

101 South Main Street
 Temple, Texas 76501

Contact us at **254-742-9800**
www.tx.nrcs.usda.gov

Helping People Help the Land



September 2011



Activity *report*



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Programs

The past two months have been very busy from the 2008 Farm Bill program perspective. The Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) budget was augmented by \$15M with a recent allocation received on September 9th. The Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program (WHIP) also received additional funding including a \$4M boost in July and an additional \$465,000 in August that nearly funded every priority application in the program. The following tables show where Texas NRCS and our partners have obligated Farm Bill money in FY 11.



Program	Total Financial Assistance
Environmental Quality Incentives Program	\$76,364,040
Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program	\$9,335,680
Conservation Stewardship Program	\$15,671,999
Farm & Ranch Land Protection Program	\$2,898,000
Grassland Reserve Program	\$4,294,494
Wetland Reserve Program	\$16,095,645
Total Assistance	\$127,059,410

Programs (cont'd)

This is a breakdown of the number of contracts, funding and acres covered under the EQIP Statewide Resource Concerns.

FUND CODE	Sum of Contracts Obligated	Sum of Obligation Amount	Sum of Contracted Acres
Beef	2	\$79,283	300
Dairy	16	\$1,196,315	5,938
Poultry	36	\$1,459,398	1,674
Edwards Aquifer T&E Rangeland	19	\$523,642	7,652
North and South Llano Rangeland	10	\$757,391	10,379
North Concho River Rangeland	18	\$581,577	25,299
Pedernales River Rangeland	8	\$184,478	3,029
Spring/DoveCreek/TwinButtes Rangeland	10	\$523,030	19,330

Here is are the Irrigation Statewide Resource Concern areas addressed with EQIP funding.

FUND CODE	Sum of Contracts Obligated	Sum of Obligation Amount	Sum of Contracted Acres
Edwards Aquifer T&E Cropland Irrigation	10	\$701,083	978
Gulf Coast Cropland Irrigation	4	\$543,838	1,375
Lower Rio Grande Valley Cropland Irrigation	6	\$463,517	1,542
Ogallala Aquifer Cropland Irrigation	56	\$2,387,029	8,824
Seymour Aquifer Cropland Irrigation	9	\$403,297	876
West TX Cropland Irrigation	13	\$1,483,250	1,418

Here are the balance of the EQIP Statewide Resource Concerns and the total for all EQIP funding for FY 11 is at the

FUND CODE	Sum of Contracts Obligated	Sum of Obligation Amount	Sum of Contracted Acres
Fever Tick Rangeland	19	\$1,540,923	46,225
South Central Texas Rangeland	15	\$294,062	4,148
Plant Health - Rangeland Erosion	20	\$362,796	46,963
FY11 Planning - CNMP	6	\$41,301	6,970
FY11 Planning - SPCC	9	\$22,875	958
Spill Prevention Containment and Control - Practices	8	\$87,229	1,083
Total – State Wide Resource Concerns	294	\$13,636,314	194,961

Programs (cont'd)

This is the funding we placed into the **county base funding** that was made available to local offices according to their priority and corresponding totals.

FUND CODE	Sum of Contracts Obligated	Sum of Obligation Amount	Sum of Contracted Acres
CB Cropland	338	\$4,733,703	56,788
CB Irrigated Cropland	223	\$6,069,694	41,207
CB Non-Industrial Forestland	161	\$2,458,401	13,494
CB Pastureland	726	\$7,111,027	107,147
CB Rangeland	1,130	\$19,442,250	1,027,066
Plant Health	194	\$6,406,367	567,821
Total - County Base	2,772	\$46,261,442	1,813,523

We had two **Cooperative Conservation Partnership Initiative** projects funded in FY 09 – the Canadian River Salt Cedar Control and the Houston Toad Habitat Improvement projects. We have three **Agricultural Water Enhancement Program** projects – the Ogallala Aquifer, Leon River, and Lake Arrowhead projects. Funding allocations, obligations and acres under contract are listed above.

FUND CODE	Sum of Contracts Obligated	Sum of Obligation Amount	Sum of Contracted Acres
CCPI - Canadian River Rangeland	3	\$24,375	395
CCPI - Houston Toad Rangeland	0	\$0	0
Total - CCPI	3	\$24,375	395
AWEP – Ogallala Aquifer	170	\$4,921,637	38,552
AWEP – Leon River	6	\$180,234	1,571
AWEP – Lake Arrowhead	5	\$86,634	8,011
Total - AWEP	181	\$5,188,505	48,134

Here's the EQIP summary for the fiscal year so far. These numbers were accurate as of July 15th, and we have nearly exhausted our program allocation.

Fund Code	Contracts Obligated	Obligation Amount	Contracted Acres
SWRC	294	\$13,636,314	194,961
County Base	2772	\$46,261,442	1,813,523
National Special Initiatives	581	\$12,306,940	193,361
CCPI & AWEP	184	\$5,212,880	48,529
Total EQIP Obligation	3,831	\$77,421,407	2,250,374

Programs (cont'd)

Here are the WHIP numbers for this year. As you recall, we moved the Blackcapped Vireo, Pronghorn Antelope, and Rolling Plains Quail from EQIP statewide resource concerns to WHIP special initiatives two years ago. The Long Leaf Pine, and Lesser Prairie Chicken Initiatives were national in scope and we received supplemental funding for those projects.

Fund Code	Contracts Obligated	Obligation Amount	Contracted Acres
General	143	\$4,631,555	72,154
Long Leaf Pine	31	\$425,853	2,685
Lesser Prairie Chicken	61	\$3,112,592	96,175
Black-capped Vireo	1	\$75,613	995
Pronghorn Antelope	19	\$1,029,539	137,936
Rolling Plains Quail	4	\$60,525	1,823
Total WHIP Obligation	259	\$9,335,677	311,768

As you can see, we obligated over \$9.3M in funding in WHIP this year, another banner year in WHIP for Texas. We had a good year from the easement side of the Farm Bill as well. We obligated all initially allocated funding and received additional funding from NHQ to supplement the backlog of program demand.

Easement Program	Contracts Funded	Acres Funded	Total \$ Funded
Grassland Reserve	14	32,588	\$4,294,494
Farm & Ranch Land Protection	1	828	\$2,898,000
Wetland Reserve	11	8,102	\$13,744,145
Grand Total	26	41,518	\$20,936,639

One program that we don't mention much at these meetings, but I feel is appropriate to let you all know about, is our emergency response program entitled Emergency Watershed Protection Program. This program does not run by fiscal year, but by catastrophe. As you can see we address a myriad of natural resource disasters. This is a shot of the number of agreements with municipalities or other governmental organizations to address hurricanes, flooding events, and tornadoes.

