

Trailblazer news

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good for the land . . . good for the people

ANNUAL REPORT 2022

TRAILBLAZER RC&D

Your Farm and Your Taxes Workshop,
December 6, 2022, Ruston, LA



Trailblazer RC&D



Trailblazer RC&D

Dear Friends,

During 2022, Trailblazer RC&D recorded over 46,000 interactions with local people and communities to share conservation and farm sustainability messages. We accomplished this through workshops, newsletters, emails, videos, and website visits.

We were able to accomplish this outstanding outreach effort by working closely with partners, sponsors, communities, and friends to promote and deliver programs that are important to the people of north Louisiana. During 2022, we worked with local, state, and federal agencies, police juries, businesses, soil and water conservation districts, extension agents, and many others to develop and present relevant information.

Sponsorship by the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) during 2022 was key to Trailblazer's success. Special thanks go to the USDA NRCS leadership team, as well as district conservationists and soil and water conservation districts across north Louisiana for their support of Trailblazer efforts.

2022 corporate sponsorships by organizations such as Energy Transfer, Weyerhaeuser, Canfor

Southern Pine, Mudd & Holland Consulting Foresters, Allstate Land and Timber, National Wild Turkey Federation-Louisiana Chapter, Hunt Forest Products, Buddy Burnham Construction, and the Louisiana Forestry Association ensured everyone had access to information on conservation best management practices.

In addition, special recognition and thanks go to Bossier Parish Police Jury, Webster Parish Police Jury, Lincoln Parish Police Jury, Claiborne Parish Police Jury, Union Parish Police Jury, and Bienville Parish Police Jury for their financial and in-kind contributions to Trailblazer RC&D. These donations were critical to ensure access to workshops throughout north Louisiana.

Thank you, thank you, thank you for your support!
P. Ellzey Simmons
Chief Executive Officer
Trailblazer RC&D

Events

How far did Trailblazer's conservation message travel during 2022?

Trailblazer
good for the land... good for the people

2022
January - December

TRAILBLAZER.ORG
website visits
10,855
386 Facebook Followers
120 YouTube Followers



37 email blasts
making
21,572
contacts

Did you get an email from us this year?

20 videos published  **886** video views

Watch and learn! <https://www.youtube.com/@trailblazerrcd9097>

12 newsletters published newsletter distribution
10,131 by email  **1,800** by postal service

Sign-up for our newsletter today! Email info@trailblazer.org.

36 workshops  workshop attendees
1,076

Topic	Count
wildlife	15
forestry	8
soil health	8
estate planning	2
ponds	2
minerals leasing	1

Check our webpage for updates on scheduled events! www.trailblazer.org

Conservation Conversation

2023 New Year's Resolutions for Soil Health

Whether you are a farmer, rancher, forestland owner, backyard gardener, urban agriculturalist, or wildlife enthusiast, to ensure crop success, you must take care of the soil. Healthy soil is the foundation for a healthy ecosystem. It sustains all plants, animals, and humans.

January brings new year's resolutions of all types; from exercise to food choices, we all resolve to improve our lifestyle during the coming year.

Why not resolve to improve our soil?



To learn more about how you can keep these New Year's Resolutions, contact your local office of the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service. See page 5 for contact information.

USDA NRCS

Include these 2023 New Year's Resolutions to improve soil quality and production on your land.

Resolution 1

I will minimize disturbance of the soil by limiting tillage, rotating livestock, and optimizing chemical input.

Resolution 2

I will maximize biodiversity by planting diverse cover crops, using diverse crop rotations, and integrating livestock.

Resolution 3

I will maximize soil cover by planting cover crops, using organic mulch, and leaving plant residue.

Resolution 4

I will maximize the presence of living roots by planting cover crops, using diverse crop rotations, and reducing fallow periods.

Healthy soil gives us clean air and water, bountiful crops and forests, productive grazing lands, diverse wildlife, and beautiful landscapes by performing five essential functions:

- **Regulating water.** Soil helps control where rain, snowmelt, and irrigation water goes.
- **Sustaining plant and animal life.** The diversity and productivity of living things depends on soil.
- **Filtering and buffering potential pollutants.** The minerals and microbes in soil are responsible for filtering, buffering, degrading, immobilizing, and detoxifying organic and inorganic materials.
- **Cycling nutrients.** Carbon, nitrogen, phosphorus, and many other nutrients are stored, transformed, and cycled in the soil.
- **Providing physical stability and support.** Soil structure provides a medium for plant roots.

