

NEWSLETTER

Gillespie County Soil and Water Conservation District

Fall/Winter 2009



Sideoats Grama, Texas State Grass



Soil & Water Conservation District Directors Attended Annual State Meeting in Arlington

District directors from the 216 soil and water conservation districts in Texas attended the 69th annual meeting of Texas Soil and Water Conservation Districts October 19-21 in Arlington, Texas. Directors Royce Herbert, Patrick Kunz, James Wahrmond, Clayton Grona and Guenther Ottmers, Jr. from the Gillespie County SWCD and Tom Hammer, USDA NRCS attended the three day event.

Speakers from the local, state, and national level addressed attendees on a variety

of agricultural and conservation related issues. Key speakers Oct. 20th included State Senator Wendy Davis of Fort Worth, and Bill Thomas, Jr., president of ATSWCD.

At a series of concurrent workshops, Judon Fambrough, attorney with the TAMU Real Estate Department, College Station, discussed issues related to easements associated with electrical transmission lines. Randy Smith, biologist with Texas Wildlife Services Program, San Antonio, and Johnny

Oswald, Program Supervisor for the TSSWCB spoke on Predator Control and Invasive Species. John Foster, Programs Officer for TSSWCB, lead a workshop on their new Operation and Maintenance and Structural Repair Grant Programs for Flood Control Dams.

In May, 2009, Gillespie County SWCD won Outstanding District for Area 2. At the State Meeting, we received an award for Outstanding District in Texas.

Prepare Now for Next Year's Prescribed Burn

This year's planning means next year's success when it comes to preparing for a prescribed burn.

According to Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) conservationists, prescribed burning is an effective tool for improving rangeland productivity, improving forage and soil quality, increasing plant diversity, improving wildlife habitat, and controlling regrowth juniper.

"Planning for a prescribed burn should begin a year before the fire is carried out," said Tom Hammer, NRCS District Conservationist. "A sound grazing management program is the key to producing adequate amounts

of fine fuel for a successful prescribed burn."

In planning now for next year's burn, steps to take include:

Consulting with NRCS, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD), Texas AgriLIFE Extension Service, The Nature Conservancy, Gillespie Chapter of the Prescribed Burn Association, and neighbors with prescribed burn experience.

Developing a written prescribed burn plan based on your goals and objectives that will be followed on burn day.

The plan will include details of the prescribed fire, such as detailed description of the area to be burned, the de-

sign of the fireguards, the removal of brush piles and slash at least 500 feet into the burn area, personnel needs for the burn, required weather and fuel conditions, and other details of the burn that meet your prescription.

"Burning is an inexpensive and effective way to manage your grazing resources," Hammer said. "But you won't get the results you want if you don't plan ahead."

If you would like more information about planning a prescribed burn on your property, call your local NRCS field office at 830-997-3349 ext. 3, or visit the NRCS Texas Web site at www.tx.nrcs.usda.gov.

SWCD Director James Wahrmond Re-Elected

James Wahrmond of Fredericksburg was recently re-elected to Gillespie County SWCD's board of directors. James represents Zone 5, the northeast part of the county.

The conservation district's boundaries are the same as for Gillespie County. Its 675,000 acres are split into five zones; each zone has one director elected once every four years. Directors are rural landowners from their zone

of the county.

The district gives technical assistance to all land users in Gillespie County through the USDA NRCS, the Texas AgriLIFE Extension, and Grazing Lands Conservation Initiative (GLCI). We help educate people about range and wildlife management, and how to preserve and protect soil and water resources.

The district is a separate legal subdivision of state

government organized by local agricultural landowners with the help of the Texas State Soil & Water Conservation Board. Conservation programs managed by the district are voluntary to the landowners or operators, or other potential users of the SWCD programs.

Poster & Essay Contest Deadline is December 16

Gillespie Co. SWCD's annual Conservation Poster and Essay Contests are open to boys and girls living in Gillespie County.

The **POSTER** contest is for students 12 or younger.

Options for poster themes are:

"Conservation Habits = Healthy Habitats" (about

how your everyday habits affect the environment and the habitats all around us), or "Dig it!" *The Secrets of Soil*, covering the resource that is our nation's foundation - Soil.

Posters should be made on poster board cut to 22" x 14". Submit poster entries flat; not rolled or folded.

The **ESSAY** contest has two divisions: ages 13 and under have a maximum of 300 words; and ages 14 to 18 have a maximum of 500 words.

