

Trailblazer news

good for the land . . . good for the people

Volume 11 • Issue 9 • September 2021

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Trailblazer RC&D

Dear Friends,

In September, we are bringing workshops to you that are dedicated to developing food plots for whitetail deer – and caring for your pastures. If you are preparing your fall food plots, you really should attend one of our food plot workshops. You will be surprised at how much you learn.

If you are a livestock producer, September's pasture walk is your opportunity to walk a pasture, see successful conservation practices, and learn what would work on your farm. As a bonus, you will be able to network with other livestock producers and find out what worked or didn't work for them.

Mark your calendar and join us for a workshop in September!

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

Upcoming Events

Sep 7: Fall Food Plots for Whitetail Deer with Wildlife Biologist Terry Johnston; Trailblazer Tuesday at the Lincoln Parish Library; Ruston, LA; 6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

Sep 16: Pasture Walk and Workshop at Steve Duggan's Farm in Webster Parish; 5:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. (see page 3 for more information)

Sep 20: Fall Food Plots for Whitetail Deer with Wildlife Biologist Terry Johnston; Haughton Town Hall, Haughton, LA; 6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

Sep 21: Fall Food Plots for Whitetail Deer with Wildlife Biologist Terry Johnston; Ringgold Library; Ringgold, LA; 6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

Coming Soon:

- Estate Planning Workshop
- Pond Workshop

Check Trailblazer RC&D's website for dates for upcoming workshops and events:

www.trailblazer.org

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

Get Well Soon!

Bob Brotherton
Hang in there; you've got this! We are praying for you and hope to see you back doing the things you love very soon.

Fall Food Plots for Whitetail Deer

FREE workshop

Sep 7 - Lincoln Parish Library - Ruston, LA
Sep 20 - Haughton Town Hall - Haughton, LA
Sep 21 - Ringgold Library - Ringgold, LA

6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.
On-site registration begins at 5:30 p.m.

FREE REGISTRATION

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

PLEASE PREREGISTER:
FOOD WILL BE SERVED



Community

**SUPPORTING
SUSTAINABLE
COMMUNITIES**

August 3

The Value of Your Timber

Trailblazer Tuesdays at the Lincoln Parish Library - Ruston

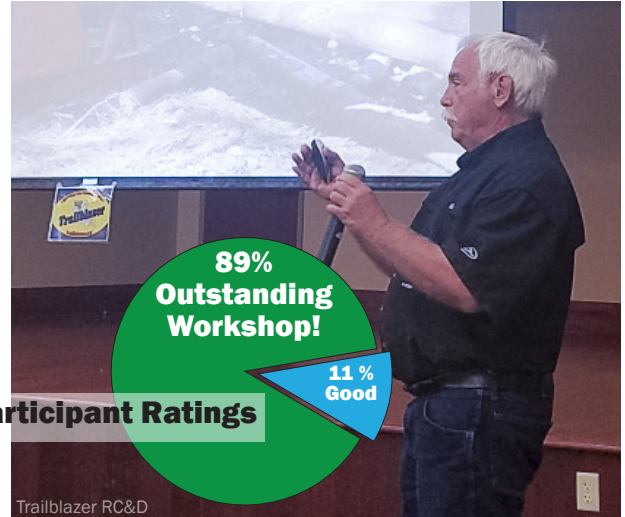
On August 3, 2021, Dr. Rick Williams of the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service offered a wealth of information on timber value, land value, timber sales, and conservation to 28 Trailblazer Tuesdays workshop attendees at the Lincoln Parish Library. They left this workshop with a better understanding of how to place a value on their timber and land, and Dr. Williams' easy-to-understand presentation was enjoyed by all. Many thanks to the Lincoln Parish Library for hosting this great workshop. This workshop was provided free to the public by the partnership and support of the Lincoln Parish Police Jury, Lincoln Parish Library, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, Louisiana Forestry Association, Canfor Southern Pine, Enable Midstream Partnership, and Burnham Construction-Dubach.

