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# Louisiana Conservation Update

Natural Resources Conservation Service

Helping People Help the Land

February 2015

## Shoreline Protection Innovators

Story from the field  
Clean Water, Healthy Cows

A cooperative partnership with local  
Soil and Water Conservation Districts and  
Resource Conservation and Development Councils (RC&D)

Projects • Successes • Partnerships



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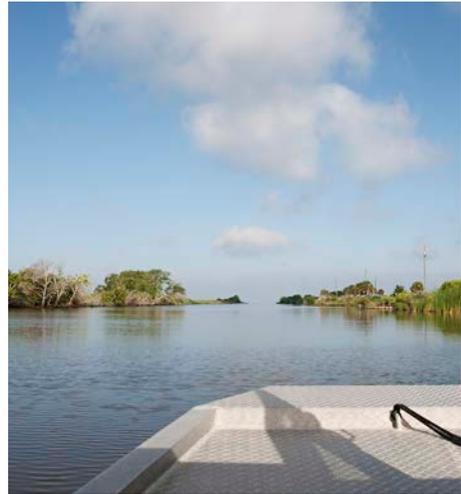
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## On the Cover



Louisiana’s coastal shorelines are disappearing. To find out how NRCS is working to find new ways to protect these shoreline, through CWPPRA, see pages 4 and 5.

**Are you interested in volunteering for conservation? Contact your local NRCS office and ask about the Earth Team Volunteer Program.**

The Conservation Update is distributed monthly by mail and e-mail.

If you would like to receive monthly issues of the Conservation Update, please send your mailing address or e-mail address to:

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## Notes from the State Conservationist

This year marks the 25th anniversary of the Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection and Restoration Act (CWPPRA) program. CWPPRA is a truly unique program that created a rare partnership of five federal agencies and the state of Louisiana. As a task force member, NRCS values our state and local partners and works to elevate projects that serve their interests in coastal restoration. The wetlands of coastal Louisiana provide a variety of benefits worth billions of dollars that serve the nation, as well as improve the local economy here in Louisiana. CWPPRA provides jobs for local people on construction crews that build the projects; materials and equipment used on the projects are bought from local sources; and the value of the restored and protected land is priceless to the landowners, land users and residents of these coastal parishes. Nowhere else in the country is something of this magnitude happening through an effective interagency partnership.



NRCS has a long-standing tradition of working with private landowners to conserve all of our natural resources in efficient, smart and sustainable ways. Without the assistance of our core partners, the local soil and water conservation districts, we would not be able to accomplish our mission of “Helping People Help the Land”. The soil and water conservation districts are NRCS’s first line in working with private landowners to get sound conservation practices on the ground. They work with us every day to carry out all of our conservation efforts, including those in coastal Louisiana.

Over the course of the CWPPRA program, NRCS and the soil and water conservation districts have worked with private landowners in the same manner. We listen to their concerns and work with them to plan potential projects for funding under this program. Planning and implementation of the CWPPRA projects would not be possible without the support, partnership and stewardship of the private landowners in coastal Louisiana.

As a partnership, we continue to be proud of what Louisiana is doing to conserve, protect and restore its bountiful natural resources. It’s not often that you see efficient and effective partnerships between so many federal, state, and local agencies, as well as private landowners. We will strive to maintain, energize and expand this partnership to meet the changing needs for our growing world population.

Kevin D. Norton  
State Conservationist  
Louisiana

Louisiana has 37% of the estuarine herbaceous marshes in the contiguous United States and accounts for 90% of coastal wetland loss in the lower 48 states.

