

420 Water Street  
Suite 101  
Kerrville, Texas 78028  
Tel: 830-896-4911 x 3  
Fax: 830-896-3336  
E-mail: kerrcountyswcd@tx.nacdn.net.org  
www.kerrcountyswcd.com

**The Kerr Co. SWCD offers camp scholarships to conservation-oriented camps such as the Texas Youth Range Workshop or Texas Brigades Camps for youth!**

**Teacher scholarships are also available for the "Studies in Natural Resources" Workshop!**

**Please contact us for more information!**

## New SWCD Director

The Kerr County SWCD recently appointed Mary Virginia Holekamp as a Director for the vacant seat in the Zone 1 area. We all welcome her to the Board and look forward to working with her!



## WELCOME!

We would like to welcome Laura Broyles to the Kerrville NRCS office! She is replacing Wayne Seipp as the new District Conservationist. Wayne accepted a position with NRCS in Fredericksburg in October and Laura will be joining the team in January!

Laura will also be the Resource Team Leader for the Kerrville Team, which includes Bandera, Boerne, Junction, Kerrville and Rock-springs Field Offices.

Laura has been with the USDA-NRCS for 8 years. Originally from Lometa, where she was raised on a cattle ranch, Laura is a graduate of Lometa High School. She has received a bachelor's degree in Horticulture & Landscaping Management, along with work in a master's degree in Agriculture with soils emphasis from Tarleton State University. She was previously stationed at Eden as the District Conservationist. Laura and her husband Walt, who also works for NRCS in the Mason Field Office, have three daughters, Laney, Kim-brea and Cealey.

We are happy to welcome Laura and her family to the community!



# KERR CO. SWCD NEWS

Kerr County Soil & Water Conservation District January 2013 Volume 4, Issue 1

## Hill Country District Junior Livestock Show

The Hill Country District Junior Livestock Show is upon us once again this January! A schedule of events can be found below. We encourage everyone to get out and support the youth of Kerr County and our surrounding counties in their agricultural endeavors! These kids have worked hard over the last several months!

**January 11** - Cowboy Breakfast at the Kerr County Courthouse

**January 14 & 15** - Ag Mechanics Show

**January 16** - County & District Breeding Sheep Show

**January 17** - County Market Lambs, Market Swine, Market Meat Goats, Market Steers, County Commercial & Registered Angora Goats Shows

**January 18** - District Market Lambs, Market Swine, Breeding Swine, Market Meat Goats, Market Steers, & Registered Heifers Shows

**January 19** - Texas Open Commercial and Registered Angora Goats Shows

**January 19 - 1:00p.m. - AUCTION**

More details on events and times can be found on their website:

<http://hcdjls.org/>

## Kerr County SWCD Field Day

Watch for news of the Kerr County SWCD's Field Day, coming in April 2013. Look forward to interesting topics, speakers, CEUs, and a good meal! We'll have details as they arise posted on our website or you can always call the office to get information!

[www.kerrcountyswcd.com](http://www.kerrcountyswcd.com)

830-896-4911 x 3

### In this issue:

HCDJL	1
SWCD Field Day	1
TX Brigades	2
Camp	
Youth Range	2
Workshop	
NRCS Programs	2
Conservation Tip:	3
Cattle Traceability Rule	
New SWCD Director	4
Welcome Laura!	4

### Dates of Interest:

- Jan. 14-19 : HCDJLS

## WE PROVIDE SCHOLARSHIPS TO THE FOLLOWING CAMPS! PLEASE CONTACT US FOR DETAILS!

### Texas Brigades

Each Texas Brigades Camp is a 5 day program for students age 13 - 17. Participants have the opportunity to earn college scholarships and hunting or fishing trips. Campers of all camps can expect to touch on all of the following topics:

- wildlife and fisheries biology and ecology
- habitat management and evaluation
  - leadership and team building
- public speaking and community outreach
  - photography and journalism.

There are 4 programs: Buckskin Brigades, Bobwhite Brigades, Bass Brigades, Waterfowl Brigades. More information, including dates and locations can be found on their website or calling the office.

[www.texasbrigades.com](http://www.texasbrigades.com)

(855)892-7447

210)556-1391

### Texas Youth Range Workshop

#### Texas Section of the Society for Range Management

Students age 14 - 18 are eligible to participate in this week-long, hands-on workshop. Participants are exposed to actual land management practices and decisions through field trips to ranches and a wildlife management area. These field trips bring out facts on goals of land ownership and the responses of vegetation to practices conducted for livestock, wildlife, recreation, and rangeland restoration. All examples will be real-life applications.

