

# Trailblazer news

Volume 12 • Issue 12 • December 2022

good for the land . . . good for the people

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



*Merry Christmas*  
FROM TRAILBLAZER RC&D

Dear Friends,

As we move into December and begin our journey to 2023, I am reflecting on all the stops we made during 2022. If you joined us at a stop in your community, I hope you found value in the messages we brought. Whether our speakers were discussing soil health, pollinators, native plants, or wildlife, the core message of each workshop was the same: conservation and sustainability of our natural resources.

Many thanks to the outstanding speakers who joined us this year and the communities that welcomed us. We are looking forward to seeing you all again in the coming year!

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!  
P. Ellzey Simmons  
Chief Executive Officer  
Trailblazer RC&D

Watch our online events calendar for upcoming 2023 events!  
[www.trailblazer.org](http://www.trailblazer.org)

## DECEMBER TRAILBLAZER EVENT

December 6 - 6 p.m.  
Your Farm and Your Taxes with Attorney Paul Spillers  
Lincoln Parish Library  
Ruston, LA

TO REGISTER:  
Call or text  
(318) 237-8350.

## November 2022 Workshop Update

Mineral Leasing with Paul Spillers  
Nov 1, 2022  
Ruston, LA

WORKSHOPS

1

ATTENDEES

30

RATINGS

83%  
OUTSTANDING

SPONSORS

12



WHAT DID YOU LIKE THE MOST?

Information about leasing.

Presenter.

Level of detail and good examples used.

Learning more than I expected.

Useful information.

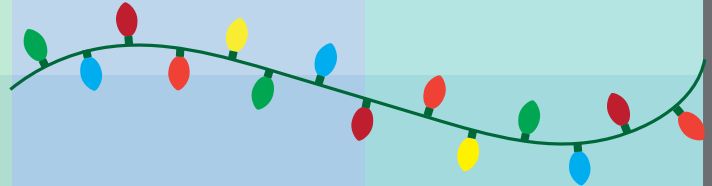


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# Community



## December Workshop

**YOUR FARM AND YOUR TAXES WORKSHOP**  
 Special Guest Speaker  
 Attorney Paul Spillers  
**December 6, 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!

- How Taxes Apply to Farming
- Current Tax Law AND MORE!

*FREE Registration*

**Call today to register for this event!  
Call or text (318) 237-8350**

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.

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

**December Sponsors:**

- 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
- Lincoln Parish Police Jury
- Lincoln Parish Library
- USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service

### SPONSOR SPOTLIGHT



Allstate Land & Timber is a family-owned business established in 1992. They buy timber, contract harvest of timber, provide land management of sites, and offer dirt work services.

They are committed to implementing good, sound forest and wildlife management practices that benefit landowners and the environment.

**We appreciate Allstate Land & Timber's ongoing support of Trailblazer, our communities, and the environment!**

## ARE YOU INTERESTED IN BECOMING A TRAILBLAZER SPONSOR?

### Levels of Participation

#### PLATINUM

\$15,000 or more donation

#### GOLD

\$2,000 up to \$15,000 donation

#### SILVER

\$1,000 up to \$1,999 donation per 12 months

#### EVENT SPONSOR

\$300 donation

#### BASIC PARTNERSHIP

Less than \$300 donation and/or substantial in-kind support.

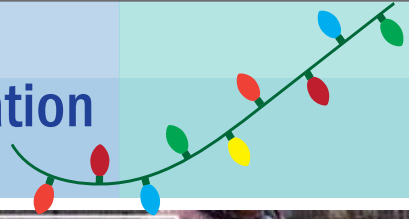
**Demonstrate your organization's commitment to conservation and sustainability of our natural resources by joining the Trailblazer team.**



Each level of participation comes with lots of perks such as website coverage, newsletter recognition, event recognition, signage, and much more. Contact us or visit our website to learn more to learn more!

**Contact us today to learn more!  
(318) 237-8350  
ceo@trailblazer.org**

# Conservation Conversation



Producers can now take a nationwide survey to help the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) improve and increase access to its programs and services for America’s farmers, ranchers, and forest managers.

USDA encourages all agricultural producers to take the survey, especially those who have not worked with USDA previously. The survey gathers feedback on programs and services available through USDA’s Farm Service Agency (FSA), Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and Risk Management Agency (RMA).

The survey is available online at [farmers.gov/survey](https://farmers.gov/survey), and producers should complete by March 31, 2023.

Stakeholder organizations are also encouraged to share the survey link through their networks. The survey is available in 14 different languages including Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Hmong, Korean, Navajo, Punjabi, Somali, Spanish, Tagalog, Thai, Urdu and Vietnamese.

“A robust survey response that includes the perspectives of all of our customers, including underserved producers, will help USDA better understand the unique needs of both existing and prospective customers, while identifying opportunities to enhance government programs and services. Please take the survey, especially if we haven’t worked with you before,” said Robert Bonnie, USDA’s Under Secretary for Farm

Production and Conservation (FPAC). “This survey will provide USDA with critical data to help USDA serve all of agriculture.”

In addition to the online survey, the FPAC Business Center, which is administering the survey, will also mail 11,000 printed surveys to various local state stakeholder organizations and farmers markets.

**To take the survey, go to [farmers.gov/survey](https://farmers.gov/survey) by March 31, 2023.**

**To learn more about USDA and this survey, visit [usda.gov](https://usda.gov)**

**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 or go to [www.nrcs.usda.gov](https://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

**Unsure who to call? Contact Trailblazer RC&D at (318) 237-8350, and we will put you in touch with the right people.**



# News

## Events, happenings, and milestones

### NRCS News

#### Outreach Visit

Eugene Livingston, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Outreach Coordinator, recently visited Trailblazer. Each NRCS State Office has an Outreach Coordinator who has the responsibility of ensuring effective community outreach for conservation programs, benefits, and opportunities to assist new and beginning customers on how to achieve success on their land.