Storm Name	Project Agreements	Total Financial Assistance
Hurricane Dolly	1	\$3,252
Wilson Co. Exigency	1	\$448,406
Summer 2007 Floods	1	\$103,894
Summer 2009 Floods	13	\$1,712,949
Fall 2009 Floods	1	\$52,495
Winter 2009 Floods	2	\$468,780
June 2011 Exigency	1	\$9,766
Total Assistance	20	\$2,399,542

At this point in time, we have finished obligating WHIP, GRP, FRPP, WRP and associated national initiatives funding for FY 11. We are still working on obligating EQIP contracts and expect to be doing so right up to the last minute of this year. It was a very good year for conservation from a programmatic perspective at NRCS Texas and its partners. Fiscal year 2012 begins in a few short weeks and we'll pick up where we left off. Thanks for your partnership and outreach to make the programs successful.

Web Soil Survey Adds New Features

The recently released version of Web Soil Survey has added new features that will benefit farmers, ranchers, contractors, and homeowners. These new features will allow individuals to import and export shapefiles into their area of interest, as well as bookmark their area of interest, so they can return to it as needed. Also included is the 2010 NAIP imagery for Texas, the latest version of aerial photography available. Assistance with Web Soil Survey is available through the Soils Section located in the State Office.

Some of the new features:

Export AOI (Area of Interest)

Web Soil Survey now allows you to save your AOI as a zipped shapefile.

Import AOI

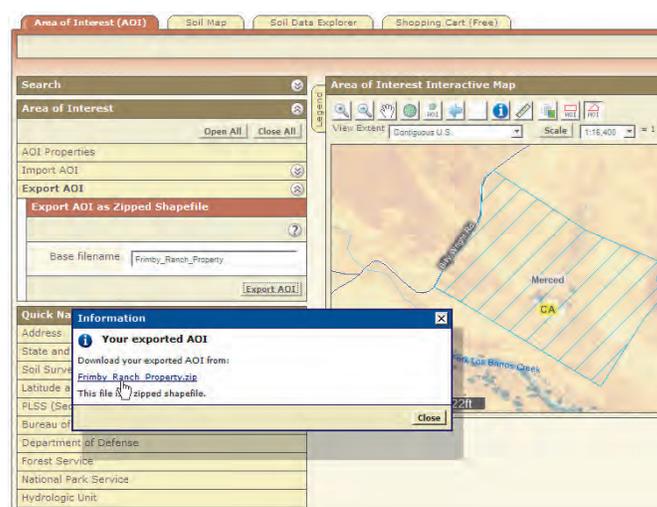
Web Soil Survey now allows you to create an AOI from a saved shapefile or zipped shapefile.

Create AOI from Shapefile

Create an AOI from an unzipped shapefile.

Web Soil Survey URLs

Web Soil Survey now allows you to save your AOI or, area of interest, as a Web Soil Survey URL. This means you can create an AOI, and then bookmark it for later use. Your URL also saves the particular view to which you've zoomed the map. You can even edit the URL to mark a particular location with a location marker.



New Hires & Vacancies

NRCS Currently Has 18 Vacancies:

- 2 Civil Engineers (To Be Advertised (TBA))
- 2 District Conservationists (Job Opportunity Announcement (JOA) Closed – Selection Pending)
- 1 Forester (Selection Made with Effective date in October 2011)
- 1 Office Assistant (JOA Closed – Selection Pending)
- 1 Public Affairs Specialist (Outreach Coordinator) (TBA)
- 1 Rangeland Management Specialist (TBRe-A)
- 2 Soil Scientists (TBA)
- 3 Soil Conservation Technicians (TBA)
- 1 Soil Conservation Technician (JOA Closed – Selection Pending)
- 3 Soil Conservation Technician (Selection Made with Effective date in October 2011)
- 1 Human Resources Assistant (JOA Closed – NHQ Approval for Selection Pending)

Note: Due to a reduced budget for the remainder of Fiscal Year 2011 a number of positions listed on previous Reports will not be filled in 2011.

NRCS made the following selection in July & August 2011 resulting in accessions:

Kerchie Y. Mathurin – Human Resources Assistant, Temple (From Federal Register)

NRCS has 72 known losses to date during FY 2011



Watershed Program

American Reinvestment and Recovery Act

- Construction has been completed on all ARRA projects. Nineteen dams were repaired (final cost \$13 million) and one dam was rehabilitated (final cost \$2 million)
- Work continues on 3 mitigation projects (Elm Creek Centex 5A and 34; Caney Creek 3A).

Watershed Rehabilitation Program >>>

- Design for Mountain Creek 10 (Ellis County) is complete. Funding for construction has been requested for FY 2012.
- Funding for rehabilitation construction of Plum Creek FRS No. 5 (Hays County) was received in February. Bids have been opened and a construction contract will be awarded by September 1.
- Design of East Fork above Lavon 2A (Collin County) is underway. Funding for construction has been requested for FY 2012.
- Rehab planning for Plum Creek 6 (Hays County) is complete, and the plan is going through the required review process.
- Rehab planning for Olmitos-Garcias 7 (Starr County) is underway.
- Assessments of high hazard dams: 135 assessments and reports have been completed; the remaining 39 assessments will be completed by September 30, 2011.

Funding For Watershed Projects in FY 2011 >>>

- Watershed Operations funding has been eliminated for FY 2011. Projects currently funded and underway with funds carried over from last fiscal year will be allowed to continue until the funds are used up. No new projects will be initiated, and no funding was requested for FY 2012.
- Watershed Rehabilitation funding is \$17,964,000 nationally for FY 2011, which is a 55% reduction from FY 2010. However, funding is sufficient to continue planning, design, and construction on Texas projects that are currently underway.



Calaveras Creek Site 6 Rehabilitation: Principal spillway outlet impact basin.



Calaveras Creek Site 6 Rehabilitation: Embankment and principal spillway inlet.

Watershed Operations Program >>>

- Agreements are in place with the TSSWCB for engineering design and construction inspection of dam repair projects funded by the TSSWCB Dam Repair program.
- Check prior to final inspection for construction of recreation facilities (Phase II) at Attoyac Bayou Site 23A (Nacogdoches County) is scheduled for August 26.
- Construction is underway on Elm Creek (Centex) Site 17A (Bell County) remedial repair.
- Design work continues on Big Creek (TriCounty) Sites 16, 17, and 19MP (Falls County).
- Work continues on the 404 permit for Elm Creek (1250) Site 1A Rev. (Taylor County).

In the Grip of the Drought

Drought slows conservation practice implementation

By Quenna Terry & Dee Ann Littlefield



A corn crop abandoned due to excessive drought conditions.

The exceptional drought in Texas has brought extraordinary and widespread crop and pasture losses, and shortages of water in reservoirs. Above-normal temperatures and below-average rainfall from a La Nina weather pattern have been compounded by unusually strong winds in recent months.



Severely dehydrated cropland in Dawson county. Similar conditions exist across the state, making it difficult for producers to implement planned conservation practices.

