

NEWSLETTER



Gillespie County Soil and Water Conservation District Summer 2019

Annual Conservation Awards Dinner was March 20

Sideoats Grama, Texas State Grass



Poster and essay awards were presented to youth on March 20 as part of the Gillespie County Soil and Water Conservation District's 2019 Awards Banquet. Award winners included, in front from left, Braeden Wadsworth, first in junior division essay contest; poster contest winners Colista Preece (first), Patrick Howard (second), and Wesson Gould (third); Madison Schumann, second in the senior division essay contest, and (in back) SWCD directors James Wahrmond, Cade Bonn, Neal Eckert and Patrick Kunz. Not pictured is Kate Darsey, first in the senior division of the essay contest, and Guenter Ottmers, SWCD Director.



Jackie and Antoinette Schandua were presented the Pioneer in Agriculture Award at the Gillespie County Soil and Water Conservation District's 2019 Awards Banquet. Pictured from left, SWCD directors James Wahrmond and Cade Bonn; Jackie and Antoinette Schandua, and SWCD directors Patrick Kunz and Neal Eckert. Not pictured is SWCD director Guenter Ottmers.



The Gillespie County Soil and Water Conservation District presented its Conservation Rancher Award to Stephen and Lisa Stengel during the annual awards banquet. Pictured from left, SWCD directors James Wahrmond and Cade Bonn; Lisa and Stephen Stengel, and SWCD directors Patrick Kunz and Neal Eckert. Not pictured is SWCD director Guenter Ottmers.

2019 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 9.

There were nearly 300 attendees. There were 19 exhibitors at the event, which included a plant identification booth as well as feed and seed companies, agricultural information, and live-stock 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 toxic 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. Plant ID is important to know when trying to control certain plants.

Bruce Carpenter, PhD, Professor and Extension Livestock Specialist, gave a presentation on Animal Health.

During Carpenter's presentation, he demonstrated how to properly administer shots to cattle.

Here are his 5 tips:
Step 1 – Handle cattle in a secure, purpose built unit;
Step 2 – Pick the right size of needle;
Step 3 – Select the correct injection point;
Step 4 – Subcutaneous or intramuscular;
Step 5 – Change the needle regularly.

Robert Lyons, Texas Cooperative Extension Range Specialist gave an update on the new chemical MezaVue.

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

Local program updates were given by Brad Roeder, County Agent of the Gillespie County AgriLife Extension Office; Warren Day, Rangeland Management Specialist, NRCS, and Ricky Nefendorf, FSA.

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.

Winners of Gillespie County SWCD's Conservation Awards were honored Wednesday, March 20. 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 75 people attended.

Six students won in the conservation poster and essay contests.

Jackie and Antoinette Schandua received the 2019 Pioneer in Agriculture award. Steven Stengel and family, were honored as the Conservation Rancher.

SWCD directors presented the Poster and Essay winners with engraved plaques. Security State Bank & Trust gave students gift cards.

Poster contest

1. Colista Preece.
2. Patrick Howard.
3. Wesson Gould.

Essay contest

13 years and younger

1. Braeden Wadsworth. Wadsworth also placed second in the area-level competition and was honored on May 7 in Wall, TX.

Essay contest

Ages 14-18

1. Kate Darsey.
 2. Madison Schumann.
 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

Jackie and Antoinette Schandua were presented the Pioneer in Agriculture Award.

The Schanda Ranch includes 1,100 acres of range and wildlife land southwest of Fredericksburg.

It has been in the family for five generations, and Jackie and Antoinette Schandua are carrying on

the conservation ethic that has been passed down with the land.

In their efforts, the Schanduas have worked with the Gillespie SWCD since 1973 to develop a conservation plan.

In the 1980's, they began working with the local NRCS to implement a prescribed fire program as part of their brush management program.

To date, they have applied controlled burns over 400 acres.

After an inventory of the water resource on the ranch, a solar pumping plant was installed to replace a generator - powered pump.

Thanks to the energy savings of this system, an additional solar pumping plant has been planned under the EQIP program.

To improve grazing distribution and management on the ranch, 3,000 feet of livestock pipeline was installed in 2018 to serve a 3,000-gallon water storage tank that feeds two new water troughs.

