

Trailblazer news

good for the land . . . good for the people

Volume 11 • Issue 10 • October 2021

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September 16, 2021, Pasture Management Tips and Practices Workshop and Pasture Walk, Sarepta, LA.

Dear Friends,

The weather is getting cooler, and hunting season is upon us. A lot of hunters are preparing (or have already prepared) their wildlife food plots. This is done in anticipation of a huge trophy buck wandering in to check out what is on the menu. If you haven't prepared your food plot, check out pages 3 and 5 of this month's newsletter.

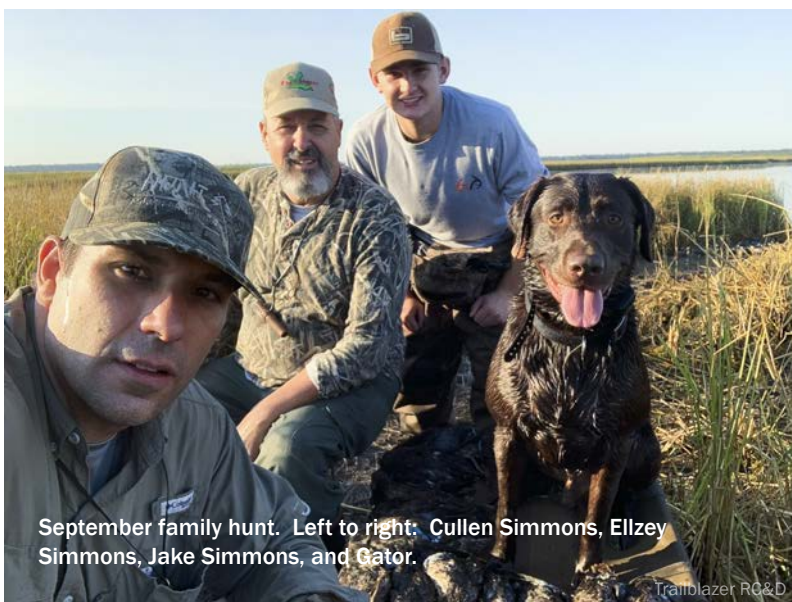
This month, David Moreland, expert wildlife biologist, author, and conservationist, will join us to share information on how to improve the deer herd quality on your land. David's wealth of knowledge on whitetail deer is unsurpassed, and if you are interested in improving the wildlife habitat on your land and seeing those whitetails flourish, you should attend one of his workshops. He will be in Homer on October 7 and Bossier City on October 8. Give us a call to reserve your spot.

We also have two other great workshops scheduled in October: Basic Estate Planning with Attorney Paul Spillers on October 5 in Ruston and Building and Maintaining Your Farm Pond with the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries on October 15 near Dubach. Call us to preregister to attend.

I am looking forward to seeing you at one or more of October's workshops!

P. Ellzey Simmons
Chief Executive Officer, Trailblazer RC&D

Check Trailblazer RC&D's website for dates for upcoming workshops and events:
www.trailblazer.org



September family hunt. Left to right: Cullen Simmons, Ellzey Simmons, Jake Simmons, and Gator.

Trailblazer RC&D

Upcoming Events

Oct 5: Basic Estate Planning with Attorney Paul Spillers; Trailblazer Tuesday at the Lincoln Parish Library; Ruston, LA; 6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

Oct 7: Improving Your Deer Herd Quality with David Moreland; Claiborne Parish Library, Homer, LA; 6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

Oct 8: Improving Your Deer Herd Quality with David Moreland; History Center, Bossier Parish Library; Bossier City, LA; 10:30 a.m. - 12:00 noon

Oct 15: Building and Maintaining Your Farm Pond with LDWF; OWL Center; Dubach, LA; 8:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Coming Soon:

- Advanced Estate Planning Workshop
- USDA Outreach

For information on workshops or events, call or text (318) 237-8350 and provide your name and the name of the workshop.

Community

**SUPPORTING
SUSTAINABLE
COMMUNITIES**

September 7, 20, 21

Fall Food Plots for Whitetail Deer

Ruston, Haughton, and Ringgold, Louisiana



September 21 2021, Fall Food Plots for Whitetail Deer, Ringgold, LA.

Three workshops spotlighting fall food plots for whitetail deer were hosted in September in Ruston (9/7), Haughton (9/20), and Ringgold (9/21). All who attended these workshops agreed that Terry Johnston presented a great workshop! He provided very valuable information that will help in their food plot development, and they learned a lot about buying seed and what/how to plant.

These three workshops were sponsored by Bossier Parish Police Jury; Bossier Parish Library; Town of Haughton; Bienville Parish Police Jury; Ringgold Library; ENABLE Midstream Partners; Mudd & Holland Consulting Foresters, LLC; Burnham Construction, Inc.; Whitetails Unlimited, Lincoln Parish Chapter; USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service; and Trailblazer RC&D.