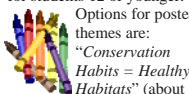
The Essay theme is: "What Soil & Water Conservation Means to Me".

Essay requirements are on the entry form. Probably the most important thing to remember is to stay focused on the specific topics.

Contest entries are due by Wed., Dec. 16, at our office, and judging will be in Jan. All 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place winners receive savings bond certificates from Security

State Bank & Trust, and engraved wooden plaques funded by LCR. The Lions Club will host a hamburger dinner for the winners and their families in March 2010.

Winning entries will be entered in the Area 2 competition, and state winners will be chosen from the winners in the five areas. For details, call the district office at 830-997-3349, x 3. Entry forms were distributed to schools in Gillespie County and more are available at our office.



Fall Field Day was held on Oct. 1 at Lewis Ranch, Fredericksburg



Plant ID was a big hit! Participants studied plants that were flagged and identified beforehand. Dr. Charles (Butch) Taylor and Liza Lewis talked with the crowd.



Liza and Jack Lewis hosted the Oct. 1 Fall Field Day at their ranch, which formerly was the Usener Ranch, located just off of White Oak Road. The event began mid-afternoon with Plant Identification, where 55 plants were flagged on the ground to be identified by participants. Willard Dearing, Mark Moseley, Decky Spiller, Tom Hammer, and Steve Nelle ran Plant ID, explaining about the plants as people matched them to prepared lists.

For the program, Jack and Liza Lewis gave opening remarks concerning ranching and wildlife. Dr. Charles (Butch) Taylor presented Laws & Regulations for Prescribed Burning; he's Manager of TX A&M Experiment Station at Sonora, and Advisor for the Edwards Plateau Prescribed Burning Association.

Steve Nelle of NRCS and Mark Moseley, Range Management/State GLCI coordinator presented informative

Grazing Management topics.

Participants at Field Day earned 1 CEU in Laws and Regs and 1 General CEU toward renewal of their private pesticide applicator's licenses. Approximately 125 people attended the event.

Field Day is sponsored by USDA NRCS, Texas AgriLIFE Extension, GLCI, and Gillespie County SWCD. We want to thank all who helped with the event to make it such a success.

Gillespie Chapter of Edwards Plateau Prescribed Burning Association Meets December 4th — Members & Prospective Members Are Invited

The local prescribed burn association will hold its annual membership meeting on Friday, Dec. 4, 2009 from 5:30 to 8:00 pm, at the Gillespie Co. Agriculture Extension Building at 95 Frederick Road, in Fredericksburg.

Dinner will be served at 5:30, and the meeting should begin at 6:00 pm. The general business meeting before the program will give an overview of the year's activities. We'll talk about new equipment obtained in 2009 and what additional equipment or tools we might want to buy individually or as a group. NRCS Fredericksburg Field Office staff will present the program. B.J. Lange will demonstrate how programs on the internet can be used to map a prescribed burn's latitude and longitude. Tom

Hammer will talk about critical parameters for prescribed burns and will give rules of thumb for writing burn plans. Several handouts will be available for references. A question and answer period will follow the presentations. All GPBA members and prospective members are invited. If you plan to attend, please RSVP by noon on Thurs. Dec. 3 (the deadline was extended). Call 830-997-3349 ext. 3 or email Pat.Kroll@tx.nacdn.net.

If members' mail or email address or phone numbers have changed recently, they should call with an update so that our roster will be current when it's given out at the meeting. Also, if you haven't told GPBA whether you want to help with others' burns, now is the time to do that, so

the list can be updated. Our chapter of EPPBA was formed in 2005. With over 100 members, we are the second largest and one of the most active chapters of the Edwards Plateau Prescribed Burning Association (EPPBA). If you're interested in joining GPBA, or want more information about the association, please email Allen.Ersch@agritech@ctesc.net or call the GPBA office at 830-997-3349 ext. 3.

GPBA meeting was postponed due to inclement weather on Dec. 4. It will be rescheduled for Jan. or Feb. 2010. Watch the Fredericksburg Standard for an update.

The Gillespie County Soil and Water Conservation District provides technical assistance to all land users in the county through the Natural Resources Conservation Service field office at 1906 North Llano Street, #106, in Fredericksburg, (830) 997-3349 ext. 3.

The Gillespie County Soil and Water Conservation District 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.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotapes, etc.), should contact the SWCD office at (830) 997-3349 ext. 3. "An Equal Opportunity Employer."



