

Trailblazer news

good for the land . . . good for the people

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Good Tidings of Great Joy



Dear Friends,
Thank you for making 2021 so great! We appreciate your support, and we look forward to new and exciting opportunities to serve you and your communities in 2022! We hope you will join us at upcoming workshops, subscribe to our YouTube channel, check out our Facebook page, and give us feedback on what you would like to see offered by Trailblazer. This year, if you are not a sponsor, consider becoming a Trailblazer sponsor. Become part of our team and help us bring more quality workshops, training, and events to your community.

May God bless you and your family during the coming year.

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



In this Issue

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P.E. Simmons

Lincoln Parish Archery Range A Story of Successful Collaboration

Archers now have an opportunity to sharpen their skills at a new 3D archery range in Lincoln Parish. The Lincoln Parish Police Jury is using a 10-acre tract of land in the Lincoln Parish Park for the new range. Located north of Ruston on Highway 33, the Lincoln Parish Park is Archery Shooter's Association (ASA) certified and is set up with 20 life-size animal



Glenn Scriber,
Lincoln Parish
District 6
Police Juror,
Trailblazer
RC&D Board
of Directors

Trailblazer RC&D

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Upcoming Events

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.

Workshops coming in 2022:

- Forestry 101
- Wildlife Habitat
- Gardening, Backyard Conservation
- Estate Planning
- Feral Hog Management
- Pasture Walks
- Pond Construction and Maintenance
- Soil Health
- All About Hummingbirds
- Property Line Disputes
- Wildlife Management
- Louisiana Black Bears . . . AND MORE!

Watch our website for locations, dates, and times!

www.trailblazer.org

Community

**SUPPORTING
SUSTAINABLE
COMMUNITIES**

Advanced Estate Planning November 2 - Ruston

Thirty-seven people gathered at the Lincoln Parish Library in Ruston on November 2, 2021, to hear valuable estate planning information from Attorney Paul Spillers. An additional 69 people watched the workshop via Facebook live. Mr. Spillers is senior counsel at the Law Offices of Theus, Grisham, Davis & Leigh in Monroe, Louisiana. He specializes in estate planning and probate; litigation; oil, gas, and mineral law; taxation, and timber law. This workshop was part of the Trailblazer Tuesdays series at the library.



Participants said, "I learned so many things I didn't know," and "Learned how much we didn't know but should know," and "Wonderful speaker."

This presentation was 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; Canfor Southern Pine; Louisiana Forestry Association; USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service; and Trailblazer RC&D.

Lincoln Parish Archery Range

Continued from Page 1

targets such as deer, hogs, turkeys, etc. It is designed to test the skills of recreational archers and provide bowhunters an opportunity to fine tune their bows in preparation for hunting season.

"The archery range is being made possible by a collaborative effort among the Lincoln Parish Police Jury, Trailblazer RC&D, corporate sponsorships, and individual donations," said Glenn Scriber, Lincoln Parish District 6 Police Juror. "Trailblazer RC&D committed foundation funding of \$8,000 to the archery range in support of development of a community-based, sustainable recreational opportunity for Lincoln Parish and the surrounding areas." Scriber represents the Lincoln Parish Police Jury on the Trailblazer Board of Directors.

"Archery is a growing sport all across Louisiana," said Bob Brotherton, President of the Trailblazer RC&D Board of Directors. "It is very popular in our public schools with students shooting in 4-H clubs and archery teams, and the Lincoln Parish range will be a tremendous benefit for Lincoln Parish and surrounding parishes."

The range is located away from other park activities for safety. For fees, hours of operation and range rules, contact the park (318) 251-5156. The park is located at 211 Parish Park Road off Louisiana Highway 33.

USDA Pandemic Assistance to Poultry, Livestock Contract Producers

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has begun issuing approximately \$270 million in payments to contract producers of eligible livestock and poultry who applied for Pandemic Assistance. Earlier this year, USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) identified gaps in assistance including in the initial proposal to assist contract growers. In August, USDA released the improved program for contract producers to fill these gaps, providing support as part of USDA's broader Pandemic Assistance for Producers initiative.

For contract producers this meant expanding eligibility and providing flexibility such as considering 2018 or 2019 revenue when calculating payments and accounting for contract producers who increased the size of their operation in 2020 or were new to farming when the pandemic hit. Filling these gaps and not letting underserved producers slip through the cracks is a common theme throughout our approach under our Pandemic Assistance for Producers initiative.

The Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021, provided funding for payments to contract producers of eligible livestock and poultry for revenue losses from January 1, 2020, through December 27, 2020. Contract producers of broilers, pullets, chicken eggs, turkeys, hogs and pigs, ducks, geese, pheasants and quail were eligible for assistance, along with eligible breeding stock and eggs of all eligible poultry types produced under contract. Signup ran from August 24, 2021, through October 12, 2021.

**To learn more, visit
<https://www.fsa.usda.gov/news-room>**

Conservation CONVERSATION

5 STEPS TO ASSISTANCE FROM NRCS

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)
for Farms, Ranches, and Forests

Programs are voluntary and technical assistance is FREE

If an eligible landowner or agricultural producer is interested in improving their natural resources, the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) can help. They offer financial and technical assistance to help improve soil, water, plant, air, animal, and related resources on farms, ranches, and forests.

