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www.trailblazer.org

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Trailblazer news

good for the land . . . good for the people

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Hello Friends

The COVID-19 virus pandemic has changed every part of our lives. Social distancing, quarantining, school closings, grocery shortages, and teleworking have become the norm, and Trailblazer is doing our part.

- All Trailblazer events and activities have been postponed until further notice in an effort to prevent the spread of COVID-19.
- In the past, our newsletter was formatted to be printed and distributed by mail, with a pdf distributed to our email list. In order to become more efficient and use fewer resources during this difficult time, we are transitioning to an email-only newsletter.

Our thoughts and prayers are with you and your loved ones as we go through these challenging times. We pray you stay healthy and this crisis passes soon.

P. Ellzey Simmons
Chief Executive Officer
Trailblazer RC&D

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¹⁴ "Because he loves me," says the Lord, "I will rescue him; I will protect him, for he acknowledges my name."

Psalm 91:14
New International
Version (NIV)

EVENT UPDATE



Land Management for Wild Turkeys

March 12, 2020 - Columbia, Louisiana

Twenty-four people attended a Trailblazer workshop on March 12 in Columbia, Louisiana, that featured land management and habitat development for wild turkeys.

Speakers included USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service District Conservationist Jamie Shivers and Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Resident Small Game/Wild Turkey Program Manager Cody Cedotal.



Special thanks go to the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, LSU AgCenter, Mudd & Holland Forestry Consultants, and Enable Midstream Partnership for their sponsorship of this event.

Participants liked . . .

- “Q&A the most. Entire thing was good.”
- “Hatching information”
- “Programs for land”
- “Season dates explained”
- “All was informative”

History of Turkeys in LA

- Abundant in most areas of LA at the time of settlement
- Earliest known season - 1905
 - Dec-March
 - Bag Limit - 25
- Logging and over hunting nearly eliminated turkeys by mid 1900s

LDWF

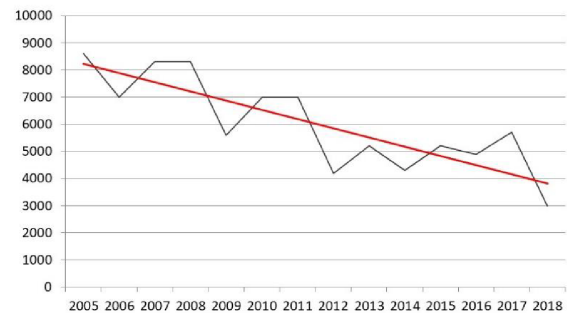
Factors Influencing Wild Turkey Production

- Environment
 - Precipitation
 - Avg. Temps
- Habitat Quality
 - Nesting
 - Brood rearing
 - Wintering
- Season Timing/Harvest

LDWF

Estimated Turkey Harvest (Harvest Survey)

— Estimated Turkey Harvest — Linear (Estimated Turkey Harvest)



LDWF

DON'T MISS A NEWSLETTER!

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Please send your email address to ceo@trailblazer.org, and we will add you to our email distribution list.

CONSERVATION CONVERSATION

USDA Service Centers Are Open By Phone Appointment Only

USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) field offices in Louisiana are open by phone appointment only until further notice, and NRCS staff are available to continue to provide one-on-one, customer-specific advice to producers to help them meet their unique conservation and business goals.

All USDA Service Centers, including those with NRCS field offices, are not currently accessible to customers in person.

"Our team is here to work with you, and we are looking at every possible option and flexibility to support the conservation needs of Louisiana farmers and ranchers," said NRCS State Conservationist Chad Kacir. "We want to continue our customer assistance while also taking precautionary measures to help prevent the spread of coronavirus."

NRCS offers year-round continuous signup for its Farm Bill programs such as the Environmental Quality Incentives Program, Conservation Stewardship Program and the Agricultural Conservation Easement Program. Call respective NRCS field offices about sign up and application submission options.

Additionally, NRCS continues projects with partners, including universities, local and state governments, tribes, nonprofits, and others. NRCS will continue to award projects and to call for proposals for the Regional Conservation Partnership Program, Conservation Innovation Grants and the Voluntary Public Access and Habitat Incentive Program.