Texas AgriLife Extension economists state agriculture losses due to this year's drought have already reached a record \$5.2 billion and are expected to exceed \$8 billion, which is double the previous record of \$4.1 billion set in 2006. This is now the costliest drought in state history for Texas farmers and ranchers.

State Climatologist Dr. John Nielsen-Gammon recently declared this year's dry spell the "most severe one-year drought on record" and the hottest July and August in the history of the state.

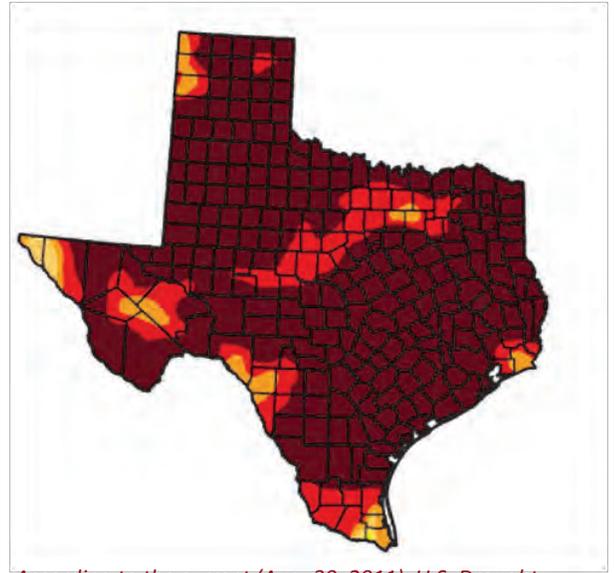
Texas leads the nation in cotton and cattle production, the two crops that have suffered the most severe losses due to drought.

Of the \$5.2 billion in agricultural losses to date, \$2.06 billion has come from the livestock industry, as ranchers have sold off cattle due to lack of forage and escalating supplemental feed expenses. Livestock auctions are reporting three times the normal number of cattle going through sale barns. Many ranchers are reporting complete liquidation.

The state's 32 million acres of cropland are also suffering. Most corn crops have failed and cotton crops have been abandoned. This loss of is estimated in excess of 2 billion dollars.

"I've been working with producers to apply conservation practices for almost 38 years and we have not experienced drought conditions of this magnitude," said Randy Underwood, NRCS resource team leader in Lubbock.

Underwood explained that most



According to the current (Aug. 30, 2011) U.S. Drought Monitor, 99 percent of the state is in at least a severe drought (D2), with 81 percent of the state in an exceptional drought (D4).

of the rangeland and dry land cropland acres on the landscape across much of the state are barren with very little if any organic matter and moisture left in the soil.

Underwood said the drought will also impact conservation practice implementation for both farmers and ranchers with plans to install such practices as waterways, terraces, diversions, grass plantings and pond construction. Underwood said the soil conditions are so dry it could take up to six to seven inches of slow rainfall to put enough moisture back in the soil to implement these types of conservation practices and reduce wind erosion significantly in this region.

In addition to agriculture losses due to the drought, urban water supplies are also in danger. Nearly all public drinking water systems are under voluntary or mandatory water use restrictions.

NRCS in Texas continues to work with farmers and ranchers on drought contingency plans and more efficient watering systems. NRCS has also been hosting drought management workshops throughout the state.

Texas Wildfires Update

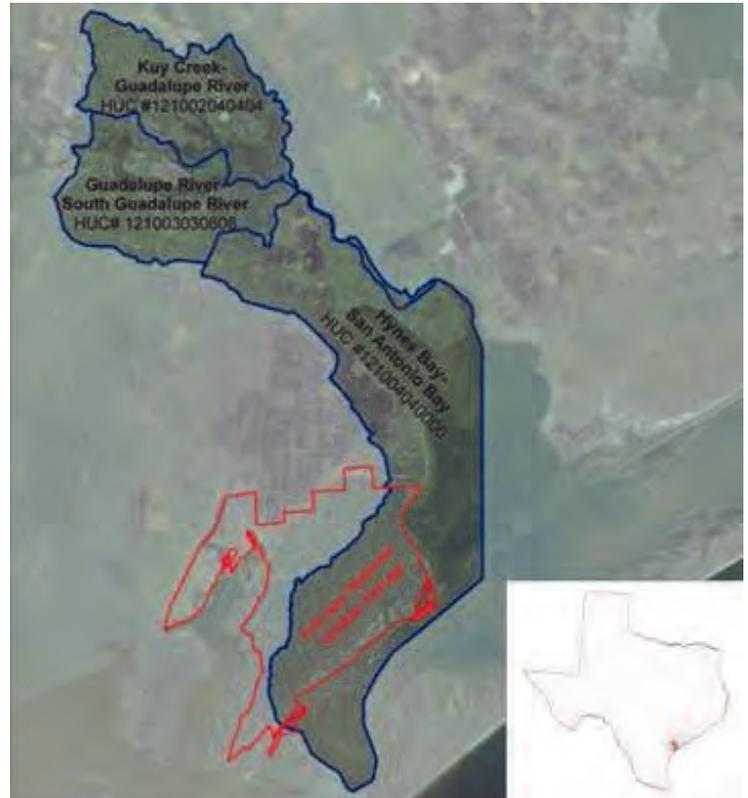
The extensive drought in Texas has also meant extreme wildfire dangers across the state. Texas has had a wildfire somewhere every day since Nov. 15, 2010, according to Texas Forest Service. That's 297 consecutive days. As of **September 7, 2011, the year-to-date state totals for wildfires are 18,756 fires that have burned 3.6 million acres, destroying 4,326 structures.** 250 of Texas' 254 counties have burn bans in effect.

The biggest fire burning right now is the . On September 8, 2011, the Texas Forest Service reported 1,386 homes have been destroyed and two people have died with 17 missing in the Bastrop County Complex fire. The fire has burned over 34,068 acres.

On September 1, Gov. Rick Perry renewed his emergency disaster proclamation for all 254 counties due to the ongoing threat of wildfires across the state. This is the ninth time Gov. Perry has reissued the disaster proclamation this wildfire season; it was originally issued on December 21, 2010.

Grass and range fires earlier in 2011 burned more than three million acres and 4,000 miles of fencing, causing livestock deaths and livestock losses estimated over \$20 million.

The NRCS in Texas offered financial assistance for landowners affected by wildfires through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) for range deferment of all livestock grazing throughout the growing season, plant health concerns, and cross fencing assistance. NRCS has also been offering wildfire recovery workshops for landowners.



Gulf of Mexico Initiative

The NRCS in Texas, the State Soil and Water Conservation Board and several Soil and Water Conservation Districts have teamed up for the **Gulf of Mexico Initiative**. This project will concentrate on improving water quality by reducing excessive sedimentation in the San Antonio River and bay system. Such sedimentation has led to increased nutrient loading, elevated bacteria levels, and decreased dissolved oxygen levels, and these factors adversely impact fisheries, tourism, and avian populations. Of national importance is the Whooping Crane (*Grus americana*), which is currently listed as an Endangered species. The aggressive effort will focus on **reducing sediment loading by 20 percent and increasing Whooping Crane winter habitat by 10,000 acres while restoring healthy natural ecosystems** within the project area.

