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 **NRCS** Louisiana
Conservation Update
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May 2013

Loving the Wildlife in Allen Parish

 Wetlands Reserve Program Success

 Stories from the Field

Ponchatoula High Tunnel

DeRidder Veteran

Hickory Grove Cattle Producer

A cooperative partnership with local
Soil and Water Conservation Districts and
Resource Conservation and Development Councils (RC&D)

HELPING PEOPLE HELP THE LAND

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Allen Langley decided he wanted to attract more ducks to his land. District Conservationist Barrett Lyons suggested the Wetlands Reserve Program. To learn more, see pages 4 and 5.

The Conservation Update is distributed monthly by mail and e-mail.

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Notes from the State Conservationist



Quote of the Month

“To believe in the things you can see and touch is no belief at all; but to believe in the unseen is a triumph and a blessing.”

Abraham Lincoln, 16th President of the United States. President Lincoln established the U.S. Department of Agriculture in 1862

May is National Wetlands Month, so it is very timely that this month we are featuring restoration of a wetland on Allen Langley’s farm in Allen Parish.

I can’t say enough about the importance of wetlands. Wetlands are the primary habitat for hundreds of species of birds, fish, animals, and insects. Wetlands serve as a filter for water that eventually comes out of our faucets. They reduce flooding in communities by holding water in their sponge-like soils, and they prevent soil erosion. Wetlands filter nutrients and sediments, and as a result, our lakes and streams are cleaner.

In recent years, landowners in Louisiana have enrolled more than 264,608 acres of cropland, pastureland, or other lands in the Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP), and they are restoring wetland functions and values to this land. This year, we expect to enroll 12,263 more acres in WRP.

Several years ago, Allen Langley visited our office in Oberlin and said he wanted to create a wildlife habitat for ducks on his farm. Today, he sees a healthy wetland abundant with ducks, deer, and many other animals, plants, insects, and birds. Largely unseen by a casual glance, Mr. Langley’s wetland is also filtering water, preventing soil erosion, storing nutrients, recharging an underground aquifer, and much, much more.

If you are interested in learning more about the Wetlands Reserve Program, please take a moment to contact our offices for more information. A directory is included on the back page of this publication.

Sarah Haymaker
State Conservationist
Louisiana



State Conservationist Kevin Norton is on detail assignment to Washington, DC, to work on Senator Debbie Stabenow’s staff to help draft the language of our nation’s next Farm Bill. Sarah Haymaker is serving as State Conservationist until Kevin Norton’s return.

Upcoming Events

Jun 4–7
Louisiana FFA State Convention - Look for the NRCS Exhibit at the Career Fair at the State FFA Convention being held in Alexandria on June 4–7.

Jun 27–30
Louisiana Farm Bureau Federation Annual Meeting - Look for the NRCS Exhibit at the 91st Annual Meeting of the Louisiana Farm Bureau Federation being held in New Orleans on June 27–30.



Wetlands Reserve Program

Allen Langley grew up on a farm in Oberlin, Louisiana. As a child, Langley loved watching the ducks and other birds land on his father's rice and cattle farm. He has always loved wildlife.

When Langley purchased his family's crop and pasture land 12 years ago, he decided to create a wildlife sanctuary. He visited the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) for help. At that time, he worked with NRCS through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program to plant loblolly pine trees and establish food plots on his farm.

Ten years later, Langley decided he wanted to attract more ducks to his land. District Conservationist Barrett Lyons suggested working through the Wetlands Reserve Program to restore 80 acres of the



Left to right: Allen and Jaylyn Langley with NRCS District Conservationist Barrett Lyons

forest land to its natural wetland state.

The Wetlands Reserve Program is a voluntary program that offers landowners an opportunity to protect, restore, and enhance wetlands on their property. NRCS provides technical and financial support to help landowners with wetland restoration efforts. Landowners have an opportunity to establish long-term conservation and wildlife practices on their farm or ranch that will help them achieve the greatest wetland functions and values, along with optimum wildlife habitat, on every acre enrolled in the program.

