



**Kerr County Soil & Water  
Conservation District**



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**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!**

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**THANK YOU TO THIS NEWSLETTER'S SPONSOR!**



**TEXAS SHEEP AND GOAT RAISERS ASSOCIATION**

**96TH ANNUAL CONVENTION**

**JULY 21-23, 2011**

**INN OF THE HILLS, KERRVILLE, TEXAS**

**CONTACT 325-655-7388 OR TSGRA@WCC.NET FOR MORE INFO!**

**Congratulations Kerr County 4-H Members!**

Kerr County 4-H-ers just completed the State 4-H Roundup Competition in College Station on June 14-17. Eleven members from Kerr County participated with several state wins. The Grass Identification team won 1st place (team members Daniel Haverlah, Leah Bauer, Rachel Taylor and Colton French). The Wool Judging team won 1st place (team members Ethan Muehlstein, Sara Muehlstein, and Tess Dula). The Mohair Judging team won 2nd place (team members Thomas Frizzell, Danielle Snow, Morgan Morkoski). Leah Bauer and Ethan Muehlstein also won 1st place with their Promote 4-H Educational Presentation. Jackie Nentwich participated in the Sheep

and Goat Educational Presentation. Kerr County also won Livestock Sweepstakes Championship for the second year.

The Wool Judging team of Ethan Muehlstein, Sara Muehlstein, and Tess Dula went on to compete at the National Wool Judging Contest and won the National Championship. Ethan won 1st high point individual, Sara won 2nd high point individual, and Tess won 3rd high point individual. This is the third time in five years that Kerr County has won this honor!

The Kerr County SWCD would like to congratulate all of these students for a job well done!

**KERR CO. SWCD NEWS**

Kerr County Soil & Water Conservation District July 2011 Volume 2, Issue 3

**Kerr Co. SWCD's 30th Year at the Youth Range Workshop**

The Kerr County Soil & Water Conservation District once again hosted lunch for the students of the Youth Range Workshop at the Kerr WMA on Thursday, June 23rd. The Texas Section Society for Range Management held their annual youth camp for about 40 campers this year at Junction. This camp exposes the campers to land management practices on several field trips to area ranches, including the Kerr WMA. The field trips teach rangeland management practices conducted for livestock, wildlife, recreation, and rangeland restoration.

For the last 30 years, the Kerr Co. SWCD has provided lunch on the day the campers journey to the Kerr WMA. This year was no exception, and Jack Clarke, SWCD board member, took the lead on cooking hamburgers, fries, and all the fixings for the campers, instructors, and guests that were present.



New this year at the Youth Range Workshop was a new award that the Kerr County SWCD initiated. The George Holekamp Award honors Mr. Holekamp's ongoing lifetime commitment to soil, water, and rangeland conservation. He has served on the Kerr Co.

SWCD for 56 years and has farmed and ranched in Kerr and Gillespie Counties his entire life. This award is given to one camper at the YRW, who best relates his learning experiences from camp to those present at the lunch at the Kerr WMA in a public speaking format. The 2011 George Holekamp Award winner was Aaron Weishuhn, who received a certificate and belt buckle.



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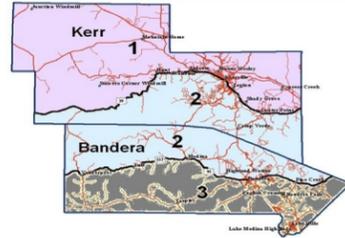
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**Dates of Interest:**

- July 12: Grazing Management Workshop, Rocksprings
- July 21-23: TSGRA Annual Convention, Kerrville
- July 23: UGRA's River Clean Up, Kerrville
- August 5: Range & Wildlife Habitat Seminar, Kerr WMA
- August 11-13: Prescribed Burn Workshop, Sonora
- September 2: Range & Wildlife Habitat Seminar, Kerr WMA

## FSA County Committee Nominations Open

Area 1 is up for election this year.



Those wishing to nominate candidates to run for the Farm Service Agency county committee election are requested to submit a nominating petition until **AUGUST 1, 2011**. Producers who own or operate land and who are of legal voting age may be nominated to serve on the county committee. Individuals may nominate themselves or others as candidates.

Organizations representing socially disadvantaged minorities and women farmers or ranchers may also nominate candidates. All farmers, ranchers and other agricultural producers are encouraged to participate. The county committee provides local input on commodity price support loans and payments; allotments and yields; conservation programs; disaster assistance payments and programs.

## Basic Prescribed Burn Workshop

August 11-13, 2011

The Academy for Ranch Management will host a Basic Prescribed Burn Workshop at the Texas Agrilife Research Station at Sonora on August 11-13, 2011. This workshop provides participants with hands-on experience with both classroom and field activities. It will provide educational information to any level of landowner. Included in the topics to be covered are managing fuels and fuel loads, weather monitoring, and equipment for fire suppression. Participants will develop a prescribed burn plan and will be able to conduct a prescribed burn at the workshop. Ray Hinnart, Agrilife Research senior research associate and Dr. Charles 'Butch' Taylor, Station Superintendent are both prescribed burn board lead instructors and will be teaching at this workshop.

There is a registration fee of \$395 which also includes meals and on-site lodging during the workshop. For more information or to register please contact 325-387-3168 or [www.ranchmanagement.org](http://www.ranchmanagement.org).

