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NRCS Activity Report

August 2016

MESSAGE FROM NRCS STATE CONSERVATIONIST SALVADOR SALINAS

Conservation Partner:

NRCS and SWCDs are making great strides as we enter into new and untested conservation markets. This is challenging, but exciting, as we build on our ever expanding conservation portfolio. Following are but a few examples of our non-traditional conservation efforts.

The Texas conservation partnership continues to gain national recognition for innovative and non-traditional approaches to conservation. USDA officials such as Dr. Joe Leonard, assistant secretary for civil rights visited Texas July 21 – 24, 2016 to meet with: NRCS, FSA, and RD employees, producers to discuss their agricultural operations, organizations who are expanding the reach of USDA agencies, community based organizations helping NRCS and FSA to reach socially disadvantaged producers, and to congratulate NRCS on its assistance to IDEA Schools in San Antonio, Weslaco and Houston.

Additionally, I was asked to submit a proposal for a field visit and tour by Secretary of Agriculture Vilsack this fall. Our proposal included a tour of our work in partnership with BUG building marshland and migratory bird sanctuaries with Houston Ship Channel dredge materials. We look forward to hearing from the Secretary's office.

I was invited to a meeting in Fort Worth to discuss agricultural zoning of vacant lots for community gardens and urban farming. Michael Brooks, district conservationist in Arlington, attended on my behalf to provide information about the technical and financial services the local conservation partnership provides. Michael was invited to a follow up meeting and provided specific information about the help available from NRCS and SWCDs. The City of Fort Worth will vote and likely approve zoning vacant lots for urban farming and community garden purposes. I received congratulatory messages from Chief Weller and Secretary Vilsack's office for our employee's efforts in engaging urban sectors to assist in erasing food deserts, educating urban youth on agriculture and bridging traditional agriculture and urban agricultural gaps. This is a giant step for our partnership - engaging urban producers, educating urban communities and legislators, and broadening our conservation reach.

As NRCS's conservation services, programs and initiatives portfolio expands, so does the outreach effort to inform its traditional clients and potential new and non-traditional clients. Outreach events and clinics are on-going in all areas of Texas, and I thank SWCD Directors and District employees for helping to plan and participate in these events. Urban farming in Fort Worth, establishment of community gardens in Dallas, San Antonio, Houston and Weslaco; and assisting organic producers and those who grow free range chickens are just some of the results of Chief Weller's priority of broadening our reach and reaching new customers.

But, we are not forgetting our traditional agricultural clientele. NRCS has been busy assisting producers in finalizing new EQIP contracts, helping producers apply conservation practices to the land, finalizing ACEP agreements, helping new partnerships with RCPP proposals, partnering with the TSSWCB on implementation of the State's Watershed Rehabilitation workload, actively implementing new conservation efforts such as the Monarch Butterfly Habitat Development Project and urban

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URBAN AG AND CONSERVATION EFFORTS INCREASING

Michael Brooks, NRCS district conservationist in Arlington, attended a Fort Worth Planning and Zoning meeting on July 13. The primary topic of discussion was a proposal to allow urban gardens and farms to be developed on vacant lots. Comments from residents, bee keepers associations, and fresh food organizations were made to the council, praising the work and commending the City on moving forward.

Brooks commented about the many ways NRCS supports urban conservation and provided the Council with several handouts on who NRCS is, community gardens, backyard conservation and other technical materials. Fred Hall, Tarrant County extension agent, also commented the he would provide support through technical assistance and pesticide applicator trainings.

The proposal will go to the City Council to vote on Aug. 2, 2016. Most anticipate it will pass due to the strong support from the community and Council.

As a result of information provided and contacts made at the meeting, North Texas Metro Beekeepers Association has invited Brooks to speak about NRCS and programs at their next meeting, which Brooks anticipates attending.

Michael Brooks, NRCS DC in Arlington, recently attended a Fort Worth City Planning and Zoning Meeting to discuss a city proposal to allow urban gardens and farms in vacant lots.

MESSAGE FROM NRCS STATE CONSERVATIONIST SALVADOR SALINAS - CONT.

conservation, and delivering on the Chief Weller's Agency-wide Priorities, which are:

1. Deliver excellent and innovative service.
2. Strengthen and modernize conservation delivery.
3. Enhance and expand NRCS's scientific and technical capabilities.
4. Broaden our reach, customers, and partners.

And, finally in response to requests for easier access to NRCS field offices and employees, NRCS developed the Conservation Client Gateway (CCG), a web base tool that precisely meets this goal. The CCG allows NRCS clients to access their NRCS field office remotely to schedule meetings with NRCS employees, apply for NRCS programs, review conservation plans and contracts, review applications for payment, sign applications for payment, and track their payments. The CCG saves time and improves efficiencies, especially for clients who live outside their SWCD or absentee land owners.

Chief Weller monitors the status of CCG registrations and users weekly, and Texas NRCS has been recognized for leading the Nation with CCG registered users.

Access to CCG is at www.nrcs.usda.gov/clientgateway. NRCS field office employees will provide additional information and assist producers register for CCG.

Indeed we are entering a brave and exciting conservation world that tests our conservation commitment, conservation leadership and strength, conservation stewardship ethic, core relationship, and community trust. Let us embrace these challenges and work toward building on our past successes to build new and strong urban partnerships to last another 75 years.

And to begin this new era, what better way to start than by celebrating the dedication of a new office for the Nation's Premier State Conservation Agency and from where to lead Texas' Conservation. Congratulations!!

Thank you for the support, partnership and conservation leadership in Texas.

Salvador Salinas

A production field of grain sorghum was one of the stops along Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights Dr. Joe Leonard's recent conservation Texas tour.

NRCS EMPLOYEES RECEIVE TRAINING

A group of Zone 5 employees recently gathered in Hamilton, Texas, for a Conservation Planning Workshop. Training was conducted indoors and outdoors, with many speakers delivering informative presentations. Jason Johnson, associate professor and extension economist with Texas A&M University and the Texas AgriLife Service spoke about landowner conservation planning and objectives, and the economics of conservation.

A training highlight was a visit to the Lucky 7 Ranch were Hamilton High School students Harley Rogers and Lauren Lee spoke to the group about their ag operations. Lee and her family have a Wagyu beef cattle operation which she is very active in managing and marketing. Rogers and her family have a Hereford grassfed beef business. Rogers shared with the group some of her business tactics.

The workshop also included visits to a local ranch and farm where multiple conservation practices are being implemented. Being immersed in the outdoor setting was a valuable opportunity for Zone specialists to visit with the employees in attendance about topics varying from agronomy and engineering to riparian areas, range management and soil health.

"This was an excellent opportunity for our employees to get together, share their knowledge and experience and ask the questions we all have from time to time," said Laura Broyles, then acting Zone 5 assistant state conservationist for operations. "It was a great forum for a lot of in-depth discussions. Each employee took a lot away from the training."

Zone 5 Engineer Kenneth Mayben provides some valuable riparian area awareness and conservation training.

NRCS STATE CONSERVATIONIST VISITS SOIL HEALTH DEMONSTRATION SITE

Farmers' Ronnie and R.N. Hopper recently hosted NRCS State Conservationist Salvador Salinas and Assistant State Conservationist Darren Richardson at their farm near Petersburg. Hopper's family farming operation is uniquely managed with a systematic approach.

For several years now, the Hoppers have worked alongside the Hale County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) and the NRCS as one of the progressive farmers participating in Hale County SWCD's Soil Health Demonstration project.

NRCS Agronomist Brandt Underwood based in Lubbock said, "The purpose of the project, for Hale County participating farmers like the Hoppers, is to incorporate mixed species cover crops into their current cropping systems to evaluate possible increases in soil microbiology, improvements to the soil profile, and positive plant responses."

Underwood has conducted multiple field reviews and evaluations for the demonstration sites.

"Project data for the Hopper farms in 2014 and 2015 shows a positive trend in soil health," Underwood said. "At this time though, we are not sure the findings are typical. It may take multiple growing seasons to find out."

NRCS State Conservationist Salvador Salinas visits no-till farm during his visit to the High Plains in July.

R.N. Hopper said, "Several factors lined up very well last winter and this spring to achieve these results." He credits the recent findings to timely rains, getting the cover crop planted early and the use of no-till farming practices.

The Hoppers are keeping an optimistic view and looking forward to next year's soil health tests results.

