

# NEWSLETTER



## Gillespie County Soil and Water Conservation District Summer 2018

### Annual Conservation Awards Dinner was March 21

Sideoats Grama, Texas State Grass



Presenters and students whose poster or essay won Soil and Water Conservation District awards are, Essay Winner Annabella Sione, Poster Winners Tanner James, Ella Grandjean, and Elizabeth Dobbins. Presenting the awards were, in back, Gillespie SWCD directors James Wahrmond, Guenther Ottmers, Patrick Kunz, Cade Bonn and Neal Eckert.



The Gillespie County Soil and Water Conservation District honored Jim Faught, fifth from left, as the Pioneer in Agriculture. Also pictured, from left, Karen Behrends and Irene Sanchez, representing Security State Bank and Trust; J.R. Wahrmond, director, Zone 5; Guenther Ottmers Jr., director, Zone 1; Jim Faught; Patrick Kunz, director, Zone 2; Neal Eckert, director, Zone 3; and Cade Bonn, director, Zone 4.



Receiving the Conservation Rancher award was Gerald and Alicia Frantzen, center. Pictured from left, Karen Behrends and Irene Sanchez of Security State Bank and Trust; J.R. Wahrmond, director, Zone 5; Alicia Frantzen; Guenther Ottmers, director, Zone 1; Gerald Frantzen; Patrick Kunz, director, Zone 2; Neal Eckert, director, Zone 3; and Cade Bonn, director, Zone 4.

Winners of Gillespie County SWCD's Conservation Awards were honored Wednesday, March 21. The Fredericksburg Lions Club hosted the annual event for the winners, their families, teachers, and County officials.

The awards were given after a hamburger dinner. Approximately 80 people attended.

Four students won in the conservation poster and essay contests.

Jim Faught received the 2018 Pioneer in Agriculture award. Gerald and Alicia Frantzen were honored as the Conservation Rancher.

SWCD directors presented the Poster and Essay winners with engraved plaques. Security State Bank & Trust gave students prizes in the amounts of \$75 for first place, \$50 for second place, and \$25 for third place.

For the poster contest, Elizabeth Dobbins, had the first place poster, Ella Grandjean, second place poster, Tanner James had the third place poster.

In the junior division essay contest, Annabella Sione, won first.

These awards are part of the TSSWCB annual Texas Conservation Awards Program. Gillespie County is in Area II, which includes 44 southwest Texas counties. The Gillespie SWCD enters all their local winners in this contest.

The Pioneer in Agriculture Award honors families who have farmed or ranched most of their lives and had a

positive impact in Gillespie county.

#### Pioneer in Agriculture

Jim Faught, of Doss, was presented with the Pioneer in Agriculture Award. His father and brothers were partners in the family ranching operation.

In 1948, they joined a partnership to buy land in San Saba. As this partnership grew, Faught knew his place was in Doss.

He managed livestock, raising cattle, Angora goats, and white Dorper sheep.

He married Vernell Itz and moved to the Faught Ranch. She worked at the Doss store for many years. In her free time, she sewed, making many of her own clothes, cooked and enjoyed baking.

Conservation is a big part of Faught's ranching and farming practice, staying on top of mesquite, cedar and prickly pear. He farms his land strictly for prescribed grazing for his livestock.

Today, Faught's son, Ronald, helps run a majority of the Faught Ranch.

In addition to a passion for ranching, Faught raised Kelpie dogs. He is the founder of the Working Kelpie Club (1980) and is internationally known in American Kelpie circles.

He has sold over 900 Kelpies in the U.S. and internationally.

#### Conservation Rancher

The Conservation Rancher honors someone who has and is currently performing con-

servation work on their land.

Gerald and Alicia Frantzen were awarded with the Conservation Rancher Award.

Both grew up in Gillespie County and have been involved in agriculture and conservation practices.

Through the years, the couple has designated days to cut cedar, spray prickly pear or plant grass.

Together, the Frantzens started The Inside Story, a local home interior design business.

Following their normal work day, the couple has spent time caring for the land and making sure livestock was fed.

After retiring, and with the help from family, they have constructed over 8,000 feet of high-tensile net wire fence, laid 3,000 feet of pipe, installed four water storage facilities and six drinking troughs to ensure their operation is sustainable for years to come.