Annual Beef & Range Field Day was May 14, 2009 at the Fairgrounds

Dr. Rick Machen and Wade Polk were the key speakers at the Beef & Range Field Day held May 14 at the Gillespie County Fairgrounds show barn in Fredericksburg.

Dr. Machen, Professor and Extension Livestock Specialist at Uvalde talked about Cattle vaccination, Nutritional management for 1st calf heifers, Bull testing & Country of origin labeling (COOL) update. Wade Polk, Extension Program Specialist—Risk Management, at San Angelo, spoke about Risk Management, Rainfall & crop insurance or NAP, & Carbon Emission Trading.

Over 200 people came to the event, where attendance earned two General CEUs to-

ward renewal of the private pesticide applicator's license.

Several exhibits attracted our attention during registration. Willard Dearing and Amanda Kirchner manned a Plant Identification table, with a display on native Texas vines. Dow AgroSciences, Grazing Lands Conservation Initiative (GLCI), Gillespie Chapter - EPPBA, Anderson Ecological Consulting, Southwest Texas Solar, and Turner Seed Company also had educational exhibits.

Bill Miller BarBQ catered the meal and Gillespie County SWCD district directors gave away many great door prizes donated by area businesses and residents.



THANK YOU to All Who Support the Gillespie County SWCD

Supporters do many things for the district, and we appreciate all their help! They generously assist with Field Days or donate major door prizes, sponsor our annual conservation awards, help fund additional district activities, provide meeting locations, publicize events by newspaper and radio, and/or assist the District all year long

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2010 Youth Range Workshop Accepting Applications

The 56th annual Youth Range Workshop will be held in June, 2010 at Texas Tech University at Junction, Texas. It's sponsored by the Texas Section Society for Range Management (TSSRM). If you know an outstanding youth who is in 4-H or FFA, he or she might like to attend this great workshop.

Participants enjoy hands-on activities like plant identification and plant collecting, and stocking rate evaluation. Special sessions are held on water and total resource management. This is the oldest range workshop for 4-H and FFA youth in Texas. But the curriculum is constantly updated as increasing importance is placed on a landowner's ability to make sound environmental, social and economic decisions. The training is conducted by 16 volunteer range professionals in Texas.

It's not too early to think about this workshop! Applications are accepted year-

round and 40 participants will be chosen for each workshop. Youth 14-17 years old, who have completed the 8th or 9th grade, usually best benefit from the workshop. Ideally, participants will return to their local communities and schools, and serve as leaders to educate youth and other audiences. Applicants should be active in 4-H or FFA, and be willing to take part in all the workshop activities.

The cost for the 6-day workshop is \$260. Gillespie Co. SWCD would pay tuition for one or two youths to attend this Workshop. The Gillespie Farm Bureau would also sponsor a student to attend. A brochure and application are at the SWCD office or at www.rangelands.org/texas/youtheducation.htm.

Anyone interested in learning more about the program should contact Hoyt Seidensticker at 210-414-6603 or call the SWCD office at 830-997-3349 ext. 3.

Texas Native Plant Society Activities

With over 30 chapters in Texas, the Native Plant Society has a lot going on. The local Fredericksburg chapter contact is Jane Crone. Her phone is 830-990-9823. The Fredericksburg Chapter is located at 320 West San Antonio Street.

For Kerrville, the contact is Edna Platte; she can be reached at 830-257-2185.

The organization's web

page at <http://npsot.org/wp/> has interesting stories about plants and the drought. The resources page is especially helpful, with pointers on where to go for help with identifying plants, information on native plants, and book lists.

Native plant society offices have a myriad of handouts to educate you about nearby habitat and plants.

Hill Country Association of SWCDs met on May 28

The Hill Country Association met May 28 at the Bandera United Methodist Church in Bandera for its spring meeting. The group took a tour of the fiber products processing operation at Bandera.

Speakers at the meeting were Marty Graham, member of the Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board, State District II; Volney Hough, director of the Association of Texas Soil & Water Conservation Districts, Area

II; and Elisha Kuehn, Assistant State Conservatorist, USDA NRCS.

Roughly 20 counties' soil and water conservation districts are members of the Hill Country Association. Guenther Ottmers, Jr., was newly elected as president of the association. Guenther is Secretary/Treasurer of the Gillespie County SWCD, and has been a SWCD director for 35 years.

Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)

The SWCD works with NRCS and landowners in the county to increase water quantity & quality through EQIP, a federally cost-shared program. For brush management, clearing cedar, mesquite, and prickly pear are eligible practices. NRCS works with landowners to determine which areas they want to clear. Extreme clearing isn't required, and buffer areas can be left where agreed upon.

All other practices in the NRCS payment schedule are also eligible for cost share; i.e., fencing and water development.

Applicants must be engaged in livestock or agricultural production to be eligible for EQIP. At least one contract item must be done within the contract's first year. Participants hire their own contractor after the EQIP

contract is signed & approved. The NRCS office can help participants locate contractors. EQIP requires a one growing season deferral of land after brush clearing; and brush re-growth needs to be controlled for 10 years. The Gillespie Prescribed Burn Association helps members control re-growth through prescribed burning.

A few EQIP contracts were funded in 2009. There's a continuous sign-up, so you can apply now for funding in 2010. You should also verify with Farm Service Agency that your records are current. For more information, visit the NRCS office in Fredericksburg at 1906 North Llano St., #106, call 830-997-3349 ext. 3, or consult the NRCS web-site about EQIP.



Pedernales Water Enhancement (Brush Control) Project

The Pedernales Brush Control Project is a state-sponsored cost-share incentive program to help landowners remove Cedar (Ash Juniper) and/or Mesquite from their property. The Texas State Soil & Water Conservation Board began the program in 2002 in the Pedernales River Watershed, by working with SWCDs in Blanco, Gillespie, Kerr, Kendall and Travis Counties. The project goal is to use brush removal to enhance the Pedernales Rivers' stream flow and water availability.

Applications are being accepted for FY 2010, which began on Sept. 1, 2009. The program received \$300,000 in new

funding for FY 2010 contracts, and as of October 2009, about 1/2 has been allocated. With a continuous sign-up, applications not funded this year will be in line for funding next year. Since 2002, the program has approved 401 contracts and paid out over \$1,617,500.

The Pedernales brush control program's office is in Johnson City. Anyone interested in participating in the program may call Melissa Grote at 830-868-7237 ext. 3. In addition, Gillespie County landowners may stop by the Fredericksburg SWCD/NRCS office at 1906 N. Llano, #106, to ask questions or pick up an application.

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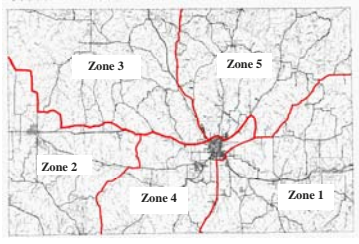

A few words about our conservation district . . .

Gillespie County SWCD is a member of the National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD), the Association of Texas Soil and Water Conservation Districts (ATSWCD), the Texas Association of Watershed Sponsors (TAWS), and the Hill Country Resource Conservation & Development Area, Inc.

Our Board of Directors includes:
 Royce Herbert, Chairman (Zone 3)
 Patrick Kunz, Vice-Chairman (Zone 2)
 Gunther Ottmers, Jr., Secretary-Treasurer (Zone 1)
 Clayton Grona, Director (Zone 4)
 James Wahrmond, Director (Zone 5)

Pat Kroll is the district manager, newsletter editor, and webmaster.

Gillespie Co. SWCD shares office space with NRCS at 1906 North Llano, Fredericksburg, TX 78624. The phone is 830-997-3349 ext 3. We support the Gillespie Chapter of the Edwards Plateau Prescribed Burning Association (GPBA), and the Gillespie County Water Control and Improvement District (WCID), who also call this office home.


The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service Fredericksburg field office provides technical assistance to land users in Gillespie County. NRCS staff ready to assist you with conservation concerns are: District Conservationist Tom Hammer and Rangeland Management Specialists Amanda Kirchner and B. J. Lange.

The NRCS field office is at 1906 North Llano Street, #106, Fredericksburg, TX 78624. Office hours are 8:00 to 4:30. Call them at (830) 997-3349 ext. 3. The NRCS Texas state web site is at <http://www.tx.nrcs.usda.gov/>.

Gillespie SWCD Equipment Rentals

The District owns rental equipment for agricultural use within the county. The weed sprayers and a seed spreader are kept at Beyer Fertilizer & Feed, 3446 Hwy. 16 North in Fredericksburg. You can make rental arrangements with Dwayne Beyer at (830) 997-9880. The sprayers each rent for \$2.50/acre with \$30.00 minimum. The grass seed spreader with 700 lb. capacity rents for \$35/day.

