

Trailblazer news

Volume 12 • Issue 2 • February 2022

good for the land . . . good for the people

We are happy to welcome new sponsors to the Trailblazer RC&D team!

We appreciate their support and look forward to long and successful partnerships.

Welcome to Trailblazer!
Thank you for your support!



Forestry Best Management Practices Workshop, Haughton, LA, June 11, 2021.

Tim Holland

Dear Friends,

In coming months, Trailblazer RC&D will offer exceptional training opportunities featuring topics important to you. Please take a moment to visit our webpage at www.trailblazer.org to check out upcoming events. I know you will find something that will interest you! Join us at an event!

Sincerely,

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

Platinum Sponsor Energy Transfer

Energy Transfer is one of the largest and most diversified midstream energy companies in North America with approximately 114,000 miles of pipelines and associated energy infrastructure across 41 states that transport the oil and gas products. Their commitment to protection of the environment and conservation of natural resources makes them a good partner and valued member of the Trailblazer team. www.energytransfer.com

Silver Sponsors

Weyerhaeuser

Weyerhaeuser is a worldwide timber, land, and forest products company. They have been growing trees and making forest products for over 100 years. www.weyerhaeuser.com

National Wild Turkey Federation

The National Wild Turkey Federation is an international non-profit organization dedicated to conservation of the wild turkey and preservation of our hunting heritage. www.nwtf.org

Allstate Land & Timber Co., Inc.

Allstate Land & Timber is a local timber and logging contractor. They work with landowners to buy and harvest timber, clear and level land, and provide land management assistance. www.facebook.com/Allstatetimber/

Upcoming Events

February 1 - 6 p.m.	February 3 - 9 a.m.	March 1 - 6 p.m.	March 15 - 6 p.m.	March TBD*
Soil Health in Your Garden	Soil Health Field Day	All About Wild Turkeys	Estate Planning	All About Wild Turkeys
Lincoln Parish Library Ruston, LA	Jacob Rumbaugh's Farm Caddo Parish, LA	Lincoln Parish Library Ruston, LA	Union Parish Police Jury Meeting Room Farmerville, LA	Webster Parish, LA

*Date to be determined. Visit www.trailblazer.org to watch for these events.

Community **Please join us in February!**

February 1, 2022

Trailblazer Tuesday at the Lincoln Parish Library

SOIL HEALTH in your Garden workshop

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!

TO REGISTER:

Call or text (318) 237-8350 and provide your contact information and name of workshop.

On the farm or in the garden, good soil health is the key to success.

Topics Include:

- **Composition of your soil**
- **How soils function**
- **Indicators of soil health**
- **Ways to manage soil health**

Workshop Sponsors/Partners

- Energy Transfer
- 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
- Trailblazer RC&D

February 3, 2022

SOIL HEALTH FIELD DAY

Learn how to ensure your soil is healthy and productive!

See demonstrations of proven methods and conservation practices!



Jacob Rumbaugh's Farm
Caddo Parish
9:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.
Lunch Served
PLEASE PRE-REGISTER!

FREE Registration

TO REGISTER:

Call or text (318) 237-8350 and provide your name and the name of this event.

Field Walk and Demonstrations!

Driving Directions to Soil Health Field Day:

Lat/Long: 32.696701, -93.812832

From I-49 N (going north from Shreveport), take the Hwy 169/ Dixie-Mooring-sport Road Exit, then continue east past the stop sign at Hwy 71 onto the Sentell Road. Travel about 2 miles from the stop sign to Jacob Rumbaugh's farm entrance. Turn right into the farm entrance gate and continue to shop.

USDA NRCS

Persons with disabilities who anticipate needing reasonable accommodations or who have questions about physical access may contact Trailblazer RC&D at (318) 237-8350 or ceo@trailblazer.org prior to the meeting or event.



Natural Resources Conservation Service



Workshop Sponsors/Partners

- Energy Transfer
- Mudd & Holland Consulting Foresters, LLC
- Caddo Soil and Water Conservation District
- LSU AgCenter
- Louisiana Grazing Lands Conservation Initiative
- Trailblazer RC&D
- USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service



Trailblazer RC&D events are conducted in accordance with Louisiana Department of Health COVID-19 guidelines, and attendees are strongly 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.

COMING IN MARCH!

ALL ABOUT WILD TURKEYS!

Check our website to learn more: www.trailblazer.org

Conservation Conversation

"Take care of the land, and the land will take care of you." Hugh Hammond Bennett

Healthy Soil

Whether you are a farmer, rancher, timber producer, or backyard gardener, good soil health is your ticket to a great production.

Soil Health Tips for Farmers and Ranchers

- Minimize disturbance by limiting tillage, optimizing chemical input, and rotating livestock.
- Maximize soil cover by planting cover crops, using organic mulch, and leaving plant residue.
- Maximize biodiversity by planting diverse cover crops, using diverse crop rotations, and integrating livestock.
- Maximize the presence of living roots by reducing fallow, planting cover crops, and using diverse crop rotations.

From: Soil Health, USDA Farmers.gov, <https://www.farmers.gov/conservation/soil-health>, viewed 1/29/2022.



USDA NRCS

What makes soil healthy?

Healthy soils have spaces for air and water infiltration and movement.	Healthy soils have a good balance of nutrients and are free of contaminants.	Healthy soils have high populations of beneficial organisms, such as earthworms.
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Soil Health Tips for Gardeners

- Add compost to your soil. It improves soil structure, provides nutrients, and increases water holding capacity.
- Try organic fertilizers such as blood meal, grass clippings, or manure.
- Grab some nitrogen from the air by using legume cover crops in the fall or spring.
- Mulch your garden, don't till it. Your topsoil is protected from erosion in a no-till garden.
- Use drip irrigation or a soaker hose to water your garden. There is less runoff, and the leaves stay dry, minimizing diseases and reducing evaporation.

