



Kerr County Soil & Water Conservation District



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# Thank You Charles Flach



The Kerr County Soil and Water Conservation District and its directors would like to thank Mr. Charles Flach for his service and dedication as a SWCD director for the last 26 years!! Dedicated landowners, such as Mr. Flach, are instrumental to the SWCD and it's success in assisting other landowners with conservation and management issues. Mr. Flach also supported the SWCD's youth oriented activities, such as assisting the Youth Range Workshop with meals, scholarships to conservation camps, and scholarships and awards at the Ag Mechanics Show. Mr. Flach will be missed at the Kerr County SWCD!!

# KERR CO. SWCD NEWS

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## Youth Range Workshop Lunch & George Holekamp Award

In June, the Kerr County Soil and Water Conservation District once again hosted the campers at lunchtime on their field day to the Kerr Wildlife Management Area. The SWCD enjoys cooking hamburgers and all the fixings for this group of youth and their instructors.

The Youth Range Workshop is a weeklong camp for Texas youth that provides them with the opportunity for complimentary training in range and natural resource management, stewardship and leadership. It is sponsored by the Texas Section Society for Range Management and is held annually in Junction, Texas.

After lunch, the Kerr SWCD hosts a public speaking contest and awards one camper with the George Holekamp Award. Gabe Sumrall, from Newton County, won this year's award for demonstrating outstanding public speaking skills and knowledge on her chosen ecological topic. The YRW incorporates this contest and award into their program each year. We're proud to present the winner each year with a certificate and belt buckle. Pictured with Gabe is Mary Virginia Holekamp and Jack Clarke, III.



The Youth Range Workshop is available to youth, age 14-18. 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. The camp is headquartered on the Texas Tech University in Junction. For more information on this camp, visit: <http://rangelands.org/texas/youtheducation.html>

## Native Tree Sale

The Kerr SWCD is again planning it's Fall Native Tree Sale. It will be by pre-order only! Trees will be ready for pickup on **November 10th, with order forms due by October 27th!!** Please contact the office for tree availability and order forms!



*"The best time to plant a tree is 20 years ago. The second best time is NOW."*

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- Dates of Interest:**
- **Aug. 18 - 19 : Texas Sheep & Goat Expo**
  - **Aug 29-31 : TX Grazing Conference**
  - **Sept. 1 : Wildlife Seminar**
  - **Sept. 12 : Private Applicator Training**
  - **Oct. 2 : Deadline for Hay Show**
  - **Oct. 6 : Wildlife Seminar**
  - **Oct. 10 : Landowner Series @ Kerr WMA**
  - **Oct. 27-29 : Kerr County Fair**

## South Region Landowners Series

Texas AgriLife Extension will be hosting a series of multi-county landowner meetings this fall for those interested. The series will provide a variety of information beneficial to new landowners. Beginning September 19 from 4 – 7 p.m. in San Antonio, topics will be related to 1-D-1 Open Space Valuation, Evaluating Resources, Setting Goals, and Land Fragmentation. The second meeting of the series will be held **October 10<sup>th</sup> with Kerr County Extension hosting the meeting at the Kerr Wildlife Management Area** from 10 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. (lunch served). This program will focus on Wildlife and Range management. The third meeting in the series will be held October 31<sup>st</sup> from 9 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. in Poteet at Chris Jenschke Enterprises in Atascosa County focusing on Forage and Pasture management. The fourth and final meeting of the series will be November 14<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. in Medina County with topics on Weed & Brush Management, Plant I.D. and Sprayer Calibration.

Registration for this program may be done by contacting Denise at the Bexar County Extension office at 210-631-0400. The cost of the program is \$15/class for individuals or \$30 for the series of 4 meetings. Couples are invited and may register for \$25/class or \$50 for the series of 4 meetings. Individuals needing CEU's for pesticide applicator licenses will have an opportunity to get CEU's at these programs.

## Kerr County Hay Show

Producers interested in participating in the Hay Show may bring their hay samples by the Kerr County Extension office by Monday, October 2nd. Entries will include one small square bale and a producer may enter as many bales as they wish. In cases of round bales, producers may contact the Extension office to obtain a core sampler or contact Roy and he will be glad to help core the bales. Entry fee is \$10 per bale. Different classes are available for different varieties of hay and plaques will be awarded to the Champion and Reserve Champion bales. This is a good opportunity for producers to get their hay tested and determine how your fertility and management program is working! For more information, contact the Kerr County Extension office at 830-257-6568.

