

# Trailblazer news

Volume 12 • Issue 8 • August 2022

good for the land . . . good for the people



Trailblazer RC&D



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Dear Friends,  
Trailblazer RC&D offers a huge variety of workshops, with subject matter ranging from forestry to estate planning. Our goal in offering so many training opportunities is to reach as many people as possible with a message of natural resource conservation.

You may ask, "What does estate planning have to do with natural resource conservation?" Check out the article in this month's newsletter on "Heirs' Property" to learn how an estate planning workshop may help you and your family navigate USDA programs.

Learn something new! Meet your neighbors! Join us at a workshop in August!

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

## July 2022 Workshop Update

**Forestry 201**  
July 5, 2022  
Ruston, LA  
July 12, 2022  
Bossier City, LA

**Advanced Birding**  
July 19, 2022  
Ruston, LA

**Farm Pond Management**  
July 26, 2022  
Bossier City, LA

WORKSHOPS	ATTENDEES	RATINGS	SPONSORS
4	130	76% OUTSTANDING	17

## WHAT DID YOU LIKE THE MOST?



Information was relevant and specific to timber market.

Great timber education, ideas, processes.

Dr. Long is a great presenter. I enjoyed her recommendations for equipment, apps, etc.

Very informative. Will help with pond management.

Statistics represent a total or average for the four July workshops.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**August 2 - 6 p.m.**  
**Fall Wildlife Food Plots with Terry Johnston**  
Wildlife Biologist  
Lincoln Parish Library  
Ruston, LA

**August 9 - 6 p.m.**  
**Choosing the Right Service Provider for Your Timber Harvest with Valerie West**  
Forestry Agent-LSU AgCenter  
History Center, Bossier Parish Library - Bossier City, LA

**TO REGISTER FOR THESE EVENTS:**  
**Call or text (318) 237-8350.**

**COMING IN OCTOBER!**

## WATERFOWL HABITAT Where are the ducks?

Featuring  
**Jim Ronquest**  
RNT-V Co-Host & Producer  
VP of Development at  
Drake Waterfowl

WORKSHOP

**OCT 4  
2022**

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!

# Community Please join us in August!

**FALL Wildlife Food Plots workshop**

**FREE REGISTRATION AND DINNER**

**August 2, 2022**

**Featured Speaker  
Terry Johnston  
Wildlife Biologist**

**Prepare Now  
to Attract Wildlife  
to Your Land in the Fall**

**Trailblazer**  
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**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!**

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

**Trailblazer RC&D workshops are offered free of charge because of the support of our great sponsors and partners!**

- Energy Transfer
- Hunt Forest Products, LLC
- Mudd & Holland Consulting Foresters, LLC
- Weyerhaeuser
- Allstate Land & Timber Co., Inc.
- National Wild Turkey Federation
- Burnham Construction
- Canfor Southern Pine
- Louisiana Forestry Association
- Whitetails Unlimited, Lincoln Parish Chapter
- Lincoln Parish Police Jury
- Lincoln Parish Library
- Bossier Parish Police Jury
- Bossier Parish Libraries
- LSU AgCenter
- USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service

**Choosing the Right Service Provider  
FOR YOUR TIMBER HARVEST  
WORKING WITH LOGGERS**

**FREE WORKSHOP**

**August 9, 2022**

**Featured Speaker  
Valerie West  
Northwest Region  
Forestry Agent  
LSU AgCenter**

**Trailblazer**  
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**Bossier Parish Libraries  
History Center  
2206 Beckett Street  
Bossier City, Louisiana  
6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.  
Join us at 5:30 p.m. for refreshments!**

**Free Registration  
TO REGISTER:  
Call or text (318) 237-8350 and  
provide your contact  
information and name of  
workshop.**

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

## TO REGISTER FOR THESE EVENTS:

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

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.

Trailblazer RC&D events are conducted in accordance with Louisiana Department of Health COVID-19 guidelines. If you are not feeling well or you have been exposed to COVID-19, please stay home.

[www.trailblazer.org](http://www.trailblazer.org)  
Please check our website for a complete listing of events. New events are added throughout the month, and we don't want you to miss an opportunity to attend! Hope to see you during August!

**Many thanks to Trailblazer friend Erika Derma, Assistant Extension Agent with the LSU AgCenter.**

Erika went above and beyond to promote our Farm Pond Management workshop in Bossier City. As a result, 49 people attended this workshop!