While participating in many EQIP programs, the Frantzens have also completed the Conservation Stewardship Program.

The couple has been actively involved in the community, all while showing support to their 14 grandchildren.

The SWCD thanks all the teachers who inspired their students to enter the contests, the Fredericksburg Lions Club for providing the hamburger dinner, Security State Bank & Trust for donating the prizes, and HEB for providing cookies for dessert.

### 2018 Beef & Range Field Day

The Gillespie County Soil and Water Conservation District hosted the Beef and Range Field Day at the Gillespie County Fair Grounds, on May 10. There were nearly 250 attendees. There were 18 exhibitors at the event, which included a plant identification booth as well as feed and seed companies, ag chemical information, agricultural and livestock equipment and many other information booths. Just after the program, the Gillespie County Soil and Water Conservation District provided a catered barbecue meal.

During registration, Willard Dearing hosted Plant Identification, including early summer plants. He brought a wide variety of different plants which he had identified. This gave the attendees a chance to identify some of the different varieties they may have on their property. This is important to know how to control a certain plant.

Adam Bush with Helena Chemical Co. gave a presentation on spray drift control. Spray drift is becoming an increasingly important part of every spraying operation. More diversification of crops, more active and non-selective herbicides, and a greater awareness of pesticides in the environment has caused spray drift management to become every applicator's business. Adam Bush explained how there are several factors that play a significant part in the creation and reduction of drift. A number of drift control methods are available to applicators. They include new drift reducing nozzles, shielded spray booms and drift control additives. The new nozzles and additives increase drop size and reduce the fine drops while the shields contain the fine drops inside the shield. The most important part to

reducing drift is the applicator. He/she must make the decision to either do the job or to postpone it until a more opportune time. Taking a chance of doing the spraying job in conditions that may cause drift could be very costly.

Local program updates were given by Brad Roeder, County Agent of the Gillespie County AgriLife Extension Office. Jess Anderson, Rangeland Management Specialist for the Natural Resources Conservation Service gave an update from NCRS. Rickey Nefendorf, County Executive Director gave an update for Farm Service Agency.

The Gillespie County Soil and Water Conservation District, through the generosity of many donors and sponsors, gave away numerous door prizes and had a prize drawing with eight special items.

Attendance at field day earned two CEUs toward renewal of a private pesticide applicator license. One CEU was offered before registration on Laws & Regulations.

The Gillespie County Soil and Water Conservation District would like to thank all the exhibitors, donors and sponsors that made the field day a success.

The event was sponsored jointly by Gillespie County Soil and Water Conservation District, United States Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service, and Texas AgriLife Extension Service.



Top: Adam Bush with Helena Chemical Co.  
Bottom: Chemical Sprayer



## Prepare Your Farm or Ranch Before Drought Strikes

Having a good drought plan in place can help your operation weather even the most severe drought conditions. Your plan should be part of a comprehensive conservation plan that considers the kinds and conditions of all of your resources, and consider how crops, forage and other resources have reacted to drought in the past.

Precipitation is the largest single determinant of drought. Temperature and other climate elements are also important. It is not uncommon for drought periods to be accompanied by higher summer temperatures. Drought planning involves preparing for not only average conditions, but also extremes. Thus, producers should know the extent of their current drought conditions and what the expectations are for the coming week, month and season. A good knowledge of your location's climate will be indispensable in a successful drought mitigation effort. Your plan should help your operation outlast the extremes of climate.

Here are some ideas on water, land, and crop management for you to consider while creating your drought plan:

### Water Management

- Evaluate all types of irrigation systems appropriate for your operation and choose the one that will help you lose less water to evaporation, percolation and runoff.
- Look for ways to make your existing irrigation system more efficient and easier to maintain.
- Build a water storage system that holds water for use during irrigation season.
- Store water in ditches along fields.
- Install water measurement devices that keep track of water use.
- Use water from deep aquifers instead of surface water.