The Hopper's will be hosting a Residue Management Field Day at their farm with help from the NRCS and the Hale County SWCD on August 18-19. R.N. Hopper will be addressing soil health and management strategies they have applied on their farms over the years.

FORNEY FIELD OFFICE HOSTS MEXICAN DELEGATION

On July 15, the Forney Service Center FSA office hosted a delegation from Mexico called Mexico's Ministry of Agriculture. The group's objectives are "to find new collaborations and bring knowledge back to the state of San Luis Potosi." Several visits were also planned in the Dallas- Fort Worth area. The visit was initiated by Mario Cesar Ramirez, director of Oficina De Enlase, Dallas, Texas, and Ivan Suarez, FSA County Executive Director in Forney. Their purpose was to gain knowledge in USDA programs in commodity support, loans, and conservation. Suarez invited Forney NRCS staff, Glenn Lubke and Ronnie Beerwinkle, to attend the meeting to learn and answer questions regarding conservation programs. An overview of FSA programs was given by Suarez. Lubke gave a history of NRCS, Soil and Water Conservation Districts and how conservation programs are delivered. Beerwinkle spoke briefly on EQIP with regard to the adoption of improved conservation practices. The delegation's focus was on small landowners and how to help them improve their profitability and living conditions and efforts toward recruiting the next generation of agriculturalists.

MORE FARMERS EXPERIMENT USING COVER CROPS ON THE HIGH PLAINS

Texas High Plains farmer Kent Hollingsworth of Deaf Smith County was looking for new ways to improve his soil health when he turned to NRCS to find out about cover crop options through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP).

In 2015, Hollingsworth was approved for an EQIP contract to plant a recommended mix of multiple cover crop species of Austrian Winter peas, Hairy Vetch, Radishes, wheat and Triticale.

NRCS Agronomist Brandt Underwood from Lubbock worked with Taylor McCumber, conservation planner with the local field office in Hereford to provide technical assistance to Hollingsworth to incorporate more soil health practices into his existing minimum tillage strategies.

"Kent is moving more toward a systematic approach to improve his soil health," Underwood said. "He's willing to take the extra step to try something new using multi-species cover crops."

Underwood added that more farmers are considering cover crop options with financial assistance through EQIP.

"It can be expensive as a multi-species crop, and with limited moisture in this arid climate on the High Plains, its taking time for us and the farmers to learn how the cover crops will perform," he said.

Taylor McCumber, conservation planner with NRCS is surrounded by mixed species of cover crops in Kent Hollingsworth field in Deaf Smith County.

BURN IT AND THEY WILL COME

Prescribed fire was the talk of the town at the Rolling Plains Quail Research Ranch (RPQRR) near Roby, Texas where close to 100 guests attended a Fire Appreciation Day. The day's conversation focused on utilizing fire as a natural resource management tool. Fire has been a part of the North American continent ecosystem since the beginning of time.

"Fire is a crescent-wrench for natural resource managers in West Texas and it can accomplish multiple objectives simultaneously, but it's not without risk," said Dale Rollins, director of the RPQRR. "Our goal today is to showcase how we've used prescribed burning since the inception of the RPQRR in 2007 including some successes, failures, and some surprises."

The day consisted of a research ranch tour where speakers discussed prescribed fire, brush management, plants, livestock, wildfire, and mechanical brush control demonstrations. Expert speakers included prescribed burn managers, researchers, landowners, government agencies, contractors, herbicide representatives, grazing specialists, and graduate students who are conducting research.

"Putting fire back on the landscape is the most underutilized tool that landowners use today, especially with the increase in population and county officials who are quick to implement burn bans," said Morgan Russell, research associate with Texas AgriLife Extension. "There is no silver bullet that will fix everything but adding fire will manipulate plants, soil, livestock, and wildlife."

According to Russell, prescribed burning can benefit management practices including wildfire mitigation, reduction of invasive or unwanted plant species, increase forbs and invertebrate production for wildlife such as quail and turkey, improve wildlife habitat and help create palatable forages for livestock.

"Technical assistance is available to landowners to help develop your conservation plan and financial assistance will allow you to implement the plan," said Ethan McJames, rangeland management specialist with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). "Prescribed fire is just one of the practices to consider as a land manager. To address your resource concern, in addition to fire guards, other practices include brush management, range planting, and cross fencing for grazing management, water development, and the list goes on."

The common theme of each topic was to have a plan, implement the plan, and evaluate the results. This will allow land managers to learn from successes and failures which will strengthen future management decisions.

"By utilizing all of the tools in your toolbox, a land manager will allow diversity and sustainability," said Rollins. "Whether you are managing for quail, deer, turkey, or livestock, resource managers need to keep up to date with those conservation practices that can help improve your overall rangeland health to achieve your management goals and objectives, because there is not a one size fits all management plan or practice."

Dale Rollins discusses RPQRR fire history and planning fire prescriptions with input from certified burn managers, NRCS, and area ranchers that utilize this conservation practice as a land management tool.

SOIL HEALTH AND USDA OPPORTUNITIES

Soil health and opportunities through USDA for minorities were the topics of discussion on June 11 at a NRCS workshop held on Robert Brown's ranch near Wolfe City, Texas. Hosted by the Texas Small Farmers and Ranchers Community Based Organization (TSFR-CBO), the event served to education CBO members about various available conservation assistance.

Kalissa Garland leads a discussion in soil health on Robert Brown's ranch near Wolfe City, Texas.

"We work with a lot of USDA agencies," said TSFR CBO Director Wade Ross. "NRCS has always been so wonderful to work with. They are the agency that puts the boots on the ground to work one-on-one with producers. And that's where the education comes in – when you can talk one-on-one with someone and explain options and opportunities on their land."

Kalissa Garland, NRCS district conservationist in Bonham, gave a presentation on soil health. She talked to the group about various management activities that can actually improve soil health, which in turn improves crop production and water quality, while also realizing additional benefits.

Monica Purviance, NRCS district conservationist in Greenville, gave a presentation on opportunities through the Strike Force for Rural Growth and Opportunity Initiative. StrikeForce is a multi-agency national initiative focused on providing better service in persistent poverty communities through the coordination of outreach activities among USDA agencies, community-based organizations' and partners. StrikeForce is offered in 96 Texas counties.

Troy Mumphree, regional director for TSFR CBO and retired NRCS Outreach Coordinator, organized the event. Mumphree stated he plans to have several more similar workshops held throughout his region in northeast Texas.

During Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights Dr. Joe Leonard's recent visit to Texas, he provided the keynote address during the Texas Small Farmers and Ranchers CBO meeting held in Marlin. More than 35 people representing farmers, ranchers, USDA officials and employees and SWCD directors attended the June event.

EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

In 2014, Sonia Burgos Colon joined NRCS in Texas as a district conservationist in Perryton. As a tenured employee, Sonia made the decision to move her family to Texas from Puerto Rico. Not a typical move most would consider - leaving their homeland and family members to relocate to a small, rural community.

Sonia started her professional career with NRCS in 2005 as a soil conservationist technician. She later became a soil conservationist working in three different offices in Puerto Rico. Prior to her NRCS employment, she worked in the private sector as an agronomist. Sonia also provided support to human resource departments using her Spanish language skills.

As Sonia became settled in her Texas job, she applied to participate in the local Leadership Perryton program. She graduated from the Leadership Perryton XIV class in May. She, and other community leaders successfully completed a course in leadership development, teamwork, goal setting, conflict management, customer service and more.

Sonia was born and raised in the Caribbean Island of Puerto Rico. She attended the University of Puerto Rico where she earned a Bachelor's of Science in Agriculture Science in 1994, and a Master's Degree in Environmental Evaluation in 2005.

CIVIL RIGHTS TEXAS TOUR

Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights Dr. Joe Leonard Jr., USDA Office of Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights (OASCR) and his staff from Washington D.C., visited Texas in June to meet with state USDA leadership, partners and others to share and discuss available assistance opportunities through the USDA.

Dr. Leonard and staff, along with Salvador Salinas, Texas state conservationist, USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS); Paco Valentin, Texas state director of Rural Development (RD), and Tommy Miertschin, county executive director with USDA-Farm Service Agency (FSA), met with representatives at the Emma S. Barrientos Mexican American Cultural Center in Austin to discuss ideas and ways to develop a farmer's market that draws in minority farmers and ranchers.

USDA officials also hosted a workshop with Roger C. Rocha Jr., national president of the League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC) at Laredo Community College. The gathering provided an opportunity for Dr. Leonard and staff to share about OASCR efforts across the U.S. NRCS, FSA, RD and the USDA's Risk Management Agency (RMA) also shared about their programs and services.