August 12

Ivory-Billed Woodpecker

Claiborne Parish Library - Homer

On August 12, 2021, a group of 21 people gathered to learn about the elusive ivory-billed woodpecker, a bird long thought to be extinct. Matt Courtland was the workshop speaker, and he was very informative and entertaining. His visual aids and enthusiasm left the group wanting more! Many thanks to the Claiborne Parish Library for hosting this great event. This workshop was provided free to the public by the partnership and support of the Claiborne Parish Police Jury, Claiborne Parish Library, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, Louisiana Forestry Association, Canfor Southern Pine, Enable Midstream Partnership, and Burnham Construction-Dubach.



Participant Ratings

Trailblazer RC&D

The workshop ratings represent the overall workshop rating which averages facilities, program, and speaker ratings.



Participant Ratings

Trailblazer RC&D

USDA Provides Pandemic Assistance for Timber Harvesters and Haulers

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is providing up to \$200 million to provide relief to timber harvesting and timber hauling businesses that have experienced losses due to COVID-19 as part of USDA's Pandemic Assistance for Producers initiative. Loggers and truckers can apply for assistance through USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) July 22 through Oct. 15, 2021. The Pandemic Assistance for Timber Harvesters and Haulers program (PATHH) is administered by FSA in partnership with the U.S. Forest Service.

To be eligible for payments, individuals or legal entities must be a timber harvesting or timber hauling business where 50% or more of its gross revenue is derived from one or more of the following:

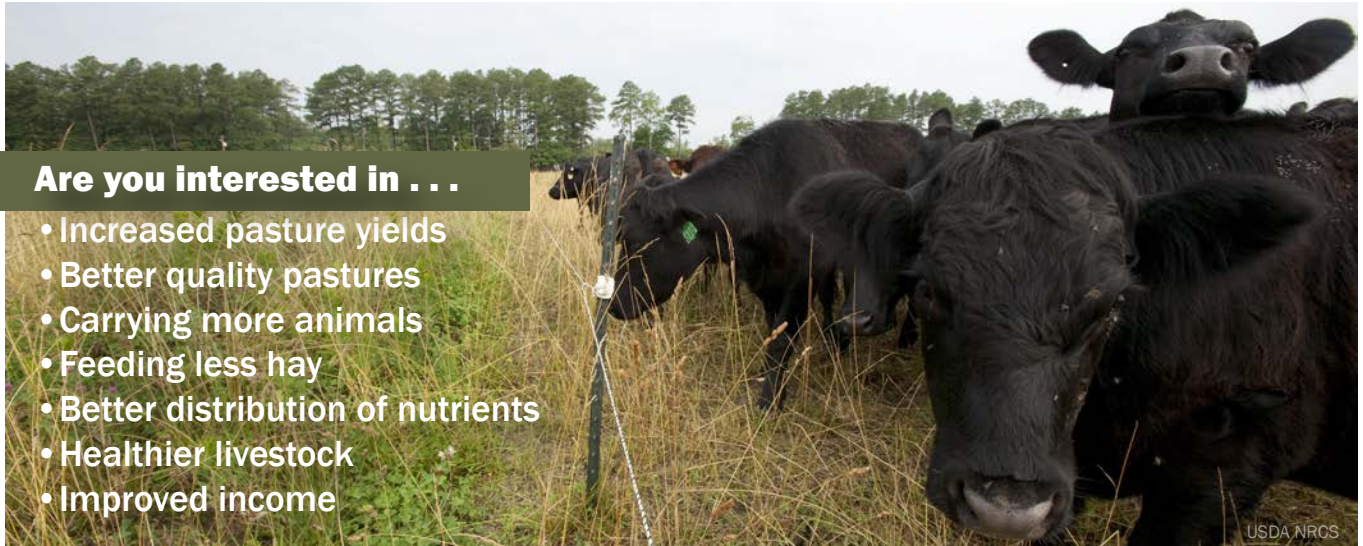
- Cutting timber
- Transporting timber
- Processing of wood on-site on the forest land (chipping, grinding, converting to biochar, cutting to smaller lengths, etc.)