### Land Management Ideas

- Use conservation tillage (crop residue left on your field after harvest) to increase soil moisture and reduce evaporation.
- Use conservation practices that reduce runoff and encourage infiltration of water into the soil.
- Closely monitor soil moisture. (Ask your local NRCS office for a complimentary copy of the agency publication "Estimating Soil Moisture by Feel and Appearance.")
- Maintain and establish riparian buffers, filter strips, grassed waterways and other types of conservation buffers near streams and other sources of water.
- Know your animals' forage needs. Contract early to make sure you will have enough hay during dry times or find alternative feed sources.
- Raise animals that do not consume large quantities of water.
- Cull herds according to a schedule that will maximize your profits.

### Crop Management Ideas

- Plant crops that withstand dryness, hold water, and reduce the need for irrigation.
- Rotate crops in ways that increase the amount of water that enters the soil.
- Shift to cropping systems that are less water dependent than your current system.



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**Jim Morey**

### Gillespie County Agricultural Commodity Assoc.

This is an association of farmers and ranchers in Gillespie County. The objectives are to control the predators (coyotes, fox, bobcats and feral hogs) by offering incentives for hunters that harvest these animals by legal means so as to protect domestic animals, desirable wildlife and birds, damage to field crops, prevent the outbreak of diseases associated with the controlled predators, and prevent pollution of our streams and water supply.

The incentive to harvest these animals includes a bounty for coyotes, red fox, and bobcats for anyone who is a member of the Commodity Association. Coyotes - \$125, and \$25 each for red fox and bobcat.

A county-wide contest that runs from October 1 thru May 31 each year is for anyone and you do not have to be a member. A total of \$2,000 in prize money is offered. The categories include hogs, fox, bobcats and coyotes. For more details, contact the AgriLife Extension Office at 830-997-3452.

### FARM SERVICE AGENCY NEWS UPDATES

Acres Reporting Deadlines for 2018 are as follows:  
Corn, Grain Sorghum and Haygrazers: July 15, 2018.

Livestock Indemnity Program will start accepting livestock death losses due to disease if the disease was a direct result of a Natural Disaster (Ex: flood, fire, hail, tornados and etc.)

Livestock Forage Program is getting closer to being implemented in our area. Therefore, we are asking you to get your farm leases up to date with the current year or years on the lease (remember we CAN NOT take leases that automatically renew yearly). Also, keep accurate count of your livestock by type.

File a Notice of Loss today for your Native and Improved grasses due to the current Drought if you have purchased the NAP coverage.

Farm Record update; to participate in any USDA program, you must have a farm record established with FSA. We will need a survey plat, deed, name and address of the owner and/or operator. This information must be identified in the FSA software mapping system.

Producers can sign up for text messages by texting Txgillespie to FSANOW(372-669), on your phone, to subscribe to text message alerts from Gillespie, Kendall and Blanco Counties. Standard text messaging rates apply. Contact your wireless carrier for details associated with your particular data plan. Participants may unsubscribe at any time.

Newsletters, are only being sent out by email. If you are not receiving an emailed version of the newsletter, please stop by the office and supply us with a current email address. This is the only way of making sure you do not miss out on any programs that you may be eligible to participate in.

For information about these programs, or question you may have, please stop by the FSA office at 1906 North Llano Ste 107 in Fredericksburg or call 830-997-3453 Ext 2 or 830-997-3713 Ext 2.

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### SALES:

Sheep & Goats - Tuesdays - 9:30 A.M.  
Cattle - Wednesdays - 12:00 Noon

Special Calf Sale and Weaned Stocker/Feeder Sales  
Second Wednesday of each month

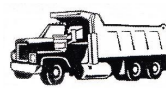
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## Gillespie County SWCD Equipment Rentals

The District owns rental equipment for agricultural use in the county. Weed sprayers and a seed spreader are kept at Beyer Fertilizer & Feed, 3446 Highway 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 a \$50 minimum. The grass seed spreader with 700 lb. capacity rents for \$35/day.

The District's drip torch

and small seeders are kept at the NRCS/SWCD office at 1906 North Llano. To rent our small equipment, call the SWCD at (830) 997-3349 x 3. The drip torch and cyclone hand seeder each rent for \$5/day. The seeder for a 4-wheeler rents for \$15/day.

SWCD equipment rentals are taxable unless used for agricultural purposes and an ag/timber number is provided for the tax exemption.