## Grazing Management Workshop

A Grazing Management Workshop will be held in Rocksprings on July 12, 2011, from 8 am to 11:30 am. This Workshop is hosted by the Edwards and Kinney Counties Texas Agrilife Extension Services Offices and will take place at the Gilmer Memorial Library (between the junior and senior high schools on State Highway 55). A \$10 fee, payable at the door is required and 2 general Texas Department of Agriculture continuing education units will be given to those with pesticide applicators licenses. Reservations are requested and can be made at the Edwards County Extension Office at 830-683-4310.

"This workshop is meant to educate area ranchers and the community on the current drought situation and the different options available to help them manage through this dry time. To become better land stewards, it's vital that ranchers and landowners know and understand the options they have available to improve their property." Tyler Bobinmyer, Kinney County Agrilife Extension Agent says of the workshop. Speakers will include Uvalde based Dr. Rick Machen, Agrilife Extension Livestock Specialist and Dr. Bob Lyons, Agrilife Extension Range Specialist.

## UGRA's 8th Annual River Clean Up

The Upper Guadalupe River Authority's (UGRA) 8th Annual River Clean Up event will be on Saturday, July 23, 2011. This event will start at 8 am at Louise Hays Park, where volunteers can register and receive instructions and assignments. Volunteers can also pre-register before July 15. Individuals, groups, and

businesses are invited to participate. All participants will be entered into a raffle for prizes and the first 100 pre-registered volunteers will receive the 8th Annual River Clean Up T-Shirt. T-Shirts will be available to volunteers who register Saturday morning on a first come basis. To pre-register or for more

information about this event, please contact Tara Bushnoe or Travis Linscomb at UGRA at 830-896-5445 or visit their website at <http://www.ugra.org/annualrivercleanup.html>.

Image & information from [www.ugra.org](http://www.ugra.org)

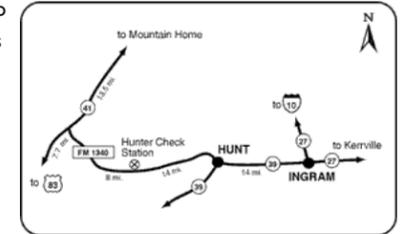


## Range & Wildlife Habitat Seminar's at Kerr WMA

The Kerr Wildlife Management Area has its Range and Wildlife Habitat Seminars the first Friday of the months of August, September, and October. This program discusses an ecosystems approach as it pertains to range and wildlife habitat management. Topics will include white-tailed deer management, grazing

management, prescribed burning, brush control and endangered species. The program will also include over 300 years of nutrition and genetic research conducted in the Donnie E. Harmel White-tailed Deer Research Facility. The dates for these seminars are August 5, September 2, and October 7,

and all start at 1 pm and end at 5 pm. Wildlife Biologist Dale Prochaska conducts the seminar and there is no fee to attend. Reservations are requested by the day before each program at 830-238-4483. The Kerr WMA is located at 2625 FM 1340, Hunt, Texas.



## UGRA's Rainwater Catchment System Rebate Pilot Program Begins

The Upper Guadalupe River Authority (UGRA) recently launched a rebate program to promote water conservation and watershed stewardship through rainwater harvesting. The Rainwater Catchment System Rebate Pilot Program will be available to anyone with a Kerr

county address and will reimburse eligible applicants up to \$50 when they provide proof of purchase of rainwater catchment system equipment.

This incentive program is open to businesses or individuals who will initiate rainwater harvesting

in Kerr county. Purchases of rainwater catchment system equipment made between March 24, 2011 and September 30, 2011 are eligible for the rebate and payment by UGRA is subject to the availability of funds. For more information, contact UGRA at (830) 896-5445.



## Conservation Tip: Are You Implementing Your Drought Plan?

"The Kerr Wildlife Management Area has recorded 2.74" through May for the calendar year. Our average is 9.84" putting us 7.10" below average for the year. If you go back to October we have received 3.43" and are 12.72" down for the 8 month (Oct 2010 - May 2011) average. This is the driest Oct - May on record going back to 1952 on KWMA. The next closest is Oct 1955 - May 1956 at 4.7," reports Area Assistant Manager Dale Prochaska.

With around 30-40% of our current growing season having passed with little effective precipitation, many area land owners or managers are implementing their drought plan. This means ranchers are reducing livestock numbers to maintain a balance between available forage resources and animal numbers.

As part of a conservation plan, the Soil and Water Conservation District can provide

information for people to develop and follow a grazing management plan. To develop a grazing management plan, a forage inventory needs to be completed. Forage inventories are based on the soil type which corresponds to which ecological sites occur on the landscape. Ecological sites have different capabilities to produce forage based on soil depth, slope, amount of rock and other factors. A forage inventory takes into account how much forage is available for grazing, how much brush or weeds are on the site, water availability throughout the pasture, and whether the terrain is too steep and rocky for animals to effectively use the area. A forage inventory is ranch specific and uses all of these factors to ultimately determine a safe, starting stocking rate for the ranch. These values are based on average annual forage production based on average annual rainfall during the growing season.

As part of a good grazing management plan, a drought plan is included so producers know what to do when periods of less than average rainfall occur. The main concept of the drought plan is to pick target dates to evaluate forage resources and begin the culling process to ensure forage supply and livestock numbers remain in balance. If livestock numbers are not reduced, then overgrazing occurs. This results in the desirable plants being over utilized and weakened, weed and brush species may increase and the overall rangeland health deteriorates. A good grazing management plan with a forage inventory is just one tool land managers can use to ensure their rangeland resources are protected and maintained.

~Wayne Seipp, NRCS

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