Visit farmers.gov/pathh for more information on how to apply.

Payments will be based on the applicant's gross revenue received from Jan. 1, 2019, through Dec. 1, 2019, minus gross revenue received from Jan. 1, 2020, through Dec. 1, 2020, multiplied by 80%. FSA will issue an initial payment equal to the lesser of the calculated payment amount or \$2,000 as applications are approved. A second payment will be made after the signup period has ended based upon remaining PATHH funds.

The maximum amount that a person or legal entity may receive directly is \$125,000.

Conservation CONVERSATION



USDA NRCS

Are you interested in . . .

- Increased pasture yields
- Better quality pastures
- Carrying more animals
- Feeding less hay
- Better distribution of nutrients
- Healthier livestock
- Improved income

Prescribed grazing

is a conservation practice that helps you manage the forage in your pastures with grazing and/or browsing animals.

This is accomplished by a rotational or mob grazing system where pastures are divided into four or more pastures or paddocks with fencing. Cattle are moved from paddock to paddock on a prearranged schedule based on forage availability and livestock nutrition needs.

Prescribed grazing improves or maintains:

- Species composition and vigor of plant communities
- Quantity and quality of forage for grazing and browsing animal health and productivity
- Surface and subsurface water quality and quantity
- Riparian and watershed functions
- Quantity and quality of food and cover available for wildlife

Prescribed grazing also helps to reduce erosion and improve profits.

If you would like to learn more about prescribed grazing or other conservation practices that can help you improve your pastures, contact your nearest office of the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service. Technical and financial assistance is available to eligible producers. A conservationist will discuss your goals for your land and help you determine the best course of action to achieve your goals.

From: Conservation Choices: Prescribed Grazing, <https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/null/?cid=nrcseprd416064>, viewed 8/31/21.

What is a pasture walk?

A pasture walk is when a group of farmers, livestock producers, and others come together on someone's farm to walk their pastures and discuss grazing issues and concerns, soil health, and conservation practices that promote farm sustainability. Grazing specialists talk about forage, soil conservationists talk about soil health, and neighbors talk about what worked and what didn't work. Along the walk, bits of valuable information are picked up and possibilities are discovered. A pasture walk is an open forum for everyone to share their experiences and see, first-hand, best management practices in action.

Do we have your interest? Mark your calendar for September 16, 2021, and come take a pasture walk with us.

Join us in Webster Parish

Pasture Management

Tips and Practices workshop and pasture walk

September 16, 2021 **Steve Duggan's Farm**

GPS 32°56'51.62"N 93°27'51.55"W

Sarepta, Louisiana

5 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.

On-site registration begins at 4:30 p.m.

FREE REGISTRATION

To RSVP, call or text (318) 237-8350 and leave your name and the name of the workshop.

PLEASE RSVP: FOOD WILL BE SERVED

Driving Directions

Take Hwy 371 4.2 miles north of Sarepta, turn left on George Taylor Road (Muddy Bottoms turnoff). Go 0.4 miles. The meeting spot will be on the RIGHT.

Photo by: USDA NRCS

PLEASE MASK UP and practice SOCIAL DISTANCING

This workshop is offered in cooperation with the Louisiana Grazing Lands Conservation Initiative and other great sponsors.

NEW VIDEO Resources

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



Trailblazer's YouTube channel offers something for everyone!

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



Two new videos on NRCS assistance!

In three minutes, you will learn how to get the help you need on your land!