## 2018 Annual Fish Sale

The Gillespie SWCD held its annual fish sale on April 20. With the rain we had, the tanks were filling up slowly. We had a very good turnout at the sale. There were a variety of fish available. The most popular was the channel cat. Many people like to restock their tanks with fish to allow a new crop of fish. With all of the rain we have had this past month, most of the tanks and ponds are full. The SWCD will most likely hold another fish sale in September. Please check with us for those upcoming dates.

**Advertise with us!** Gillespie County SWCD writes a newsletter twice a year. It's published with the Fredericksburg Standard-Radio Post. If you want to place an ad in our newsletter, or want copies of the newsletter to distribute at your business, please call SWCD/NRCS office at 830-997-3349 x 3. Thank you.



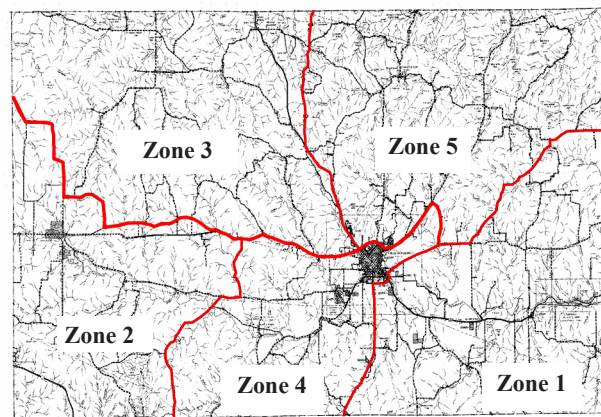
## Gillespie County SWCD General Info.

[www.gillespiecountyswcd.org](http://www.gillespiecountyswcd.org)

We are a member of the Assoc. of Texas Soil and Water Conservation Districts, National Assoc. of Conservation Districts and Texas Assoc. of Watershed Sponsors. We co-sponsor the Williams Creek Watershed Dams with Gillespie County WCID.

SWCD Directors are:

- Zone 1 Guenther Ottmers, Jr., Secretary-Treasurer
- Zone 2 Patrick Kunz, Vice-Chairman
- Zone 3 Neal Eckert, Director
- Zone 4 Cade Bonn, Director
- Zone 5 James Wahrmond, Chairman



The Gillespie SWCD shares office space with NRCS at 1906 N. Llano, Fredericksburg, TX 78624. Phone is 830-997-3349 x 3.

NRCS hours are M-F 8:00 to 4:30 (closed 12:00-1:00), but staff may be out in the field on any given day. Please call before driving in to meet with the SWCD or NRCS, to be sure the person you need will be there.

### Thank You

Fredericksburg Lions Club, Security State Bank & Trust, & H-E-B for the hamburger dinner, dessert, and for donating such fine prizes for the poster and essay contest. The Conservation Awards Banquet was held on March 21.

### Thank You to the 2018 Beef and Range Field Day Supporters, Exhibitors and Donors

First United Bank, Custom Air, Arrowhead Bank, Kurt & Tuttle Geistweidt, Royce and Karen Herbort, Lochte Feed and General Store, NAPA, Behrends Feed and Fertilizer, Capital Farm Credit, Willard Dearing - Plant ID, Eckert and Son Auto Salvage, Dittmar Lumber, Gillespie County Fair and Festivals Association, Texas and Southwest Cattle Raisers, McLane Ford, Bernice Jenschke, Kunz and Sauer Fencing, Kramer's The Outdoor Store, Ranchers ATV and Tractor, Security State Bank & Trust Stay-Tuff Fence Mfg. Inc., Oak Valley Outdoor Repair, Texas AgriLife Extension, Vernon and Linda Treibs, Turner Seed Company, Allied Ag Services, Chem Air, Gillespie Livestock Co., Fredericksburg Farms, Lyssy and Eckel Feeds, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Dow AgriSciences, Reeh Brangus, Central Texas Electric Coop., Wal-Mart, Bar 7 Ranch, Beyer Fertilizer and Feed, Tractor Supply, Hill Country Sheep & Goat Organization, T9C Calf Tubs LLC, Homestead Quail Hunts,

### Thank You to All Who Support the Gillespie County SWCD

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Texas AgriLife Extension  
Texas Parks & Wildlife Department  
Tractor Supply  
Vernon and Linda Treibs  
Turner Seed Company  
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NAPA

### Texas Master Naturalist Land Management Assistance

Program is sponsored by Texas AgriLife Extension and Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. The Hill Country Chapter of Texas Master Naturalists has trained volunteers to visit your property to help identify trees, shrubs, wildflowers and grasses, and to discuss your goals, plans and concerns. For a free volunteer consultation on your property in Gillespie County, call Jim Stanley at 830-257-2094.

