

**Kerr County Soil & Water  
Conservation District**



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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!**

Please visit our Website!  
[www.kerrcountyswcd.com](http://www.kerrcountyswcd.com)  
It includes: Important updates  
on upcoming events, review of  
past events, District infor-  
mation, links to other web-  
sites, and more!

Our newsletter (and past  
newsletters) can be found on  
our website in PDF form. You  
can also request to be added  
to our email list!

Find information on our fish  
sales, tree sales and annual  
workshops!

### FROM UGRA

The Upper Guadalupe River Authority (UGRA) has a rebate program to promote water conservation and watershed stewardship through rainwater harvesting. The Rainwater Catchment System Rebate Program is 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 after March 24, 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 or visit their website at [www.ugra.org](http://www.ugra.org).

**Program Recently Extended!!**



# KERR CO. SWCD NEWS

Kerr County Soil & Water Conservation District October 2013 Volume 4, Issue 4

## KERR COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT'S

# NATIVE TREE SALE

**Date: Saturday, November 9, 2013**

**Time: 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.**

**Location: Kerr County Ag Barn**

**ALL TREES SOLD HAVE BEEN GROWN LOCALLY  
AND ARE NATIVE SPECIES. 5 GALLON POTS.**

QUANTITIES LIMITED, COME EARLY!

SPECIES AVAILABLE :

**825**

- |                   |                 |
|-------------------|-----------------|
| BURR OAK          | ANAQUA          |
| LACEY OAK         | MEXICAN PLUM    |
| CHINKAPIN OAK     | DESERT WILLOW   |
| MONTERREY OAK     | BIG TOOTH MAPLE |
| ROUGHLEAF DOGWOOD | TEXAS REDBUD    |
| CEDAR ELM         |                 |

## Plant Native, Drought Resistant Trees!



For More Information Please Contact:  
Kerr County Soil & Water Conservation District  
Deanna Pfeffer, Technician  
[deanna@kerrcountyswcd.com](mailto:deanna@kerrcountyswcd.com) or  
830-896-4911 x 3



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### Dates of Interest:

- October 3 : Kerr WMA 1st Friday Tour
- October 10 : Pesticide Applicator Training; contact Extension Office at 830-257-6568
- October 22 : Kerr County Hay Show & Program
- October 25 - 27 : Kerr County Fair
- November 9 : Kerr SWCD Tree Sale

### NEW PROGRAM IN KERR COUNTY : Water Quality Management Plan Program (WQMP)

The Water Quality Management Program (WQMP) is a state-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 830-896-4911 x3 and ask for Deanna (SWCD) or Laura (NRCS) for assistance or to start the application process.

### Kerr County Hay Show and Program - October 22

The Kerr County Hay Show will be just around the corner. The show will be held in conjunction with the Kerr County Fair. On October 22, Dr. Rick Machen, Extension Livestock Specialist, will discuss Livestock Supplementation for Winter Months, and County Extension Agent Roy Walston will discuss Management of Hay Fields. The program will be from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. with two hours of CEU's offered to private, commercial and non-commercial applicators. Registration for this program will be \$15 per person payable at the door or pre-registration is \$10 by October 18.

Producers interested in participating in the Hay Show may bring their hay samples by the Kerr County Extension office by Tuesday, October 1st. Entries will include one small square bale and a producer may enter as many bales as they wish. In cases of round bales an entry will consist of 20 pounds of hay sacked, bound and tied. Entry fee is



\$10 per bale. Classes include: Sorghum Sudan, Winter Annuals, Legumes, Perennial Grasses, Coastal Bermuda, and other Bermuda grasses. Bermuda grasses will be divided into irrigated and dryland. 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, please contact the Kerr County Extension Office at 830-257-6568

