

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

Kerr Co. SWCD Recently Sponsored Texas Section of SRM's Youth Range Workshop at Kerr WMA

Each June, a group of 14-18 year olds participate in the Texas Youth Range Workshop, which is headquartered at the Texas Tech University campus in Junction. This year over 50 kids participated, many of them sponsored by conservation groups or individuals. In this camp the attendees are exposed to actual land management practices and go on field trips to private ranches and the Kerr WMA. The Kerr Co. SWCD provides lunch each



The Kerr SWCD cooked lunch for all the students and instructors at the Kerr WMA.

year on their field trip day to the Kerr WMA. Some topics that the

camp covers include range-land ecology, plant identification and collecting, watershed management, stocking rate evaluation, total ranch planning, tools of range and natural resource management and restoration and the impacts of management decisions. The kids get a lot of hands-on training on these topics and leave with a better sense of what the definition of land stewardship means. For more information on this camp, please see their website at: www.rangelands.org/texas/youtheducation.htm.



Students at the camp listened to the presentation given at the Kerr WMA.

Update from the Farm Service Agency

December 1, 2010 is the deadline to apply for coverage on your NATIVE and IMPROVED grasses that you will operate in 2011. The program has been around several years and has paid out numerous times when the county had below normal rainfall. It covers all your acreage in the county, for all types of losses, for a fee of \$250. The NAP Program gives you protection from losses on your pastures without having to worry about paying a huge premium.

If you have any questions or want additional information on this program or other programs, please contact the Kerr County office at 830-896-4911 x 2.

Kerr Co. SWCD Fish Stocking Sale

November 19th

Place your order by November 9th

Call 830-896-4911 x 3 for more details!

Catfish, Bass, Bluegill, Bream, Crappie, Goldfish, Koi, Minnows, & More!

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.nacdn.net for more information.

Kerr County Soil and Water Conservation District

Kerr Co. SWCD News

Volume I, Issue I

October 2010

Upcoming Events:

- Oct. 19, 2:30-7:00 p.m. Range and Wildlife Seminar at the Kerr WMA, call 830-257-6568 to register.
- Oct. 22-24, Kerr County Fair
- Oct. 25-27: TSSCWB Annual Meeting in Lubbock, TX
- Nov. 5, 10:00 - 4:00, Hunters Festival at Double L Ranch and Wildlife Feed, Ingram, TX
- Nov. 19th, SWCD Fish Sale, Kerr Co. Fairgrounds, 830-896-4911 x 3 to place order
- Mar-Apr. 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.

NRCS accepting EQIP & WHIP applications for an upcoming funding period.

From Wayne Seipp, USDA-NRCS

The NRCS, in conjunction with the Kerr County SWCD, recently held a Local Work Group meeting to identify the priority resource concerns to be addressed through the NRCS's Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) for 2011. Conservation practices that address and improve water quantity and domestic animals were given high priority in Kerr county. The EQIP program is designed to assist agricultural producers in enhancing their land with certain management practices. These practices include: brush management, livestock water systems, fencing, seeding and other beneficial practices. Through the 2008 Farm Bill,

NRCS has additional programs that aid in the conservation of natural resources. Another program available in Kerr county is the Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program. This program is designed for land-owners who focus more on wildlife management than agriculture and most of the practices involved are the same as EQIP's. The Grassland Reserve Program is a program to improve grazing management and protect rangeland from development with either rental or easement options. The Conservation Stewardship Program is a program that provides incentives to producers that have implemented con-



Brush management of Ashe Juniper is one of the main resource concerns addressed by NRCS's EQIP and WHIP programs.

servation programs and are interested in addressing additional resource concerns. The NRCS accepts applications for its cost-share programs year round. For additional information about one of these programs or assistance in conserving your natural resources, please call the Kerrville office at 830-896-4911 x 3 or log on to the NRCS Texas homepage at: www.tx.nrcs.usda.gov.

UGRA's Water Enhancement Program

From Tara Bushnoe, UGRA

The 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 TSSCWB's Water Enhancement Project. The Pilot Program is available for brush control projects located in the North Fork, South Fork, or Johnson Creek watersheds. Land-owners who have a contract in one of these watersheds may be eligible to receive

an additional 40% reimbursement from UGRA. The program began Jan. 27, 2010 and has been recently extended to run through Sep. 30, 2011. For more information, contact UGRA at (830) 896-5445 or visit www.ugra.org.

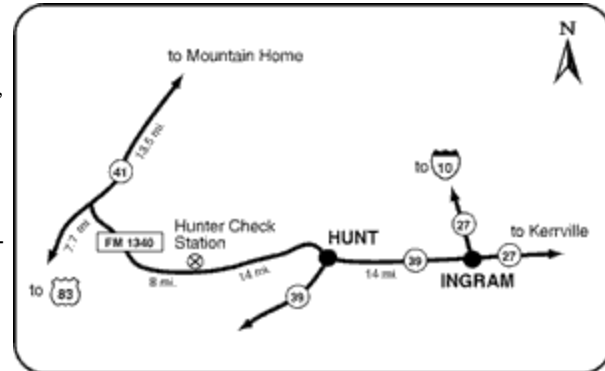
Kerr County SWCD to Co-host White-tail Deer Management Seminar Scheduled for October 19

The Texas AgriLife Extension Service, in cooperation with Texas Farm Bureau and Kerr County Soil and Water Conservation District, will be sponsoring a Range and Wildlife Seminar at the Lee and Ramona Bass Conference Center at the Kerr Wildlife Management Area (WMA) on FM 1340 outside of Hunt. The seminar is set to begin with registration at 2:30 p.m. and the program beginning at 3:00 p.m. and concluding by 7:00 p.m.

