



District Honors Conservation Work in 2007

The Gillespie County SWCD holds annual poster and essay contests to raise conservation issues to kids. Posters and essays were submitted in December 2006 and judged in January 2007. At a March 28, 2007 hamburger dinner hosted by the Fredericksburg Lions Club, the District awarded plaques and savings bonds certificates to the winners.

Poster winners were:

- 1st place, Zane Graves, Doss School
- 2nd place, Quaid Hall, Doss School
- 3rd place, MaKenna Olfers, Doss School.

Essay winners age 13 and younger were:

- 1st place, Rebecca Schwarz, St. Mary’s School.
- 2nd place, Abby Howard-Kneitz, St. Mary’s School
- 3rd place, Kaylee Olfers, Doss School.

Essay winners age 14 to 18 were:

- 1st place, Callie Settles, Fredericksburg Christian School.
- 2nd place, Zack Graves, Doss School
- 3rd place, Rachel Lynn Karp, Fredericksburg Christian School.

LCRA donated engraved plaques for each of the 9 winners. Security State Bank and Trust donated savings bonds certificates: \$100 for each 1st place, \$75 for 2nd place, and \$50 for 3rd place. HEB donated cookies for the hamburger dinner.

As part of the Texas Conservation Awards Program, the District also honored three ranchers and one teacher for their conservation efforts. Honored were:



- Burnell R. Bennett; Resident Conservation Rancher.
- Clairlean Friedrich; Conservation Teacher.
- David Darr; Wildlife Conservationist.
- Dr. Leonard Hilliard; Absentee Conservation Rancher.

In February 2007, the winning student entries and PowerPoint presentations about the adult honorees were entered in the Texas State Soil & Water Conservation Board (TSSWCB) Area II contest, which includes 44 southwest Texas counties. At this level, Callie Settles’ essay placed 3rd, Zane Graves’ poster placed 3rd, Dr. Hilliard placed 1st as Absentee

Conservation Rancher, and Clairlean Friedrich was runner-up Conservation Teacher. All four were awarded plaques at the Area II Awards Banquet in Wall, TX on May 8, 2007.



HERBICIDE INFORMATION

Many effective chemicals are available to control brush and weeds. Some require a private pesticide applicator's license in order to purchase and use them. But it takes more than just chemicals for brush control. It helps to understand what you're dealing with. Another thing to consider is how to maintain your land after you've controlled the brush. The Gillespie Prescribed Burn Association may be able to help with that.

The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service and Texas Cooperative Extension have brochures available to help you determine what will work best for your needs. Many web sites have helpful information, too. Here's a short list of information available regarding chemicals and brush control. This list is not all inclusive but will get you started in the right direction.

Publisher	Title	Sub-Topics
Dow AgroSciences	Rancher's Guide to Weed & Brush Management	Including products, recommended rates, application techniques
Texas Cooperative Extension (TCE)	Brush Busters, How to take care of prickly pear and other cacti. L-5171, 8/05	Safe effective 3-step way to control prickly pear, cholla, dog cactus and other cacti
TCE	Brush Busters, How to take the luck out of controlling yucca. L-5424, 6/02	Two safe & effective ways to control yucca
TCE	Brush Busters, How to Master Cedar, L-5160, 10/05	Three safe effective ways to control small cedar (juniper)
TCE	Brush Busters, Mixing Guide. L-5446, 1/04 (A handy laminated chart)	Stem, Whorl & Cut Stump Sprays on one side; Leaf & Pad Sprays on the reverse.
TCE	Weed Busters, Sprayer Calibration Guide. L-5465, 1/05	Safe effective 4-step method to calibrate herbicide sprays
Developed by Dr. Bob Lyons, TCE Range Specialist	Rangeland Herbicides (A one-page chart)	Lists product, active ingredients, whether you need a pesticide license, & recommended usages
Texas Agricultural Extension Service http://tcebookstore.org/pubinfo.cfm?pubid=57	B-1466 - Chemical Weed and Brush Control - Suggestions for Rangeland	Suggestions for using herbicide to control brush and weeds. (32 pages, 5 tables) Price is \$4, can be ordered or read online.

Note: this chart was current as of April 2007.

RELATED WEB SITES

<http://www.tx.nrcs.usda.gov/> For the Texas Natural Resources Conservation Service

<http://www.greenbook.net/> Has an extensive database of chemical product information.

If you want to control a specific type of plant, you can search by plant name and the database will list what chemicals you could use. If you need to know more about a specific chemical, you can type it in and search for product info. You need to register with the site to get the detailed information.

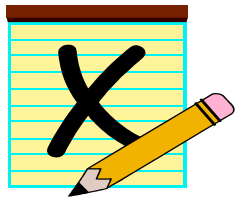
Note:

To get a private applicator's license requires a class, plus later continuing education for license renewals. Call the Gillespie Co. Extension office at 830-997-3452 for more information.



Tips for a Successful Grazing Program

- Eliminate continuous grazing.
- Grazing too close during the growing season is hard on plant health. Divide pastures into smaller units, put animals in one herd and move them to a new pasture whenever they have grazed 30-40% of the available forage in the pasture they are grazing.
- Let the plants recover before allowing the animals to graze it again.
- Provide a water source for each pasture.



RESERVE MAY 10th, 2007 FOR BEEF & RANGE FIELD DAY

The annual Beef & Range Field Day will be held in the country this year, on Thursday, May 10, at the Jack & Liza Lewis Ranch in the White Oak Community, Fredericksburg.

The educational program topics will be

Pond Management, by Dr. Michael Masser, TX Cooperative Extension

Wildlife Management, by Texas Parks and Wildlife

Range Management, by Charles Anderson, USDA NRCS

Benefits of Prescribed Fire, by Charles Anderson, NRCS and Allen Ersch, Gillespie Prescribed Burn Association.

Grazing Lands Conservation Initiative (GLCI) - Texas Coalition, Southwest Texas Solar, and Turner Seed Company are invited to provide exhibits.

Producers attending the programs will receive two hours of continuing education units (CEUs) toward renewal of their private pesticide applicators license.

Pre-registration is recommended. You can register at the USDA NRCS/Gillespie Co. SWCD Office at 1906 North Llano, #106, or at the Texas Cooperative Extension Office at 95 Frederick Road. Registration and sign-in at the event begin at 4:00 p.m. The programs start at 5:00 p.m. The meal and door prize giveaways start after the programs. Pre-Registration is \$10 per person, and that covers the Program, Exhibits, two CEUs, the Barbecue Meal catered by Bill Miller Bar BQ, and Door Prizes.

All interested persons are welcome and invited to attend. In case of rain, the May 10 Field Day will be held at the Gillespie County Fairgrounds.

The Gillespie County SWCD #220 prohibits discrimination in its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, and marital or familial status. (Not all prohibited bases apply in all programs.) "An Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer"