



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## Agricultural Workshop in Jim Wells County on Aug. 14

The Jim Wells County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) will be hosting a free agricultural workshop on Wed. Aug. 14 at the Women's Building at the Jim Wells County Fairgrounds. Registration starts at 5:30 p.m. with the program at 6 p.m.

The workshop is also be sponsored by the USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board (TSSWCB), Jim Wells County - Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service (A&M) and the Texas-Mexico Border Coalition Community based organization (CBO).

The workshop will include an open town hall type meeting where farmers, ranchers and interested citizens can provide input for the local working group (LWG) to identify and prioritize the natural resource concerns that need to be addressed through conservation programs and assistance offered by NRCS next year.

"The purpose of this annual LWG meeting is to set local conservation priorities and bring conservation stakeholders together to discuss conservation topics and issues relevant to helping Jim Wells County farmers and ranchers better conserve on-farm natural resources," said Bruce Healy, NRCS district conservationist for the county. "Providing input does not obligate anyone to participate in the voluntary conservation programs."

The agenda of the meeting is to update attendees on recent conservation efforts and to collect public input to help guide future conservation activities. Through regular identification of conservation opportunities, effective Farm Bill investment can continue to benefit Jim Wells County.

Aisha Cruz, with the Texas-Mexico Border Coalition will be discussing how farmers, ranchers, conservationists, and others interested in how to apply and obtain federal technical and financial assistance to improve private lands. She will also discuss how historically underserved producers such as beginning and socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers can receive assistance.

Dr. Joe Paschal, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service Beef Specialist from Corpus Christi, will be discussing "**Emergency Preparedness for Livestock Operations.**" Getting your house ready for a hurricane is something most folks know – but do you know what your process should be for your livestock?

The workshop is free and a meal will be provided to those who pre-register by calling Jackie Hinojosa or Bruce Healy at the USDA- NRCS office at 361-668-8361 ext. 3.

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