The Wetlands Reserve Program was a natural fit for Langley. Because his goals included establishment of a shallow water area to attract more ducks and other birds, he worked with NRCS to design and construct a pond that was 16-18 inches deep to provide fish and other animals continuous water throughout the year, even in drought periods.

The land surrounding Langley's Wetlands Reserve Program acreage is owned by timber producers who are frequently cutting trees. The newly restored wetland provides wildlife a safe refuge from the timber harvesting activities of his neighbors.

NRCS is helping landowners achieve their conservation goals.

At the beginning of Langley's conservation journey, there weren't many ducks nesting on his land or many deer grazing. Since completion of the forestation and creation of the Wetlands Reserve Program site, Langley reports seeing hundreds of ducks and an abundance of deer.

Langley is now working with NRCS to build wood duck boxes and he has planted Mayhaw trees—a tasty snack for wood ducks! He has also stocked his pond with fish.

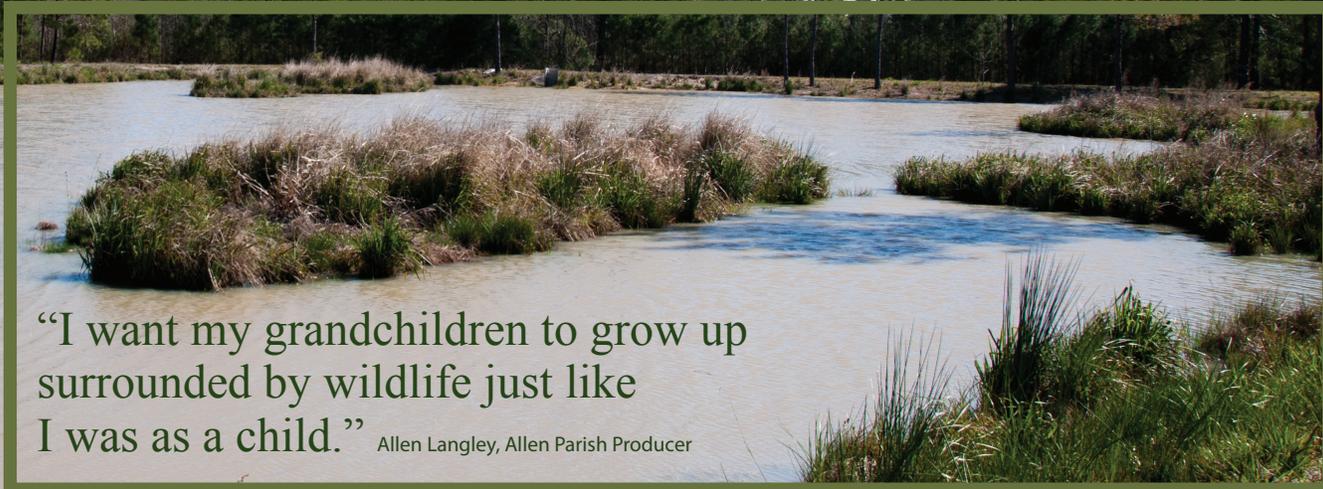
"Mr. Langley is a pleasure to work with because of the passion he has for conserving the land and protecting the wildlife," said Barrett Lyons. "He truly wants to leave his land better for future generations."

Langley is very pleased with the assistance provided by NRCS and the wildlife habitat improvement on his property.

"Everyone at NRCS has gone above and beyond to help me," said Langley. "It's been like a family effort."

When Langley isn't standing by his pond watching the ducks fly in and out, he's gazing at deer through his trees. He lives his life as a conservationist, always focusing on improving the health of his land.

Loving the Wildlife in Allen Parish!



"I want my grandchildren to grow up surrounded by wildlife just like I was as a child." Allen Langley, Allen Parish Producer



This is a QR Code. Download a free QR Code reader for your smartphone, then use your phone's camera to read the QR Code. Scanning this QR Code will take you to a video featuring Allen Langley.