### Master Gardeners Will Answer Gardening Questions by Phone or Email

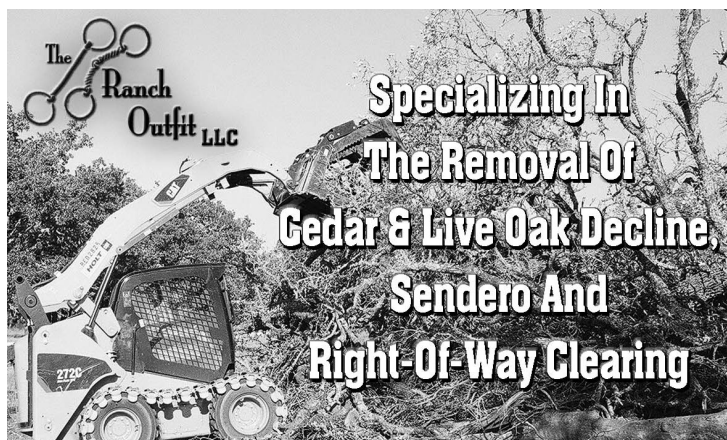
Hill Country Master Gardeners can answer gardening questions from residents of local and surrounding areas. Master Gardeners is a service group helping Texas AgriLife Extension to meet community horticulture needs. To ask questions, call 830-257-6568; visit [www.hillcountrymastergardeners.org](http://www.hillcountrymastergardeners.org) or send email to [kerr@ag.tamu.edu](mailto:kerr@ag.tamu.edu).

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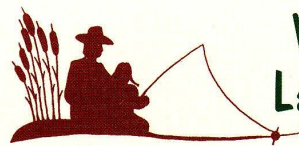
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# GILLESPIE SWCD ANNUAL REPORT

## Activities

- Completed Program and Plan of Work. Renewed Cooperative Working Agreement with NRCS, USDA, TSSWCB and Gillespie SWCD.
- Attended 2017 Annual State Meeting of SWCDs in Galveston, TX on Oct. 24-27.
- Attended Texas Assoc. of Watershed Sponsors (TAWS) March 26 meeting.
- Co-sponsored Annual Conservation Awards Dinner with the Fredericksburg Lions Club and Security State Bank & Trust on March 21, 2018;
- Held Fish Sale on April 20, at Gillespie County Fair Grounds.
- Gillespie WCID directors and NRCS inspected dams on April 19.
- Attended Area 2 Awards dinner in Wall, TX on May 1.
- Directors met with Hill Country Assoc. of SWCDs at the Frio Pecan Farm in Leakey on May 23.
- Co-sponsored Beef and Range Field Day at Gillespie County Fair Grounds Show Barn, May 10.
- Participated in Ag in the Classroom held at the Gillespie County Fair Grounds on May 17.
- Exhibited educational booth at Gillespie County Fair Aug. 24-27.
- Co-Sponsored Oct. 5, 2017 Fall Field Day, Gillespie County Fair Grounds.

## MAJOR CONCERNS OF GILLESPIE SWCD

Gillespie County SWCD will focus long-range planning on: Water quantity and 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 EQIP.

## PROGRESS SUMMARY - NRCS

In addressing our major concerns, these are some of the conservation practices applied during FY 2017/18 in Gillespie County through the NRCS Fredericksburg Field Office:

- 94.2 acres of pasture planting and range seeding were completed.
- 33,414.0 feet of cross fencing for grazing distribution was installed.
- 17,457.0 feet of pipeline for grazing distribution was installed.
- 4 wells were drilled for livestock water development.
- 8 pumping plants (pumps) were installed for delivery of livestock water.
- 34 water storage or drinking facilities were installed to improve grazing distribution.
- 4,319.9 acres of brush control was completed.
- 54,880.0 sq. ft. of high tunnel system was installed.
- Prescribed grazing management was applied on 4,949.9 acres.
- Currently, there are 30 active Long-Term Cost Shared Contracts (EQIP, WHIP, and CSTP).