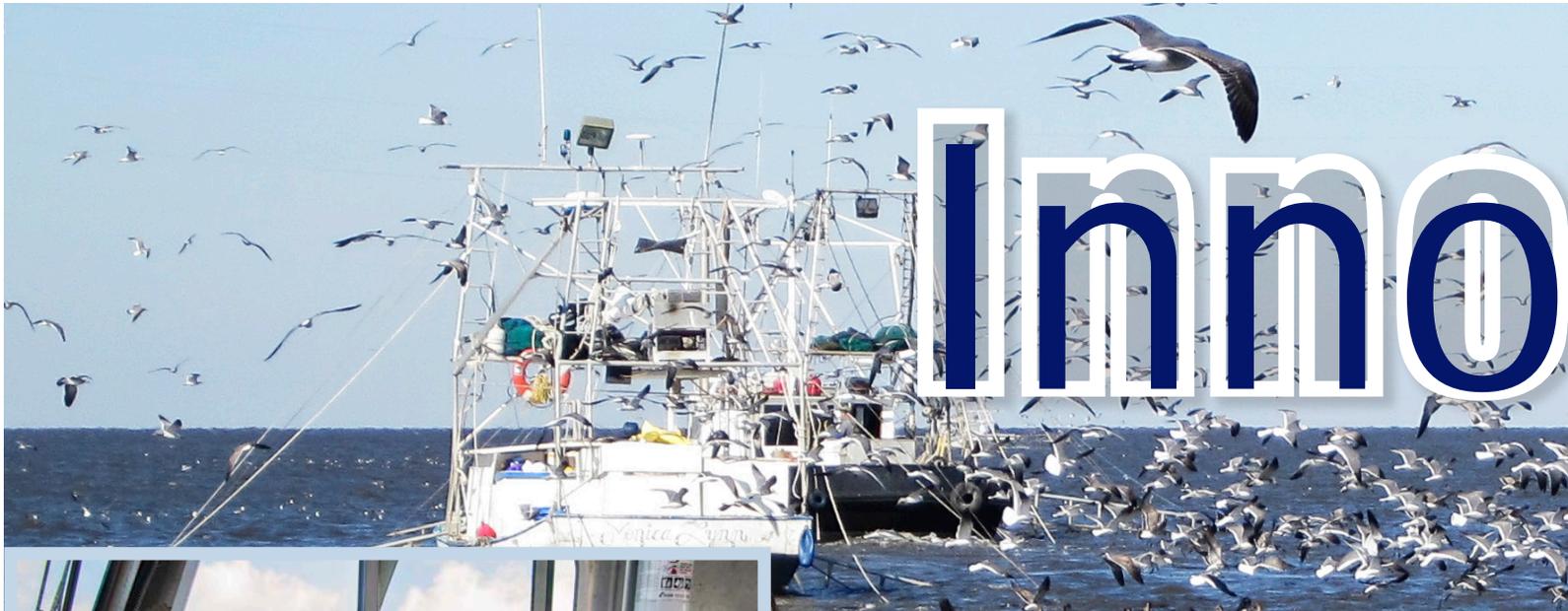
Between 2004 - 2008, hurricanes Katrina, Rita, Gustav and Ike transformed approximately 328 square miles of marsh to open water - an amount that exceeded the total land loss for the approximate 25 year period between 1978 - 2004.

If coastal loss were to occur at a constant rate, it would equate to losing an area the size of a football field per hour.

Information collected from:  
[http://dnr.louisiana.gov/assets/OCM/OCM/webfactsheet\\_20110727.pdf](http://dnr.louisiana.gov/assets/OCM/OCM/webfactsheet_20110727.pdf)

# Coastal Facts

The Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection and Restoration Act (CWPPRA) was enacted in 1990 to provide for the long-term conservation of Louisiana's coastal wetlands. The CWPPRA Program is managed by the CWPPRA Task Force which consists of five federal agencies: the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers; Environmental Protection Agency; U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service; and the National Marine Fisheries Service; along with the state of Louisiana represented by the Governor's Office of Coastal Activities. Since that time, 100 projects have been constructed. NRCS is the federal sponsor for 39 of these projects.



Louisiana is home to approximately 37 percent of estuarine herbaceous marshes in the contiguous United States. However, it is suffering 90 percent of the Nation's coastal wetland loss. One of the largest contributors of wetland loss is shoreline erosion.

There are shoreline areas in Louisiana where these typical techniques won't work because of unstable soil conditions, subsurface obstructions, and accessibility problems. In 2009, the CWPPRA Task Force approved funding for a demonstration project, LA-16 Non-Rock Alternatives to Shoreline Protection, to identify

To help combat eroding shorelines across the Louisiana coast, projects have been designed using various techniques such as rock revetment, foreshore rock dikes, concrete panels and bulkheads.

and test alternative methods of shoreline protection.