Kuy Creek – Guadalupe River, Guadalupe River – South Guadalupe River and Hynes Bay – San Antonio Bay watersheds are located within the counties of Refugio, Victoria, Calhoun and Aransas. Runoff from cropland, rangeland and pastureland contribute to sediments

affecting the water quality of the three watersheds that run into the confluence of San Antonio River and Guadalupe River, which contribute to the critical health of the San Antonio Bay and estuary system, which flows into the Gulf of Mexico. The increased flow of both sediments and nutrients into the Gulf of Mexico, have a drastic negative effects on the ecosystems, the principal effect being hypoxia.

Texas Soil and Water Conservation Board (TSSWCB) will assist with providing technical assistance and conservation program information to the landowners and land operators in the affected watersheds, in addition to holding stakeholder meetings and facilitating the implementation of the Upper San Antonio River Watershed Protection Plan. NRCS has an agreement with the TSSWB on providing technicians for conservation planning in the San Antonio upper and lower watersheds

Victoria SWCD #352, Copano Bay SWCD #329, Calhoun SWCD #345, San Patricio SWCD #324 will provide technical and outreach assistance to their cooperators in their respective district boundaries about the initiative.



Mickey Black, NRCS assistant state conservationist for field operations in the Panhandle region (left), and Fred Pfaeffle, USDA deputy assistant secretary for civil rights, visit before meetings held in Amarillo and Hereford on July 6.

USDA Deputy Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights Fred Pfaeffle presented information on **USDA Cultural Transformation** to producers in Amarillo on July 6. Assistant State Conservationist for Field Operations Mickey Black presented an overview of programs for

Texas and the High Plains region at the USDA Producer Meeting in Amarillo. The Farm Service Agency (FSA) and Rural Development (RD) also had agency representation and presented a brief program. Pfaeffle and Black then traveled to Hereford where Pfaeffle addressed Hispanic and women farmers and ranchers in Hereford to present information and provide outreach about the Hispanic and Women Farmer and Rancher Settlement Claims Process.

NRCS in Texas reached an estimated 250 landowners and land managers at the **Texas Wildlife Association's annual convention** on July 7-10 in San Antonio. State Conservationist, Salvador Salinas, State Wildlife Biologist, Russell Castro and Assistant State Conservationist for Field Operations in Zone 3, Tomas Dominguez, and Zone 3 Public Affairs Specialist, Melissa Blair, visited with landowners and land managers at the NRCS booth and provided information on NRCS' conservation technical and financial assistance.

NRCS employee Randy Underwood helped judge the **State FFA Speaking Contest** at the FFA convention in Lubbock on July 11.

On July 14, Midland County held a **Pronghorn Antelope Management Workshop**. The program included a presentation by local NRCS on address programs and assistance available through USDA. Other topics: Pronghorn in Texas: Current Status and Research, Pronghorn Population in Midland County, Pronghorn Management Techniques, Cost-Share Funds Available for Pronghorn Management, Wildlife Management Association as a Management Tool.

More than 80 people attended a **Silvopasture informational meeting** held at the Panola County Expo Center on July 14. NRCS staff from Panola and Harrison counties hosted the event with assistance from the Harrison County AgriLife Extension agent. Guest speakers included Terry Clason, NRCS state forester from Louisiana, who discussed the benefits of a silvopasture system and what it takes to establish silvopasture in a variety of existing conditions. Ryan Walser, NRCS grazing lands specialist in Marshall, focused on the aspects of animal health, wildlife diversity, rotational grazing,

and the benefits of timber values. The event was sponsored by the Harrison and Panola County SWCDs.

NRCS District Conservationist Ed Logan from Crosbyton was awarded the Honorary Lone Star FFA Degree at the 83rd Texas FFA Convention in Lubbock on July 15. The FFA Constitution provides for election of those individuals who have rendered meritorious service to agricultural education and the FFA honorary membership. Each year local chapters honor school officials, local business owners, farmers, parents and alumni to receive the honorary degree. Logan was one of a few who were selected to receive the highest degree of honorary membership which is bestowed at the state level by the Texas FFA Association.



Crosbyton DC Ed Logan receives the Honorary Lone Star FFA Degree awarded to him at the annual FFA convention recently held in Lubbock.

NRCS presented an educational safety program on All Terrain Vehicles (ATVs) at the **2011 Progressive Agriculture Farm Safety Day** for Mennonite children at the Seminole Park and Convention Center in Seminole, Texas on July 16. Students participated in 12 safety sessions sponsored by the Texas Department of State and Health Services and Texas Agrilife Extension.



Alliance for Water Conservation (TAWC) Field Day

The TAWC project tour highlighted efforts of farmers utilizing technology to improve irrigation efficiencies. TAWC is sharing technology with farmers to show them how to be profitable and to further their conservation efforts to prolong irrigation agriculture in the region. State Senator Robert Duncan was keynote speaker and discussed how new technology, along with new groundwater conservation district regulations will improve irrigation for the future.

The Albany Field Office staff participated in several youth camps. Troy Reinke, NRCS district conservations in Albany, assisted with the **Clear Fork Range Camp** on July 19-21 held at the Krooked River Ranch in Shackelford County. Other NRCS personnel included Robert



NRCS State Conservationist Salvador Salinas attended the tour and luncheon at Muncy in Floyd County.

Collins, NRCS soil conservationist in Anson, Tony Baeza, NRCS district conservationist in Breckenridge, and Buddy Watson, NRCS district conservationist in Jayton. Camp attendees received training in plant identification, hunter safety, game facts and laws, basic wildlife management principles and techniques, and ranged in age from 9 to 17 years old. The camp was sponsored by the Lower Clear Fork/Brazos, Haskell, Paint Creek and Andrew/Kent Soil and Water Conservation Districts.



Clear Fork Range Camp attendees enjoy shooting clay targets at the camp held at the Krooked River Ranch in Shackelford County in July.

Texas Ranch is recognized for regional environmental award

Located in Motley County, Texas, the Matador Ranch, owned by Matador Cattle Company an indirect subsidiary of Koch Industries, Inc., was recognized as a 2011 regional Environmental Stewardship Award Program (ESAP) winner during the 2011 Cattle Industry Summer Conference in Florida on Aug. 2, 2011.

The operation is the regional IV ESAP award winner that will compete with five other regional winners for the national ESAP award which will be announced during the 2012 Cattle Industry Annual Convention and Trade Show in Nashville, Tenn.

The ranch has worked closely with NRCS for many years in developing and improving ranch resources,” said James Gillespie, NRCS district conservationist in Matador.