## Calendar of Events Spring-Summer 2018

**Spring Farmer's Market:** Every Thursday 4-7 p.m. Located at Marktplatz Kinder Halle.

**Fredericksburg Trade Days:** Every third weekend of the month. Located at 355 Sunday Farms Lane, Fredericksburg.

**July 27, 2018 Hay Show:** Contact Gillespie County Extension office at (830)997-3452 for details.

**Gillespie County Fair:** August 23-26 at the Gillespie County Fair Grounds.

**Scholarship Fest**  
September 22

Have fun while raising funds for Gillespie County youth!

**Texas and Southwestern Cattle Raisers Dinner**

Thursday, Oct 18, 2018 5:30pm - 8:00pm  
Gillespie County Fair Grounds  
[tscra.org](http://tscra.org)

## Youth Camp

The Gillespie County Soil and Water Conservation District, Farm Bureau, and Gillespie County Wild Game Dinner sponsored two students for TSSRM Youth Range Workshop and one student to the Texas Buckskin Brigade.

Connor McCarver will be a sophomore at Fredericksburg High School in the fall. He is active in 4-H and FFA - shows livestock (hogs), competed across the state with his Ag Mechanics project, he was on FFA parliamentary procedure and horse judging teams. He played football and did field events in events for athletics. Connor is also shooting archery competitively through 4-H and will be competing at the state level this summer. He lives on the family farm in Hye and Connor spends a lot of his "free" time helping his grandfather with livestock and field work. He loves working on old trucks and tractors as well as hunting and fishing.

Christophe Peralt is a sophomore at Harper High School. Christophe was on the State Range Team. He has also been on the Agronomy and Plant Identification Teams. Since his participation on the Range Team, he has become interested in a career in a related field.

Caleb Olfers will be a sophomore at FHS. Caleb is very involved in FFA and 4-H. He enjoys competing on the Livestock Judging Team, and the Chapter Conducting Team. He is hands on working with livestock to further his knowledge of large animals. During Caleb's free time, he enjoys hunting, fishing, snow skiing, and water skiing. He is excited to continue to learn about animals and looks forward to attending Texas A&M and study veterinary medicine.

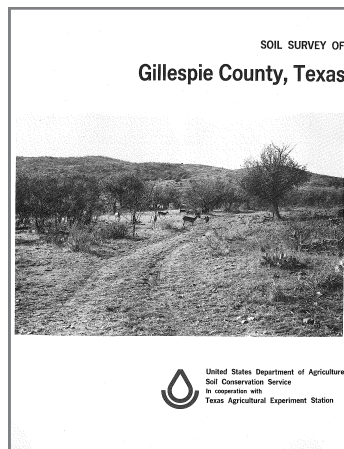
## Free Soil Survey Book at NRCS Office

Our Fredericksburg NRCS office has extra copies of a book, **Soil Survey of Gillespie County, Texas**, published in 1975 by USDA Soil Conservation Service with Texas Agricultural Experiment Station.

While supplies last, anyone who wants a free copy may drop by the office & ask for one.

It has a color General Soil Map for Gillespie County and 77 detailed (b&w) soils maps which together cover the whole county. Soil types are described in detail and there are 40 pages about use & management of the soils.

The maps are also online at [http://soils.usda.gov/survey/online\\_surveys/texas/](http://soils.usda.gov/survey/online_surveys/texas/). But if you'd rather read maps in a book, please come & get one.



Range Plants of North Central Texas Book is available at the Gillespie County SWCD. It is a donation of \$25.00. You can pick yours up today at the office located at 1906 N. Llano Office # 106. Please call the office at (830)997-3349 ext. 3 with any questions.



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markgeistweidt@gmail.com

Owner / Manager:  
Kurt Geistweidt  
barobarranch@hctc.net  
830-669-2352

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United States Department of Agriculture  
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The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service Fredericksburg field office provides technical assistance to land users in Gillespie County. The NRCS Rangeland Management Specialist Jess Anderson will also be happy to help you with conservation concerns. NRCS' office hours are 8am - 4:30p.m. The phone number is (830) 997-3349 x3. The NRCS Texas web site is at <http://www.tx.nrcs.usda.gov/>.

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