Or go to... http://nrclsouthern.smugmug.com/Conservation/Allen-Langley-WRP-Success/29669499_3CHSk2Success/29669499_3CHSk2 to view the video.



Allen Langley Conservationist

Around the State

Apr 25

Senate Concurrent Resolution

No. 36 - The Louisiana Legislature signed Concurrent Resolution No. 36 commending Mr. Earl Garber on his election as president of the National Association of Conservation Districts. Mr. Garber will serve as president for 2013 and 2014.

May 2

Pond Management Workshop - The Red River Soil and Water Conservation District, NRCS, and the LSU AgCenter hosted a Pond Management Workshop on May 2, 2013, at the Grand Bayou Resort Events Center in Coushatta, Louisiana. Dr. Greg Lutz from LSU discussed pond building, pond fertilization, weed management, and stock rates with the attendees. Justin Hinkel, NRCS District Conservationist, discussed the technical and financial assistance that NRCS can provide.



May 6

St. Mary Parish LSU Field Day - NRCS hosted a booth at St. Mary Parish's LSU Field Day at the Patterson Civic Center on May 6, 2013. Adam Carmichael, NRCS Soil Conservation Technician, showed the kids various types of grasses and plants that can be found on the Louisiana coastline. He also discussed the upcoming summer vegetative planting project at which many 4-H leaders volunteer their time.

May 9

AMMS Wetlands Immersion Night - On May 9, 2013, NRCS and the Rapides Soil and Water Conservation District hosted a booth at Alexandria Middle Magnet School's (AMMS) Wetlands Immersion Night. Visitors of the NRCS booth learned about wetlands and the wildlife that can be found in the wetlands of Louisiana.

May 10

CRCL Coastal Stewardship Awards - Marty Floyd, NRCS retiree and Earth Team volunteer, was one of the awardees honored at the Coalition to Restore Coastal Louisiana's (CRCL) Coastal Stewardship Awards Banquet held on May 10, 2013, in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. Mr. Floyd spent a career of over 25 years with NRCS working in Louisiana's coastal marshes. Since his retirement, he spends countless volunteer hours supporting and advocating for coastal Louisiana.

May 18

Tunica-Biloxi Pow Wow - NRCS hosted a booth at the Tunica-Biloxi Pow Wow on May 18, 2013, in Marksville, Louisiana. Visitors of the NRCS booth learned about the ways NRCS is working with tribes in Louisiana and received backyard conservation educational materials, posters, and Farmer Ryan coloring books.



May 23

Restoring and Managing Longleaf Pine on Private Land Field Day and Workshop

The Texas-Louisiana Longleaf Task Force and the Louisiana Chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation, along with NRCS and various other partners hosted a longleaf pine field day and workshop in Provençal, Louisiana, on May 23, 2013. Attendees learned about forest conversion and establishment techniques that utilize prescribed burning, harvesting practices, herbicide applications, site preparation methods, and opportunities for financial and technical assistance.

Army Veteran Loves Working With NRCS

Cameron Martinez is an Army veteran with a love for agriculture. He began working with NRCS as a Soil Conservation Technician in the Leesville and DeRidder Field Offices in November 2011 through the Department of Veterans Affairs Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment Program.



This is a non-paid work experience program that assists veterans with service-connected disabilities prepare for, find, and keep suitable jobs.

Martinez learned NRCS practices such as irrigation pipeline installation, pond design and implementation, shallow water development, and longleaf pine establishment from

District Conservationists Dustin Farmer and Corby Moore. Martinez also attended Conservation Planning training and became a level one conservation planner.

"Working with NRCS was like standing on the shoulders of giants," said Martinez. "I enjoy working on all land use types, but I love working with livestock producers."

The day after Martinez completed his Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment Program, he signed up with NRCS as an Earth Team Volunteer.