Two more new troughs are planned in 2019 to complete the project.

Because family ties to the land are very important to the Schanduas, the next two generations actively participate in the conservation activities on the ranch. They want to keep the conservation ethic going.

Conservation Rancher

The Conservation Rancher honors someone who has and is currently performing conservation work on their land.

Stephen and Lisa Stengel and family were presented the Conservation Rancher Award.

Stephen Stengel is the current head of the 2,300-plus acre ranch in northwest Gillespie County. He is the fourth generation to have worked and live on the ranch with six generations in total being a part of the ranching heritage and conservation legacy.

The original family homestead was settled by Chas D. Rode over 135 years ago along Onion Creek near Doss. Arnold

Rode (Steve's grandfather) started the family down the path of conservation partnership in the 1940s as a founding member of the Onion Creek Conservation Group. He was also an early member of the Gillespie County Soil Conservation district and was recognized in the Fort Worth Press Farmer Awards as an Outstanding Soil Conservationist in 1953.

Steve Stengel was introduced to and taught land stewardship and conservation and its importance by his father and grandfather. His father, Karl, and mother, Elaine, were also involved with conservation groups and cooperators with the Gillespie County SWCD since 1981, and both served as directors on the board.

In 2003, Steve Stengel took over and began his involvement as a cooper-ator with the SWCD. He developed his first conservation and management plan with the local NRCS and implemented a prescribed burn plan to begin controlling brush.

He continues to pass along the heritage of conservation to his daughter, Kasey Burton, and son Chase Stengel. Both are involved with the family ranch and its operations, and Kasey's husband, Jeff, has also begun helping on the ranch after completing service with the U.S. Navy. Kasey and Jeff Burton's children are the sixth generation to be brought up on the ranch and the tradition continues today.

They are involved in a number of organizations in the community.

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 H-E-B for providing cookies for dessert.

2019 Annual Fish Sale

The Gillespie SWCD held its annual fish sale on April 26. 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 year, most of the tanks and ponds are full. The SWCD will hold another fish sale next April. Please check with us and the Fredericksburg Standard Radio Post for those upcoming dates. Always check our website for updates: www.gillespiecountyswcd.org

Know the plants that may poison your livestock!!

Toxic plants poisoning cause an estimated \$50 million to \$100 million in livestock losses in Texas every year. Losses in 1987 from one toxic plant alone-broom snakeweed-were estimated to be more than \$30 million. These estimates do not include the decreased production from animals that become ill but do not die, nor do they factor in the reduced carrying capacity from loss of grazing when infested pastures cannot be used.

A key to controlling these plants is being able to identify them and to know their growth habits and toxicology, the clinical signs they cause, the methods for treating affected animals and strategies to prevent poisonings.

Livestock producers should remember that many factors other than toxic plants can cause livestock to become ill or die. The first challenge when confronted with sick or dead animals is to determine the cause, be it related to diseases, weather, nutritional status or many other possibilities and/or interactions. Those who know about toxic plants will find it easier to pinpoint the potential causes of sickness or death in livestock.

Knowing which plants can be toxic is the first step in prevention poisonings. Some toxic plants are present every year, and so do not pose annual threats.

Most poisonous plants kill animals only if they are eaten in relatively large amounts over a short period. Therefore, the dose usually determines whether poisoning occurs. Because livestock normally eat a variety of plants, rangelands in good condition provide a variety of forages and generally are safer than those in poor condition.

Other factors that may affect a plant's toxicity include:

Plant Growth Phase. The growth phase of some plants can affect their toxicity. For example, the leaves of African rue and broad-leaf milkweed are most toxic when they are young; the reverse is true for kochia and smallhead sneeze-weed.

Plant Part. Certain parts of some toxic plants are more toxic than the rest of the plant. For example, coyotillo seeds are much more toxic than the leaves, while all parts of lechuguilla are toxic at all stages of growth.

Livestock species and physiological state. Some toxic plants are not equally toxic to all species of livestock. For example, western bit-terweed is toxic to sheep but usually not to cattle or goats. Most (if not all) native pastures contain at least one toxic plant species, but most livestock illnesses are not caused by ingestion of these plants. Poisoning should be suspected only when the animal's clinical signs are similar to these caused by the plants known to be present in the pasture.

