

**Kerr County Soil & Water  
Conservation District**



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From The

**Kerr County Soil & Water  
Conservation District**

**With a Minimum \$20 Donation**



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**2104 Memorial Boulevard #103, Kerrville  
(In the USDA Service Center, NRCS office)**

**830-896-4911 x 3 or 830-459-1701 (Deanna Pfeiffer)**

**KERR CO. SWCD NEWS**

Kerr County Soil & Water Conservation District January 2015 Volume 6, Issue 1

**KERR SWCD'S ANNUAL SPRING FIELD DAY**

**Date: MAY 1, 2015**

**Location: Kerr WMA with a Field Tour on the Stowers Ranch**

Our Spring Field Day is fast approaching! We have it scheduled for Friday, May 1, starting at 9 a.m. We will have some great speakers and topics lined up at the Kerr WMA, as well as a field tour on the neighboring Stowers Ranch, looking at many of the management practices they have implemented over the years. And don't forget about lunch! It stands to be an excellent educational opportunity to further your knowledge of range and wildlife management practices and to earn some CEU's if you need them.

More details will be emerging in the next month. Please call the office or check our website for more information!! RSVP's will be taken and can be made at : 830-896-4911 x 3 or [deannapfeffer@gmail.com](mailto:deannapfeffer@gmail.com).

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**Dates of Interest:**

- January 18-24: Hill Country District Junior Livestock Shows
- February 7-28: Tax Valuation Workshops
- April 14: Pecan Grafting Field Day
- April 23-24: Bennett Trust Landowner Seminar
- May 1: Kerr SWCD's Range Field Day

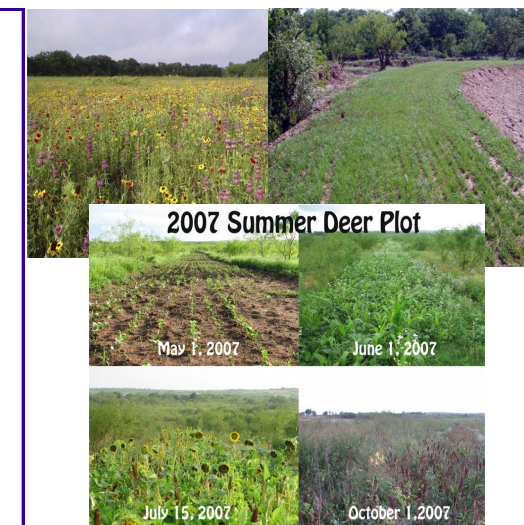
**Spring Fish Sale Coming!**

The Kerr SWCD offers a spring fish sale each year, providing quality fish for a great price to landowners to stock or restock their ponds! Special orders can be taken throughout the year as well depending on the situation. Be on the watch for more information, including a delivery date and order form on our website and in our next newsletter!

**Don't forget to buy seed !!**

**The Kerr SWCD can provide custom mixes, single species, or pre-mixed solutions for all situations!!**

**Call the office today for more details!!**



### **Wildlife Tax Valuation Workshop** Presented by Riverside Nature Center & TPWD

This is an in-depth workshop for landowners with 20 or more acres that will emphasize wildlife management strategies that improve native habitat and increase species diversity. Our presenters will help you gain land management knowledge, understand the history of this Texas tax valuation law, and fulfill requirements to qualify for a wildlife management tax valuation. If you have had agricultural tax valuation on your land at least five years, and you are interested in managing wildlife, this seminar is for you!

Session I: February 7, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. Overview and Property Inventory

Session II: February 21, 9 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. Management Practices & Habitat Assessment

Session III: February 28, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. WTV History & Update on the Law, Application Procedures, Putting It All Together

All classes will be located at the Riverside Nature Center (150 Francisco Lemos St). Class space is limited so RSVP is essential. Cost is \$90/person or \$110/couple. Pre-registration required by January 31, 2015. Please call 830-257-4837 to register or for general information. Email for information: [RNC.Kerrville@gmail.com](mailto:RNC.Kerrville@gmail.com). [www.riversidenaturecenter.org](http://www.riversidenaturecenter.org)

**The Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service would like to invite you to register for a Generation Next: Our Turn to Ranch School this Spring.** Each 2-day school will have expert presenters on these topics:

How to start an agricultural business, Understanding business taxes, Marketing your product and yourself  
Using technology to your benefit, How to set up grazing and wildlife lease agreements  
Multigenerational ranching, Understanding market fluctuations, Land management techniques  
Coping with invasive species, Alternative operations to add to the business



The Generation Next Schools are specifically targeting children or grandchildren of landowners, although the schools are open to all who are interested in attending. Staying connected to the land and finding your place in the family ranch can be difficult, but these schools are specifically designed to provide ideas and direction to make multigenerational ranching successful. Select from 3 Schools in 2015:

1. San Angelo, TX: March 5-6

2. Stephenville, TX: March 12-13

3. Corpus Christi, TX: April 9-10

The registration fee is \$100 per school (or \$75 if a currently enrolled college student) until 2 weeks prior to the course. This fee includes 2 full days of classes from expert instructors, a resource notebook and jump drive, 5 meals, and a Generation Next: Our Turn to Ranch School Completion Certificate at the end of the course. Registration will be limited to the first 50 participants, so sign up early!