"Finding solutions that work in unstable conditions is imperative in the fight against coastal erosion," said Loland Broussard, project manager for NRCS. The process began in early 2012, with the advertisement of a request for proposals. Once the proposals were received, the proposals were narrowed down to the top three: the Wave Attenuation Device, Integrated Shoreline Solutions - Wave Screen System, and Buoyancy Compensated Erosion Control Modular System.

Living Shoreline Solutions, Inc. developed the Wave Attenuation Device. This device consists of

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# Shoreline Protection Solutions



individual modular units supported by each other at the base. Each unit is a three-sided pyramid shaped concrete structure with angled sides and triangular-shaped openings on each side. The units are placed in a double-row parallel to the shoreline. They are designed so that waves that pass through the structure and their destructive energy are significantly reduced before reaching the shoreline.

Royal Engineers & Consultants, Inc., developed the Integrated Shoreline Solutions - Wave Screen System. This structure is a continuous linear feature consisting of two parallel vertical walls of perforated HDPE sheeting supported by steel pilings. The bottoms of the vertical walls are positioned 1 - 1.5 feet above

the water bottom. Two walls are installed parallel to each other in a straight configuration parallel to the shoreline.

The Buoyancy Compensated Erosion Control Modular System was developed by Jansen, Inc. This structure consists of individual modular units placed adjacent to each other in a linear fashion to form a continuous unit parallel to the shoreline. Each unit is a 4-sided styrofoam-filled concrete shell with a sloped front and back and has an enclosed bottom. Individual units are held to each other using winched cables and are secured in place with pin piles.

Construction of all three sections was completed in 2014. The

project will be monitored for its effectiveness by scientists at the NRCS and the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority for three years.

"If these products work like we think they will, then scientists and engineers, like myself, will be able to better plan and design effective shoreline protection projects across the entire coast", said Broussard.

For more information on CWPPRA, including all of the projects, visit [www.lacoast.gov](http://www.lacoast.gov).

# Around the State

## January 11-13

### Louisiana Association of Conservation Districts 69th Annual Convention:

The Louisiana Association of Conservation Districts hosted their 69th annual convention in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, on January 11 – 13, 2015. Over 200 people attended from conservation districts across Louisiana. During the general session, attendees learned about soil health from Ray Archuleta, Conservation Agronomist, Natural Resources Conservation Service. Other speakers during the general session were Dr. Chip Groat, President/CEO, The Water Institute of the Gulf; Dr. Mike Strain, DVM, Commissioner of Agriculture and Forestry; and Donavon Taves, East Carroll Soil and Water Conservation District and LACD 1st Vice President.



A special luncheon was hosted during the convention on Tuesday, January 12, recognizing the farmers who were certified as Master Farmers in 2014.



## February 1 - 4 National Association of Conservation Districts Annual Convention:

More than 900 conservation leaders from around the country attended the National Association of Conservation Districts Annual Meeting in New Orleans February 1-4. The four day meeting included educational sessions, workshops and panel discussions on the past, present and future of conservation on America's private lands. New at the NACD Annual meeting this year was a student career workshop where Gulf area college students were invited to attend the general session and a workshop with NRCS leaders, national and state partners, and private sector representatives to learn about careers in conservation. Louisiana's own Earl Garber, Acadia SWCD board member, presided over the meeting, completing his two-year term as the NACD President.

## February 2

### USDA Deputy Secretary Visits New Orleans:

USDA Deputy Secretary Krysta Harden made the most of her trip to New Orleans on Monday, February 2. Deputy Harden began the morning at Recirculating Farms Coalition in the heart of New Orleans to celebrate urban agriculture communities and the award of a New and Beginning Farmers grant received by the organization. As former Chief Executive Officer of NACD, Deputy Harden served as the annual meeting luncheon keynote speaker where she reflected on her time working with the conservation districts around the country, the relationships she cherished, and reminded the country's conservation leaders to remember our history and keep looking toward the future of the conservation partnerships. The Deputy concluded the whirlwind day by hosting a small roundtable discussion on the importance of trade, primarily export opportunities, with diverse agricultural leaders from all parts of the state.



