

Trailblazer news

good for the land . . . good for the people



Feral Hog Management Workshop and Demonstration
Minden, Louisiana - July 28, 2020
Trailblazer RC&D

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Trailblazer RC&D

Dear Friends,

THANK YOU!

We are very thankful for your continued support of Trailblazer RC&D during the COVID-19 pandemic and your interest in our workshops.

WORKSHOPS

During June and July, we began to ease back into a limited schedule of public workshops. The June pollinator workshop was a great opportunity to test the waters and find out if people were interested in attending public events. Face masks and hand sanitizer were offered, and social distancing was encouraged. The workshop was a great success and a pleasant re-entry into community life.

In July, we offered another great workshop on feral hog management—complete with a demonstration of a hog trap. Again, this workshop was a great success. You can read more about it in this newsletter.

COVID-19

Unfortunately, Louisiana has seen a marked increase in COVID-19 cases, causing the Governor to extend the mask mandate and additional restrictions until August 7.

AUGUST EVENTS CANCELED

While we are confident we are providing a safe workshop environment for participants, we are also cognizant of concerns expressed by our sponsors and partners. Out of respect to their concerns and in an abundance of caution, we are canceling scheduled August events. We hope to be able to reschedule these events in the fall.

VIRTUAL WORKSHOPS

We are exploring the possibility of virtual workshops as a method to deliver timely information to you from subject-matter experts. We are excited about this possibility and look forward to moving forward with this course of action.

Thank you again for sticking with us! Good things are on the horizon!

Ellzey Simmons
Chief Executive Officer
Trailblazer RC&D

4“He will cover you with his feathers, and under his wings you will find refuge; his faithfulness will be your shield and rampart. You will not fear the terror of night, nor the arrow that flies by day, nor the pestilence that stalks in the darkness, nor the plague that destroys at midday. A thousand may fall at your side, ten thousand at your right hand, but it will not come near you.”

Psalms 91:4-7
New International
Version
(NIV)

Workshop Update

Feral Hog Management Workshop and Demonstration

Minden, Louisiana
July 28, 2020



Trailblazer hosted a Feral Hog Management Workshop/Demonstration July 28, 2020, at Minden Farm & Garden in Minden, Louisiana, to provide property owners and ag producers with information on effective control techniques for feral hogs. 34 people attended this event and enjoyed presentations by Jeff Johnson of the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Andrea Bridgewater of the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, and Kyle Towns and Jim Towns of BoarBuster Traps. All participants rated the workshop as "Exceeded Expectations"

or "Above Average" with high marks for the speakers, facility, and food. Free registration for this workshop was made possible by the support of ENABLE Midstream Partners; Mudd & Holland Consulting Foresters, LLC; Burnham Construction, Inc.; Minden Farm & Garden;

Circle T Trailers; BoarBuster; Allstate Land & Timber; Webster Parish Police Jury; USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service; and Trailblazer RC&D. Many thanks go to these partners and sponsors for their continued support of natural resource conservation in Louisiana!



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CONTACT US TODAY

(318) 237-8350 or ceo@trailblazer.org



Trailblazer is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Trailblazer workshops are conducted in accordance with Louisiana Department of Health COVID-19 guidelines, and attendees will be encouraged to wear a face mask and practice social distancing. If you are not feeling well or you have been exposed to COVID-19, please stay home.



If you need an accommodation to participate in a Trailblazer RC&D workshop, please contact Trailblazer at (318) 237-8350 at least 3 weeks in advance of the workshop.

Trailblazer RC&D and USDA are equal opportunity providers, lenders, and employers.

USDA News



USDA-NRCS in Louisiana Announces ACEP-WRE Application Period

The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) in Louisiana has announced an application period for the Agricultural Conservation Easement Program-Wetlands Reserve Easements (ACEP-WRE) in fiscal year 2021. Private landowners across the state are encouraged to apply.

Applications for ACEP-WRE will be accepted on a continuous basis with monthly batching periods. Interested landowners are encouraged to apply by Friday, September 25, 2020, for 2021 funding consideration in the October application batching period. Applications received after this date will be evaluated for consideration in the next application batching period.

The ACEP-WRE program is designed to restore and protect wetlands. Eligible lands include farmed or converted wetlands that can be successfully and cost-effectively restored.

NRCS provides technical and financial assistance directly to private and tribal landowners to restore, protect and enhance wetlands through the purchase of these easements. Eligible landowners can choose to enroll in a permanent or 30-year easement.

Easement rates vary by region, but landowners may receive up to \$3,950 per acre for enrolling eligible land in WRE. Additionally, NRCS will pay 100 percent of the restoration cost for permanent easements and 75% of the restoration cost for 30-year easements.

For more information on ACEP-WRE contact your local NRCS office. See list on Page 4.

