



**Kerr County Soil & Water
Conservation District**



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Meet Our 2018 NRCS Summer Intern



Hey y'all! My name is Nikki Sandidge and I am the 2018 Summer Intern for the Kerr County NRCS Service Center. I am currently a senior at Texas A&M – Kingsville (Go Hogs!), majoring in Agriculture Science with a double minor in Plant and Soil Science and Agribusiness with an emphasis in Agronomy (field crops). I was raised in Bandera and graduated from Medina High School in 2015. I graduated from Coastal Bend College in Beeville with my Associates of Science in the Spring of 2017, while playing two years of collegiate softball along the way. I have many hobbies that help myself stay busy, you will rarely see me sitting still. I love to barrel race and rope the dummy with my friends, spend time with my family, watching Texas Rangers baseball games when I get a chance, working-out, hunting and salt-water fishing. I love to salt-water fish, go offshore and go after Jacks, Redfish or whatever I can hook! I also love photography, you will rarely ever see me without my camera, if not, its

usually an arm's reach away or I will be using my phone! I also enjoy painting belts and tooling leather, whether it may be belts, bible covers, spur straps or anything else I can dream up. I am also a Texas Country Music junkie and Country music in general. My favorite Classic Country artists would be George Jones and Barbara Mandrel and my favorite newer artists are Tyler Childers and Turnpike Troubadours, but it changes constantly, it just depends on the day! I am here through a StartNOW grant that was given to the University by the USDA to place students like me into NRCS internships to help gain career experience, allow us to experience working in a NRCS office and possibly make working for the NRCS a future career choice. Having the opportunity to come back home and fill my internship requirement for my degree here in Kerr County was an opportunity I just couldn't pass up. Come on by the office and say hello!

KERR CO. SWCD NEWS

Kerr County Soil & Water Conservation District

July 2018

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2018 Youth Range Workshop & George Holekamp Award



This year the Youth Range Workshop was held June 17-22 at the Texas Tech University Campus in Junction, TX. Participants gain useful knowledge and skills in the areas of ecology, inventory practices, management and evaluation of resources. Experts from across the state are recruited to teach participants who are between 14-18 years of age in fields ranging from watershed management, prescribed burning, soil health, and many areas in between. Youths are also trained in areas of public speaking, advocacy, and leadership, so that they are armed with the knowledge they need to effectively educate others in the area of ranchland management, regardless of the career path they choose.

Each year the Kerr County SWCD hosts a lunch for the participants during their Field Day at the Kerr Wildlife Management Area. After lunch we hold a Public Speaking Contest and award the winner with the **George Holekamp Belt Buckle & Certificate**. We are proud to announce **Emma Waters as the 2018 winner of the George Holekamp Award!**

Pictured: Chairman Jack Clark, Vice-Chairman Jack Thorn, Award Winner Emma Waters, Past Board Member Mary Virginia Holekamp, Past Board Member Charlie Beirschwale, Board Member David Symm, Past Board Member Charles Flach

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Dates of Interest:

- July 4: Independence Day
- July 13-14 Kerr Fest
- July 25 : 4-H Fishing Derby
- July 28: National Day of the American Cowboy Celebration in Bandera
- Aug. 17-18 2018 Texas Sheep & Goat Expo in San Angelo
- Aug. 24: Hill Country Hunting Expo in Llano
- Sept. 22: The Annual Seed Stomp at LBJ State Park
- Oct. 1 : Deadline for Hay Show
- Oct. 5: First Friday Tours Kerr WMA
- Oct. 25 Pre-Orders for SWCD Tree Sale
- Oct. 26-28 : Kerr County Fair

Native Tree Sale

We are planning our Fall Native Tree Sale! **Pre-order by October 25th!!** Trees will be ready for pickup on **November 7th**. 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."

let your voice be heard



Using locally led recommendations to help solve resource conservation problems

save the date Conservation Planning Meeting

Hosted By: Kerr County SWCD
Thursday, August 9, 2018 12:00pm
Kerrville Service Center
Kerrville, Texas

For More Information Contact
(830) 896-4911x3



USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer and lender.



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. 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 830-896-4911x3 and ask for Missie (SWCD) or Cole (NRCS) for assistance or to start the application process.

CTA Program

Conservation Technical Assistance
CTA Program provides land users with proven conservation technology and the delivery system needed to achieve the benefits of a healthy and productive landscape. Technical assistance is the help provided by NRCS, employees of other entities or agencies under the technical supervision of NRCS, to clients to address opportunities, concerns, and problems related to the use of natural resources. **Your Land ~ Your Investment ~ Your Plan**

EQIP

Environmental Quality Incentive Program
EQIP provides financial and technical assistance to agricultural producers in order to address natural resource concerns and deliver environmental benefits such as improved water and air quality, conserved ground and surface water, reduced soil erosion and sedimentation or improved or created wildlife habitat. Payments are made to participants after conservation practices and activities identified in an EQIP plan are implemented.

CStP

Conservation Stewardship Program
CSP helps agricultural producers maintain & improve their existing conservation systems & adopt additional conservation activities to address priority resource concerns. Participants earn CSP payments for conservation performance, the higher the performance, the higher the payment. Participants take additional steps to improve the resource conditions on their land including- soil, air & habitat quality, water quality & quantity, and energy conservation.

WQMP

Water Quality Incentive Plan
WQMP is a site-specific plan developed through and approved by SWCD's for agricultural or silvicultural lands. The plan includes appropriate land treatment practices, production practices, management measures, technologies or combinations thereof. The purpose is to achieve a level of pollution prevention or abatement determined by the TSSWCB, in consultation with local SWCD's, to be consistent with state water quality standards.



KISD Environmental Field Days

Where's the Water?

- Nikki Sandidge

When you turn your faucet on in your house, do you always have water? Why? That was the main question asked during the Aquifers and Watersheds presentation given to the Kerrville ISD fourth graders at the Riverside Nature Center May 22nd – 24th.

The fourth graders learned about how an aquifer works, how water wells work and effect the levels of the aquifer, and how the watersheds help feed into the Guadalupe River and into the Edwards and Trinity Aquifers. 4th graders learned how we can help keep pollution out of our aquifers and out of the Guadalupe River and conserve our water resources. They also learned how all of these actions effect each other in the present and in the long run.

The main take away lesson from our presentation is what we do on the surface can effect everything else underneath. Being aware of our water usage and pollution issues are important because we may not see the issues right now but we will see the causes of our actions eventually. Every drop counts!



In Kerrville there are four very special days in May. Those days are the KISD 4th

Grade Environmental Field Days held at Riverside Nature Center. This will be the sixth year for approximately four hundred 9 and 10 year old students to experience hands-on lessons concerning their natural environment.

-Becky Etzler