# Story from the Field

## Helping People Help the Land

### Clean Water, Healthy Cows

Gary Landry has approximately 450 head of cattle on his 2,844 acre farm in Lafourche Parish.

Landry's cows were drinking water from a canal on his property, which was causing streambank erosion and water quality problems. Additionally, in dry periods the canal would dry up and his cows didn't have a source of water. When this happened, Mr. Landry would have to move all of his cattle to another place.

Landry visited the NRCS Thibodaux Field Office looking for some

assistance with his problems. Through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program, NRCS was able to help Landry install 17,027 feet of pipeline from a meter tied to the city water system and eight water troughs with limestone pads for the troughs.



Landry is also trying to incorporate conservation in other ways. He is currently working on becoming a

certified Louisiana Master Farmer. To become a certified Louisiana Master Farmer, participants must complete three phases of training including classroom instruction, attending a conservation-based field day where best management practices are demonstrated and discussed, and requesting a farm-specific Resource Management System (RMS) level conservation plan through their district conservationist with NRCS.



StrikeForce Initiative



## Louisiana Update

for Rural Growth and Opportunity

### FY 2015 Update:

**NRCS has been involved with seven StrikeForce meetings so far this year.** These meetings were held in Iberia, Natchitoches, St. Bernard, St. Helena, St. Landry, Union and West Carroll Parishes. As a result, USDA has received 40 requests for assistance.

NRCS StrikeForce Coordinator, Dexter Sapp, recently assisted the Addis NRCS Field Office with a Grazing Land Workshop on January 31, 2015. Over 50 people attended the workshop, with some coming from as far away as Mississippi.

To view the story from TWILA TV visit <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dYMQPV7tHno>.



### Upcoming StrikeForce Meetings:

**Thursday, March 5, 2015**

**9:00 am**

Red River Parish Library  
410 East Carroll Street  
Coushatta, Louisiana 71019

**Thursday, March 12, 2015**

**9:00 am**

David Means 4-H Building  
10117 Highway 171  
Grand Cane, Louisiana 71032

**Tuesday, March 17, 2015**

**9:00 am**

Grant Parish Library  
300 Main Street  
Colfax, Louisiana 71417



# Contact Our Offices

Visit our web site at:  
[www.la.nrcs.usda.gov](http://www.la.nrcs.usda.gov)