“The ranch is especially active in grazing management, livestock watering systems, brush management, prescribed burning, wildlife management and educa-

tional opportunities for both the ranch and others as well.”

Matador Cattle Company has land in Motley, Dickens, Floyd, Cottle and Crosby counties.



James Gillespie (left) DC in Motley County visits with Bob Kilmer, Matador Ranch Manager. (Photo courtesy National Cattlemen's Beef Association and Koch Industries.)

When the **Peoples Garden** initiative was announced, the Ozona NRCS field office, Crockett County and Crockett Soil and Water Conservation District joined forces to install a native grass plot to help educate local landowners, students and county residents. In July the SWCD purchased a 4x8 foot sign to place at the location to identify those that had made a contribution to the plot and its overall purpose. A ceremony is currently being planned for this fall for the unveiling of the new sign.

During the months of July and August, statewide we have conducted **outreach and provided information about the Hispanic and Women Farmer and Rancher Settlement Claims Process** to produc-

ers, partners, alliances, environmental organizations and local media for eight weeks.

National Resource Inventory (NRI)

This year, four new NRI positions were placed in the state to manage NRI operations. NRCS staff in Zone 1 has been collecting field data since July in an effort to complete NRI on rangeland sites for 2011.



Zone 1 employees collecting NRI data.

In July, The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) joined top conservation professionals at the 2011 **North Texas Buckskin Brigade** camp held in July at Stasney's Cook Ranch in Albany, Texas. The 25,000-acre historic working cattle ranch was founded in the late-1800s, and is a hunting and nature retreat in north-central Texas. NRCS personnel who worked with the cadets included Ricky Linex, wildlife biologist in Weatherford; Tyson Hart, NRCS rangeland management specialist in Nacogdoches; Cristela Gonzalez, NRCS rangeland management specialist in Baird; Justin Trimble, NRCS rangeland management specialist in Graham; and Kimberly Burr, NRCS soil conservationist in Albany.



The 2011 North Texas Buckskin Brigade class had 30 cadets enrolled in the educational camp that

Twenty-five employees from NRCS Zones 2 and 5 attended a **GLCI-sponsored week long grazing school** in Junction, Texas in July 2011. The course was primarily taught by Dr. Poncho Ortega. Joe Franklin, Zone 2 RMS, Jeff Goodwin, State GLCI Grazing Specialist and Kent Ferguson, State RMS, also assisted with the training. Course goals were: to give employees a basic understanding of the physiological processes, morphological development, nutritional qualities, palatability of range plants, economic analysis of costs and benefits, as a basis for grazing management for domestic and wild animals, help employees understand the impacts of grazing systems on vegetation, livestock, wildlife, watersheds, and profitability and to assist employees in the process of selecting and developing grazing strategies. Two ranches in the Junction area were visited where employees interviewed the rancher, determined stocking rates and later developed group grazing plans. The use of the GLCI grazing stick and rangeland health determination tech-

niques were also reviewed.

The NRCS was part of the **96th Annual Texas Sheep and Goat Raisers Association's Convention** which welcomed over 250 producers, landowners and agency officials to Kerrville July 21-23. NRCS made information available about the HWFR claims process, technical assistance and possible Farm Bill program assistance. The Edwards Region GLCI was also part of the NRCS booth and offered newsletters and grazing sticks to convention attendees. TSGRA has supported NRCS throughout the year and together they will partner to host the 2012 3rd Annual Rancher's Workshop. During both opening and closing convention ceremonies, outgoing TSGRA President, Bob Brockman, personally thanked NRCS for their contribution in the field of conservation and willingness to work with TSGRA.

Mary Webb-Marek, NRCS Zone 4 forester in Bryan and John Fancher,



Phillip Wright (left) with NRCS' Edwards Region GLCI, visits with a producer at the Texas Sheep and Goat Raisers convention.

NRCS district conservationist in Conroe, conducted a **forestry and woodland student training** at Jones State Forest located near Conroe on July 26. Students were introduced to commonly used forestry tools, learned about basic forest measurements and forest management practices.

In July at Salado, Texas, both Belton and Bartlett FO personnel helped Zone 5 specialists present an informative **riparian workshop**. The workshop helped more than 50 Salado landowners and residents in Bell County gain knowledge about riparian functions, hydrology/ fluvial geomorphology principles and interactions, and riparian vegetation that can enhance property that has been impacted by flooding in the Salado area over many years. Salado Creek has produced several damaging floods from torrential rainstorms.. Workshop attendees included descendents of the historic Robertson Plantation in Salado, several city constituents, county officials, state agency personnel, and NRCS personnel from the Belton and Bartlett Service Centers in Bell County.



(Left to right) Kaleb Pool, NRCS soil conservationist in Bartlett, Ricky Linex, NRCS wildlife biologist in Weatherford, and Kenneth Mayben, NRCS civil engineer in Weatherford, presenting at the workshop.

NRCS awards CIG grant to Texas High Plains Conservation Initiative

The North Plains Groundwater Conservation District, in partnership with the Texas Alliance for Water Conservation and Texas Tech University, will receive **\$499,848 for their Texas High Plains Initiative for Strategic and Innovative Irrigation Management and Conservation** to demonstrate strategic irrigation and crop system management technologies and practices which will result not only in water savings across the region but also best practices that are applicable nationwide to regions facing similar resource concerns. Their primary objective is to quantify water savings that can be realized from strategic irrigation management.

The grant is one of 52 awarded this year across the nation by the USDA-NRCS, the lead agency in conservation planning and assistance to address conservation of all natural resources.

“These grants will help some of America’s top agricultural and conservation institutions, foundations and businesses develop unique approaches to enhancing and protecting natural resources on agricultural land. Their creativity and problem-solving will benefit conservation-minded farmers and ranchers, and everyone who relies upon our nation’s natural resources for food and fiber,” said NRCS Chief, Dave White.

Annual Beef Cattle Short Course Draws Large Crowd

More than 1,400 people recently attended one of the largest cattle industry educational events in the nation - the 57th Annual Texas A&M **Beef Cattle Short Course** in College Station, on August 1 and 2.

The USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) participated in the annual event which draws beef producers from across Texas, the U.S. and internationally.

NRCS speakers presented during the two-day forage management workshop which focused on resource and management strategies. Kent Ferguson, NRCS rangeland management specialist and Claude Ross, NRCS state program manager, presented information on conservation planning and practices, along with Farm Bill programs.

“The beef cattle short course was a tremendous opportunity for producers to learn how NRCS can assist with a conservation plan to help them avoid disaster during a

drought,” Ferguson said. “Producers were very interested in learning what is available from NRCS and what they can do to prepare for the next onslaught of dry weather.”

Over the two-day workshop, more than 600 people were present during Ferguson and Ross’ presentations. Texas AgriLife Extension specialists spoke on topics ranging from strategies for dealing with drought to forage and pasture options for wintering cattle.