**Thank you Erika!**



Check out LSU AgCenter's NW Region Forestry Agent Valerie West's presentation in Bossier City on August 9!



# Conservation Conversation

## USDA Seeking Ways to Better Serve Producers in Urban Areas

USDA's Office of Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production (OUAIP) was established through the 2018 Farm Bill. It is led by the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and works in partnership with numerous USDA agencies that support urban agriculture. Its mission is to encourage and promote urban, indoor, and other emerging agricultural practices, including community composting and food waste reduction.

As part of USDA's urban agriculture initiative, USDA is hosting a public meeting of the Federal Advisory Committee for Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production on **August 5** to discuss new urban conservation practices, focus areas for the commission, the Farm Service Agency's (FSA) new urban county committees, among other topics. The public can register to attend the committee meeting via the web at [https://www.zoomgov.com/webinar/register/WN\\_kYuDvpVLRICX-Ont1bQedMA](https://www.zoomgov.com/webinar/register/WN_kYuDvpVLRICX-Ont1bQedMA).

**Urban agriculture includes the cultivation, processing and distribution of agricultural products in urban and suburban areas. Community gardens, rooftop farms, hydroponic, aeroponic, and aquaponic facilities, and vertical production are all examples of urban agriculture.**

From: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Urban Agriculture, <https://www.usda.gov/topics/urban>, viewed 7/30 2022.

**This committee is part of a broad USDA investment in urban agriculture. Other efforts include:**

- **Reopening the People's Garden Initiative.** People's Gardens across the country grow fresh, healthy food and support resilient, local food systems; teach people how to garden using sustainable practices; and nurture habitat for pollinators and wildlife, and greenspace for neighbors.
- **Offering grants** that target areas of food access, education, business and start-up costs for new farmers, and policy development related to zoning and other urban production needs. USDA made available \$14.2 million this year as well as invested \$18.7 million in projects not able to be funded in 2021.
- **Offering cooperative agreements** that develop and test strategies for planning and implementing municipal compost plans and food waste reduction plans. USDA made available \$10.2 million this year.
- **Providing technical and financial assistance** through conservation programs offered by USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS).
- **Investing \$260,000 for risk management training and crop insurance education** for historically underserved and urban producers through partnerships between USDA's Risk Management Agency and state universities.
- **Announcement of 17 Farm Service Agency urban county committees.**

For more information on the August 5 committee meeting, go to: <https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/national/newsroom/releases/?cid=NRCEPRD1945422>.

For more information on the urban agriculture initiative, visit [www.usda.gov](http://www.usda.gov).

For more information on USDA NRCS, visit [www.nrcs.usda.gov](http://www.nrcs.usda.gov).



U. S. Department of Agriculture

With support from the Farm Service Agency and Natural Resources Conservation Service, Bobby Wilson in 2009 established Metro Atlanta Urban Farming to address the growing need for affordable food in low-income communities. The five-acre plot - near the heart of College Park, Georgia - grows fresh produce just minutes from downtown Atlanta. USDA photo by Preston Keres.

# News

## Events, happenings, and milestones

### Hunting Rules, Regulations, Season Schedules for 2022-23 Now Available on LDWF Website

The Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF) has released its 2022-23 hunting regulations pamphlet online at the LDWF website.

**To see the upcoming season's regulations or visit the LDWF website, go to:**

<https://www.wlf.louisiana.gov/page/seasons-and-regulations>.

The pamphlet contains hunting rules, regulations and season dates

for the 2022-23 season, including hunting information on LDWF's Wildlife Management Areas and Louisiana's federal lands. It also contains information on LDWF's new licensing process and fees.

Printed copies of the pamphlets should be available in late August at LDWF offices throughout the state and at vendors where hunting and fishing licenses are sold.

This season's regulation pamphlet also has season schedules for the state's 10 deer hunting areas and major changes for the 2022-23 season.

For more information, contact Tommy Tuma at [ttuma@wlf.la.gov](mailto:ttuma@wlf.la.gov).



## Sponsor Spotlight



Energy Transfer has one of America's largest energy portfolios with assets in 41 states and Canada, and international offices in Calgary and Beijing. Their core operations include transportation, storage, and terminalling for natural gas, crude oil, NGLs, refined products, and liquid natural gas. They are committed to protecting the environment and conserving natural resources.

Many thanks go to Energy Transfer for their sponsorship of Trailblazer RC&D activities. Their support has resulted workshops, field days, and outreach to promote and encourage conservation of our natural resources.

