Texas Youth Range Workshop

Texas Section of the Society for Range Management

Students 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 responses of vegetation to practices conducted for livestock, wildlife, recreation, and rangeland restoration. All examples will be real-life applications.

This camp is headquartered at the Texas Tech University - Junction Campus.

More information including dates and application can be found at their website:

<http://texas.rangelands.org/youtheducation.htm>

Pecan Grafting and Production Workshop : April 16, 2013

A Pecan Grafting and Production Workshop is scheduled for April 16th 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 Bill Hathaway orchard is located on Texas highway 173, approximately 4 1/2 miles from Kerrville-Schreiner State Park. Turn left on Center Point River road and enter the first 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. Please call the Kerr Co. Extension Office for more information: 830-257-6568.



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.

Conservation Tip: Importance of Soil Testing

Written By: Landon Pyle, NRCS

Spring is here, which means many folks will be busy tending to their lawns, gardens, and fields. Whether you are a hobbyist, a professional gardener, or even farmer, your first step before you place a plant in the garden, seed in the soil, or broadcast fertilizer on your lawn, should be to obtain a soil test. This quick and easy step is often times left out of the overall process, which can lead to poor results and even a loss of money. Obtaining a soil sample will give you valuable information that will take the guess work out of lawn care, gardening, and farming. This test will tell you exactly what nutrients are available in the soil and then will recommend what you will need to amend the soil with to allow plants, trees, shrubs, and crops to produce and grow to their potential. All plants need a certain pH balance as well as macronutrients and micronutrients to grow and survive. In this part of the world, the parent material in our soil is calcium carbonate, which means most of the time the soil will be basic or have a

high pH and will not require a lime application to raise the pH. Macronutrients can be separated into primary and secondary nutrients. Primary nutrients are nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium. These are the most frequently required nutrients in any fertilization program and they needed in the greatest quantity by plants. Secondary nutrients are calcium, magnesium, and sulphur. For most plantings, these are needed in lesser amounts. Micronutrients include boron, chlorine, copper, iron, manganese, molybdenum, and zinc. These plant nutrients are needed in very small quantities by the plant but are just as important as the rest because they play a role "behind the scene" as activators of many plant functions. So as you can see there are a lot of required nutrients that plants need and without an accurate soil test you will never really know what you need to apply to the soil and in what amounts. Soil test forms are readily available online at <http://soiltesting.tamu.edu/files/soilwebform.pdf>. You can also pick up a

form from your local County Extension Office or Natural Resources Conservation Service. Once you have a form, all you have to do is follow the simple steps on how to collect your sample and then you will mail it to the Texas A & M Soils Lab. Once it arrives at the lab, they will perform an analysis on your sample and mail back the results and recommendations for the specific plants that you are planting. With the ever increasing costs of inorganic and organic fertilizer, this cheap and easy step should always be taken to possibly save money and properly feed your plants, trees, or crops.

NRCS is an equal opportunity provider and employer.



Backyard Poultry Production Meeting : April 13, 2013

Are you interested in growing your own chickens and collecting your own eggs. Don't feel alone many people are showing interest in doing just that. On April 13, Texas AgriLife Extension and Double L Feed in Ingram will be sponsoring a Backyard Poultry Production Meeting from 9 a.m. - 12 noon. Dr. Morgan Farnell, Extension Poultry Specialist from Texas A&M University will discuss growing poultry in small flock production. Dr. Farnell will discuss all aspects including health, nutrition, housing and numerous other topics.

What's the first thing you do if you are interested in growing your own backyard poultry? Check your local, city, county laws as well as any ordinances you may have in your homeowners association, if you live in one, to insure you are able to house poultry on your property. Some areas may allow hens or pullets but may not allow roosters. That is fine, roosters are not necessary in a backyard poultry operation if you're interested in egg production and purchasing chicks. The next step is reading and researching to determine all that is required to begin your endeavor. That is where the Backyard Poultry Meeting on April 13 at Double L Feed will help. This program is open to the public and free of charge. For more information on this program please contact Double L Feed or Texas AgriLife Extension, Kerr County office at 830-257-6568.