The WRE program helps private landowners:

- **Enhance and protect habitat for fish and wildlife (including threatened and endangered species)**
- **Improve water quality**
- **Reduce flooding**
- **Recharge groundwater**
- **Provide opportunities for educational and recreational activities.**



New USDA Team Will Serve Beginning Farmers and Ranchers in Louisiana

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is standing up a new team that will lead a department-wide effort focused on serving beginning farmers and ranchers.

Derrick Johnson was selected as the USDA Beginning Farmer Rancher state coordinator in Louisiana. Derrick currently works as a Risk Management Specialist with the Risk Management Agency and has worked 17 years for USDA. He also runs his family's vegetable farm in southern Mississippi.

Others on the team coordinating Louisiana's beginning farmers and rancher efforts include, Ervin Norwood,

Program Technician with the Farm Service Agency; Stephanie Paul, District Conservationist with the Natural Resource Conservation Service; and Lee Jones, Assistant to the State Director with Rural Development. This is a collateral duty for all team members.

Each state coordinator will receive training and develop tailored beginning farmer outreach plans for their state. Coordinators will help field employees better reach and serve beginning farmers and ranchers and will also be available to assist beginning farmers who need help navigating the variety of resources USDA has to offer.

Beginning Farmers

Twenty-seven percent of farmers were categorized as new and beginning producers, with 10 years or less of experience in agriculture, according to the 2017 Census of Agriculture.

USDA offers a variety of farm loan, risk management, disaster assistance, and conservation programs to support farmers, including beginning farmers and ranchers. Additionally, a number of these programs have provisions specifically for beginning farmers, including targeted funding for loans and conservation programs as well as waivers and exemptions.

More Information

Learn more about USDA's resources for beginning farmers as well as more information on the national and state-level coordinators at farmers.gov/newfarmers. For more information on available programs in your area, contact your local USDA Service Center.

Attend a Trailblazer workshop and learn more about USDA NRCS and beginning farmer and rancher opportunities.

USDA Service Centers Are Open By Phone Appointment Only

Due to current COVID-19 conditions:

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. 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.

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

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- ✓ Attract New Customers

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Opportunities Through Trailblazer

- ✓ Advocacy for USDA program participation
- ✓ Effective communication with USDA agencies
- ✓ Info on USDA financial/technical assistance

Contact Trailblazer to Arrange a Meeting

Call (318) 237-8350 or email ceo@trailblazer.org

www.trailblazer.org

Visit our website for the latest information on workshops and events.

Trailblazer
good for the land ... good for the people

H.Martien

CONSERVATION CONVERSATION

FORESTRY BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

BPMs for erosion control



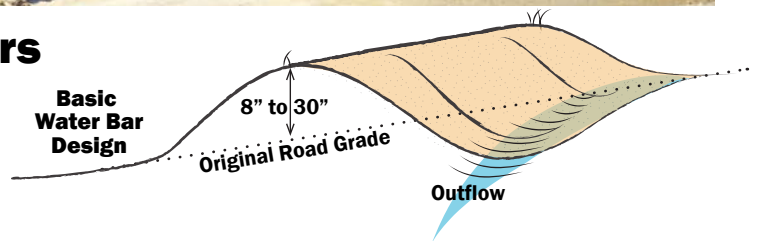
Brian Lockhart, USDA Forest Service, Bugwood.org

Focus: Forest Roads - Water Bars

A water bar is an easy-to-construct drainage structure that sends water from a forest road to a nearby ditch, forest floor, or vegetated area. It is a small hump built into the road at an angle that slows down the movement of water and diverts the water from the road or skid trail. Water bars are most commonly used to stabilize roads and skid trails after a logger has finished using them.

Even though water bars are quick and easy, there is an art to the construction. The angle of the mound, the distance between water bars, the upper- and lower-end construction, slope, and many other variables all play a part in water bar success.

To ensure success with water bar construction, contact your local office of the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service. Professional foresters are available to assist you with your water bar questions and design.



Best Management Practices for Location and Planning of Roads

- Use of tools such as soil surveys, topographic maps, and aerial photographs can help achieve the most practical road construction results.
- Design a permanent road system to meet long-range objectives rather than simply to access individual sites. Numerous separate road projects have more environmental impact than one well-designed road system.
- Stabilize or reconstruct existing roads where significant erosion problems exist. Abandon and retire roads where repair is impractical.
- Safety should always be considered with road design and location of intersections, and access points to public roads.
- Minimize the number of stream crossings.
- Cross streams on straight segments and as close to a right angle as possible.
- Locate roads on the best available sites, avoiding excessive slope.
- All suitable excavated material should be used for the construction of the road, when possible. This may include soil removed from ditches during construction or maintenance.