Stories from the Field

Growing the “Miracle Tree” in Ponchatoula

Manlio Mendoza is growing Moringa trees . . . otherwise known as “Miracle Trees” . . . on his farm in Ponchatoula. It is said that a Moringa tree will meet all of your nutritional needs, take care of you medicinally, and purify your water.



The Moringa tree grows mainly in semi-arid and tropical areas of Asia and Africa. In Pontchatoula, Mr. Mendoza is growing Moringa trees in a seasonal high tunnel to extend the growing season of the plant. The Natural Resources Conservation Service provided financial assistance to help Mr. Mendoza construct the



seasonal high high tunnel, implement integrated pest management, and plant a half of an acre of a conservation cover crop on his farm.

Submitted by Tony Beaubouef, District Conservationist, Amite Field Office



Needed: Good Water for Livestock

Brisker Bamburg was born and raised in Red River Parish. Mr. Bamburg is a retired carpenter and lives in the Hickory Grove, Louisiana, community with his wife Tressie. He has been in agriculture his whole life.

He said, “There isn’t a time I can remember where we didn’t have cows or horses, and in the 1950’s we planted cotton for several years.”

Mr. Bamburg stated that he remembers the first time he worked with the Soil Conservation Service/Natural Resources Conservation Service was when he received cost share assistance for fertilizer to improve pastures years ago. He currently has 61.5 acres enrolled in the Grassland Reserve Program.

For years, Mr. Bamburg has used a pond to water his livestock; however because of the drought in recent years, his pond has not been adequate for meeting the needs of his livestock. He recently came into the Coushatta Field Office seeking technical and financial assistance

to improve his pasture land. After updating his conservation plan, he was able to get a contract through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) to install a water well, pipeline, heavy use area, and a water trough. With our assistance Mr. Bamburg installed all the practices within the first few months of his contract.

Mr. Bamburg stated, “I am very pleased with the way everything turned out and have enjoyed working with y’all.”