September 16

Pasture Management Tips & Practices

Steve Duggan's Farm, Sarepta, Louisiana



September 16, 2021, Pasture Management Tips and Practices Workshop and Pasture Walk, Sarepta, LA.

Nineteen people attended a pasture walk and workshop on Thursday, September 16, 2021, in Webster Parish at Steve Duggan's farm near Sarepta, Louisiana. They visited pastures, talked with other livestock producers about common issues and problems regarding grazing land and animals, saw grazing best management practices in action, and learned how USDA NRCS can help on their farms.

This workshop was provided free to the public by the partnership and support of ENABLE Midstream Partners; Mudd & Holland Consulting Foresters, LLC; Burnham Construction; Webster Parish Police Jury; Canfor Southern Pine; Louisiana Forestry Association; USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service; and Trailblazer RC&D.

"Happy Trails" to a Dear Friend

Trailblazer RC&D honored long-time friend "Coach" Billy Montgomery on his recent retirement at a luncheon on September 24, 2021, in Bossier City. Good friends gathered to wish Coach a happy retirement and pay tribute to his valuable contributions to Trailblazer.



"Coach" Billy Montgomery
Your contributions to Trailblazer RC&D have made a huge difference in the lives of so many.

Left to right: "Coach" Billy Montgomery with Bossier Parish Police Juror and Trailblazer RC&D Board Member Bob Brotherton.

UPCOMING

BASIC ESTATE PLANNING

Featured Speaker
Attorney Paul Spillers

FREE WORKSHOP

Trailblazer Tuesday at the
Lincoln Parish Library
910 North Trenton Street
Ruston, Louisiana
6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.
Join us at 5:15 p.m. for pizza!

October 5, 2021

TO REGISTER:
Call the Lincoln Parish Library
at (318) 251-5030

Johnny's Pizza at 5:15 p.m.*
Program begins at 6:00 p.m.

*In cooperation with the Lincoln Parish
Police Jury and other great sponsors.



FREE WORKSHOP AND DINNER

USDA NRCS

Conservation CONVERSATION



Wildlife Food Plots

Wendy VanDyk Evans, Bugwood.org

A wildlife food plot will attract the wildlife you want to see on your land—but it is important to plant food that appeals to them.

Warm season food plots provide high-protein forage for deer when does are birthing and nursing fawns and bucks are growing new antlers. Their nutritional needs are high during warm months, and healthy stand of warm-season plants, such as cowpeas, wildlife soybeans, and clover will serve them well.¹

Cool season food plots provide deer with quality forage during time of nutritional stress in winter months. In Louisiana, a mixture of crimson clover, Buck Forage Oats, and wheat provides quality forage that the deer cannot get enough of.

When planning a wildlife food plot, you must consider:²

- Site selection
- Soil analysis
- Liming and pH
- Fertilization
- Forage selection
- Planting
- Evaluation



Fundamental food plot success begins with the soil. A soil test is a necessary first step in establishing your food plot. Soil test results will reveal how you should amend your soil to ensure a robust food plot.

For Soil Tests, Go To:

https://www.lsuagcenter.com/portals/our_offices/departments/spess/servicelabs/soil_testing_lab/links/soil-test-kits for a list of locations where soil test kits are available. Send samples of soils that haven't been amended with fertilizers or lime. Testing fees will be assessed and vary depending on which tests are requested.³

For more information on developing wildlife habitat, including food plots, on your land, contact your local office of the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). A conservationist will work with you to determine the goals you have for your land, and outline a course of action to achieve those goals.

Food Plot Resources

¹**Grasses and Forbs for Fall/Winter Wildlife Food Plots**, University of Arkansas Division of Agriculture, FSA9096, <https://www.uaex.edu/publications/pdf/FSA-9096.pdf>

²**Cool Season Food Plots**, Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks, <https://www.mdwfp.com/wildlife-hunting/deer-program/food-plots/cool-season-food-plots/>

³**Soil Testing & Plant Analysis Lab**, LSU AgCenter, https://www.lsuagcenter.com/portals/our_offices/departments/spess/servicelabs/soil_testing_lab

Did you find this interesting?
 Check out Trailblazer's video, "Wildlife Food Plots," at <https://youtu.be/ZDqyMhhu3ks>



UPCOMING

<p style="text-align: center;">Improving Your Deer Herd Quality</p> <p style="text-align: center;">PLUS: Aging Whitetail Deer on the Hoof</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Special Guest Speaker David Moreland</p> <p style="text-align: center;">October 7, 2021 Claiborne Parish Library 909 Edgewood Drive Homer, Louisiana 6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. On-site registration begins at 5:30 p.m.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">2 FREE WORKSHOPS!</p> <p style="text-align: center;">PLEASE PREREGISTER: FOOD WILL BE SERVED</p> <p style="text-align: center;">October 8, 2021 History Center Bossier Parish Library 2206 Beckett Street Bossier City, Louisiana 10:30 a.m. - 12:00 noon On-site registration begins at 10:00 a.m.</p>
<p>FREE REGISTRATION: To preregister, call or text (318) 237-8350 and provide your name and the name of the workshop.</p>	

NEW VIDEO Resources

Trailblazer's YouTube channel offers something for everyone!

www.youtube.com/channel/UCGghA8uiafntp92cYXWI5nw
www.trailblazer.org/video-gallery



Scan this QR code with your Smartphone to visit Trailblazer's YouTube channel!