Other session topics throughout the beef cattle short course included beef cattle nutrition, reproduction, genetics, along with cattle marketing. Sessions also covered wildlife and range management and brush control.

NRCS participated in the tradeshow which had upwards of 120 exhibitors. A steady flow of attendees visited with NRCS personnel about conservation planning and practices. Web Soil Survey also was demonstrated at the booth.



Capacity crowds attended the forage management two-day workshops. NRCS participated in the tradeshow with 120 other exhibitors.

NRCS Cooperator Honors Buffalo's Role as Grazer and Provider

USDA- Natural Resource Conservation Service was invited in July to be a part of the Blessing of the Buffalo Harvest at the Shape Ranch, owned by Hugh "Sunny" Fitzsimons, in Dimmit County. Fitzsimons raises 350 bison according to ancestral Native American tradition. The bison are raised on a grass fed, free range diet. The Shape Ranch's 13,000 acres have minimal cross fencing and are covered in native grasses and legumes; allowing the bison to graze naturally, as they have for thousands of years.

As he has done many times in the past, Mr. Fitzsimons called on Ted Herrera to perform a tradi-



Ted Herrera performing the ceremony.

tional Bison harvest ceremony to convey the respect, admiration and gratitude that he has for the animals. Herrera is a Native American and Tribal Leader of the Tap Pilam Coahuiltecan Nation and is the founder and spiritual leader of the Rio Grande Native American Church. Herrera also serves on the USDA-NRCS Texas State Technical Advisory Committee as an advocate for stakeholders of tribally owned land and land owned by Tribal members as well as serving as an Elder of the American Indian/Alaska Native Employees Association for NRCS. "When we harvest an animal we treat it with the respect we would treat any living creature," said Herrera, "We believe there is a spirit world where we will join our plants and

animals when we leave this reality."

After the Bison have been harvested in a very peaceful and respectful manor out on the land where they have lived all of their lives, Herrera commences the blessing ceremony by using a smudge stick composed of smoldering sage. Herrera circles the Bison using the billowy white smoke to clear any negativity that might be surrounding the harvested Bison. Herrera then cleanses the Bison with traditional peyote medicine water and uses prayer arrows to send prayers to his ancestors. He concludes the ceremony by singing songs such as wa-ka-te (Brother Bison) and blessing the meat for the consumer. The narrative description of this ceremony does not come close to conveying the emotion, respect, honor and tradition shared between the living, the ancestral tribe members and the Bison. "I try to honor the sacrifice," said Herrera, "The Bison...you can almost read it on their face. They know that they're coming to an end. They don't fight it; they just accept that their role is to provide for us. It is important that we honor them for that."

Dusty Crowe, District Conservationist in Carrizo Springs and Javier Garza, Soil Conservation Technician in Carrizo Springs, work directly with Fitzsimons and the Shape Ranch.



NRCS district conservationists Craig Pate, Bryan, Veronica O'Donnell-Caldwell and Julia McCormick, MLRA Soil Survey Leader in Bryan, assisted the Texas Wildlife Association (TWA) with the L.A.N.D.S. - **Learning Across New Dimensions in Science** training for 20 teachers across Texas on August 2. The training was held in Grimes County at Camp Allen. The field session was held near Anderson at Dan Agan's property. Agan is a local landowner and Navasota SWCD District Cooperator.

A ranching management clinic fo-



Dan Agan (center) shares with attendees management practices that have improved his ranch for timber and wildlife.

cusing on profitability drew 160 attended on Aug. 4 at the Bee County Expo Center, in Beeville, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. The "Profiling Profitable Ranchers" clinic sponsored by the Texas Grazing Lands Conservation Initiative (GLCI) was headlined by Dave Pratt who teaches "Ranching for Profit." Successful ranchers in the region also presented information about their individual operations.

Panhandle Plains Association of

Kids on the Land

In August, NRCS personnel assisted fourth and fifth graders from Jacksboro, Texas, at the Kids on The Land (KOL) event held recently on Richards Ranch located in Jack County.

KOL is a program that began seven years ago offered by Holistic Management International (HMI). The program was created by Peggy Maddox, director of the KOL program with HMI. KOL is site-based and adapted to the eco-region where the program is conducted.

"Kids like to be outdoors, but Peggy Maddox is the real reason this program is so successful," said Tony Dean, NRCS district conservationist in Henrietta. "When you have a trained teacher who has a ranching background, loves the land, and knows kids you have the

right ingredients for long-term success."

Additional subjects include wind energy, plant biodiversity, the water cycle, and proper land management. Finally, sixth graders are taught about soil conditions, and how it directly relates to people's health and a sustainable future. Through Maddox's leadership, conservation education has been brought to a professional and effective level.

Under Maddox's direction, volunteers are trained to present various subjects to the students. Along with Tony Dean, Ricky Linex, NRCS wildlife biologist and Nathan Haile, NRCS soil scientist worked with other volunteers to present subjects focusing on plants and the water cycle.



Brent Hackley (left), ranch manager at Richards Ranch, and Tony Dean, NRCS district conservationist in Henrietta, shows students the effects of animal impact on the soil surface. Students are pretending to be buffalo grazing on original tall grass prairie.



Ricky Linex, NRCS wildlife biologist in Weatherford, works with students learning about plants and their biodiversity at the Kids on The Land program held on the Richards Ranch in Jacksboro, Texas.

the Texas Soil and Water Conservation Districts met in Wellington on August 16 at the Ritz Theater, hosted by the Salt Fork SWCD. Rudy Tate, retired farmer and rancher and former SWCD director was keynote speaker and presented a program on the history of Collingsworth County.

Gary Barnett, NRCS district conservationist in Beaumont, provided a presentation on plant identification to 11 **4-H members from Hardin, Jefferson and Orange Counties** at Village Creek State Park in Lumberton on August 16. Orange County Agrilife Extension agent Roy Stanford led the meeting. The students also took a hike in the woods using the skills they had learned from the talk. The group was training for the 4-H Wildlife Contest that will be held next year.

South Plains Association of Texas Soil and Water Conservation Districts met in Lubbock at PYCO Industries on August 17. Cochran County SWCD sponsored the event. Mark Schwartz, president and general manager of the Golden Spread Electric Cooperative covering the cooperative and wind generation farm was the Keynote speaker.

NRCS had an information booth at the annual **Texas Produce Convention** on Aug. 17-19 in South Padre which reached an estimated 200 attendees including past, current and potential landowners and managers. Contacts were made with HEB and other groups that work with local producers to coordinate providing conservation materials at their work-

Tribal Conservation

The Kickapoo Traditional Tribe of Texas recently signed a land treatment contract under the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP). The EQIP program provides financial assistance in applying conservation practices to protect the natural resource base. The EQIP contract is a result of a 2 year conservation planning process with the Tribe.