The District's smaller equipment is kept at the NRCS/SWCD office at 1906 North Llano, # 106, in Fredericksburg. To rent our small equipment, call the SWCD at (830) 997-3349 x3. The drip torch and cyclone hand seeder each rent for \$5/day. The seeder for a 4-wheeler rents for \$15/day.



Call Us for Your GRASS or WILDFLOWER SEEDS

Gillespie County SWCD's main purpose is to provide support to landowners. We co-sponsor educational Field Days and Plant-ID events. We sponsor conservation awards for youths and adults, and sponsor Gillespie County students to attend the Youth Range Workshop.

As a way of earning funds for our district, we sell grass, wildflower, and wildlife seed. A few of the grass seeds offered are Kleingrass, Wilman Lovegrass, WW-B Dahl, Indiangrass, Sideoats grama, and Little Bluestem. Some of the forbs offered are Illinois (Sabine) Bundleflower, and Engelmann daisy. You can choose from over 30 types of individual wildflower seeds. TX perennial grass and forb mixtures are also available.

We have several Texas sources for seed, and you can choose from a large selection of grass, wildflower, and wildlife seeds in bulk. We can give you a list of available seeds and prices, and can help select your seed and recommend seeding rates. We'll order the seed for you; it's shipped to us - and we'll call you when it comes in. You pay for the seed when you pick it up at our office.

Why not come by or call us to see how we can help you with your next order.

CONSERVATION AWARD WINNERS

At the Gillespie Co. SWCD office, we take conservation seriously and we're very proud of our **Outstanding Conservation Award Winners**. In this issue, we've listed the Outstanding Conservationists over the past 30 years. Earlier winners aren't catalogued yet, but we'll list them in a future newsletter.

Visit Gillespie SWCD's web page at www.gillespiecountyswcd.org

Our web page was created in summer of 2006. Since then, it has evolved to include:

- Details on how to contact us
- A calendar of future events
- Stories & color photos of past events hosted by NRCS, TX AgriLIFE Extension and the SWCD
- Excerpts (pdf files) from past newsletters, with color photos and ads from our sponsors
- Photos of conservation award winners
- Current information on EQIP and the State Brush Program
- Details about Gillespie Chapter of the Edwards Plateau Prescribed Burn Association, with burn plan forms and weather links
- Links to related sites like GLCI, Texas NRCS, and Texas Parks & Wildlife
- Classes or workshops

WINTER FISH SALE DEC. 4.

One way our SWCD raises a little money is by holding fish sales each spring. Sometimes we hold additional fish sales in other seasons. We're having a small sale Friday morning, Dec. 4 at our office, at 1906 North Llano Street. Our supplier will have extra channel catfish, blue catfish and minnows at the sale. Please call our office by Thurs. noon at 830-997-3349 x 3 if you're interested in buying fish.

Recycle your feed sacks! At fish sales, the fish are put in plastic bags with water & oxygen, then they're put into feed sacks for protection while you transport them to your pond. If you want to recycle your 50 lb. feed sacks, we'll take them to give to the fish farm, with many thanks!

Resident Conservation Rancher/Farmer

2009 Bruce & Joyce Thiele	1990 Dr. & Mrs. Lorence Feller
2008 Curtis Eckhardt, DVM	1989 Wesley Crenwelge
2007 Burnell Bennett	1988 Kermit M. Kothe
2002 Camey Stewart	1987 Alvin F. & Bernice Weinheimer
2000 Kenneth Lindig	1987 Kenneth Sultemeier
1999 Mary Althaus Hobbs & E. J. Hobbs	1984 Daniel J. Fritz, DVM
1998 Dr. P Charles Romanick	1983 Tommy & Janabeth Grona
1997 Carey Weinheimer	1982 Charles & Mary Lou Klein
1996 Stehling Ranch - Edward, Ronald & Charles Stehling	1981 Arthur Lynn Hahn & Gary Lynn Hahn
1995 Robert Dittmar Family	1980 Calvin Weinheimer
1994 Charles D. Schmidt	1979 Raymond Kneese
1993 Marcus & Ralph Rode	
1992 Mr. & Mrs. Conrad Matysiak	

Pioneer in Agriculture Award

2009 Mrs. Wanda Wunderlich
 (This is a new category, we'll award it again in 2010)

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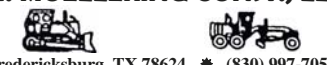
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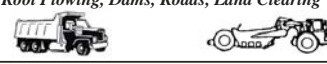