<https://youtu.be/Uxa0E1Z04f8>

👉 — Check them out! — 👈

<https://youtu.be/viBzgcG-Vxc>

Get the Help You Need

In cooperation with the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, Trailblazer RC&D would like to help you find the right solution to your natural resource questions and concerns. To make it easier for you, we are including a "Request for Assistance" form below. Complete this form, clip it out, and mail or email it to Trailblazer RC&D. We will get your request into the right hands.

Complete and mail to: Trailblazer RC&D, 302 Reynolds Drive, Ruston, LA 71270 . . . or Email to: ceo@trailblazer.org

USDA Outreach - REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE

If you would like to request assistance, complete this form and return it to:
 Trailblazer RC&D, 302 Reynolds Drive, Ruston, LA 71270 or email ceo@trailblazer.org

CONTACT INFORMATION

Name: _____
 Home Phone: _____
 Cell Phone: _____
 Address: _____

 Email: _____
 Parish where assistance is needed:

Is this your first request for USDA assistance
 Yes No

Request assistance from (check all that apply):

- _____ USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
- _____ USDA Farm Service Agency
- _____ USDA Rural Development
- _____ LSU AgCenter
- _____ Louisiana Forestry Association
- _____ Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
- _____ Other: _____

TYPE OF ASSISTANCE REQUESTED

Examples:

1. Need help with a farm pond (or grazing issues or soil quality).
2. Need more information about farm loans.
3. Need more information about house repairs.

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

(318) 255-3554



Lagniappe

A LITTLE SOMETHING EXTRA!



USDA NRCS

From: USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service, https://www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics_by_State/Louisiana/index.php, viewed 8/31/21

2020 Louisiana State Agriculture Overview

Farms Operations

Survey Data from Quick Stats as of: Sep/01/2021, <https://quickstats.nass.usda.gov/>

Farm Operations - Area Operated, Measured in Acres / Operation	292
Farm Operations - Number of Operations	27,400
Farm Operations - Acres Operated	8,000,000

Livestock Inventory

Cattle, Cows, Beef - Inventory (First of Jan. 2021)	445,000
Cattle, Cows, Milk - Inventory (First of Jan. 2021)	10,000
Cattle, Incl Calves - Inventory (First of Jan. 2021)	775,000
Goats, Meat & Other - Inventory (First of Jan. 2021)	15,000
Hogs - Inventory (First of Dec. 2020)	6,000

Milk Production

Milk - Production, Measured in Lb / Head	13,400
Milk - Production, Measured in \$	24,924,000
Milk - Production, Measured in Lb	134,000,000

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. Customers can track payments, report completed practices, request conservation assistance and electronically sign documents.

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.

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, audiotape, 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.

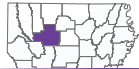
MANY THANKS TO OUR Sponsors PARTNERS AND FRIENDS



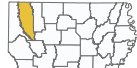
MUDD & HOLLAND
CONSULTING FORESTERS, LLC
Tim Holland (318) 286-2802



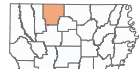
Friends of Trailblazer
Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
LSU AgCenter
Claiborne Parish Library
USDA APHIS
Minden Farm and Garden



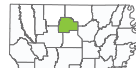
BIENVILLE PARISH POLICE JURY



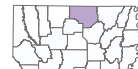
BOSSIER PARISH POLICE JURY



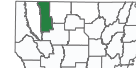
CLAIBORNE PARISH POLICE JURY



LINCOLN PARISH POLICE JURY



UNION PARISH POLICE JURY



WEBSTER PARISH POLICE JURY



302 REYNOLDS DRIVE
RUSTON, LOUISIANA 71270
(318) 255-3554
ceo@trailblazer.org

“God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea, though its waters roar and foam and the mountains quake with their surging.”

Psalms 46:1-3
New International Version
(NIV)



**Know what's below.
Call before you dig.**

This Dial 811 message is brought to you by Enable Midstream Partners.

Enable Midstream Partners is a publicly traded master limited partnership that owns, operates, and develops strategically located natural gas and crude oil infrastructure assets serving major producing basins and markets.