From: Tips for Healthy Soil in Your Backyard Garden, USDA Agricultural Research Service, <https://www.ars.usda.gov/oc/tips-for-healthy-soil-in-your-backyard-garden>, viewed 1/29/2022.



H. Martien

Many agricultural producers are using soil health management systems to improve the health and function of their soil. The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) works hand-in-hand with these producers through technical and financial assistance programs and services to help ensure their success.

For more information about improving soil health in your garden, contact your local LSU AgCenter Cooperative Extension Service office.

For more information about improving soil health on your farm or ranch, contact your local USDA NRCS office.

News

Events, happenings, and milestones

High Tunnel Ribbon Cutting at Inglewood Farm

February 10, 2022
10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

High tunnels, or “hoop houses,” are polyethylene covered structures used to cover plants to extend the growing season. Farmers can plant earlier in the spring, later in the fall, or grow year-round.

Working with the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, Inglewood Farm has completed construction of a new high tunnel on the farm.

On Thursday, February 10, 2022, a ribbon cutting for this high tunnel will be hosted at Inglewood Farm. This high tunnel will ensure food production year-round, as well as provide a great teaching environment for other farmers and gardeners. The new addition to the farm will be an asset to our community, as well as a source of nutritious, locally-grown produce. For more information in Inglewood Farm, go to www.inglewoodfarm.com.

For more information about high tunnels or technical and financial assistance, contact your local office of the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, or go to www.nrcs.usda.gov.

This ribbon cutting is hosted by an educational partnership between the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, Inglewood Farm, and Trailblazer RC&D.



USDA NRCS



Rob Rountledge, Sault College, Bugwood.org

Louisiana Hunting Season Rule Changes Out for Public Comment

The Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission is asking for public input on adopted notices of intent for the 2022-23 and 2023-24 hunting seasons, 2022-23 general and Wildlife Management Areas (WMA) hunting seasons and rules and regulations, 2023 general and WMA turkey hunting season rules and regulations, and 2022-23 migratory bird hunting season rules and regulations. The adopted notices of intent can be found at: https://www.wlf.louisiana.gov/assets/Resources/Publications/Commission_Action_Items/2022-2024-Hunting-Regs-NOI-012022.pdf

Interested persons may submit written comments relative to the proposed Rule until Thursday, March 4, 2022 to Tommy Tuma, Wildlife Division, Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, P. O. Box 98000, Baton Rouge, LA 70898-9000 or via e-mail to ttuma@wlf.la.gov



Check out the latest videos on Trailblazer's YouTube video channel:
www.youtube.com/channel/UCGghA8uiafntp92cYXWI5nw

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



Food for Thought

Information worth
pondering

Gardening

Plant Hardiness Zones Do you know your zone?

Savvy gardeners rely on plant hardiness zones to determine which plants will thrive in their garden or yard.

The USDA Agricultural Research Service offers a plant hardiness map that utilizes Geographic Information System (GIS) technology to pinpoint your location to determine your zone. The USDA map is based on the average minimum winter temperature, divided into 10-degree zones. Much of Trailblazer RC&D's area is divided between plant hardiness zone 8a (10-15 degrees F) and plant hardiness zone 8b (15-20 degrees F). To visit the map, go to: <https://planhardiness.ars.usda.gov/>

When visiting your local garden center or shopping for plants/seeds online, check out the plant tag or the online plant description to make sure you are purchasing a plant/seeds that will thrive in your garden or yard.

are you
8a or 8b?

Forestry

Riparian Forest Buffers Do you have a lot of sediment in the bayou on your land?

Forested areas (riparian areas) along streams, lakes, or other waterways offer a lot of benefits including:

- Filtering nutrients, pesticides, and animal waste from ag land runoff
- Stabilizing eroding banks
- Filtering sediment from runoff
- Providing shade, shelter, and food for fish
- Providing wildlife habitat
- Protecting cropland and communities from flooding

The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) offers a Riparian Forest Buffer (391) Conservation Practice for landowners/managers to consider as part of an overall conservation or forest management plan. This practice is commonly applied with Riparian Herbaceous Cover (390), Stream Habitat Improvement and Management (395), Streambank and Shoreline Protection (580), and Tree/Shrub Establishment (612).

For more information on these practices or available technical and financial assistance, contact your local NRCS office.

Wildlife

Warm Season Food Plots for Deer Management Are you caring for your deer herd during spring and summer months?

The nutrition needs of the deer on your land are very high during warm weather. Bucks are growing antlers and does are fawning. But, what and when should you plant?

Check out these excellent resources:



Improving Deer Herd Nutrition with David Moreland

Trailblazer Video
<https://youtu.be/zEFQIVOEWN4>

Wildlife Food Plots, Soil Fertility, Seed, & Plants

Trailblazer Video
<https://youtu.be/ZDqyMhhu3ks>

Choosing the right warm-season forage for deer, Lucas Stamper, LSU AgCenter, <https://www.lsuag-center.com/articles/page1593465321811>

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Partners & Friends

Thank you for your support!



USDA United States Department of Agriculture

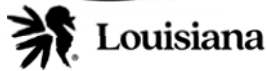
Natural Resources Conservation Service



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Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
LSU AgCenter
Claiborne Parish Library
USDA APHIS
Lincoln Parish Library

Thank You!
for your support



BIENVILLE PARISH POLICE JURY



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CLAIBORNE PARISH POLICE JURY



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“And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased.”

Hebrews 13:16
New International Version (NIV)



Know what's below.
Call before you dig.

811 is the national call-before-you-dig phone number. You should call a few business days before you begin any digging, including common projects like planting trees and shrubs or installing fences and mailboxes.