Submitted by Justin Hinkel, District Conservationist, Coushatta Field Office

Contact Our Offices

Parish	Field Office	Soil and Water Conservation District	Address	Telephone
Acadia	Crowley	Acadia SWCD	157 Cherokee Drive, Suite C, Crowley, LA 70526	(337) 783-5823, ext. 3
Allen	Oberlin	Allen SWCD	309 North 1st Street, Suite 1, Oberlin, LA 70655	(337) 639-4850, ext. 3
Ascension	Donaldsonville	Lower Delta SWCD and New River SWCD	2274 Highway 70, Suite C, Donaldsonville, LA 70346	(225) 473-7638, ext. 3
Assumption	Donaldsonville	Lower Delta SWCD	2274 Highway 70, Suite C, Donaldsonville, LA 70346	(225) 473-7638, ext. 3
Avoyelles	Marksville	Avoyelles SWCD	629 Tunica Drive West, Marksville, LA 71351	(318) 253-9445, ext. 3
Beauregard	DeRidder	Calcasieu SWCD	597 Mahlon Street, Suite B, DeRidder, LA 70634	(337) 463-8555, ext. 3
Bienville	Minden	Saline SWCD	216B Broadway, Minden, LA 71055	(318) 377-3950, ext. 3
Bossier	Benton	Bodcau SWCD	200 Burt Boulevard, Suite 101, Benton, LA 71006-4901	(318) 965-2185, ext. 3
Caddo	Shreveport	Caddo SWCD	1402 Hawn Avenue, Shreveport, LA 71107	(318) 676-3461, ext. 3
Calcasieu	Lake Charles	Gulf Coast SWCD	1400 Highway 14, Suite B, Lake Charles, LA 70601	(337) 436-5020, ext. 3
Caldwell	Columbia	Boeuf and Dugdemona SWCD	7128 Highway 165 South, Suite 2, Columbia, LA 71418	(318) 649-2651, ext. 3
Cameron	Lake Charles	Gulf Coast SWCD	1400 Highway 14, Suite B, Lake Charles, LA 70601	(337) 436-5020, ext. 3
Catahoula	Jonesville	Catahoula SWCD	3545 4th Street, Jonesville, LA 71343	(318) 339-4239, ext. 3
Claiborne	Minden	D'Arbonne SWCD	216B Broadway, Minden, LA 71055	(318) 377-3950, ext. 3
Concordia	Ferriday	Tensas-Concordia SWCD	8331 Highway 84, Ferriday, LA 71334	(318) 757-2455, ext. 3
DeSoto	Mansfield	DeSoto SWCD	211 Washington Avenue, Mansfield, LA 71052	(318) 872-4949, ext. 3
East Baton Rouge	Denham Springs	Capital SWCD	2191 Tower Drive, Denham Springs, LA 70726	(225) 664-1430, ext. 3
East Carroll	Lake Providence	East Carroll SWCD	406 Lake Street, Suite C, Lake Providence, LA 71254	(318) 559-2604, ext. 3
East Feliciana	Clinton	Feliciana SWCD	9752 Plank Road South, Clinton, LA 70722	(225) 683-5496, ext. 3
Evangeline	Ville Platte	Evangeline SWCD	205 Court Street, Ville Platte, LA 70586	(337) 363-6602, ext. 3
Franklin	Winnsboro	Northeast SWCD	616 Riser Road, Winnsboro, LA 71295	(318) 435-6743, ext. 3
Grant	Colfax	Grant SWCD	510 Main Street, Colfax, LA 71417	(318) 627-9903, ext. 3
Iberia	New Iberia	Iberia SWCD	2617 Northside Road, Suite 600, New Iberia, LA 70563	(337) 369-6623, ext. 3
Iberville	Addis	Lower Delta SWCD	7747 Highway 1 South, Addis, LA 70710	(225) 687-2184, ext. 3
Jackson	Ruston	Dugdemona SWCD	1412 Celebrity Drive, Ruston, LA 71270	(318) 255-3136, ext. 3
Jefferson	Boutte	Crescent SWCD	14246 US Highway 90, Boutte, LA 70039	(985) 758-2162, ext. 3
Jefferson Davis	Jennings	Jefferson Davis SWCD	2003 Port Drive, Jennings, LA 70546	(337) 824-0975, ext. 3
Lafayette	Lafayette	Lafayette SWCD	905 Jefferson Street, Suite 310, Lafayette, LA 70501-7913	(337) 262-6601, ext. 3
Lafourche	Thibodaux	Lafourche-Terrebonne SWCD	143 Laura Drive, Thibodaux, LA 70301	(985) 447-3871, ext. 3
LaSalle	Jonesville	LaSalle SWCD	3545 4th Street, Jonesville, LA 71343	(318) 339-4239, ext. 3
Lincoln	Ruston	D'Arbonne SWCD	1412 Celebrity Drive, Ruston, LA 71270	(318) 255-3136, ext. 3
Livingston	Denham Springs	Capital SWCD	2191 Tower Drive, Denham Springs, LA 70726	(225) 664-1430, ext. 3