This camp is headquartered at the Texas Tech University - Junction Campus.

More information including dates and application can be found at their website:

<http://texas.rangelands.org/youtheducation.htm>

## USDA-NRCS Programs Available

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 easement options.

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 or visit the NRCS Texas homepage at: [www.tx.nrcs.usda.gov](http://www.tx.nrcs.usda.gov).

NRCS is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

## Conservation Tip: New Cattle Traceability Rule

**FROM TAHC-** A requirement for adult cattle in Texas to have an approved form of permanent identification in place at change of ownership will go into effect January 1, 2013 according to the Texas Animal Health Commission (TAHC). The Commission amended its rules in June of 2012 to enhance the effective traceability of beef cattle movements in Texas, which is the cornerstone of disease control activities. Implementation of the changes was delayed by the Commission to ensure cattle producers understand the requirements and can prepare for the changes.

The amended rule permanently cancels the brucellosis test requirement for adult cattle at change of ownership, which was unofficially suspended in the summer of 2011. Although testing of adult cattle is no longer required with the rule change, all sexually intact cattle, parturient or post parturient, or 18 months of age and older changing ownership must still be officially identified with Commission approved permanent identification. This change primarily affects beef cattle, as dairy cattle

in Texas have had an even more stringent identification requirement in place since 2008.

Before August of 2011, official identification devices such as ear tags were applied automatically at the time a brucellosis test was performed. The inadvertent loss of the identification devices applied to cattle when brucellosis testing stopped has threatened TAHC's ability to effectively trace cattle as part of any ongoing disease investigation.

The TAHC routinely performs cattle health investigations where the identification and location of exposed/infected animals is critical to success. For example, 30 Brucellosis reactors, over 300 Bovine Trichomoniasis affected bulls and 22 bovine tuberculosis cases have been investigated by the TAHC to date 2012.

The new traceability rule will help preserve the TAHC's ability to identify and trace animal movements quickly and effectively, no matter which disease is involved.

A complete list of acceptable identification

devices/methods may be found at [www.ta hc.state.tx.us](http://www.ta hc.state.tx.us), but the most commonly used devices include USDA metal tags, brucellosis calfhood vaccination tags,

US origin 840 series Radio Frequency Identification tags (RFID), and breed registration tattoos or firebrands. Producers are encouraged to contact their veterinarian or TAHC to determine which method of tagging will be best for their operation.

Free USDA metal tags, and a limited number of free applicator pliers (dependent on available funding) will be provided by the TAHC to producers wishing to use them. The tags and/or pliers may be obtained by contacting local TAHC field staff and USDA APHIS Veterinary Services representatives. The TAHC is developing tag distribution partnerships with interested veterinary practitioners and Texas A&M AgriLife Extension offices. Partner contact information will be published as it becomes available. Producers may locate the closest tag distributor online at [www.ta hc.state.tx.us](http://www.ta hc.state.tx.us).

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q: What age/class of beef cattle must have acceptable permanent identifications?

A: Sexually intact adult beef cattle 18 months and up, and Mexican origin event cattle. Nursing calves, steers, spayed heifers, bull and heifers under 18 months are exempt (unless heifer has calved).

Q: Is this rule a federal rule?

A: No, this is a Texas rule, but it will put the beef industry in compliance with the anticipated USDA Animal Disease Traceability rule for interstate movement expected to be released later this year.

Q: If my animal already has a silver test tag or orange vaccination tag in its ear, will it need to have a new tag applied if sold?

A: No, animals presented with approved official ID's at market will not have to be retagged.

Q: Can I move my cattle directly to slaughter from my farm or ranch without an ID?

A: Yes, ranchers can move an animal directly to slaughter from their premise without an ID. Breeding cattle otherwise changing ownership by private treaty (country sales) must have acceptable identification.

Q: What happens if my cattle are too weak to be safely tagged at market?

A: The TAHC has proposed an amendment allowing the waiver of the rule by a TAHC inspector in consultation with market ownership or management for weak cattle presented at a sale.

Q: Do I need to keep records when I sell my animal(s)?

A: Record keeping is not required when animals are sold, but is strongly recommended.

Q: Who is responsible for maintaining the information related to ear tag distribution?

A: All official identification numbers assigned will be maintained in a TAHC-managed database. The TAHC will not track individual change of ownership transactions.