

Trailblazer news

good for the land . . . good for the people

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Photo: Building and Maintaining Your Farm Pond Workshop with Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Dubach, Louisiana, October 15, 2021

Trailblazer RC&D

THANKFUL

Dear Friends,

As November rolls in, we are looking forward to cooler days, the camaraderie of hunting with close friends and family, great food on Thanksgiving Day, and an opportunity to pause and give thanks for all our blessings.

Trailblazer RC&D exists because of the support of our sponsors, partners, communities, churches, libraries, local civic groups and organizations, friends and family, and you. I want to let you know how much we appreciate your support. When we count our blessings, you are at the top of our list.

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

Upcoming Events

Nov 2: Advanced Estate Planning with Attorney Paul Spillers; Trailblazer Tuesday at the Lincoln Parish Library; Ruston, LA; 6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

Dec 7: Tax Issues for Farm and Forest Owners with Attorney Paul Spillers; Trailblazer Tuesday at the Lincoln Parish Library; Ruston, LA; 6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

Coming in 2022:

More great FREE workshop opportunities!

Timely topics! Expert speakers!

Our workshops are made possible because of the support of our great sponsors and partners!

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

October Workshop Update

Oct 5 - Basic Estate Planning with Attorney Paul Spillers, Ruston



A Basic Estate Planning presentation was offered by Trailblazer RC&D on October 5, 2021, at the Lincoln Parish Library in Ruston, Louisiana. Attorney Paul Spillers provided valuable information on wills and trusts, probate issues; community vs. separate property; heirs; stepped-up tax basis, and much more. In addition, information was provided on technical and financial assistance available from the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service. According to the workshop reviews, if you missed this workshop, you missed a good one!

Oct 7 & 8 - Improving Your Deer Herd Quality with David Moreland, Homer and Bossier City

Improving Your Deer Herd Quality workshops were offered in Homer and Bossier City on October 7 and 8 respectively. Special guest speaker David Moreland discussed strategies to improve the health and well-being of the deer on your property. Moreland covered population density, nutrition needs, balanced age structures, as well as aging whitetail deer on the hoof. Information was provided on technical and financial assistance for wildlife habitat development available from the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service. Participants at both locations praised Mr. Moreland on his vast knowledge and great delivery of information. One participant said, "Always enjoy Moreland!"



Oct 15 - Building and Maintaining Your Farm Pond with LDWF, Dubach



A Building and Maintaining Your Farm Pond workshop was offered by Trailblazer RC&D on October 15, 2021, at the Outdoor Wilderness Learning Center near Dubach. Farm ponds store water for farm animals and irrigation, create a great wildlife habitat, provide recreation opportunities, and benefit the local ecosystem. Biologists Jeff Sibley, Kevin Houston, and Holden Poole of the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries discussed pond planning and construction, water quality, weed control, nutrient issues, and pond stocking. Dexter Sapp, Program Specialist with the Rapides Soil and Water Conservation District, discussed technical and financial assistance available from the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service. Participants were captivated by the fish sampling at the pond and learned valuable tips to insure healthy fish populations in their own farm ponds.

Thank you to our Sponsors and Partners! These workshops were made possible by the support of: ENABLE Midstream Partners; Mudd & Holland Consulting Foresters, LLC; Whitetails Unlimited, Lincoln Parish Chapter; Burnham Construction; Lincoln Parish Police Jury; Lincoln Parish Library; Claiborne Parish Police Jury; Claiborne Parish Library; Bossier Parish Police Jury; Bossier Parish Library; Methodist Children's Home; Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries; Canfor Southern Pine; Louisiana Forestry Association; and USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service.

Conservation CONVERSATION

Nov 19, 2021 Sign-Up Deadline for First Round of EQIP Funding

USDA NRCS Announces Sign-Up Period for Conservation Initiatives Under the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)

USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is accepting applications for financial assistance through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), including several special initiatives offered in Louisiana. Producers interested in participating in EQIP should reach out to their local NRCS office and apply by November 19, 2021, for 2022 first-round of funding consideration.

"Financial assistance is available for producers who are looking for ways to improve the natural resources on their

land including soil, water and air quality and enhance wildlife habitat on their land," explained Chad Kacir, State Conservationist for Louisiana. "I encourage all farmers and ranchers who are interested in applying for EQIP to contact their local NRCS office."