Madison	Tallulah	Madison SWCD	1900 Crothers Drive, Tallulah, LA 71282	(318) 574-4158, ext. 3
Morehouse	Bastrop	Morehouse SWCD	9604 Marlatt Street, Bastrop, LA 71220	(318) 283-7626, ext. 3
Natchitoches	Natchitoches	Natchitoches SWCD	6949 Louisiana Highway 1 Bypass, Natchitoches, LA 71457	(318) 357-8366, ext. 3
Orleans	Boutte	Crescent SWCD	14246 US Highway 90, Boutte, LA 70039	(985) 758-2162, ext. 3
Ouachita	Monroe	D'Arbonne/Boeuf River SWCD	2410 Old Sterlington Road, Suite B, Monroe, LA 71203-2668	(318) 343-4467, ext. 3
Plaquemines	Boutte	Plaquemines SWCD	14246 US Highway 90, Boutte, LA 70039	(985) 758-2162, ext. 3
Pointe Coupee	New Roads	Upper Delta SWCD	180 East Main Street, New Roads, LA 70760	(225) 638-7746, ext. 3
Rapides	Alexandria	Rapides SWCD	3734 Government Street, Building C, Alexandria, LA 71303	(318) 473-7856, ext. 3
Red River	Coushatta	Red River SWCD	1311 Ringgold Avenue, Coushatta, LA 71019	(318) 932-4352, ext. 3
Richland	Rayville	Boeuf River SWCD	141 Industrial Loop, Rayville, LA 71269	(318) 728-4451, ext. 3
Sabine	Many	Sabine SWCD	570 Highway 171 By Pass, Many, LA 71449	(318) 256-3491
St. Bernard	Boutte	Crescent SWCD	14246 US Highway 90, Boutte, LA 70039	(985) 758-2162, ext. 3
St. Charles	Boutte	Crescent SWCD	14246 US Highway 90, Boutte, LA 70039	(985) 758-2162, ext. 3
St. Helena	Amite	Tangipahoa-St. Helena SWCD	805 West Oak Street, Suite 1, Amite, LA 70422-2820	(985) 748-8751, ext. 3
St. James	Donaldsonville	Lower Delta SWCD and New River SWCD	2274 Highway 70, Suite C, Donaldsonville, LA 70346	(225) 473-7638, ext. 3
St. John	Boutte	Crescent SWCD	14246 US Highway 90, Boutte, LA 70039	(985) 758-2162, ext. 3
St. Landry	Opelousas	St. Landry SWCD	5832 I-49 North Service Road, Opelousas, LA 70570	(337) 942-2530, ext. 3
St. Martin	Lafayette	St. Martin SWCD	905 Jefferson Street, Suite 310, Lafayette, LA 70501-7913	(337) 262-6601, ext. 3
St. Mary	Franklin	St. Mary SWCD	500 Main Street, Franklin, LA 70538	(337) 828-1461, ext. 3
St. Tammany	Franklinton	Bogue Chitto-Pearl River SWCD	1111 Washington Street, Franklinton, LA 70438	(985) 839-5688, ext. 3
Tangipahoa	Amite	Tangipahoa-St. Helena SWCD	805 West Oak Street, Suite 1, Amite, LA 70422-2820	(985) 748-8751, ext. 3
Tensas	St. Joseph	Tensas-Concordia SWCD	1223 Plank Road, St. Joseph, LA 71366	(318) 766-3502, ext. 3
Terrebonne	Thibodaux	Lafourche-Terrebonne SWCD	143 Laura Drive, Thibodaux, LA 70301	(985) 447-3871, ext. 3
Union	Farmerville	D'Arbonne SWCD	501 Glory Road, Farmerville, LA 71241	(318) 368-8021
Vermilion	Abbeville	Vermilion SWCD	3221 Veterans Memorial Drive, Suite H, Abbeville, LA 70510	(337) 893-5664, ext. 3
Vernon	Leesville	Calcasieu SWCD	205 North 5th Street, Leesville, LA 71446	(337) 239-2193
Washington	Franklinton	Bogue Chitto-Pearl River SWCD	1111 Washington Street, Franklinton, LA 70438	(985) 839-5688, ext. 3
Webster	Minden	Dorcheat SWCD	216B Broadway, Minden, LA 71055	(318) 377-3950, ext. 3
West Baton Rouge	Addis	Upper Delta SWCD	7747 Highway 1, South, Addis, LA 70710	(225) 687-2184, ext. 3
West Carroll	Oak Grove	West Carroll SWCD	208 South Constitution Street, Oak Grove, LA 71263	(318) 428-9303, ext. 3
West Feliciana	Clinton	Feliciana SWCD	9752 Plank Road South, Clinton, LA 70722	(225) 683-5496, ext. 3
Winn	Natchitoches	Dugdemona SWCD	6949 Louisiana Highway 1 Bypass, Natchitoches, LA 71457	(318) 357-8366, ext. 3



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