Parish	Field Office	Soil and Water Conservation District	Address	Telephone
Acadia	Crowley	Acadia SWCD	157 Cherokee Drive, Suite C, Crowley, LA 70526	(337) 783-5823, ext. 3
Allen	Oberlin	Allen SWCD	309 North 1st Street, Suite 1, Oberlin, LA 70655	(337) 639-4850, ext. 3
Ascension	Donaldsonville	Lower Delta SWCD and New River SWCD	2259 Business Park Boulevard, Donaldsonville, LA 70346	(225) 473-7638, ext. 3
Assumption	Donaldsonville	Lower Delta SWCD	2259 Business Park Boulevard, Donaldsonville, LA 70346	(225) 473-7638, ext. 3
Avoyelles	Marksville	Avoyelles SWCD	629 Tunica Drive West, Marksville, LA 71351	(318) 253-9445, ext. 3
Beauregard	DeRidder	Calcasieu SWCD	597 Mahlon Street, Suite B, DeRidder, LA 70634	(337) 463-8555, ext. 3
Bienville	Minden	Saline SWCD	216B Broadway, Minden, LA 71055	(318) 377-3950, ext. 3
Bossier	Benton	Bodcau SWCD	200 Burt Boulevard, Suite 101, Benton, LA 71006-4901	(318) 965-2185, ext. 3
Caddo	Shreveport	Caddo SWCD	1402 Hawn Avenue, Shreveport, LA 71107	(318) 676-3461, ext. 3
Calcasieu	Lake Charles	Gulf Coast SWCD	5417 Gerstner Memorial Drive, Lake Charles, LA 70601	(337) 474-1583, ext. 3
Caldwell	Columbia	Boeuf and Dugdemona SWCD	7128 Highway 165 South, Suite 2, Columbia, LA 71418	(318) 649-2651, ext. 3
Cameron	Lake Charles	Gulf Coast SWCD	5417 Gerstner Memorial Drive, Lake Charles, LA 70601	(337) 474-1583, ext. 3
Catahoula	Jonesville	Catahoula SWCD	3545 4th Street, Jonesville, LA 71343	(318) 339-4239, ext. 3
Claiborne	Minden	D'Arbonne SWCD	216B Broadway, Minden, LA 71055	(318) 377-3950, ext. 3
Concordia	Ferriday	Tensas-Concordia SWCD	8331 Highway 84, Ferriday, LA 71334	(318) 757-2455, ext. 3
DeSoto	Mansfield	DeSoto SWCD	332 Lake Road, Mansfield, LA 71052	(318) 872-4949, ext. 3
East Baton Rouge	Denham Springs	Capital SWCD	907 Florida Boulevard, SW, Denham Springs, LA 70726	(225) 665-4253, ext. 3
East Carroll	Lake Providence	East Carroll SWCD	406 Lake Street, Suite C, Lake Providence, LA 71254	(318) 559-2604, ext. 3
East Feliciana	Clinton	Feliciana SWCD	9752 Plank Road South, Clinton, LA 70722	(225) 683-5496, ext. 3
Evangeline	Ville Platte	Evangeline SWCD	205 Court Street, Ville Platte, LA 70586	(337) 363-6602, ext. 3
Franklin	Winnsboro	Northeast SWCD	616 Riser Road, Winnsboro, LA 71295	(318) 435-6743, ext. 3
Grant	Colfax	Grant SWCD	510 Main Street, Colfax, LA 71417	(318) 627-9903, ext. 3
Iberia	New Iberia	Iberia SWCD	2617 Northside Road, Suite 600, New Iberia, LA 70563	(337) 369-6623, ext. 3
Iberville	Addis	Lower Delta SWCD	7747 Highway 1 South, Addis, LA 70710	(225) 687-2184, ext. 3
Jackson	Ruston	Dugdemona SWCD	1412 Celebrity Drive, Ruston, LA 71270	(318) 255-3136, ext. 3
Jefferson	New Orleans	Crescent SWCD	1041 Rue La Cannes, Luling, LA 70070	(985) 331-9084
Jefferson Davis	Jennings	Jefferson Davis SWCD	2003 Port Drive, Jennings, LA 70546	(337) 824-0975, ext. 3
Lafayette	Lafayette	Lafayette SWCD	905 Jefferson Street, Suite 310, Lafayette, LA 70501-7913	(337) 262-6601, ext. 3
Lafourche	Thibodaux	Lafourche-Terrebonne SWCD	143 Laura Drive, Thibodaux, LA 70301	(985) 447-3871, ext. 3
LaSalle	Jonesville	LaSalle SWCD	3545 4th Street, Jonesville, LA 71343	(318) 339-4239, ext. 3
Lincoln	Ruston	D'Arbonne SWCD	1412 Celebrity Drive, Ruston, LA 71270	(318) 255-3136, ext. 3
Livingston	Denham Springs	Capital SWCD	907 Florida Boulevard, SW, Denham Springs, LA 70726	(225) 665-4253, ext. 3