## 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](http://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](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 830-896-4911x3 and ask for Deanna (SWCD) or Laura (NRCS) for assistance or to start the application process.

NRCS is an equal opportunity provider & employer.

## Private Pesticide Applicator Training Offered

Need a license to kill unwanted brush and weeds? If you're looking at prickly pear, agarita, and other weedy plants on your land you may find that to purchase the products that do the best, you need a private pesticide applicators license to purchase them. The Private Pesticide Applicator License is needed for application of state limit use and restricted use pesticides. To become licensed you must take a course provided by your local office of Texas A&M AgriLIFE Extension Service. Once you complete the course you will be required to take a 100 question exam at an approved testing facility to complete the course requirements. The private applicators course is a "one time" training course. The course fee is \$50 and the license fee is \$60. Once you complete the course, testing and pay your fees you get a license good for 5 years.

The course takes around 4 hour to complete. In order for you to keep the license after the fifth year, you will need to obtain 15 continuing education credits (CEU's) over the 5 year life of the license period. There is a CEU requirement with 2 credits in Laws and Regulations and 2 in Integrated Pest Management. Training opportunities are offered by the Texas AgriLife Extension Service offices here in the Texas Hill Country year round.

On **September 12th**, starting at 9:00 AM, there will be a Private applicator license training conducted at the Kerr County office of Texas A&M AgriLIFE Extension Service. The office is located at 3775 Hwy. 27 in Kerrville. Registration fee is \$50.00 and this will provide you with the needed study materials to pass the 100 question test administered by the Texas Dept. of Agriculture. *For more information and to register for the training stop by the Kerr County Extension office or give us a call the Extension office at 830-257-6568.*

## 2017 Wildlife Seminars

The Kerr Wildlife Management Area is once again presenting it's Wildlife Seminars. This year they will be held on **September 1st and October 6th, from 1 - 5 pm** at the Lee and Ramona Bass Conference Facility at the Kerr Wildlife Management Area in Hunt, Texas. These seminars are **free** to the public and you can register by calling the office at 830-238-4483 or [lisa.wolle@tpwd.texas.gov](mailto:lisa.wolle@tpwd.texas.gov). Topics to be included in these seminars will include: Management Systems for Wildlife; Grazing Systems, Burning, Population Management; Threatened and Endangered Species; Function of Genetics and Nutrition in White-tailed Deer Management; and Research Update on Feral Swine Control.

## 38th Annual Kerr County Fair

**October 27th, 28th, and 29th**

Enjoy all of the delights of the Fair this year, including a rodeo and dance, parade, scholarship pageant, cook-offs, arts and crafts competitions, petting zoo, and prospect shows for youth! Also be sure to check out the vendor area too!

Gates Open:

Friday 5:00 pm - 10:00 pm

Saturday 10:00 am - 10:00 pm

Sunday 11:00 am - 6:00 pm

There will be a carnival/Midway again this year as well! Wristbands can be purchased each day.

Carnival will be open:

Thursday 5:00 pm - 10:00 pm

Friday 5:00 pm - 10:00 pm

Saturday 1:00 pm - 11:00 pm

Sunday 1:00 pm - 6:00 pm

**Join Us at the Kerr County Fair for a good time and fun family activities!**

**At the Hill Country Youth Event Center, 3785 TX-27, Kerrville**

**For more information, visit the website [www.kerrcountyfair.com](http://www.kerrcountyfair.com)**

## Kerr County Fair Schedule:

**Thursday, October 26th:**

Creative Arts Check In and Judging  
Carnival and Midway Open in the evening

**Friday, October 27th:**

Vendor Area Open  
Chili Cook-off

Carnival and Midway Open

**Saturday, October 28th:**

Swine Prospect Show

Parade 11:00 am

Baked Goods Check In and Judging

BBQ Cook-off

"Fun Pull" Antique Tractor Pull

Carnival and Midway Open

Mutton Busting, Bull Riding

Dance to close the night!

**Sunday, October 29th:**

Steer, Lamb and Goat Prospect Show

Scholarship Pageant

Carnival and Midway Open