



Kerr County Soil & Water
Conservation District



2104 Memorial Boulevard
Suite 103
Kerrville, Texas 78028
Tel: 830-896-4911 x 3
Fax: 830-896-3336
E-mail: kerrcountyswcd@tx.nacdn.net
www.kerrcountyswcd.com

**2018 Calendars
Are Available at
the NRES Office!
Come get your free calendar!**

**Kerr County Soil and Water Conservation District
Conservation Poster Contest**



Contest Rules:

- Poster contest is open to all Kerr County residents age 12 and under that meet Texas University Interscholastic League eligibility requirements.
- Please include artist's name, age and school (or other contact info such as 4H Club, etc.)
- Poster entries shall be on standard poster board, cut to half size (22" x 14"). Artwork on poster entries should be produced with materials which do not readily smear, crack, or chip. If necessary, a fixative or lamination may be used. The poster entry artwork should be flat. The theme "Healthy Soils are Full of Life" must be included.

All posters submitted for the 2018 contest will feature the MACD/NACD Auxiliary Conservation Poster contest theme for 2017. The 2017 theme is "Healthy Soils are Full of Life." Please visit the stewardship week website at <http://www.nacdn.net/general-resources/stewardship-and-education-materials/2017-healthy-soils/> for information on the 2017 theme. More detailed information on the 2017 theme is posted on the website. You may also contact your local Kerr County Soil and Water Conservation District for additional information.

All poster entries must be received by the Kerr County Soil and Water Conservation District by **January 31, 2018**. Posters will be judged by the Kerr County SWCD board members and local winners will be submitted for an area competition as well. State winners will be selected from the area winners. The local winners must allow the Kerr County SWCD to photograph them with their entry.

1st Place : \$50 cash 2nd Place : \$25 cash

Return Entries to:

Kerr County Soil and Water Conservation District
2104 Memorial Boulevard, Suite #103
Kerrville, Texas 78028

-or- Call Deanna Pfeffer to pick up your school's entries!
(830-459-1701 or deanna@kerrcountyswcd.com)

Thank you for your participation and your investment in Kerr County's youth and conservation! The Kerr County Soil and Water Conservation District can be reached at the following:

2104 Memorial Blvd #103, Kerrville, Texas 78028 | 830-896-4911 x 3 | www.kerrcountyswcd.com

KERR CO. SWCD NEWS

Kerr County Soil & Water Conservation District January 2018 Volume 9, Issue 1

Kerr Wildlife Management Area Awarded 2017 Friend of Conservation Award

The Kerr County Soil and Water Conservation District is proud to recognize the Kerr Wildlife Management Area (TPW) as their Friend of Conservation Award for 2017!

The Kerr WMA and the Kerr Co SWCD has had a working relationship since its inception in 1950. SWCD photos of research plots and demonstration areas show us that collaboration has long been in place between the Kerr WMA, Kerr Co SWCD and USDA-NRCS offices. Field tours dating back to 1963 have been cataloged that the SWCD hosted or co-hosted at the Kerr WMA. In more recent years, the Kerr SWCD still holds field days and tours at the Kerr WMA and utilizes their new facilities for groups. Along with SWCD field days, the SWCD has helped other agencies hold educational seminars at the Kerr and worked with both agencies to provide the public with an informative event.

TPWD staff at the Kerr WMA are always helpful and willing to lend a hand and share resources. NRCS and SWCD employees have visited the Kerr WMA for trainings, some of which are specialized at the Kerr WMA. Some of the Kerr WMA's endangered species can be viewed and their staff has helped educate other agency employees on them and their habitat.

The Kerr WMA was also awarded the Friend of Conservation Award for TSSWCB's Area II region in May.

The nomination was then submitted on up to the state wide TSSWCB award competition and we are proud to say that the Kerr WMA was awarded the TSSWCB's Friend of Conservation Award for the state of Texas in 2017!



Pictured L-R at TSSWCB's State Award Ceremony: Rex Isom, TSSWCB; Fernando Gutierrez, TPWD; Donnie Frels, TPWD; Marty Graham, TSSWCB; Mark Mitchell, TPWD; Ryan Reitz, TPWD; Volney Hough, ATSWCD.



Pictured L-R at Region II Awards: Ryan Reitz, TPWD; Volney Hough, ATSWCD; Evan McCoy, TPWD; Fernando Gutierrez, TPWD

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Dates of Interest:

- **Jan. 6 : Wildlife Tax Valuation Workshop**
- **Jan. 13 : Wildlife Tax Valuation Workshop**
- **Jan. 14-20 : HCDJLS Show & Sale**
- **Jan. 18 : Kerr Co. Livestock Show**
- **Jan. 20 : Wildlife Tax Valuation Workshop**
- **Jan. 26 : HCCW Women's Ranch Seminar**
- **Jan. 31 : Poster Contest Deadline**

Watch this newsletter or our website for more info on our

Spring Field Day

Coming Spring 2018 to educate landowners on innovative and relevant topics to agriculture in Kerr county!