Online services are available to customers with an eAuth account, which provides access to the farmers.gov offsite link where producers can view USDA farm loan information and payments and view and track certain USDA program applications and payments. Customers who do not already have an eAuth account can enroll at farmers.gov/sign-in. Online NRCS services are available to customers through the Conservation Client Gateway link which can be found at www.nrcs.usda.gov. Customers can track payments, report completed practices, request conservation assistance and electronically sign documents.

For the most current updates on available services and Service Center contact information, visit farmers.gov/coronavirus.

Coronavirus and USDA Service Centers

NRCS staff are working with customers through phone, mail and online communications, and field work continues with appropriate social distancing to help producers with conservation planning and financial assistance through Farm Bill programs.

NRCS Contacts

Bienville Parish:
(318) 377-3950, ext. 3

Bossier Parish:
(318) 872-4949

Claiborne/Webster
Parishes:
(318) 377-3950, ext. 3

Jackson/Lincoln Parishes:
(318) 255-3136, ext. 3

Union Parish:
(318) 368-8021

Winn Parish:
(318) 357-8366, ext. 3

Louisiana Welcomes a New NRCS State Conservationist

The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) recently selected Chad Kacir to serve as State Conservationist for Louisiana. As State Conservationist, Kacir will oversee the programs, operations and staff in the 44 NRCS offices located throughout Louisiana.

His agricultural career began in the private sector with a successful cow-calf operation. During this time, Kacir was introduced to NRCS and experienced, first-hand, the technical services it provides to farmers, ranchers and forest land owners. He also learned the integral role that local Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCD) play in getting conservation on the ground with private land owners.

His conservation work had a profound effect on his life and family, so much so, that he retired his cow-calf operation and started working for NRCS full-time. "The conservation work that our agency provides is invaluable to agricultural producers," said Kacir. "I believe in the value of conservation planning, working hand-in-hand with producers, and investing in partnerships with like-minded organizations that help us amplify the message of conservation."

During his career with NRCS, he served as a soil conservationist in Texas, a district conservationist in Oahu, Hawaii, and for the last eight years as the Assistant State Conservationist for Field Operations in Oklahoma.



Trailblazer
welcomes
Chad Kacir!

For more information about NRCS in Louisiana, visit:
<https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/site/la/home/>

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LAGNIAPPE

a little something extra

COVID-19

THE MORE YOU KNOW

Check out these links:

Coronavirus (COVID-19) Resources
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
How to protect yourself
What to do if you are sick

U.S. Chamber of Commerce
Responding to Coronavirus
Resources for Businesses
Help for Small Businesses
Communications Toolkit

Louisiana Department of Health
Coronavirus (COVID-19) Information/State Statistics

FEMA - U.S. Department of Homeland Security
Coronavirus (COVID-19) Response

Know how it
spreads

Take steps to
protect yourself

Take steps to
protect others

Stay home

Links for Resources Listed Above

Coronavirus (COVID-19) Resources
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/index.html>

How to protect yourself
What to do if you are sick

U.S. Chamber of Commerce
Responding to Coronavirus
<https://www.uschamber.com/coronavirus>

Resources for Businesses
Help for Small Businesses
Communications Toolkit

Louisiana Department of Health
<http://ldh.la.gov/Coronavirus/>
Coronavirus (COVID-19) Information/State Statistics

FEMA - U.S. Department of Homeland Security
<https://www.fema.gov/coronavirus>
Coronavirus (COVID-19) Response

SPONSOR SPOTLIGHT

Trailblazer partners with a diverse group of organizations to offer quality training and outstanding events. These groups recognize the value of working with Trailblazer to encourage conservation of our natural resources, help communities address areas of concern, and achieve organizational objectives. As a result of their partnership and sponsorship of Trailblazer activities, communities across northern Louisiana have access to quality training offered by well-known experts who addressed issues identified by communities at no cost to participants.

Thank you for staying with us through these difficult times!



Friends of Trailblazer

Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries

LSU AgCenter

USDA APHIS

Claiborne Parish Library

Village of Athens

Louisiana Forestry Association



BIENVILLE PARISH POLICE JURY



BOSSIER PARISH POLICE JURY



CLAIBORNE PARISH POLICE JURY



JACKSON PARISH POLICE JURY



LINCOLN PARISH POLICE JURY



UNION PARISH POLICE JURY



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