

Kerr County Soil and Water Conservation District

Kerr Co. SWCD News

Volume 2, Issue 1

January 2011

Upcoming Events:

- January 17, 2010, 7 p.m.: HCPBA Meeting at Kerr County Extension Office
- January 19-22, 2010: Hill Country District Junior Livestock Show, Kerr Co. Ag Barn
- February 1, 2011, 9 a.m.: Fruit Tree Mgmt. Workshop, A.L. Moore Creek House
- April 2011 TBA: Kerr Co. SWCD Field Day at Flagler Ranch
- April 2011 TBA: Annual Fish Stocking Sale
- May 2011 TBA: TSSCWB Region 2 Awards Banquet in Wall, TX
- June 2011 TBA: SRM Youth Range Workshop

Our monthly meetings are held on the 1st Friday of the month unless otherwise posted. Please contact the office to verify the SWCD's meeting time and place.

Kerr County Chapter of the Hill Country Prescribed Burn Association

The local chapter of HCPBA elected new officers at the last meeting as follows: Al Wilson, President; Sean Kendricks, Vice President; Barbara Wilson, Secretary. The chapter meets once a month from January through October, with the next meeting being held on January 17th at 7 p.m. at the Ag Extension Office building on Hwy 27 South. During this meeting, the members will decide and vote on future meeting dates and locations for 2010. Meetings usually consist of chapter business and an educational topic regarding prescribed burning.

The HCPBA covers four counties, including Bannockburn, Kerr, Blanco, and Kendall. The Association

holds its annual meeting in May to discuss association business and the purchase of new equipment for each chapter.

The chapter is planning an opportunity for members to participate in a small, educational burn at the Kerr WMA, and has a few other possible opportunities burning within the county. Its mission is "to provide training for our membership in the proper use of prescribed fire on rangelands, foster good relations between neighbors and within the community in regards to the use of prescribed fire, and share equipment and labor



Prescribed Burns are an important management

among our membership when conducting prescribed burns." It also works along with the Kerr Co. SWCD and local NRCS office to offer equipment for loan to members and landowners of Kerr County. The public is invited to attend and participate in meetings. Please contact Al Wilson for more info at: abwtoy@hctc.net.

Kerr Co. SWCD & Flagler Ranch Field Day

The Flagler Ranch and the Kerr County SWCD are planning a field day in April 2010. An exact date and time will be announced at a later time. This field day will include lunch at the ranch and several educational seminars. Topics will include native plant

reintroduction or plantings, African hoofstock grazing impacts, range fertilization projects, and viewing and discussing past prescribed burns at various stages. Please contact the District office for more information on this field day and to be included on the list of land-

owners to receive information as it comes available at 830-896-4911 x 3.

Update on UGRA's Water Enhancement Program

The Upper Guadalupe River Authority (UGRA) promotes water enhancement through brush management by funding a supplemental cost share program. UGRA's Water Enhancement Cost Share Pilot Program is implemented in conjunction with the NRCS's EQIP program and the TSSWCB's Water Enhancement Project.

The Pilot Program is available for brush control projects located in the North Fork, South Fork, or Johnson Creek watersheds. Landowners who have a contract in one of these watersheds may be eligible to receive an additional 40% reimbursement from UGRA. The program

began January 27, 2010; any brush control under an contract and in an eligible watershed that was performed after this date is eligible for UGRA's funding. The program has been recently extended to run through September 30, 2011. To date, more that \$47,000 has been received by local landowners for their brush control efforts on over 1000 acres in Kerr County. For more information, contact UGRA at (830) 896-5445 or visit ugra.org.



Grass Seed and Mixes Available from the Kerr County SWCD

Get ready for those spring rains with grass seed and mixes from the Kerr County SWCD. We offer a full range of grass species, forb species, and wildflower species. Speak to a range specialist and get a customized mix according to your specifications. Recom-

mended seeding rates and species are also available if needed for different practices.

**Contact the Office for
more information or to
place an order at :
830-896-4911 x 3**

There is also a great selection of pre-designed mixes that include the 'Tank Dam Mixture', 'Spring Deer Mix',

'Quail and Turkey Mix', and 'Spring Dove Mix'. A few wildflower mixtures are also available or these species can be ordered individually. Guarantee the quality of your grass seeds by ordering with us today! Please call the District's office for more information or to place an order. We'll be glad to help in any way we can!