From: Soil Health, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, <https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/conservation-basics/natural-resource-concerns/soils/soil-health>, viewed 12/31/2022.

News

LDWF Reports Second Presumptive CWD Positive Case in Louisiana

The Louisiana Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory (LADDL) has reported the first suspected case of chronic wasting disease (CWD) for the 2022-23 hunting season to the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF).

LADDL has submitted the suspect sample to the National Veterinary Services Laboratory in Ames, Iowa, for confirmatory testing. If confirmed, this would be the second case of CWD detected in Louisiana.

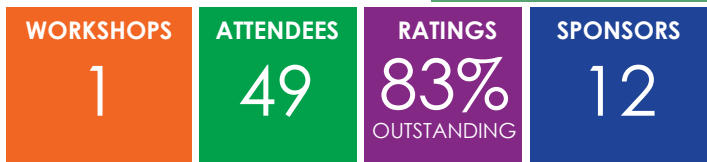
The presumptive positive was made on samples submitted by LDWF staff from a hunter-harvested adult buck taken on private land in Tensas Parish. While this is the first suspect positive case of CWD in the 2022-23 hunting season, a positive was confirmed in the same parish on Jan. 28, 2022. Tensas Parish has been an area of heightened surveillance for CWD by LDWF since a case of CWD was found in Issaquena County, Mississippi, in 2018.

The Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission has adopted regulations for the Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) Control Area in northeast Louisiana. The current CWD Control Area includes all of Tensas Parish and portions of Madison and Franklin Parishes. To learn more about CWD and complete regulations, go to: <https://www.wlf.louisiana.gov/page/cwd>

From: Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Newsroom, <https://www.wlf.louisiana.gov/news/ldwf-reports-second-presumptive-wd-positive-case-in-louisiana>, viewed 12/31/22.

December 2022 Workshop Update

Your Farm/Your Taxes with Paul Spillers
Dec 6, 2022
Ruston, LA



WHAT DID YOU LIKE THE MOST?

Opens doors. Many options creates more questions.
Extremely helpful. Very informative.
Good meeting for transfer of property to next generation.

Southeast Deer Study Group Meeting February 26-28, 2023 Baton Rouge, Louisiana Register Today!

The Southeast Deer Study Group meets annually for researchers and managers to share the latest information on the white-tailed deer. The 2023 meeting will be hosted in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, February 26-28, 2023.

These meetings provide an important forum for the sharing of research results, management strategies, and discussions that can facilitate the timely identification of, and solutions to, problems relative to the management of white-tailed deer.

If you are interested in attending or learning more about this event, meeting and registration information is available online at: <http://www.lawff.org/sedsg>

The Annual Southeast Deer Study Group Meeting is hosted with the support of the directors of the Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies and the directors of Delaware, Maryland, Missouri, and Texas. States participating regularly in the Southeast Deer Study Group include Alabama, Arkansas, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi, Missouri, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, and West Virginia. Trailblazer RC&D is a sponsor of the 2023 meeting.

For more information contact Johnathan Bordelon at 318-487-5334 or by email at jbordelon@wlf.la.gov

Did You Know ... ?

USDA has resources that can help you farm in an urban environment. Check out these links:

Starting, Financing, and Protecting Your Urban Farm or Garden

Farm Service Agency, www.fsa.usda.gov
 Risk Management Agency, www.rma.usda.gov
 Rural Development, www.rd.usda.gov

On-Farm Guidance and Innovation

Natural Resources Conservation Service, www.nrcs.usda.gov
 Cooperative Extension, www.nifa.usda.gov

Marketing and Selling

Farm Service Agency, www.fsa.usda.gov
 Agricultural Marketing Service, www.ams.usda.gov
 Food and Nutrition Service, www.fns.usda.gov

Contact your local USDA Service Center and make an appointment to discuss the possibilities. To find your local USDA Service Center, go to:

<https://www.farmers.gov/working-with-us/USDA-service-centers>

For more resources for urban growers, go to:

<https://www.farmers.gov/your-business/urban-growers>

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. Tribal communities and small towns may also be included.



To learn more about USDA resources for urban growers, go to: www.farmers.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**.

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.

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, audiotope, 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.

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



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ceo@trailblazer.org

“When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and when you pass through the rivers, they will not sweep over you. When you walk through the fire, you will not be burned; the flames will not set you ablaze.”

Isaiah 43:2
New International 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!

