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The Kerr Co. SWCD offers camp scholarships to conservation-oriented camps such as the Texas Youth Range Workshop or Texas Brigades Camps for youth!

Teacher scholarships are also available for the "Studies in Natural Resources" Workshop!

Please contact us for more information!

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THANK YOU TO THIS NEWSLETTER'S SPONSOR!



WATCH FOR THE 2012 APPLICATION AND CAMP DATES FOR TEXAS BRIGADES CAMPS IN DECEMBER!
APPLICATION DEADLINE IS MARCH 15, AND THERE WILL BE A NEW CAMP THIS YEAR!
WWW.TEXASBRIGADES.ORG
REMEMBER TO APPLY TO YOUR LOCAL SWCD FOR SCHOLARSHIPS!!

Kerrville NRCS Office Staff Changes

The staff at the Kerrville NRCS office has undergone some changes in the last month. Bryan Theall and Jess Anderson have both moved on to other positions in other NRCS offices. And while we hate to see them go, we welcome the newest member of the staff, Landon Pyle. Landon is our Rangeland Management Specialist and will work with Wayne Seipp, District Conservationist. Please welcome Landon with us as you meet him in the next months!



Landon Pyle, Rangeland Mgmt. Specialist

The Drought of 2011

The drought of 2011 is on everyone's minds, especially agricultural producers. It's everywhere you look, and weather analysts say it is not over yet. Scientists are using climate models and historical weather patterns as confirmation that in the southern U.S., the subtropical areas are permanently drying out. Some think this is the most prolific drought since record keeping in Texas began, and that Texas is just entering a drought that could last up to 2 more years. The U.S. Drought Monitor (which uses images of plant growth to assess range condition) states that 94% of range and pastureland in Texas was in poor or very poor condition in June 2011. And the time period from October 2010 through July 2011 was the driest 10 month period on record.

The agriculture industry has been heavily affected by the drought, and it is estimated that there has been a \$5.2 billion dollar loss in

the industry. That number is further broken down into the following categories: \$2.06 billion in livestock, \$750 million in lost hay production, \$1.8 billion in cotton, \$327 million in corn, \$243 million in wheat, \$63 million in sorghum (info from the Texas Agrilife Extension Service). It is also predicted that by 2012, Texas producers will have 600,000 to 750,000 less beef cows, which is the largest decline in beef cow numbers in Texas history. The nation's cow herd will also be down 1.5 - 2 % in 2012.

There are, of course, other factors that are of relevance when talking about a drought. The drier conditions make for a very active wildfire season, as we have unfortunately experienced across Texas. And now, as conditions do not improve, cedars, or ashe junipers, are drying out and dying, and causing an even higher fire risk. Around 3.3 million acres have

been lost in wildfire in Texas just in 2011 alone.

Also being seen this year is an unusual pattern of movement by larger predators, such as mountain lions and black bears. As these large animals run out of food sources in their normal territories, due to drought and/or wildfires, they are moving to find better habitat. They have been seen in areas they have not been in in years and some have encountered humans in their quest of surviving.

All of this points to a drought that is leading to abnormal conditions and that is not finished with us yet. We'll just have to wait and see what the weather holds for us in the new year.

Rainfall & Drought Statistics Resources:
<http://ars.usda.gov/Main/docs.htm?docid=14130>
<http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/>
<http://atmo.tamu.edu/oscl/>

Rainfall at Kerrville Since 1915

Average for 95 Years: 31.47 Inches

1915	30.62	1935	48.03	1955	28.87	1975	29.29	1995	28.26
1916	37.90	1936	51.40	1956	14.05	1976	34.71	1996	26.23
1917	13.32	1937	27.62	1957	55.09	1977	23.57	1997	37.70
1918	25.90	1938	21.64	1958	38.22	1978	44.14	1998	32.39
1919	68.46	1939	22.85	1959	29.30	1979	42.32	1999	17.76
1920	25.03	1940	36.68	1960	37.49	1980	27.45	2000	33.44
1921	28.58	1941	43.66	1961	27.29	1981	41.51	2001	30.92
1922	27.87	1942	31.31	1962	15.52	1982	21.54	2002	45.48
1923	38.29	1943	20.73	1963	21.33	1983	25.14	2003	23.92
1924	22.26	1944	41.32	1964	31.12	1984	22.48	2004	45.59
1925	15.03	1945	29.96	1965	41.27	1985	36.03	2005	26.52
1926	38.65	1946	34.48	1966	28.21	1986	38.19	2006	21.56
1927	29.38	1947	27.19	1967	30.73	1987	42.13	2007	51.10
1928	27.13	1948	23.43	1968	41.82	1988	30.96	2008	14.72
1929	32.03	1949	41.82	1969	40.23	1989	23.16	2009	32.72
1930	30.48	1950	22.70	1970	24.08	1990	30.61	2010	29.92
1931	31.37	1951	18.15	1971	35.32	1991	44.52		
1932	40.29	1952	40.91	1972	28.34	1992	41.40		January - August 2011: 5.19 Inches
1933	14.22	1953	26.36	1973	33.33	1993	23.06		
1934	19.49	1954	14.64	1974	37.75	1994	38.76		