Maverick County District Conservationist, Serafin M. Aguirre has developed a trust and business working relationship with the Tribe. The conservation practices that are scheduled at the ranch are the first in a line of planned practices that the Kickapoo's have outlined in their Conservation Plan.

Two years of working with the tribe, explaining to the tribal members the 9 step NRCS planning process, has yielded a conservation plan that targets a wiser use of existing resources and installation of new structural practices. These improvements will provide maximized beef production by maximizing forage production. At the same time, improvements in resources will provide a greatly needed benefit to wildlife.

Now the tribe, with Aguirre's help, is ready to physically implement the installation of the conservation practices laid out in the conservation plan. To take advantage of the 3 recently dug water wells, the financial assistance contract includes 21,800 feet of stockwater pipeline, 4 water troughs, 3 water storage units and 4,300 feet of cross fencing. The pipeline will provide stock water to areas of the ranch not adequately utilized by stock due to lack of water. In addition the new system will tie existing pipelines and water troughs, whose water was formerly supply by ponds, into to the new system. Many of the existing ponds have

dried up during the recent drought.

This improvement in distribution of water will allow the tribe to better utilize the 8 large pastures in a prescribed rotational grazing system. Once water is available, cross fencing is planned that will protect their land from overgrazing through the implementation of a prescribed grazing plan and provide more choices from which to choose when moving cattle.

According to Mr. Juan Garza Jr., Kisisika, Tribal Council Chairman, the tribe is looking into the possibility of raising organic beef on their ranch.



(Left to right) D. Spaulding Tribal Administrator, E. Anico, Checuakiah, Ranch Director and S.M. Aguirre NRCS District Conservationist, discussing options.



(Left to right) R. Garza, J. Chenault, T. Carrizales and Sr. Tovar looking at one of the proposed sites for a Water Storage Facility.

shops for farmers.

Twenty-eight people from Hopkins and Rains Counties attended a **public meeting** held at Hopkins County Regional Civic Center on August 23. Attendees also included the Hopkins-Rains SWCD Chairman and the NRCS District Conservationist for the area. The meeting provided a summary of findings of the Draft Results Report for the Basic Recreational Use Attainability Analysis (RUAA) of Grace Creek (Segment 505B), South Fork of Sabine River (Segment 507G), Elm Creek (Segment 512B) and Running Creek (Segment 512A). The meeting was sponsored by Texas AgriLife Research

and the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality.

Big Country Beef Conference was held at the Taylor County Expo Center on August 25. Topics included 2012 Farm Bill, Oil and Gas Industry, Maintaining Herd Health, Brush Control, Cattle Market Outlook, Weather Outlook and Pasture Management.

Zone 3 Public Affairs Specialist, Melissa Blair and Zone 3 Soil Scientist, Shanna Dunn, wrapped up teaching more than 550 children at the **Texas State Aquarium's Sea-**

camp during June, July and August about wetlands. Through interactive games and presentations the children learned about NRCS and our role in helping landowners protect and restore wetlands, and how wetlands provide an array of benefits for wildlife, the environment and humans. Grades targeted were the Voyagers, which are 8th-9th graders, the Seahorses, which are 4th-6th graders, and the SeaUrchins, which are 2nd-3rd graders. NRCS has been invited to partner next year since it was a beneficial counterpart to the Sealab's wetlands teachings.

Honors & Awards

NRCS Receives Business of the Year Award and NRCS Employee Roel Guerra Honored

The USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) was recently named 2011 Business of the Year by the Harlingen Region of the Texas Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services (DARS)/Division for Blind Services (DBS). NRCS received the award for its commitment to working with and employing blind and visually impaired individuals in Rio Grande City and throughout Texas. Assistant State Conservationist for Field Operations in South Texas, Tomas Dominguez, received the award for NRCS.

NRCS employee of 24 years, Roel Guerra of Rio Grande City, was also honored for his commitment and hard work with the agency in helping landowners with conservation planning. Guerra, who is legally blind and hearing impaired due to a hereditary eye condition that affects peripheral vision and hearing, was presented with a proclamation from State Representative Ryan Guillen. The House of Representatives' resolution, which was presented by Starr County Judge Eloy Vera, recognized Guerra's career as a soil conservation technician and planner that has earned him an outstanding reputation among the landowners in Starr County and his peers.



(L to R) Arturo Ibarra, NRCS district conservationist in Willacy County; Roel Guerra, NRCS soil conservation technician in Rio Grande City; Tomas Dominguez, NRCS ASTC for field operations in Zone 3; and Becky Soto, employment assistance manager for the State of Texas DARS/DBS.

Honors & Awards (cont'd)

Ann Ross, agriculture engineer at Brady, attended the International ASABE Meeting in Louisville, Kentucky from August 8-11, 2011. Ross was presented with the **Yoerger Preprofessional Engineer of the Year Award** at this ceremony. Ross will now serve a 3 year term on the Yoerger Pre-professional Engineer of the Year Awards Committee to help select future awardees.

Kanand Brooks, assistant state conservationist for the USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) in Bryan, Texas, was presented with the **USDA Partner of the Year-Highest Achievement Award** from the Texas Small Farmers & Ranchers (TSFR) community based organization (CBO).



Wade Ross, TSFR/CBO state director (left), presents Kanand Brooks, assistant state conservationist for the USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) in Bryan, Texas, with the USDA Partner of the Year-Highest Achievement Award from the Texas Small Farmers & Ranchers (TSFR) community based organization (CBO).

Beverly Moseley, Zone 4 Public Affairs Specialist, received **national recognition at the Ag Media Summit** in New Orleans, La., for her photography. Her photo "Sliding Stop" won the top award in the Paul Andre Best of the Bunch Photo Contest. She also placed first in the general division with her Migratory Bird Habitat Initiative photo – "Bird Circles."



Stacey Stark, center with plaque, received the plaque for 13 years as the Chisholm Trail RC&D coordinator in Bowie, Texas, with the RC&D board members accompanying her at their annual meeting in August.

Stacey Stark, former NRCS Chisholm Trail RC&D coordinator, was presented a **plaque for 13 years as the RC&D coordinator** in Bowie, during the RC&D's annual meeting on August 16. Stark is presently stationed in Decatur as a soil conservation planner.