### 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

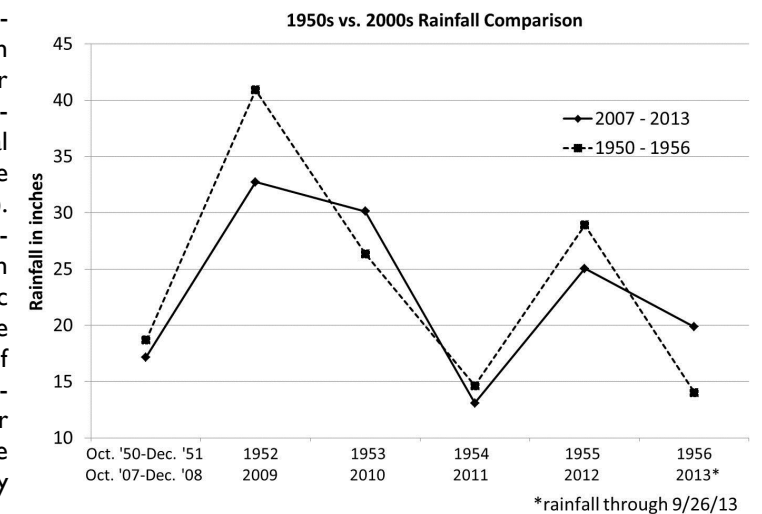
options. The NRCS office accepts applications for all of these programs year round and more information can be gained by contacting the Kerrville office at 830-896-4911 x 3 or visit the NRCS Texas homepage at: [www.tx.nrcs.usda.gov](http://www.tx.nrcs.usda.gov).

NRCS is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

### Rainfall Totals During 1950s Drought vs. Today

From the Desk of Tara Bushnoe, Natural Resources Coordinator for UGRA, [tbushnoe@ugra.org](mailto:tbushnoe@ugra.org) or (830) 896-5445

We have seen several scattered thunderstorms over the past few weeks and conversations starting with "How much rain did you get?" can be overheard at the café and around the water cooler. The lingering drought has us all poised to appreciate even the smallest amount of rainfall, but most realize that we are still in the midst of an extended drought. Last month, this column focused on the comparison of our current drought conditions to the drought of the 1950s. I was very pleased to receive so much feedback from readers who found the information intriguing. It is difficult to answer the question "Is the current drought worse than the 1950s?" because there are many types of analyses to reference. Last month, I highlighted the Palmer Drought Severity Index and the Guadalupe River historical stream flow rates which both indicate that the drought of the 1950s was more severe than our current conditions. Another excellent analysis and common sense approach is to compare rainfall. Former UGRA Board President, Scott S. Parker, developed a comparison of rainfall totals over equal time frames during the 1950s and the 2000s (see graph insert updated with 2013 rainfall to date). This comparison demonstrates that based on rainfall alone, the current drought is more severe than the 1950s drought of record, we are in the midst of an extremely severe drought in Texas and substantial rainfall will be needed to replenish water resources. This also puts further emphasis on the importance of conservation and water supply planning.



### Private Pesticide Applicator Training - October 10, 2013

The Private Pesticide Applicator License is needed for application of state limited use and restricted use pesticides. To become licensed you must take a course (about 4 hours) provided by your local office of Texas AgriLife Extension Service. The private applicators course is a 'one time' training course. Once you complete the course, the Texas Department of Agriculture will administer a 100 question test to complete the course requirements. The course fee is \$50 and the license fee is \$60. The license is valid for 5 years. In order for you to keep the license, you will need to obtain 15 continuing education credits (CEU's) over the 5 year life of the license. Within those 15 hours, 2 must be Laws and Regulations and 2 must be in Integrated Pest Management. Training opportunities are offered by Extension Offices in the Texas Hill Country year round. This course will be held on October 10, 2013 at 9 a.m. at the Kerr County Extension office. For more details and to register for the class, call the Extension office at 830-257-6568 or email then at [kerr@ag.tamu.edu](mailto:kerr@ag.tamu.edu).

### Kerr Wildlife Management Area

#### Presents its 1st Friday Tours

**October 4 : 1-5 pm.** Finding a cure rather than treating a symptom. The third and final seminar will discuss white-tailed deer management, grazing management, prescribed burning, brush control and endangered species. The seminar will also include over 30 years of nutrition and genetics research conducted in the Donnie E. Harmel White-tailed Deer Research Facility. Outdoor tour will once again follow.

The same programs will be given at the Mason Mountain Wildlife Management Area on different dates. Please contact the respective WMA for more details. RSVP's are required. Programs are free of charge.

**Kerr Wildlife Management Area : 830-238-4483**

**Mason Mountain Wildlife Management Area : 325-347-5037**