

# **NEWS RELEASE**

United States Department of Agriculture · Natural Resources Conservation Service  
100 USDA, Suite 206 · Stillwater, OK 74074-2655 · (405) 742-1204 · (405) 742-1201 (FAX)

## **NEWS** **For Immediate Release**

Melissa Teague, District Conservationist  
USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service  
320 N. Main, Hollis, OK 73550  
580-688-3456, x3

[melissa.teague@ok.usda.gov](mailto:melissa.teague@ok.usda.gov)

### **Range Camp Delivers Outdoor Education and Fun**

KENTON, OK— High school students looking for a week-long camp to attend this summer are encouraged to consider the High Plains Range Camp, where being outside is “in.” Held June 16-20, 2008 at Camp Billy Joe in Kenton, Oklahoma, Range Camp gives students the opportunity to learn about natural resources and the environment in a ranch setting.

The camp is set in beautiful country, featuring terrain and vegetation from the Rocky Mountains and the High Plains. The vegetation is very diverse and provides excellent education opportunities amongst the rocks, canyons, creeks and mesas of the area.

A major focus of the camp is to teach youth the importance of range management through the use of evaluation skills and land management planning. The majority of the activities during camp are outdoor related, beginning with plant identification, soils, ecological site descriptions and GIS mapping. Campers will be taught how to evaluate habitat for livestock and wildlife, as well as how to develop a land management plan. Campers will hike, play games and have fun while learning team building and leadership skills. Field trips are planned to historical sites and working ranches. Evenings are filled with cultural events such as chuck wagon dinners and campfire cookouts.

High Plains Range Camp is open to high school sophomores, juniors and seniors from Texas, Oklahoma, New Mexico, Kansas and Colorado. Ten students will be accepted from each state. Registration is \$150, which includes meals, lodging and transportation during the camp. Camp check-in begins at 1 p.m. on Monday, June 16, and ends with an awards presentation at noon on Friday, June 20.

Instruction is provided by natural resource specialists from the USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service, Universities, Extension, conservation districts, educators, ranchers and others from the five-state area.

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Applications are available by contacting Melissa Teague at USDA-NRCS, 320 North Main, Hollis, Oklahoma 73350. Melissa can be reached by phone at 580-688-3456 (day) or 940-937-0075 (evening) or by e-mail at [melissa.teague@ok.usda.gov](mailto:melissa.teague@ok.usda.gov). Applications must be postmarked by June 2, 2008.

Additional information and applications are also available through local conservation districts, NRCS and Extension offices.

Visit the High Plains Range Camp website at: [www.highplainsrangecamp.net](http://www.highplainsrangecamp.net) for information and to download an application.

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