For more information, please contact Dr. Megan Clayton at [Megan.Clayton@ag.tamu.edu](mailto:Megan.Clayton@ag.tamu.edu) or by phone 361-265-9203 or your local County Extension Office. To Register: <https://agriliferegister.tamu.edu/ESSM> OR call 979-845-2604.

### **USDA-NRCS & TSSWCB 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 NRCS office accepts applications for this program 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](http://www.tx.nrcs.usda.gov).

The Water Quality Management Program (WQMP) is a state-funded program made available through Senate Bill 503. It is a site-specific plan developed through and approved by the local soil and water

conservation district for agricultural or silvicultural lands. The main goal of these plans is to abate agricultural and/or silvicultural nonpoint pollutant contributions to impaired or threatened waters as prioritized. A WQMP covers the entire operating unit and includes required practices applicable to the planned land use. The first step in obtaining a WQMP is to contact the Kerr County SWCD. There is no charge for the development of a WQMP, but there may be costs for implementing required practices outlined in the

WQMP.

Financial assistance is available at this time in the form of a cost-share program for WQMPs in Kerr County. You may read more on this program at TSSWCB's website at: [www.tsswcb.texas.gov](http://www.tsswcb.texas.gov) (click on Programs, then select WQMP). You may also contact the Kerr County Soil and Water Conservation District's office at 830-896-4911 x3 and ask for Deanna (SWCD) or Laura (NRCS) for assistance or to start the application process.

NRCS is an equal opportunity provider & employer.

### **UGRA's Rain Barrel Program**

The Upper Guadalupe River Authority (UGRA) has a rebate program to promote water conservation and watershed stewardship through rainwater harvesting. The Rainwater Catchment System Rebate Program is available to anyone with a Kerr County address and will reimburse eligible applicants up to \$50 when they provide proof of purchase of rainwater catchment system equipment.

This incentive program is open to businesses or individuals who will initiate rainwater harvesting in Kerr County. Purchases of rainwater catchment system equipment made after March 24, 2011 are eligible for the rebate and payment by UGRA is subject to the availability of funds. For more information, contact UGRA at 830-896-5445 or visit their website at [www.ugra.org](http://www.ugra.org).



### **TEXAS BRIGADES CAMP - 2015 SEASON**

The Texas Brigades is a wildlife-focused leadership development program for high school youth (ages 13-17). There are five different camps! You will be introduced to habitat management, hone your communication skills, and develop a land ethic. The state's leading wildlife and fisheries biologists and land managers serve as instructor and mentors. Each camp is 4 1/2 days long. Camps are held on private ranches in different areas of the state. In addition to learning animal anatomy and behavior, botany, nutrition, habitat management, population dynamics, etc., you will learn valuable leadership skills. You will write news releases, practice public speaking, and find out how to handle radio and television interviews. If you are interested in biology, conservation, leadership or just appreciate the outdoors, you should consider applying to one of these camps!

Check their website for Camp Dates & Online Application!

[www.texasbrigades.org](http://www.texasbrigades.org)

**KERR COUNTY SWCD PROVIDES SCHOLARSHIPS TO CONSERVATION CAMPS SUCH AS TEXAS BRIGADES TO YOUTH LIVING IN KERR COUNTY! PLEASE CONTACT US TO GET MORE INFORMATION ON HOW TO RECEIVE SUPPORT!**

### **Bennett Trust Land Stewardship Landoowner Seminar**

This second annual seminar will again be held in Kerrville and is designed to 'bring the best and wisest, accomplished stewards, visionaries and legacy-leavers together as educators. It is scheduled for April 23-24, with location and details still pending. Plan on attending this event to get the latest information specific to the Edwards Plateau and the resource concerns we deal with daily in this area. Contact the Kerr County AgriLife Extension Office for details or to RSVP at 830-257-6568 or email at [rwalston@ag.tamu.edu](mailto:rwalston@ag.tamu.edu). For more information on the Bennett Trust, established through a posthumous endowment provided by Eskel and Ruth Bennett to AgriLife Extension, please visit <http://bennetttrust.tamu.edu/>.

### **New Landoowner Series Seminars**

The multi-county 2015 New Landoowner Series, presented by Texas A & M AgriLife Extension Service, will be held in 3 counties from March -June. A total of six sessions will be held in Gillespie, Kendall and Kerr counties. "These sessions are designed for the novice who just acquired property or is looking into purchasing land in the Hill Country. At these sessions, attendees can meet and speak with some of the top experts in their respective fields, as well as get hands-on experience in learning how to get the most out of their property," says Brad Roeder, Extension Agent in Gillespie county.

All programs begin with registration from 1-1:30 p.m. and presentations from 1:30-5:00 p.m. Specific session sites are being determined and will be provided to attendees before each session. Advance notice for each session is requested. For more information, please contact the **AgriLife Extension Office in Gillespie County at 830-997-3452 or in Kerr County at 830-257-6568.**