830-896-4911 x 3 www.kerrcountyswcd.com

UGRA Expands Cost Share Program

The Upper Guadalupe River Authority (UGRA) promotes water enhancement through brush management by funding a supplemental cost share program. UGRA's Water Enhancement Cost Share Program is implemented in conjunction with the Natural Resources Conservation Service's Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) and the Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board's Water Supply Enhancement Program (WSEP).

The program is now available for brush control (cedar removal) projects located in the Guadalupe River watershed throughout Kerr County. Previously the program was available only to landowners in western Kerr County. Landowners who have a contract in the Guadalupe River watershed may be eligible to receive an additional 25% reimbursement from UGRA. **For more information, contact UGRA at (830)896-5445 or visit ugra.org.**

We're on Facebook!!

Look for the Kerr County Soil and Water Conservation District on Facebook!

Keep up to date with our events and happenings while you browse social media!

www.facebook.com/kerrcoswcd

Grass & Wildflower Seed Sales

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 & get your seed in time for the fall planting season!

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.

The Water Quality Management Program (WQMP) is a stated-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 (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.

New Feral Hog Research Starting in 2018

By Joshua R. Coward, Research Associate at Borderlands Research Institute

In January of 2018 Joshua Coward, a Research Associate with the Borderlands Research Institute at Sul Ross State University, in collaboration with Texas Parks and Wildlife Department's Kerr Wildlife Management Area, will be conducting research on how disturbance from feral pig rooting may impact the shallow soils of the Edwards Plateau.

Numerous studies exist throughout the scientific literature estimating the total cost in damages to agricultural communities attributed to feral pigs, however, no research to date has been conducted into how this invasive species costs landowners in terms of damages rendered onto native plant and soil communities. The purpose of this research is to help quantify how the shallow soils of the Edwards Plateau and the native plant communities that depend on those soils are affected by soil disturbance caused by feral pigs.

In order to quantify soil disturbance, a variety of soil measurements will be taken at the sites of feral swine rooting and will be compared to similar ecological sites which have not been disturbed. These measurements will include: rates of soil erosion/deposition, rates of decomposition of organic matter, soil texture, rock fragment content, soil carbon and nitrogen concentrations, and soil pH. These data will provide numerical evidence that will be used to determine how the soil changes after feral pig rooting in the Edwards Plateau. Furthermore, vegetation sampling on these sites will be conducted continually in order to determine how the plant communities recover after these disturbance events. This research will shed some light onto how these non-native invasive animals affect native plant and soil communities.

It is our hope that meaningful management implications will be drawn from the results of this research, leading to informing landowners and managers how to best mitigate damages to soil and native plant communities from the destructive behavior of feral pigs. For more info on feral hog research, visit <http://bri.sulross.edu/carnivores-and-nongame/feral-hog-research/> or http://tpwd.texas.gov/huntwild/wild/nuisance/feral_hogs/

PLEASE JOIN US!



*Providing Information Resources
for Ranching Women*

**WOMEN'S RANCH
SEMINAR 2018**

JANUARY 26, 2018

8:00 AM - 3:30 PM

GILLESPIE COUNTY FARM BUREAU
EVENT CENTER, FREDERICKSBURG, TX

THE SEMINAR IS FREE & LUNCH
IS PROVIDED. SEATING IS LIMITED.

TO PREREGISTER, VISIT
WWW.HCCWSEMINAR.COM

HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE:

PANEL OF WOMEN WHO RANCH, HOG CONTROL,
LIVESTOCK HEALTH, RANGE MANAGEMENT,
OPPORTUNITY FOR CEU'S, EXHIBITS AND VENDORS.

Wildlife Tax Valuation Workshop



Presented by
Riverside Nature Center



Session 1: Overview and Property Inventory
Saturday, January 6
9AM to 1PM

Session 2: Management Practices and
Habitat Assessment
Saturday, January 13
9AM to 2:30PM

Session 3: WTV History and Update on the
Law, Application Procedures, and...
Putting It All Together
Saturday, January 20
9AM to 1PM

What You'll Need At The First Session

- Agricultural tax valuation
- Map of your property

► Have you had agricultural tax valuation on your land for at least five years, and are you interested in managing wildlife?
► This in-depth workshop is especially for landowners with 20 or more acres - it emphasizes 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.

► Many participants complete this workshop with a concrete plan and are ready to apply.

- \$905/person or 1105/couple (members)
- \$1105/person or 1305/couple (non-members)
- Class limited to 10-35. RSVP absolutely essential
- Preregistration required by Dec. 22, 2017
- Credit cards, cash, or checks accepted.
- Coffee and water provided.
- Feel free to bring a sack lunch or snack

Location
Riverside Nature Center
150 Francisco Lemos St., Kerrville
www.riversidenaturecenter.org
830-257-4837 | RNC.kerrville@gmail.com