In addition to general EQIP, the November 19th application period also applies to special initiatives such as the On-Farm Energy Initiative, Organic Initiative, Migratory Bird Habitat Initiative, Longleaf Pine Initiative, Working Lands for Wildlife, Mississippi River Basin Initiative, and other state funding pools.

EQIP is a voluntary conservation program that helps agricultural producers improve water and air quality, build healthier soil, improve grazing and forest lands,

conserve energy, enhance organic operations, and achieve other environmental benefits. Applications for EQIP funding are accepted from agricultural and forestry producers at local USDA Service Centers throughout the year in a continuous sign-up process. However, NRCS evaluates applications during announced ranking periods. To be eligible for first-round funding for 2022, producers should have their applications submitted to NRCS by November 19, 2021.

For more information about EQIP visit the NRCS webpage at www.nrcs.usda.gov or contact your local NRCS office. Please call your local field office and make an in-person appointment prior to visiting the office. This is due to COVID 19 safety precautions and guidelines for our field offices.

Popular EQIP practices include Cover Crops, Fence, Forest Stand Improvement, Prescribed Grazing, and Irrigation



Conservation Practice: Fence

A fence is a permanent, portable, or temporary constructed barrier to animals or people.

Fencing can help reduce erosion and control access by grazing animals to permit recovery or establishment of vegetation.

Improved forage production will help increase livestock production.

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service

Resources

AND OPPORTUNITIES

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



www.youtube.com/channel/UCGghA8uiafmtp92cYXWI5nw
www.trailblazer.org/video-gallery

Check out these 3 NEW VIDEOS!



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 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.

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

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

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.

NEWS FROM LOUISIANA STATE TREASURY DEPT

LOGGERS

The Clock is Ticking
Apply Today!



Louisiana Loggers Relief Grant Program

\$25,000

The State of Louisiana Treasury Department has grant money available for loggers who were financially impacted by the pandemic. Loggers may be eligible to receive up to \$25,000.

\$10 million was set aside for this program, and there is still \$9 million available. The money is intended to help offset losses by loggers and get them back in business following the challenges of the pandemic. This funding is part of Louisiana's Main Street Recovery Program with funding from the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021.

Loggers must apply soon. Grants are awarded on a first-come, first-serve basis, and the program ends in December!

For more information on applying for these grant funds, go to:
www.treasury.la.gov
 or call (225) 219-2363

Lagniappe

A LITTLE SOMETHING EXTRA!

Did you know?

After World War II, there were only 14 isolated flocks of wild turkeys in Louisiana—with fewer than 1,500 wild turkeys in the state!

Thanks to the efforts of the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, organizations such as the National Wild Turkey Federation, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, and private landowners, wild turkey populations are at much healthier levels. Population estimates in Louisiana now vary from year to year from 10,000 to 50,000 birds.

The Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries monitors the state's wild turkey population and harvests by hunters in an effort to balance the needs of the wild turkeys as well as the hunters. They recommend turkey hunting seasons and regulations to the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission based on the results of their monitoring.

Turkey Talk

Wild turkeys have "patriotic heads." Depending on their level of excitement, their bald heads can be red (pink), white, or blue.

Rob Routledge, Sault College, Bugwood.org



Although we love turkey on the table for Thanksgiving, wild turkey hunting season in Louisiana is in the spring.

To prepare for a spring hunt, visit the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries website on Turkey Hunting, Research, and Management at: <https://www.wlf.louisiana.gov/subhome/turkey>

While hunting season is in the spring, habitat development to improve the population of wild turkeys can begin at any time.



Food, cover, water, and habitat diversity are all considerations when planning for wild turkeys.

Alfred Viola, Northeastern University, Bugwood.org

The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) offers a great fish and wildlife habitat management leaflet on Wild Turkey that includes information on all of these habitat components and more. To check it out, go to: https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/nrcs144p2_054070.pdf

The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service offers technical and financial assistance to eligible agricultural producers to create wildlife habitat on their land. If you are interested in learning more about wildlife habitat development, visit your local USDA NRCS office or go to www.nrcs.usda.gov.

LOCAL PARTNER SPOTLIGHT



THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

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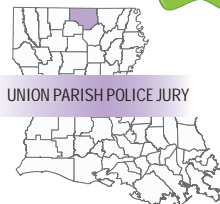
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302 REYNOLDS DRIVE
RUSTON, LOUISIANA 71270
(318) 255-3554
ceo@trailblazer.org

“Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you.”

1 Peter 5:7
New International Version (NIV)



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