To learn more about NRCS technical and financial assistance, contact your local NRCS office.



USDA is an equal opportunity provider, lender, and employer.



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

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.



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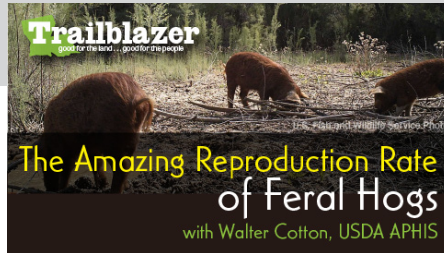
AND OPPORTUNITIES

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



www.youtube.com/channel/UCGghA8uiafmp92cYXWI5nw
www.trailblazer.org/video-gallery

Check out these 3 NEW VIDEOS!



LOCAL PARTNER SPOTLIGHT



Lincoln Area Chapter

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

Sign Up to Be Counted in the 2022 Census of Agriculture

If you did not receive the 2017 Census of Agriculture questionnaire and should have, or if you are operating a new farm or ranch, please sign up to be counted in the 2022 Census of Agriculture.



USDA NRCS

The Census of Agriculture is a complete count of U.S. farms and ranches and the people who operate them. Even small plots of land - whether rural or urban - growing fruit, vegetables or some food animals count if \$1,000 or more of such products were raised and sold, or normally would have been sold, during the Census year. The Census of Agriculture, taken only once every five years, looks at land use and ownership, operator characteristics, production practices, income and expenditures. For America's farmers and ranchers, the Census of Agriculture is their voice, their future, and their opportunity.

To sign up to be counted, go to:
<https://www.nass.usda.gov/AgCensus/>

According to the USDA Economic Research Service, a farm is any place that produced and sold—or normally would have produced and sold—at least \$1,000 of agricultural products during a given year. USDA uses acres of crops and head of livestock to determine if a place with sales less than \$1,000 could normally produce and sell at least that amount.

<https://www.ers.usda.gov/topics/farm-economy/farm-structure-and-organization/farm-structure>, viewed 11/29/21

Lagniappe A LITTLE SOMETHING EXTRA!

APHIS Study: SARS-CoV-2 Found in White-tailed Deer In Illinois, Michigan, New York, and Pennsylvania

The U.S. Department of Agriculture’s (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) completed a study this year that analyzed serum samples from free-ranging white-tailed deer for SARS-CoV-2 antibodies. APHIS collected a total of 481 samples between January 2020 and March 2021 from Illinois, Michigan, New York, and Pennsylvania. They detected SARS-CoV-2 antibodies in 33 percent of those samples.

In a separate Penn State study, researchers found that more than 80% of the white-tailed deer sampled in different parts of Iowa between December 2020 and January 2021 tested positive for SARS-CoV-2.

The Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries is currently taking blood samples from deer harvested in Louisiana this year and sending the samples to USDA wildlife services for analysis. Results are pending.

There is no evidence that people can get COVID-19 by preparing or eating meat from an animal infected with SARS-CoV-2. However, hunters can get infected with many other diseases when processing or eating game.

Hunters should always practice good hygiene when processing animals by following these food safety recommendations:

- Do not allow contact between wildlife and domestic animals, including pets and hunting dogs.
- Do not harvest animals that appear sick or are found dead.
- Keep game meat clean and cool the meat down as soon as possible after harvesting the animal.
- Avoid cutting through the backbone and spinal tissues and do not eat the brains of wildlife.
- When handling and cleaning game wear rubber or disposable gloves and do not eat, drink, or smoke.
- When finished handling and cleaning game:
 - Wash your hands thoroughly with soap and water.
 - Clean knives, equipment, and surfaces that were in contact with game meat with soap and water and then disinfect them.
 - Cook all game meat thoroughly (to an internal temperature of 165 °F or higher).
 - Check with your State wildlife agency regarding any testing requirements for other diseases and for any specific instructions regarding preparing, transporting, and consuming game meat.

For more information on the USDA APHIS study, see “Questions and Answers: Results of Study on SARS-CoV-2 in White-Tailed Deer,” APHIS 11-55-014, issued August 2021, https://www.aphis.usda.gov/animal_health/one_health/downloads/qa-covid-white-tailed-deer-study.pdf, viewed 11/28/2021.

For more information on the Penn State study, see “Deer may be reservoir for SARS-CoV-2, study finds,” <https://www.psu.edu/news/research/story/deer-may-be-reservoir-sars-cov-2-study-finds/>, viewed 11/28/2021.

2021 Hunting Photo Gallery Trailblazer Partners, Sponsors, Friends



Landon Burnham
Burnham Construction



Glenn Scriber
Lincoln Parish Police Juror
Trailblazer RC&D Board of Directors



Steve Ramsey
Webster Parish Police Juror
Trailblazer RC&D Board of Directors



Brian Wade
Progressive Bank

Merry Christmas

Partners, Sponsors, and Friends

Wishing you
the gift of faith,
the blessing of hope, and
the peace of His love at
Christmas and always.

Trailblazer RG&D



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