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GILLESPIE COUNTY SWCD ANNUAL REPORT

FY 2009 Activities - 9/1/2008 thru 8/31/2009

- Completed Program and Plan of Work. Renewed the Cooperative Working Agreement between NRCS, USDA, TX State SWCB and Gillespie County SWCD.
- Held Director Election (Zone 4); Clayton Grona re-elected in Oct. 2008.
- Co-sponsored the Fall Range Tour on Oct. 9, 2008
- Attended the annual state meeting of SWCDs in Bastrop on October 27-28, 2008.
- Co-sponsored annual burn association meeting on Dec. 5.
- Received poster & essay entries on Dec. 10.
- Co-sponsored Annual Conservation Awards Dinner with Fredericksburg Lions Club, Security State Bank & LCRA on March 25; honored six poster & essay winners, plus Bruce & Joyce Thiele, and Wanda Wunderlich.
- Directors & district manager attended Texas Assoc. of Watershed Sponsors meeting on March 30.
- With Gillespie Co. WCID directors and NRCS, inspected the dams on April 21.
- Attended the Area 2 Awards dinner in Wall on May 7. Mr. & Mrs. Thiele won as Outstanding Rancher for Area 2, we won as Outstanding District
- Co-sponsored Beef/Range Field Day, at Gillespie Co. Fairgrounds on May 14.
- Held Spring Fish Sale on May 22.
- Directors attended the Hill Country Assoc. of SWCD's Spring meeting at Bandera on May 28.
- In June 2009, Gillespie Co. SWCD was named "Outstanding SWCD" in Texas.
- Co-sponsored a seminar on Burning Brush Piles, July 31.
- Exhibited educational booth at Gillespie Co. Fair in Aug.
- Published District newsletter in Fall 2008 & Spring 2009
- Publicized our activities on www.gillespiecountyswcd.org.

MAJOR CONCERNS OF GILLESPIE SWCD

Gillespie Co. SWCD will focus long-range planning on: Water quantity & quality; Critical area erosion; Proper grassland and brush management; Prescribed burns to control brush re-growth and improve wildlife habitat; Maintaining conservation practices; and Continue application of Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP).

FY 2009 PROGRESS SUMMARY

In addressing our major concerns, these are some of the conservation practices applied during FY 2009 in Gillespie County through NRCS:

- 29 EQIP contracts and conservation plans were completed on 11,003 acres.
- 1,680 acres of pasture planting and range seeding were completed.
- 3,423 feet of cross fencing for grazing distribution were installed.
- 2,421 feet of terraces were rebuilt.
- 4,132 acres of brush controls were completed.
- 990 acres of prescribed burns were carried out on area rangeland.
- Five (5) Food Security Plans were developed.
- Upland Wildlife Habitat Management was applied on 25,873 acres.
- Applied prescribed grazing management on 43,700 acres.
- Currently, there are 25 active Long Term Cost Shared Contracts.

PEDERNALES BRUSH CONTROL PROGRAM:

- One new contract was approved in FY2009 for Gillespie Co.; 201 total contracts for the county since 2002.
- \$27,369 was paid out for certified contracts in Gillespie Co. in FY2009; \$1,617,514 was paid in the county since 2002.
- 245 acres were completed in Gillespie Co. in FY2009; and 25,558 acres were done in the County since 2002.

Calendar of Events Fall & Winter 2009/2010

For details, visit
www.gillespiecountyswcd.org

Oct. 2009—May 2010. Gillespie Co. Predator Contest: help control coyote, bobcat, fox & feral hogs. Gillespie Co. Ag. Commodity Assoc. Call 830-997-9674 for rules & prize info (leave a message, they'll call you back).

Dec. 4 Gillespie Prescribed Burn Assoc. (GPBA) Membership meeting at 5:30 p.m. at TX AgrILIFE Extension Bldg. RSVP by noon, Dec. 3 to 830-997-3349 ext. 3.

Dec. 4. Deadline to enter Gillespie County Pecan Show, Texas AgrILIFE Extension, 95 Frederick Rd. Judging and Pecan Show are Dec. 7 at NRCS building, 1906 N. Llano

Dec. 15 Hill Country District Pecan Show at River Hills Mall in Kerrville. Entries due by Dec. 11 at Kerr County Extension office in Kerrville. Judging & the show are on the 15th. The South Texas Regional Show is Dec. 16 at same location. Please call 830-257-6568 if you have questions.