**Thank you, Energy Transfer, for your support!**

For more information on Energy Transfer, go to: [www.energytransfer.com](http://www.energytransfer.com).

### Check us out on YouTube!



<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCGghA8uiafmp92cYXWI5nw>



### New Videos:

**Getting Started with Honey Bees with Amy Weeks**

<https://youtu.be/TLt8sVEC4sU>

**Honey Bees: Queen Bees with Amy Weeks**

[https://youtu.be/\\_NCKJrLPaeE](https://youtu.be/_NCKJrLPaeE)

**Backyard Birding: Eastern Bluebirds with David Moreland**

[https://youtu.be/IET\\_JTQHALO](https://youtu.be/IET_JTQHALO)

**Backyard Birding: Hummingbirds with David Moreland**

<https://youtu.be/TTPoQdWPbLs>

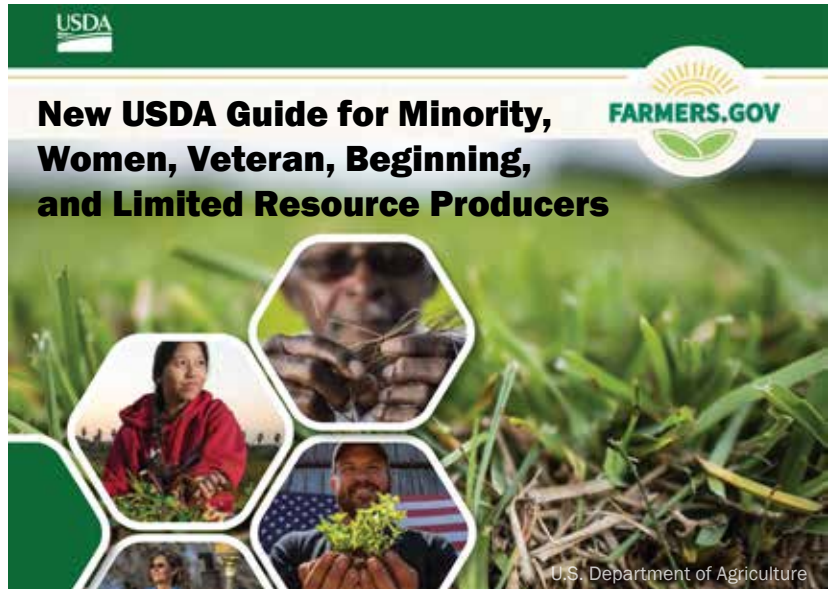
# Food for Thought Information worth pondering

## Heirs' Property

"Heirs' Property" refers to land inherited without a will or documentation of ownership. This land can also be called by several other names such as, family land, estate land or et al. land.

Heirs' property is inherited by several people who are joint owners with undivided interests. There is no clear title, and the land is vulnerable to family disputes.

A farm number is required to participate in most USDA programs. To establish a farm number, certain documentation is needed, such as tax ID number and a property deed. Because heirs' property has no clear title, the 2018 Farm Bill established certain documentation for heirs' property operators to establish a farm number to participate in USDA programs. Your local office of the USDA Farm Service Agency can help you through the farm number process.



## New USDA Guide for Minority, Women, Veteran, Beginning, and Limited Resource Producers

**For more information see: Get Started! A Guide to USDA Resources for Historically Underserved Farmers and Ranchers: Minority, Women, Veteran, Beginning, and Limited Resource Producers,**

<https://www.farmers.gov/sites/default/files/2022-07/farmersgov-historically-underserved-factsheet-07-20-2022.pdf>, viewed 7/30/22.

**To learn more about inherited land and property, attend a Trailblazer RC&D Estate Planning workshop. To keep up-to-date on scheduled workshops, check our webpage at [www.trailblazer.org](http://www.trailblazer.org).**

## The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

provides America's farmers and ranchers financial and technical assistance to voluntarily put conservation on the ground. If you are interested in learning more about NRCS opportunities, contact your local field office.

**[www.nrcs.usda.gov](http://www.nrcs.usda.gov)**

### 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

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](mailto:program.intake@usda.gov). USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.



# Partners & Friends

Thank you for your support!



### Friends of Trailblazer

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



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



*Thank You!*  
for your support



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WEBSTER PARISH POLICE JURY



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(318) 255-3554  
ceo@trailblazer.org

“The Lord will guide you always; he will satisfy your needs in a sun-scorched land and will strengthen your frame. You will be like a well-watered garden, like a spring whose waters never fail.”  
Isaiah 58:11  
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.