Fruit Tree Management Workshop: February 1, 2011

With February just around the corner most fruit and nut growers are beginning to think about tree pruning and dormant orchard management. On February 1, 2011 Texas AgriLife Extension will be sponsoring a Fruit Tree Management Workshop at the A.L. Moore Creek House outside of Ingram. Look for

a sign on the gate. The program will begin at 9:00 a.m. and conclude by 12:00 noon. Dr. Larry Stein, Extension Horticulture Specialist with Texas AgriLife Extension from Uvalde will discuss proper pruning techniques, dormant tree spraying, insect control, and orchard weed control. Individuals holding pri-

vate, commercial and non-commercial pesticide applicators may receive three hours of CEU's toward the renewal of their licenses. This program is free of charge and open to the public. For more information contact the Texas AgriLife Extension office at 830-257-6568.

TSSWCB Guadalupe River Water Enhancement Program Update

The Water Supply Enhancement Project is a state funded cost-share incentive program with the goal of providing an increase in the recharge of our streams, aquifers and reservoirs. The way this increase in water supply is achieved is through the selective removal of Ashe Juniper (cedar). Thanks to the Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board and your local Soil and Water Conservation Districts, money has been allocated towards implementing this project. The project currently covers the Guadalupe watershed in Kerr County, giving priority to the North Fork, South Fork, and Johnson Creek watersheds (please see map for locations).

Landowners must have an agricultural or wildlife exemption on their property to be eligible for the program. Applications are taken year-round, and they are held over to the next funding period if not successful the first time. The program will have new funding coming available in September 2011. If you would like more information on this program or you would like to know if you qualify, please contact the Water Supply Enhancement Office at (830) 868-2506.



Programs Available Through NRCS Office

Several programs are available for Kerr County residents to apply for and receive assistance in implementing management practices for agricultural land. The Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) is designed to assist agricultural producers in enhancing their land with certain management practices. Practices that address and improve water quantity and domestic animals are given high priority in Kerr County and include

such practices as brush management, livestock water systems, fencing, and seeding. The Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program (WHIP) is designed for landowners who focus more on wildlife management than agriculture and most of the practices involved are the same as EQIP's. The Grassland Reserve Program (GRP) is a program designed to improve grazing management and protect rangeland from development with either rental or

lease options. The Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) is a program that provides incentives to producers that have implemented conservation programs and are interested in addressing additional resource concerns.

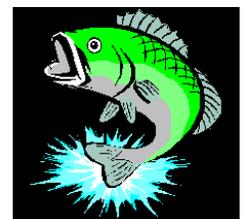
The NRCS office accepts applications for all of these programs year round and more information can be gained by contacting the Kerrville office at 830-896-4911 x 3.

Annual Fish Sale Coming in April 2011

The Annual Fish Stocking Program sponsored by the Kerr Co. SWCD will again be held in late April (exact dates to be announced). Species such as channel catfish, blue catfish, bluegill, sunfish, bream, crappie, bass, ornamental goldfish, fancy koi, grass carp (with TPWD permit only), and 3 species of min-

nows are available for order through this sale. Fish will be delivered at the Kerr County Fairgrounds for pick up by each person that orders, so think ahead and be ready to place your order around the first of April! More details will come, or you can contact the office for specific dates closer to April at

(830) 896-4911 x 3 or at kerrcountyswcd@tx.nacdn.org.



**KERR COUNTY SOIL & WATER
CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

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The Kerr County SWCD #217 includes all of Kerr County, consisting of 626,861 acres of rangeland, 14,439 acres of cropland, 6,987 acres of pastureland, and 60,219 acres of miscellaneous lands.

SWCD Directors Include:

- George Holekamp, Chairman
- Charles Bierschwale, Vice Chairman
- Charles Flach, Secretary
- Jack Clarke, III, Member
- David Symm, Member

Your Advertisement Here!

Support your LOCAL Soil and Water Conservation District and advertise in our quarterly newsletter! Options are available for advertising, so please contact our office today about our next newsletter! Newsletters will be published quarterly, in January, April, July, and October.

*Contact Deanna at 830-896-4911 x 3 or
deanna.pfeffer@tx.nacdnet.net for more information.*

Conservation Tip From the District