Press releases distributed:

- Hispanic and women farmer and rancher claims process (both print and broadcast).
- Texas NRCS Can Help Landowners with Rangeland Recovery Assistance Following Wildfires
- CIG Announcement (National)
- Hill Country Conservancy, NRCS, & Travis County announce permanent conservation of Brockenbrough Ranch
- Improving Texas Outdoors through Conservation
- Additional Farm Bill Funding Available for FY2011
 - Lesser Prairie Chicken
 - Ogallala Aquifer
 - Wildfires
- NRCS Announces Recipients of Conservation Innovation Grants

Feature Articles

- "Catch the Rainfall" by Gary DiGuseppe in the August issue of *The Cattleman Magazine* quoting Steve Nelle, NRCS wildlife biologist, about water catchment systems.
- NRCS was featured in stories that appeared in *Land & Livestock Post* and *Country World* newspapers.
- *Times Record News*: Dove hunters: Don't fear Texas drought (Nelle quoted)
- One of the top ten most read stories in the September 5 issue of the *Tyler Morning Telegraph* was a story which featured the Duck Creek Project near Lindale and quotes Bernard Mask, retired conservationist of the Smith County District of the then Soil Conservation Service. <http://www.tylerpaper.com/article/20110905/NEWS01/110909930>

- *On the level* weekly article by Ballinger NRCS CET, Charles Frerich runs in both the Winters Enterprise and Ballinger Ledger.
- *The News Gram* - C.C. Winn High School students participated in the Texas Society for Range Management Youth Range Workshop (Spanish Publication).
- *Environmental Protection Magazine*: Researcher: "Texas Must Make Conservation Plans Now to bring Rangeland Back from Drought"
- *Johnson City Record Courier*: "Funding Priorities Needed for EQIP Program"
- *CattleNetwork.com*: "USDA offers new CRP acreage"
- *San Angelo Standard Times*: "Windmill Country" by Jerry Lackey
- *San Angelo Standard Times*: Steve Nelle quoted in story "Hunting: Plenty of deer available for hunting this season" and "With no rain, wildlife moving."

Television

- ABC 40 TV affiliate in Bryan, interviewed Zone 4 Forester, Mary Webb-Marek, as part of a feature story on carrying for trees in these historic drought conditions. The story ran August 12.
- Zone 4 Public Affairs Specialist, Beverly Moseley, provided photos from Buffalo, Texas to Beef Today who used them August 16 in a national **AgDay** story "Drought Forcing Tough Choices." Link follows: http://www.agweb.com/livestock/beef/article/agday_drought_forcing_tough_choices/

Hispanic/Women Farmer Rancher Settlement Claims Process

As part of continued efforts to close the chapter on allegations that discrimination occurred at USDA in past decades, a process has been developed to resolve the claims of Hispanic and women farmers and ranchers who assert that they were discriminated against when seeking USDA farm loans.

USDA, as a whole, is responsible for outreach efforts regarding this settlement claims process. Over the past four months, Texas-NRCS has worked with the Farm Service Agency (FSA) and Rural Development (RD) on extensive outreach efforts which have targeted the entire state. The mission has been to work toward ensuring all eligible Hispanic and women farmers and ranchers receive the claims process information, thereby giving them an opportunity to participate.

The claims process offers a streamlined alternative to litigation and provides at least \$1.33 billion in compensation, plus up to \$160 million in farm debt relief, to eligible Hispanic and women farmers and ranchers.

The program provides up to \$50,000 for each Hispanic or woman farmer who can show that USDA denied them a loan or loan servicing for discriminatory reasons for certain time periods between 1981 and 2000. Hispanic or female farmers who provide additional proof and meet other requirements can receive a \$50,000 reward. Successful claimants are also eligible for funds to pay the taxes on their awards and for forgiveness of certain existing USDA loans. There are no filing fees or other costs to claimants to participate in the program. Participation is voluntary, and individuals who opt not to participate are not precluded by the program from filing a complaint in court.



NRCS employees have worked tirelessly in efforts to reach these audiences and stakeholders. From the state office to the field office, employees have utilized public service announcements, outreach events, meetings such as Soil & Water Conservation District, workshops, agricultural organizations, numerous media outlets, press releases, notices, flyers and posters. English and Spanish versions are available.

In fact, in a recent two-week period alone, Texas' media outreach efforts alone included the following: A total of 251 newspapers, magazine and newsletters with the potential to reach a population of 4,266,811, which includes an estimated

66,217 Hispanics and 96,839 women. A total of 447 radio outlets were provided

the Texas PSA which features State Conservationist Salvador Salinas, with the potential to reach a total population of 6,720,749, of which 1,028,767 are Hispanic and 212,703 are women. The news release was also provided to a news service which distributed it to 204 radio and newspaper outlets in Texas, including 99 Hispanic specific radio and newspaper media outlets, reaching a potential 10 million people.

National headquarters has required states to provide weekly and now bi-weekly outreach Hispanic/Women Claims Process briefing papers to national headquarters. Texas' documented progress in this outreach process continues to show extensive efforts on behalf of stakeholders.



Upcoming Events

SEPTEMBER

- 22-23 Terry County 5th grade Outdoor Classrooms – Brownfield
- 24 Public Land Day – Cross Bar Ranch near Amarillo, hosted by Bureau of Land Management
- 25 -29 Association of State Dam Safety Officials (ASDSO) National Meeting, 2011, Washington, D.C.
- 27 Holistic Management International – Texas Tech University – Lubbock
- 27 Beginning Farmers: Women in Texas seminars and workshops in Lubbock
- 27 Teacher Extravaganza at Texas State Aquarium
- 28 Yoakum County Conservation Jamboree – Denver City
- 28-30 Texas Southwestern Cattle Raisers Associations (TSCRA) Fall Meeting – Lubbock
- 30 Rolling Plains Quail Research Ranch Field Day – “How to Manage Quail in Drought Conditions.”

OCTOBER

- 1 Coastal Bend Wildlife Photography Landowner Workshop:
- 4 Chamber Ag Breakfast - Lubbock
- 4 Fisher County Agri Day – Roby
- 6-7 Terry County 5th grade Outdoor Classrooms - Brownfield
- 6- West Texas A&M University (WTAMU) Career Expo – Canyon
- 11-13 “Ag in the Bag” - Lubbock
- 11 Beginning Farmers: Women in Texas seminars and workshops in Dallas
- 12-14 Texas Section Society for Range Management (TSSRM) annual meeting in San Angelo
- 13 Ag Awareness Day – Levelland
- 14-15 Farm and Ranch Forum will be held in Uvalde, Texas

- 18 Soils and Range Field Day, CC-RFO -- Clarendon
- 19 Top of Texas Career Expo – Canyon
- 19 Kids, Kows and More for 4th grade students – Terry County
- 20 Range Training, CC-RFO -- Clarendon
- 24-26 NRCS booth at the 71st Annual Meeting of the Texas State Soil and Water Conservation District Directors meeting in San Antonio.
- 25 South Plains Career Expo – Lubbock Civic Center
- 25 Beginning Farmers: Women in Texas seminars and workshops in Edinburg
- 28-29 NRCS booth at the Wild in Willacy in Raymondville
- 28-30 NRCS booth at the 25th anniversary of the Hispanic Women’s Network of Texas annual conference in Austin.

NOVEMBER

- 10-12 NRCS booth and speakers at the 3rd annual San Antonio International Farm and Ranch Show in San Antonio.

DECEMBER

- 9-10 NRCS booth at the Texas Irrigation Expo in McAllen at the convention center.

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