Check out these 3 NEW VIDEOS!



<https://youtu.be/WGjSYyobmY>



<https://youtu.be/VBLpDIP54B0>



https://youtu.be/mhn059Z_oHM

The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) provides America's farmers and ranchers financial and technical assistance to voluntarily put conservation on the ground.

NRCS COVID Precautions

Due to current COVID-19 conditions, NRCS staff are working with customers through phone, mail and online communications. Field work continues with appropriate social distancing to help producers with conservation planning and financial assistance through Farm Bill programs.

NRCS Local Contacts:

Bienville Parish: (318) 377-3950, ext. 3	Jackson/Lincoln Parishes: (318) 255-3136, ext. 3
Bossier Parish: (318) 872-4949	Union Parish: (318) 368-8021
Claiborne/Webster Parishes: (318) 377-3950, ext. 3	Winn Parish: (318) 357-8366, ext. 3

NRCS Online Services Available with eAuth Account

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.

UPCOMING

Building and Maintaining Your Farm Pond
 FREE workshop
October 15, 2021



Outdoor Wilderness Learning (OWL) Center
 Methodist Children's Home
 1523 Highway 563
 Dubach, Louisiana
 8:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.
 Lunch Served
 On-site registration begins at 8:00 a.m.

FREE REGISTRATION
 To preregister, call or text (318) 237-8350 and provide your name and the name of the workshop.

PLEASE PREREGISTER: FOOD WILL BE SERVED

Not sure who to contact? Get in touch with Trailblazer RC&D at ceo@trailblazer.org, and we will put you in touch with the right people to address your resource concern.

Lagniappe A LITTLE SOMETHING EXTRA!

Check Your Seed Tags to Ensure a Successful Wildlife Food Plot Planting

All seed lots being sold have seed analysis tags. Federal and state regulations mandate what information is required on these tags. The best way to evaluate the quality of an individual seed lot is by looking at the seed analysis tag and understanding key information that is included on the tag.

The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service provides a Technical Note: **Understanding Seed Certification and Seed Labels** to provide information that will help you purchase the best quality seeds. This technical note can be found at: https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_PLANTMATERIALS/publications/la pmctn9030.pdf

Do the math to determine success rate

A purity test separates pure seed, inert matter, other crop seed, and weed seed. Purity expresses the composition of the seed lot and its degree of contamination by unwanted components. Purity + inert matter + weed seed + other crop seed must add up to 100%. Purity may vary greatly by species

A germination test determines the capability of a seed lot to produce normal seedlings under favorable controlled conditions.

$$\text{Pure Live Seed} \times \text{Germination} = \text{Rate of Success}$$

$$\text{Rate of Success} \times \text{Pounds of Seed} = \text{Pounds of Viable Seed}$$

Example Seed Tag

RED CLOVER		
PURE LIVE SEED	99.5%	GERMINATION: 80%
OTHER CROP	0.00%	HARD SEED: 10%
INERT MATTER	0.45%	ORIGIN: WA
WEED SEED	0.00%	AMS#
COATING MATERIAL	0.00%	NET WEIGHT: 50 LBS
NOXIOUS: NONE FOUND		DATE TESTED: 1/2021

Your Seed Company
Main Street
Your Town, USA

The Math

99.5 PLS x 80% germination = 7,960/100 or 79.6%

79.6% x 50 pounds = 39.8 pounds of viable seed

Only 39.8 pounds of this 50-pound bag of seed are viable.

LOCAL PARTNER SPOTLIGHT



THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity (including gender expression), sexual orientation, disability, age, marital status, family/parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity, in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA (not all bases apply to all programs). Remedies and complaint filing deadlines vary by program or incident. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotope, American Sign Language, etc.) should contact the responsible Agency or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English. To file a program discrimination complaint, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, AD-3027, found online at How to File a Program Discrimination Complaint and at any USDA office or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by: (1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; (2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or (3) email: program.intake@usda.gov. USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.

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BIENVILLE PARISH POLICE JURY



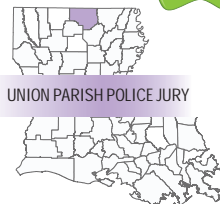
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"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit."

Romans 15:13
New International Version
(NIV)



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Call before you dig.**

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