Trailblazer is looking forward to working with Eugene to reach the people and communities of north Louisiana with conservation program information.



Left to right: Elzey Simmons, CEO of Trailblazer RC&D; Eugene Livingston, Outreach Coordinator for USDA NRCS in Louisiana.

#### USDA NRCS has a New Website!

The new NRCS website was developed to provide easy access to customer-focused information.

Check it out at:

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

### LDWF News

#### LDWF Reminds Hunters to Use Text-to-Tag for Deer Harvest and LA Wallet to Display LDWF Licenses

The Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF) reminds hunters that they can tag and validate their deer or turkey harvest directly from their smartphone (via text or website) immediately after the animal is harvested.

Log into your account at [LouisianaOutdoors.com](http://LouisianaOutdoors.com) and select E-tag/Text-to-Tag to enroll, then follow the steps below to tag and validate your harvest via your smartphone. As long as you complete the electronic tag before moving the animal, you do not have to attach a physical tag. You must have a physical copy or a picture of your harvest tags on your smartphone to use this feature.

To see step-by-step instructions and detailed instructional videos of how to properly tag and validate electronically, visit: <https://www.wlf.louisiana.gov/page/electronic-tags>

If there is no cellular signal, hunters can still use traditional paper tags and validate them via phone (225.267.9998) or online within 72 hours of harvest. If you're using paper tags, we recommend using snack-size zip-top bags and zip ties to secure the paper tag onto the animal or attaching the paper tag to the animal and then cover the tag in packing tape.

For hunters using paper tags, LDWF has a new harvest reporting phone number--225.267.9998. The 844 number is no longer in service.

#### LA Wallet

LDWF also reminds citizens with a Louisiana Driver's License or State ID that they can use LA Wallet to display their purchased LDWF licenses on their smartphones. Licenses can be purchased on the LDWF website through an approved retail vendor or at the LDWF headquarters in Baton Rouge. The LA Wallet app is free for the public (Download at Google Play / Apple Store).

To connect your LDWF licenses to LA Wallet:

1. Tap the LDWF Licenses credential shown on the homepage.
2. Read the disclaimer, then tap the yellow Connect LDWF Account button at the bottom.
3. Once your LDWF account is found, tap "Yes" to add your licenses.

LDWF has developed a video demonstration to walk through the steps above or go to the printed instructions at: [https://www.wlf.louisiana.gov/assets/Licenses\\_and\\_Permits/Files/Connecting-LDWF-Credentials.pdf](https://www.wlf.louisiana.gov/assets/Licenses_and_Permits/Files/Connecting-LDWF-Credentials.pdf)

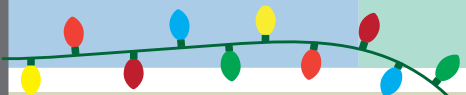
As always, official hunting and fishing licenses may still be carried in several other ways:

- Email - If an email address is available in our system and a license is purchased, a digital version of that license will be emailed.
- Image - An individual can also take a photo of their license and store that photo on their phone.
- Paper - We recommend folding the license and storing it in a zip-top bag or laminating the paper print between two pieces of packaging tape.

From: Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Newsroom

# Food for Thought

Information worth pondering



## Soils: where food begins WORLD SOIL DAY 2022 December 5, 2022

Soil nutrient loss is a major soil degradation processes threatening nutrition and is recognized as being among the most important problems at a global level for food security and sustainability all around the globe. World Soil Day 2022 (#WorldSoilDay) and its campaign "Soils: Where food begins" aims to raise awareness of the importance of maintaining healthy ecosystems and human well-being by addressing the growing challenges in soil management, increasing soil awareness and encouraging societies to improve soil health.

**For more information, go to:**  
<https://www.fao.org/world-soil-day/en/>



## USDA NRCS

### Teaching Guides and Videos

The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) offers a series of guides and videos to help teachers and educators implement their soils curriculum. Each guide includes an introduction to the soil property, discussion of the inherent and management factors influencing it, and explanation of the property's relationship to soil function. The educator's guides also include detailed information on a method to measure the soil property and interpretations of the test results.

Helpful to educators, the guides double as lesson plans with thought-provoking questions so students can start to apply what they have learned. Videos cover the concepts and soil properties from overview to testing.

**To access the guides and videos and learn more about soil health education tools, visit**  
<https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/conservation-basics/natural-resource-concerns/soils/soil-health/soil-health-educators-guide>

## soil Quality Measurement

Soil Health – Guides for Educators

Graphic by USDA NRCS



### Teaching Guides

*Guides provided with an overview, a test, and support videos.*

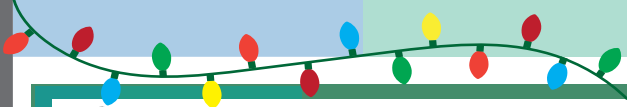
- Soil Quality Measurement
- Soil Bulk Density, Moisture, Aeration
- Soil Organic Matter
- Soil Respiration
- Soil Electrical Conductivity
- Soil pH
- Soil Nitrogen
- Soil Phosphorus
- Soil Infiltration



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# Partners & Friends

Thank you for your support!



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



Natural Resources Conservation Service



## FRIENDS

Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries

LSU AgCenter

Claiborne Parish Library

Village of Athens

USDA APHIS

Lincoln Parish Library

Bossier Parish Library

Webster Parish Library

Paul D. Spillers

*Thank You!*  
for your support



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

“Glory to God  
in the highest,  
and on earth  
peace, good will  
toward men.”

Luke 2:14  
King James Version



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.

Check us out on YouTube!