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Dates of Interest:

- October 7 : Range and Wildlife Habitat Seminar, Kerr WMA 830-238-4483
- October 12-14 : Texas Section SRM Range Meetings, San Angelo
- October 28-30 : Kerr County Fair
- November 3 : Range Webinar
- December 1 : NAP Deadline
- December 1 : Range Webinar
- December 15 : NAP Deadline

FSA Deadline Approaching for 2012 NAP

2012 Non-Insured Assistance Program (NAP)

December 1, 2011—Deadline to apply for coverage on your Native and Improved grasses that you will operate in 2012.

December 15, 2011—Deadline to report the native and Improved grass acreage that you will be operating in 2012.

This program has been around several years and has paid out numerous times when the county has had below average rainfall. It covers all of your acreage in the county, for all types of losses, for a minimal fee of \$250 per crop, \$750 per county, and \$1875 per producer.

The NAP Program gives you protection from losses on your pastures and crops.

DO NOT MISS OUT!! COME IN TODAY! WE ARE HERE TO SERVE YOU!

Kerr-Bandera County Farm Service Agency—830-896-4911 x 2

Texas Section of the Society for Range Management's Annual Meeting

October 12 - 14, 2011

McNease Convention Center, San Angelo, Texas

The Meeting starts Wednesday with training sessions and a social mixer. On Thursday, the main program will cover information about agricultural updates, Farm Bill Programs, Wind Energy, Media - Promoting your Product, and more. An Awards Banquet and dance will be held Thursday evening. Friday will consist of a tour of local, working ranches.

For more information about this meeting, or the Texas Section SRM, please contact :

Dr. Cody Scott (cody.scott@angelo.edu) or Corey Owens (cody.owens@angelo.edu) at 325-942-2027

Or visit their website at : www.rangelands.org/texas/

Texas Range Webinar Series

Texas Agrilife Extension Ecosystem Science and Management is hosting a Texas Range Webinar Series the first Thursday of each month. The Texas Range Webinar Series will provide science-based rangeland management options through live webinars with experts on hand to answer questions.

Each webinar will start at noon (12:00) and last 1 hour. Participants can earn 1 CEU toward a TDA pesticide licenses. The Kerr County Extension Office will host a brown bag lunch at the office for anyone wishing to bring a lunch and watch the webinar at the office. Please

RSVP to attend at the Kerr Co. Office at 830-257-6568. Otherwise please visit www.naturalresourcewebinars.org to attend at home.

Upcoming Dates and Topics Include:

October 6—Invasive Plants of the Texas Rangelands

November 3—Rangeland Herbicide Laws

December 1—Online Resources for Plant ID & Management

USDA-NRCS 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 Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program (WHIP) is designed for landowners who focus more on wildlife management than agriculture and most of the practices involved are the same

as EQIP's. The Grassland Reserve Program (GRP) is a program designed to improve grazing management and protect rangeland from development with either rental or easement options.

The NRCS office accepts applications for all of these programs 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.

NRCS is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

32nd Annual Kerr County Fair: October 28 - 30

The Kerr County Fair is coming on October 28-30, 2011! It's the 32nd Annual Fair for Kerr County and is held at the Hill Country Youth Exhibit Center. All types of activities are held during the fair, such as a parade, cook-off, petting zoo, bull riding, prospect shows, scholarship pageants, arts and crafts, youth

activities and more. Admission to the Fair is \$5 for adults, and children 10 and under are free. There is also a midway carnival available Thursday through Sunday at the Fair. The parade kicks off Saturday at 10 am. The Kerr County SWCD is one of the many proud sponsors of the Fair. For more information

about the Fair and activities, please contact the Kerr County Fair Association at 830-257-6833 or visit their website at: www.kerrcountyfair.com.