Use Good Livestock Management practices:

Suggestions for good livestock management include:

Never keep, release, drive or bed hungry animals in or through areas known to have toxic plants. Hungry animals are much less selective of forages and can eat many toxic plants quickly.

Graze infested areas with the type of livestock least affected by the plants present.

Feed enough protein, energy minerals or vitamins when needed. Deficiencies may cause livestock to eat toxic plants they normally avoid.

Texas rangelands are typically deficient in phosphorus. Deficiencies in phosphorus or vitamin A may cause abnormal appetites and increase consumption of toxic plants. In general, supplemental feeding is most important in winter and early spring when forage is poorer. When possible, use animals native to the area being grazed. New livestock coming in from other areas graze less selectively until they "learn" the new vegetation. Non-native animals are more likely to be poisoned than native animals.

Livestock may be much more likely to eat plants as they begin to wilt after having been treated with herbicides. Some plants become more toxic or more palatable after herbicide treatment. Do not graze livestock on treated pastures until the affected plants completely dry.

For herbicides and rates for controlling specific plants, see ERM -1466, Chemical Weed and Brush Control Suggestions for Rangeland, available from the Texas Agricultural Extension Service.

The information in the hand out is for educational purposes only. Reference "Toxic Plants of Texas"

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 20, 2019.

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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.



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.



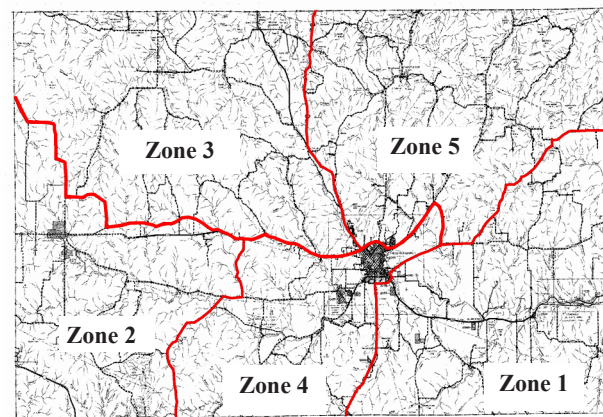
Gillespie County SWCD General Info.

www.gillespiecountyswcd.org

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, 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.

FARM SERVICE AGENCY NEWS UPDATES

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 mapping system.

County Committee - Nominating period for County Committee election will started June 14th and will continue thru August 1st.

Acreage reports for 2019 - July 15, 2019 is the last day to report 2019 native and improved grasses and be eligible for LFP benefits without paying a late-filing fee. If you have not purchased Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) Coverage.

Leasing Additional Land - If you lease new land for livestock grazing for 2019, don't forget to bring in the new lease agreement within 30 days. This will help to update your farm record and will allow you to report the acreage without paying a late filing fee.

Lease Agreements - Leases are now required to help maintain your eligibility in most USDA programs. If you will be writing your own lease, we must have the following items included in the lease: Must show that the land is cash leased or share leased Show that fences and water are being maintained Be for livestock grazing purposes Include the year or years the land is leased (automatic renewals will not be acceptable)

Must state if the entire property is leased or if only a portion of the property is being leased. Must be signed by all owners of the land.

If you don't have an existing written lease agreement, we have an agreement form here in the office that you may use. Please ask for form CCC-855 which will cover all the above requirements:

Text Messages - 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 any other program or question you may have please either 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.

Thank You to All Who Support the Gillespie County SWCD

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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 or send email to kerr@ag.tamu.edu.

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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 2018 Annual State Meeting of SWCDs in Fort Worth, TX on Oct. 28-30.
- Attended Texas Assoc. of Watershed Sponsors (TAWs) March 25 meeting.
- Co-sponsored Annual Conservation Awards Dinner with the Fredericksburg Lions Club and Security State Bank & Trust on March 20.
- Held Fish Sale on April 26, at Gillespie County Fair Grounds.
- Gillespie WCID directors and NRCS inspected dams on March 22.
- Attended Area 2 Awards dinner in Wall, TX on May 7.
- Hill Country Assoc. of SWCDs met at 700 Spring Ranch.
- Co-sponsored Beef and Range Field Day at Gillespie County Fair Grounds Show Barn, May 9.
- Participated in Ag in the Classroom held at the Gillespie County Fair Grounds on May 16.
- Exhibited educational booth at Gillespie County Fair Aug. 24-27.
- Co-Sponsored Oct. 4, 2018 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 2018/19 in Gillespie County through the NRCS Fredericksburg Field Office:

- 516 acres of pasture planting and range seeding were completed.
- 67,275 feet of cross fencing for grazing distribution was installed.
- 48,211 feet of pipeline for grazing distribution was installed.
- 10 wells were drilled for livestock water development.
- 14 pumping plants (pumps) were installed for delivery of livestock water.
- 63 water storage or drinking facilities were installed to improve grazing distribution.
- 4,579 acres of brush control was completed.
- Prescribed grazing management was applied on 47,414 acres.
- Currently, there are 63 active Long-Term Cost Shared Contracts (EQIP, WHIP, and CSTP).

Calendar of Events Spring-Summer 2019

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.

WMA Sign Up - July 13

The Gillespie County AgriLife Extension Service will host this year's joint, sign-up meeting for the Cave Creek, Cherry Spring, Doss and Harper Wildlife Management Area Associations beginning at 4 p.m. at the Gillespie County Farm Bureau Center (237 Equestrian Drive). RSVP by July 1, 830-997-3452

Gillespie County Fair:

Aug. 22-25 at the Gillespie County Fair Grounds.

Scholarship Fest

Sept. 21 Have fun while raising funds for Gillespie County youth!

Texas and Southwestern Cattle Raisers Dinner

Thursday, Oct. 5, 5:30pm - 8:00pm
Gillespie County Fair Grounds tscra.org

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.

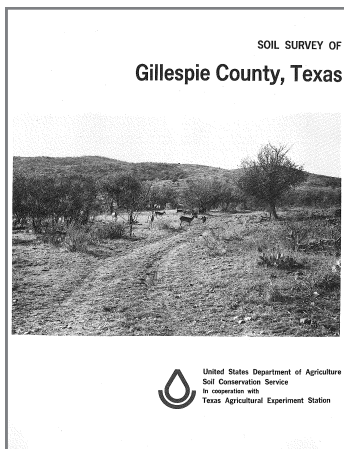


Free Soil Survey Book at NRCS Office

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/. But if you'd rather read maps in a book, please come & get one.



Animal Health After Flooding

Floods can bring a range of animal health problems, from food shortage and plant toxicity to dehydration, infection and disease.

Pasture and crops damaged by flooding may leave farmers needing to find alternative feed for stock over the coming months.

In particular, mold growth on water damaged feed reduced the nutritive value and palatability of both standing and stored feed, with some mold toxicity causing death or longer-term health problems such as liver damage.

Surprisingly, dehydration can be a problem with stock often refusing to drink flood water if it is polluted or tastes different from their normal supply. It's important to watch your stock carefully to ensure they are drinking adequately.

While rain and floods may fill dams, flood waters carry silt and organic material, so it is important to be on the look-out for algal blooms on polluted dams and waterways.

Foot problems are another concern with all stock susceptible after long periods of immersion in water or standing on wet, muddy ground. Abscesses and other foot problems will be common where an animal's feet are constantly wet.

The very wet season is also likely to produce larger than usual insect populations with flystrike likely to occur in sheep after wetting, especially if they have a thick wool cover.

Even when the fleece dries out, problems such as fleece rot and lumpy wool would continue to attract flies while diseases spread by flies, such as pink-eye, could become more widespread.

Most bacteria thrive and multiply in a moist environment, so bacterial diseases could become a real problem after heavy rain. Pneumonia and diarrhea are also likely to occur in flood-affected stock due to stress.

Mastitis is a problem for cross-bred ewes grazing tall grass as a result of the combined effects of udder engorgement due to lush feed, udder abrasions and flies. Vaccinating with 5-in-1 after floods is important as the sudden flush of feed make stock susceptible to pulpy kidney.

Bloat in cattle or redgut in sheep could occur, especially on lush clover. Worm larvae survive much longer on pasture in moist conditions and parasite burdens may increase rapidly. Bottom line watch your livestock and be aware of land conditions.

Reference "Agriculture Victoria"

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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/>.