

Kerr County Soil & Water Conservation District

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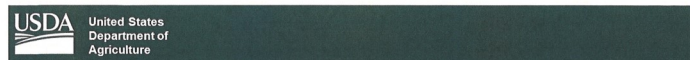
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<https://www.facebook.com/kerrcoswcd>

Meet Sid! I've hidden him inside this Newsletter. The first person to find him and post it on the Kerr County SWCD's Facebook page gets a prize!

-Missie Dreiss, Kerr County SWCD District Technician



News Release

Farm Service Agency

1400 Independence Ave. SW
Washington, DC 20250

Contact:
FPAC.BC.Press@usda.gov

USDA Offers Producers Options to Re-enroll or Extend Expiring CRP Contracts

WASHINGTON, June 21, 2019 – Farmers and ranchers with expiring Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) contracts may now re-enroll in certain CRP continuous signup practices or, if eligible, select a one-year contract extension. USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) also is accepting offers from those who want to enroll for the first time in one of the country's largest conservation programs. FSA's 52nd signup for CRP runs from June 3 to August 23.

"Agricultural producers with expiring CRP contracts have set aside land to reduce soil erosion, improve water quality, provide habitat for wildlife and boost soil health for at least a decade," said U.S. Under Secretary for Farm Production and Conservation Bill Northey. "We want to make sure they – and their neighbors who may not have a CRP contract – know they have opportunities within CRP to continue their valuable contribution to our country's conservation successes."

FSA stopped accepting offers last fall for the CRP continuous signup when 2014 Farm Bill authority expired. The 2018 Farm Bill reauthorized the program this past December, and FSA has carefully analyzed the bill's language and determined that a limited signup prioritizing water-quality practices furthers conservation goals and makes sense for producers as FSA works to fully implement the program.

This year's CRP continuous signup includes such practices as grass waterways, filter strips, riparian buffers, wetland restoration and others. [View a full list of practices approved for this signup.](#) Continuous signup enrollment contracts last for 10 to 15 years. Soil rental rates are set at 90 percent of 2018 rates. Incentive payments are not offered for these practices.

Producers with Expiring CRP Contracts

Letters are in the mail to all producers with expiring CRP contracts, describing possible options.

A one-year extension is being offered to existing CRP participants with expiring CRP contracts of 14 years or less that have practices not eligible for re-enrollment under this CRP signup.

Alternatively, producers with expiring contracts may have the option to enroll in the Transition Incentives Program, which provides two additional annual rental payments on the condition the land is sold or rented to a beginning farmer or rancher or a member of a socially disadvantaged group.

CRP Continuous CREP Signup

This signup also enables producers to sign up under existing Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) agreements. CREP is part of CRP and targets high-priority conservation concerns identified by a state, and federal funds are supplemented with non-federal funds to address those concerns. [Download this fact sheet to learn more.](#)

Other Future CRP Signup Options

FSA is still planning a CRP general signup in December 2019, with a CRP Grasslands signup to follow. Those that extend their contracts may be eligible for one of these signup types or another continuous signup in the future.

More Information

On December 20, 2018, President Trump signed into law the 2018 Farm Bill, which provides support, certainty and stability to our nation's farmers, ranchers and land stewards by enhancing farm support programs, improving crop insurance, maintaining disaster programs and promoting and supporting voluntary conservation. FSA is committed to implementing these changes as quickly and effectively as possible, and today's updates are part of meeting that goal.

Producers interested in applying for CRP continuous practices, including those under existing CREP agreements, or who want to extend their contract, should contact their USDA service center by August 23. To locate your local FSA office, visit www.farmers.gov. More information on CRP can be found at www.fsa.usda.gov/crp.

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KERR CO. SWCD NEWS

Kerr County Soil & Water Conservation District July 2019 Volume 9, Issue 3

We Have A Winner!

Each year, the Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board (TSSWCB) and the Association of Texas Soil and Water Conservation Districts (ATSWCD) recognize and honor those who dedicate themselves and their talents to the conservation and wise use of our renewable natural resources through the Texas Conservation Awards Program. The Conservation Awards Program honors winners at the district, area, and state level. The Kerr County Soil and Water Conservation District selected the UGRA as our winner in the **Friend of Conservation** category for 2019, thus elevating UGRA to the Area II competition in this category.

On May 7, 2019, at the Area Conservation Awards Banquet in Wall, TX, UGRA General Manager Ray Buck received the Friend of Conservation Award for Area II on behalf of the UGRA. "UGRA is proud to be a leader in water conservation. Conserved water is the least expensive and most sustainable water supply option. The partnerships we maintain with entities like the Kerr County Soil and Water Conservation District and others are vital. We're humbled by the acknowledgment of our efforts." said Buck.



UGRA wins Friend of Conservation Award for Area II. Pictured from left to right: Kerr County SWCD Board Members David Symm and Jack Thorn, Kerr County SWCD Technician Missie Dreiss, ATSWCD President Volney Hough, UGRA General Manager Ray Buck, TSSWCB Member Marty Graham, TSSWCB Area II Field Representative Kendria Ray, NRCS Resource Team Leader Cole Jacoby.



District Directors:

Zone 1

Barbara Oates, Secretary

Zone 2

Jack Thorn, Vice-Chairman

Zone 3

Paula Russ

Zone 4

David Symm

Zone 5

Jack Clarke, III, Chairman

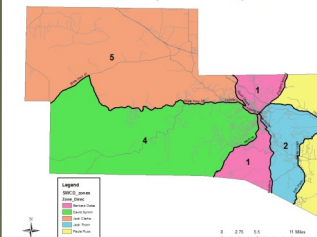
District Clerk

Denise Griffin

District Technician

Missie Dreiss

Kerr County SWCD Zone Map 2018



Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

Resource Team Leader

Cole Jacoby

Range Specialist

Kelly Umphres

Soil Conservationist

Richard Atkinson

Program Assistant

Shannon Miller

OFFICE HOURS:

NRCS 8:00-4:30 Mon-Fri

SWCD 9:00-3:00 Tues-Thurs

(830) 896-4911 x3

We've had a busy Spring!

Pop-Up Plant Sale



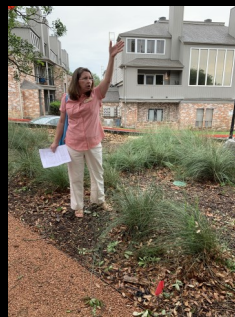
Spring Fish Sale



Cow Pokes & Land Folks Conference



Riverside Nature Center & UGRA present: EduScape Talk & Tour



Texas Section Society for Range Management 65th

Youth Range Workshop



At the TSSRM Youth Ranch Workshop, participants gain useful knowledge and skills in the area of ecology, inventory practices, management and evaluation of resources. Experts from across the state are recruited to teach the participants in fields ranging from watershed management, to prescribed burning, to soil health, and many areas in between.

Additionally, youth are trained in the areas of public speaking, advocacy, and leadership, so that they are armed with the knowledge they needed to effectively educate others in the area of rangeland management, regardless of the career path they ultimately choose. The workshop is open to youth who are 14-18 years old and have completed the 8th grade, but have not graduated from high school.

On Thursday, June 28th, 6 participants were chosen to participate in a Public Speaking competition for the George Holekamp Belt Buckle Award judged by Kerr County SWCD Board Members. We are happy to announce that

Rance Pebbles is the winner of the 2019 George Holekamp Belt Buckle Award!