Come on out and support your community and its youth at this year's Fair!

Fair Schedule:
Friday : 5 - 9 pm
Saturday : 10 am - 10 pm
Sunday : 10 am - 6 pm
Midway Carnival Schedule:
Thursday : 5 - 9 pm
Friday : 5 - 10 pm
Saturday : 1 - 11 pm
Sunday : 1 - 8 pm

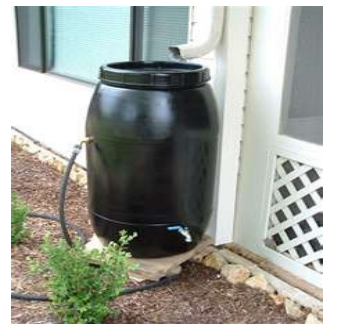
UGRA's Rainwater Catchment System Rebate Pilot Program Begins

The Upper Guadalupe River Authority (UGRA) recently launched a rebate program to promote water conservation and watershed stewardship through rainwater harvesting. The Rainwater Catchment System Rebate Pilot Program will be 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 between March 24, 2011 and September 30, 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.



Conservation Tip: Wildlife Diseases to Watch for During A Drought

A severe drought as we are in right now, throws the balance of nature of in several arenas. One of them is the increased susceptibility of wildlife under stress to diseases they may not normally be introduced to. There are three main diseases to watch for at this time of year and during a drought: Anthrax, Toxic Acidosis, and Blue Tongue (or Epizootic Hemorrhagic Disease, EHD).

The Texas Animal Health Commission reports that the last outbreak of Anthrax occurred in 2003. Anthrax usually affects horses, goats, sheep, deer, cattle and other grazers. It very rarely affects humans, usually only when handling products or inhaling spores from infected animals or by eating undercooked meat from infected animals. The weather usually spurs anthrax bacteria, occurring during a hot, dry spell that follows a cool, wet spring. Animals can get anthrax by ingesting the bacteria while grazing. When an animal dies from Anthrax, the bacteria will then contaminate the ground where it lays, and the cycle can repeat itself when conditions are right. After infection, the incubation period is typically 3 -7 days. Symptoms include staggering, trembling, fever, diarrhea, convulsions, bleeding from body openings, and inevitable death. After death, some indicators that

it was caused from Anthrax are a "blackberry" looking spleen, rapid decomposition, lack of rigor mortis, bloating and bleeding from body openings. Carcasses must be burned to prevent contamination of the ground. While there is no way to prevent wildlife from succumbing to Anthrax, livestock can be vaccinated.

Toxic Acidosis occurs when ruminants gain large access to readily digestible carbohydrates, such as grain or corn. This can occur in any ruminant species, including cattle and deer species. A large quantity of carbohydrates will basically change the pH of the rumen, making it more acidic. This will kill the bacteria needed for regular digestion. The change can occur 2-6 hours after ingestion and will cause indigestion, bloating, dehydration, diarrhea, rumen stasis, incoordination within 24 hours and sometimes death within 24 - 72 hours. This is sometimes seen in winter or times of drought, when deer have no other food sources other than corn provided through feeders. Toxic Acidosis can be prevented by limiting supplemental feeding of corn or offering different foods to deer.

Blue Tongue and Epizootic Hemorrhagic Disease (EHD) are two very similar diseases and are both

usually referred to as Blue Tongue. Most cases in this area are actually EHD. EHD is transmitted by a biting fly or midge. All outbreaks occur between August and October and cease with the onset of frost. It is an acute, infectious viral disease in deer. Symptoms occur 7 days after exposure and include: appetite loss, fear of man loss, weakness, excessive saliva, rapid pulse and respiration, fever, and unconsciousness. Hemorrhage and a lack of oxygen in blood results in a blue appearance of oral areas, thus the name blue tongue. After 8 - 36 hours, deer pass into a shock-like state, become prostrate, and die. There is no known treatment or control. This disease can be transmitted to domestic livestock, but rarely causes disease, and cannot be transmitted to humans.

While some of these diseases are not preventable, proper management and care of the land and animals will always result in healthier populations. Refer to your local resources such as TPWD Biologists and NRCS employees for habitat management techniques to optimize your land. Stick to the recommended carrying capacity on both livestock and wildlife species and on years of drought, your land and animals will be healthier!