Dec. 16 Conservation Poster & Essay entries due.

Jan. - May 2010

Mid Jan. Poster & Essay entries will be judged.

Mar. 24. Conservation Awards Dinner, sponsored by the Lions Club, Security State Bank & Gillespie Co. SWCD.

March or April. Fish Sale through Gillespie Co. SWCD. Watch the Fredericksburg Standard for details this spring.

April 25 - May 2 Soil & Water Stewardship Week: Parents & youth leaders help youth learn about caring for natural resources.

May 2010 Spring Beef & Range Field Day, program and location to be announced early 2010.

Conservation Essay Winners 1979 to 2009

- | | |
|------|---|
| 2009 | Jordan White, Cavin Felts, Austin Rodriguez |
| 2008 | Bailey Baethge, Marlo Jimenez, Peyton Kneese |
| 2007 | (Sr. Div.) Callie Settles, Zack Graves, Rachel Lynn Karp |
| 2007 | (Jr. Div.) Rebecca Schwarz, Abby Howard-Kneitz, Kaylee Olfers |
| 2006 | Phil Delobbe, Nelli Jacobo, Sarah Kaderli |
| 2005 | Max Miller, Heather Heath, Ann Stehling |
| 2004 | Max Miller, Madison Dooley, Tyler Feller |
| 2003 | Carena Barsch, Alex Ward, Robert Brown |
| 2002 | Courtney McCrea, Jeffrey Valentine, Sarah Rode |
| 2001 | Andrew King, Ellen Granado, Jennifer Weinheimer |
| 2000 | Jacob Holloway, Katie MacWithey, Hailey Estenson |
| 1999 | Bradley Durst, Maggie Klein, Erin Hohmann |
| 1998 | Mark Geistweidt, Diane Sparks, Donna Crenwelge |
| 1997 | Crystal Baethge, Donna Crenwelge, Mark Geistweidt |
| 1996 | Kayla Welge, Julee Holladay, James Crenwelge |
| 1995 | Anita Grote, Julee Holladay, Jarime Baethge |
| 1994 | Kara Welge, Kimberly Bierschwale, Brandon Lively |
| 1993 | Kara Welge, Andrew Beyette, Adam Geistweidt |
| 1992 | (Sr. Div.) Heidi Sagebiel, Dana Edwards, Brad Steiner |
| 1992 | (Jr. Div.) Andrew Beyette, Adam Geistweidt |
| 1990 | (Sr. Div.) Patricia White, Dale Tomlinson, Justin Esquell |
| 1990 | (Jr. Div.) Jennifer Crenwelge, Sonya Immel, Terrill Stehling |
| 1989 | (Sr. Div.) Shannon Tatsch, Shawn Spaeth, Tessa Mezik |
| 1989 | (Jr. Div.) Dorian Dykstra, Lalonna Bratcher, Jennifer Crenwelge |
| 1988 | (Sr. Div.) Tauyna Rodriguez, Robert Modgling, Connie Burrier |
| 1988 | (Jr. Div.) Shawn Sattler, Heather Miles, Beth Baskett |
| 1987 | (Sr. Div.) Shannon Tatsch, Dana Edwards, Ricky Clark |
| 1987 | (Jr. Div.) Diane Fritz, Elizabeth Schmidt, Dinchen Klein |
| 1986 | (Sr. Div.) Liz Dunn, Allen Vallentine, Kit Saulter |
| 1986 | (Jr. Div.) Melissa Rech, Sherry Hahn, Kevin Geistweidt |
| 1985 | Lisa Northcutt, Shannon Sattler, Melissa Johnson |
| 1984 | Bradley Baethge, Lisa Northcutt |
| 1983 | Brenda Sieckmann, Jared Jung |
| 1982 | (Sr. Div.) Sandra Ransleben |
| 1982 | (Jr. Div.) Brenda Sieckmann |
| 1981 | Audrey Hahn |
| 1979 | Margie Hahn, Michael Baethge |