From: **Recommended Forestry Best Management Practices for Louisiana**, Louisiana Office of Forestry and the Louisiana Forestry Association, <https://www.ldaf.state.la.us/wp-content/uploads/2014/04/BMP.pdf>, viewed 7/28/2020

Are you interested in learning how to conserve the soil in your forestland?

Contact Trailblazer RC&D and schedule a Forestry 101 Workshop for your community. Professional foresters will provide valuable information on how to ensure forestry operations are sustainable for generations.

Telephone: (318) 237-8350
Email: ceo@trailblazer.org

Chris Schnepf, University of Idaho, Bugwood.org

LAGNIAPPE

a little something extra



USDA NRCS

One handful of healthy soil has more microorganisms than there are people on earth.

The thin layer of topsoil is a result of hundreds of years of decomposition.



Depending on the climate, parent material, topography, and organisms, it is estimated that it takes 500 to 1,000 years to form one inch of topsoil.

conserve your soil

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Email: ceo@trailblazer.org

If you are interested in developing a conservation plan for your land, contact your local office of the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service.

USDA NRCS

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500 YEARS

1520 2020

to form an inch of soil

On **November 1, 1520**, European explorer Ferdinand Magellan discovered the Strait of Magellan, the passage immediately south of mainland South America connecting the Pacific and Atlantic Oceans during the first recorded circumnavigation of the world.

In **1528**, when the first Europeans arrived in the region now known as Louisiana, several Native American tribes inhabited the land, including the Choctaw, the Natchez, the Chitimacha, and the Atakapa.

The first Europeans to see the Mississippi River were Hernando DeSoto and his group of explorers in **1541**.

On **September 16, 1620**, the Mayflower sailed from Plymouth, England, bound for the New World with 102 passengers. On **November 11, 1620**, the ship landed on the tip of Cape Cod at what is now Provincetown, Massachusetts.

In **1682**, Robert de La Salle arrived at the mouth of the Mississippi River and claimed the entire valley in the name of France.

In **1714**, Natchitoches was established as the first permanent settlement in Louisiana.

In **1720**, the population of American colonists was approximately 475,000. Boston, population 12,000, was the largest city, followed by Philadelphia, population 10,000, and New York, population 7,000.

On **July 4, 1776**, the Declaration of Independence was signed in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

April 30, 1789 to March 4, 1797: George Washington served as America's first president.

On **December 20, 1803**, France formally transferred Louisiana to the United States in the Louisiana Purchase land deal. In return for 15 million dollars, or approximately 18 dollars per square mile, the United States acquired 828,000 square miles of land west of the Mississippi River.

On **November 20, 1820**, the Nantucket, Massachusetts, whaling ship Essex sank after being attacked by a sperm whale. The event inspired Herman Melville's 1851 novel, *Moby Dick*.

In **1821**, the Adams-Onís Treaty was ratified, in which Spain ceded Florida to the United States and the United States surrendered American claims to Texas.

On **November 18, 1903**, the United States acquired the Panama Canal Zone.

On **December 17, 1903**, the Wright brothers made the first controlled flight at Kitty Hawk, North Carolina.

July 28, 1914 to November 11, 1918: World War I

On **January 25, 1915**, the first long-distance telephone service between New York and San Francisco was demonstrated.

On **September 29, 1920**, Yankees slugger Babe Ruth set a home run season record at 54 with a 9th inning shot off Dave Keefe in New York's 7-3 win at the Philadelphia A's.

On **May 20-21, 1927**, Charles Lindbergh made the first solo nonstop transatlantic flight in his plane The Spirit of St. Louis.

September 1, 1939 to September 2, 1945: World War II

June 25, 1950 to July 27, 1953: Korean War

November 1, 1955 to April 30, 1975: Vietnam War

On **January 3, 1959**, Alaska became the 49th state.

On **August 21, 1959**, Hawaii became the 50th state.

On **February 20, 1962**, Lt. Col. John Glenn became the first U.S. astronaut to orbit Earth.

On **August 28, 1963**, Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. delivered his "I Have a Dream" speech before a crowd of 200,000 during the civil rights march on Washington, DC.

On **April 1, 1976**, Apple Computers, Inc., was founded by Steve Jobs and Steve Wozniak.

January 17 to February 28, 1991: Operation Desert Storm

On **February 1, 2003**, space shuttle Columbia exploded.

On **August 29, 2005**, Hurricane Katrina made landfall near Buras, Louisiana.

On **October 17, 2006**, the U.S. Census Bureau estimated that the population of the United States had reached 300 million.

The **2017** hurricane season saw record-breaking hurricanes hit the Gulf Coast, Florida, Puerto Rico, and other islands in the Caribbean.

On **May 30, 2020**, two astronauts lifted off from American soil for the first time in nine years.

500
YEARS

1520 - 2020
MOMENTS IN TIME

from Magellan to Today
ONE INCH OF SOIL FORMED

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.

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