Our speakers will include Clayton Wolf, Wildlife Division Director for the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department from Austin, Dale Prochaska from the Kerr WMA, Dr.

Bob Lyons, Extension Range Specialist from Uvalde, and Larry Redmon, Extension Forage Specialist from College Station. The program will include 3 hours of CEU's for private, commercial, and non-commercial applicators. Topics will include: Intensive White-tail Deer Management Strategies, Establishing and Management of Food Plots for White-tail Deer, Brush Management, Developing Native Habitat for White-tails, and Big Buck and Bluebirds: The Role of Deer Hunters in Ecosystem Man-

agement. The cost of this program is free of charge to the public, however we would appreciate you contacting the Kerr County Extension office for pre-registration at 830-257-6568 by October 18.



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 District, money has been allocated towards implementing this project. Landowners must have an agricultural or wildlife exemp-

tion on their property and be located in an eligible watershed to qualify for assistance. If you would like more information about this program or would like to know if you qualify please contact the Water Supply Enhancement Project office at (830) 868-2506.

**Please contact
(830) 868-2506 for more
information on this
Project!**

Kerr County Chapter of the Hill Country Prescribed Burn Association Reinstates Meetings

From Marsh Weiershausen, HCPBA

The Kerr Chapter of the Hill Country Prescribed Burning Association has the mission of "Providing Education and Assistance in the Proper Use of Prescribed Burning for Ecological Restoration and the Prevention of Wildfires." The chapter provides members with the opportunity to learn, assist, and grow with other

members in the successful use of fire. The chapter maintains equipment that is available to members for their use. The chapter is open to anyone interested in ecological restoration or the prevention of wildfires. For meeting information contact Al Wilson (830-238-7164; abwtoty@hctc.net).



A prescribed burn is an effective tool in rangeland conservation and management.

TSGRA Annual Meeting Sponsorship by Kerr Co. SWCD

The Texas Sheep and Goat Raiser's Association (TSGRA) hosted it's annual meeting and conference at Inn of the Hills in Kerrville this summer on July 22-24. The Kerr Co. SWCD was a sponsor of the meeting and set up it's new promotional booth at the event.

Goodies from the SWCD, as well as from TSSWCB were given away. A slide show of recent pictures of the SWCD's activities were shown



The District's newly constructed promotional booth made it's debut at the TSGRA meeting.

along with an informational DVD from UGRA called "Water Enhancement Through Brush Management" (available at the UGRA office). The SWCD also had grass seed samples for attendees to view and compare.

The Kerr Co. SWCD also hosted a give-away at the event for attendees, with the prize being a pair of Fiskar's Loppers. The winner was Kay Stewart of Ozona. The District thanks all

those at the event that participated and came by to visit.

According to it's website, TSGRA is the oldest and largest sheep and goat producer organization in the U.S. They are constantly battling to preserve landowner's property rights and limit unnecessary government regulation. This organization supports agricultural production on many levels and partners with other organizations that hold similar interests. Please see their website for more information at: www.tsgra.com or call 325-655-7388.

Purchase Your Grass Seed From Kerr Co. SWCD!

As a way of supporting our county and providing funds, the District offers a full range of grass or wildflower seeds to be purchased by custom order. We can assist you in a custom mix of the species you choose or can order pre-mixed mixtures. Recommended seeding rates and species are also available if needed.

Seeds available range from grass seeds to forbs and clovers to legumes to an array of wildflowers. Specialty mixes that are pre-mixed include the 'Tank Dam Mixture', 'Texas Perennial Wildlife Mix', 'Spring Deer Mix', 'Quail & Turkey Mix', 'Spring Dove Mix', and many others. A few wild-

flower mixtures are available or you can order by species as wanted.

Please call the District's office for more information on this great opportunity to purchase seed, and we'll be glad to help in any way possible!

**Place your seed
orders with us!**

**Contact us at:
830-896-4911 x 3**

Soil and Water Conservation District Directors Recently Re-elected

George Holekamp of Kerrville was recently re-elected as a director of Kerr County SWCD #217. Mr. Holekamp serves Subdivision 1, which coincides with the Commissioner's Precinct 1. He is also chairman of the board and has held this position for many years.

Also re-elected this year was Charlie Bierschwale, who serves Subdivision 2, which coincides with the Commissioner's Precinct 2. Mr. Bierschwale is the vice-chairman of the board.



Charlie Bierschwale



George Holekamp