Conservation Poster Winners 1980 to 2009

- | | |
|------|---|
| 2009 | Logan White, Conor Thompson, Brittany Sanders |
| 2008 | Scott Burilison, Jacob Krebs, Keagan Steckmann |
| 2007 | Zane Graves, Quaid Hall, Makenna Olfers |
| 2006 | Luke Smith, Jacquelyn Crenwelge, Kaylee Olfers |
| 2005 | Shelbi Schneider, Nelli Jacobo, Chaston Hall |
| 2004 | Katherine Crenwelge, Jordan Schultz, Kendall Baethge |
| 2003 | Holly Crenwelge, Shannon Bonn, Amy Hannemann |
| 2002 | Brittany Brady, Morgan Kunz, Kevin Shumake |
| 2001 | Morgan Kunz, Amanda Jones, Madison Dooley |
| 2000 | Joanna Folse, Morgan Marquardt, Carson Diltz |
| 1999 | Nina Smith, Libby Boos, Carena Barsch |
| 1998 | Stacy Segner, Katie Walch, Joey Kammlah |
| 1997 | Brittany Marquardt, Ana V. Berber-Thayer, Eileen Tynan |
| 1996 | Daniel Hannemann, Ricky Delturizza, Jacob Holloway |
| 1995 | Mike Brandenberger, Blake Dickson, Matt Kordzik |
| 1994 | Anita Grote, Kara Welge, Neal Eckert |
| 1993 | April Vinus, Anita Grote, Kara Immel |
| 1992 | Kimberly Bierschwale, Kayla Welge, Staci Webb |
| 1990 | Anita Grote, Emily Mae Smith, Corianne Grote |
| 1989 | Kimberly Bierschwale, Blaine Hahn, Sarah Monk |
| 1988 | Cornelia Sawatzky, Jennifer Crenwelge, Todd Bierschwale |
| 1987 | Todd Bierschwale, Jacy Beaudoin, Dale Tomlinson |
| 1986 | Blaine Hahn, Kim Pickens, Jennifer Crenwelge |
| 1985 | Trena Northcutt, Sherry Hahn, Adam Geistweidt |
| 1984 | Kevin Geisweidt, Brenda Bryson |
| 1983 | Leah Ottmers, Elise Northcutt |
| 1982 | Lisa Northcutt |
| 1981 | Brenda Bryson |
| 1980 | Kristi Ohlenburg, Scott Kuykendall |

Absentee Conservation Rancher/Farmer

- | | |
|------|-----------------------------------|
| 2007 | Dr. Leonard Hilliard, San Antonio |
| 2000 | Garet von Netzer, Amarillo |
| 1997 | Marvin Pipkin, San Antonio |
| 1992 | James & LaRue Acosta, San Antonio |
| 1991 | Robert Sechrist |
| 1990 | Lou Ellen & Bob O'Kennon, Dallas |

Wildlife Conservationist

- | | |
|------|---|
| 2008 | Liza & Jack Lewis |
| 2007 | David Darr |
| 2002 | Henry Frantzen |
| 1992 | Ted Masser |
| 1991 | Mr. & Mrs. Sam Smith |
| 1989 | Henry Louis Welge |
| 1985 | Cave Creek Wildlife Management Area (83 ranches & 35,000 acres) |

Conservation Teacher

- | | |
|------|--|
| 2007 | Clairean Friedrich |
| 2001 | Doug Fryd |
| 2000 | Helen Usener |
| 1999 | Evelyn Weinheimer |
| 1995 | Corine Klose |
| 1989 | Scott E. Johnson |
| 1986 | Joan West, Scott E. Johnson & Carrie Bierschwale |
| 1984 | Edna Crenwelge |

Note: Records unavailable for Poster Contest for 1991 & 1980, & Essay Contest, 1991.

Conservation Business Award

Wayne Geistweidt, 2001

Outstanding Business/Professional Individual

Terry Collier, 2000 and Roy Stroehrer, 1988

Outstanding District Cooperator

Stehling Ranch, 1995

Goodyear Award

Desmond and Maebeth Sagebiel, 1977

Conservation Media Award

Terry Collier, 1985, for the publication he edits

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<http://www.glci.org/>

Utilities Inventory

"Call Before You Dig"

Construction of conservation practices on your property could endanger life & property involvement of utilities located in the construction area. Because of this, NRCS is required to inform you of the state law requiring you and/or your contractor to notify:

NRCS can provide the form to use for Cooperator Confirmation of the One-Call Utility Safety System; people with EQIP contracts are required to have the completed One-Call form on file.

Also responsible for notifying utilities who are non-members of the Texas One-Call System. Some local utilities including water, waste water, slurry and overhead utilities are not required to join a notification or one-call center.

NRCS can provide the form to use for Cooperator Confirmation of the One-Call Utility Safety System; people with EQIP contracts are required to have the completed One-Call form on file.

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