Madison	Tallulah	Madison SWCD	1900 Crothers Drive, Tallulah, LA 71282	(318) 574-4158, ext. 3
Morehouse	Bastrop	Morehouse SWCD	9604 Marlatt Street, Bastrop, LA 71220	(318) 283-7626, ext. 3
Natchitoches	Natchitoches	Natchitoches SWCD	6949 Louisiana Highway 1 Bypass, Natchitoches, LA 71457	(318) 357-8366, ext. 3
Orleans	New Orleans	Crescent SWCD	1041 Rue La Cannes, Luling, LA 70070	(985) 331-9084
Quachita	Monroe	D'Arbonne/Boeuf River SWCD	2410 Old Sterling Road, Suite B, Monroe, LA 71203-2668	(318) 343-4467, ext. 3
Plaquemines	New Orleans	Plaquemines SWCD	1041 Rue La Cannes, Luling, LA 70070	(985) 331-9084
Pointe Coupee	New Roads	Upper Delta SWCD	180 East Main Street, New Roads, LA 70760	(225) 638-7746, ext. 3
Rapides	Alexandria	Rapides SWCD	3734 Government Street, Building C, Alexandria, LA 71303	(318) 473-7856, ext. 3
Red River	Coushatta	Red River SWCD	1311 Ringgold Avenue, Coushatta, LA 71019	(318) 932-4352, ext. 3
Richland	Rayville	Boeuf River SWCD	141 Industrial Loop, Rayville, LA 71269	(318) 728-4451, ext. 3
Sabine	Many	Sabine SWCD	570 Highway 171 By Pass, Many, LA 71449	(318) 256-3491
St. Bernard	New Orleans	Crescent SWCD	1041 Rue La Cannes, Luling, LA 70070	(985) 331-9084
St. Charles	New Orleans	Crescent SWCD	1041 Rue La Cannes, Luling, LA 70070	(985) 331-9084
St. Helena	Amite	Tangipahoa-St. Helena SWCD	805 West Oak Street, Suite 1, Amite, LA 70422-2820	(985) 748-8751, ext. 3
St. James	Donaldsonville	Lower Delta SWCD and New River SWCD	2259 Business Park Boulevard, Donaldsonville, LA 70346	(225) 473-7638, ext. 3
St. John	New Orleans	Crescent SWCD	1041 Rue La Cannes, Luling, LA 70070	(985) 331-9084
St. Landry	Opelousas	St. Landry SWCD	5832 I-49 North Service Road, Opelousas, LA 70570	(337) 942-2530, ext. 3
St. Martin	Lafayette	St. Martin SWCD	905 Jefferson Street, Suite 310, Lafayette, LA 70501-7913	(337) 262-6601, ext. 3
St. Mary	Franklin	St. Mary SWCD	500 Main Street, Franklin, LA 70538	(337) 828-1461, ext. 3
St. Tammany	Franklinton	Bogue Chitto-Pearl River SWCD	1111 Washington Street, Franklinton, LA 70438	(985) 839-5688, ext. 3
Tangipahoa	Amite	Tangipahoa-St. Helena SWCD	805 West Oak Street, Suite 1, Amite, LA 70422-2820	(985) 748-8751, ext. 3
Tensas	St. Joseph	Tensas-Concordia SWCD	1223 Plank Road, St. Joseph, LA 71366	(318) 766-3502, ext. 3
Terrebonne	Thibodaux	Lafourche-Terrebonne SWCD	143 Laura Drive, Thibodaux, LA 70301	(985) 447-3871, ext. 3
Union	Farmerville	D'Arbonne SWCD	501 Glory Road, Farmerville, LA 71241	(318) 368-8021
Vermilion	Abbeville	Vermilion SWCD	3221 Veterans Memorial Drive, Suite H, Abbeville, LA 70510	(337) 893-5664, ext. 3
Vernon	Leesville	Calcasieu SWCD	205 North 5th Street, Leesville, LA 71446	(337) 239-2193
Washington	Franklinton	Bogue Chitto-Pearl River SWCD	1111 Washington Street, Franklinton, LA 70438	(985) 839-5688, ext. 3
Webster	Minden	Dorcheat SWCD	216B Broadway, Minden, LA 71055	(318) 377-3950, ext. 3
West Baton Rouge	Addis	Upper Delta SWCD	7747 Highway 1, South, Addis, LA 70710	(225) 687-2184, ext. 3
West Carroll	Oak Grove	West Carroll SWCD	208 South Constitution Street, Oak Grove, LA 71263	(318) 428-9303, ext. 3
West Feliciana	Clinton	Feliciana SWCD	9752 Plank Road South, Clinton, LA 70722	(225) 683-5496, ext. 3
Winn	Natchitoches	Dugdemona SWCD	6949 Louisiana Highway 1 Bypass, Natchitoches, LA 71457	(318) 357-8366, ext. 3

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