Urban agriculture and healthy eating for youth were topics during a visit to IDEA Monterrey Park school in San Antonio. The group visited the school garden that OASCR provided a $3,000 grant to in 2015. Funds went toward the purchase of supplies for building the school garden. Cecile Parrish, central Texas farm coordinator for IDEA, shared about plans for developing an educational farm, near the school, that will also provide food for the school cafeteria.

Dr. Leonard and USDA officials then toured areas impacted by flood damage in Hays County that was impacted by historic rains and flooding in 2015. NRCS in Texas will receive $21 million in conservation funding through the agency's Emergency Watershed Protection Program (EWPP) to repair damages in 17 Texas counties affected by the severe 2015 flooding.

WORKSHOP HELPS VALLEY FARMERS GAIN KNOWLEDGE ON STARTING THEIR OWN FARM OR RANCH

For the 25 attendees at the Hope House at the Yaweh's All Natural Farm and Ranch workshop in Harlingen, it was an exciting time of learning what resources are available to assist in achieving their goal of farming, ranching or even large scale gardening. Some came because they were already working with Yaweh owners Diana and Saul Padilla, and wanted to learn more about the programs the Padilla's use to accomplish their successes. Others came because they had agricultural land and wanted to know what resources were available to help them start farming or ranching.

Diana Padilla opened the workshop by sharing how she and her husband, Saul, have worked with the USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) to improve their agricultural production and water usage through land leveling, a drip irrigation system, a rain water harvester, seasonal high tunnel and grass planting.

The free event was hosted by the Texas Mexico Border Coalition and the NRCS through USDA's StrikeForce for Rural Growth and Opportunity Initiative, of which Texas is one of 21 states within the initiative. NRCS Public Affairs Specialist, Melissa Blair, shared with the group how through StrikeForce, NRCS is working with more farmers and ranchers than ever in communities that face persistent poverty. As a result, these producers are seeing their operations become more sustainable while their conservation practices help promote clean air and water, healthy soils and wildlife habitat.

NRCS Agronomist, Bruce Henderson, enlightened the audience about the importance of soil health in a productive and sustainable farm or ranch, as well as how birds, bees and pollinators also help improve vegetable and crop production. Cameron County District Conservationist, Oz Longoria, shared how NRCS can provide technical and financial assistance for conservation planning to improve the natural resources, soil health, help develop pollinator habitat or for installing seasonal higher tunnels. Henderson and Longoria also shared how NRCS can help with organic and transitioning to organic production. The workshop wrapped up with a tour of the Padilla's seasonal high tunnel which featured tomatoes, peppers and an assortment of vegetables that attendees were able to enjoy as appetizers during the workshop.

One attendee, Jesse Sanchez Jr. from Mission, came to learn what he could do to put his grandfather's dormant agricultural land back into production He was excited to make contacts and learn about the resources available to help him prevent costly mistakes and lost time.

"In fact, the next day I already had the ball rolling by making visits to the USDA-NRCS and Farm Service Agency (FSA) offices in Edinburg, where I ran into a rancher friend who was working with both agencies," said Sanchez. "I was able to gather more helpful information for my endeavor and learn about more benefits of working with USDA agencies to help me accomplish my goals."

WATERSHED REHABILITATION PROJECTS UPDATE

NRCS in Texas continues to make headway on the state's watershed rehabilitation projects. Current projects in the planning stages include Upper Brushy 32, Lower Brushy 20, Williams Creek 3. Plans for these three project are completed and authorized from Chief Weller. The plan for Cedar Creek 87A and Plum Creek 10, 12, 21 are completed, however NRCS is still awaiting signatures from sponsors before sending to NHQ. Chambers 10,11 are 90 percent complete

From the project design perspective, Williams Creek 3 and Upper Brushy 32 are 90 percent complete, East Fork above Lavon 4 is 50 percent complete and Lower Brushy 20 is 30 percent complete.

Additionally, NRCS benefits realized from properly functioning flood control structures impacted by flooding events in May and June of this year, have totaled more than $9M in Fayette, Erath and Kaufman counties.

Steel reinforcement on Plum Creek

Auxiliary spillway foundation – Plum Creek 6

RIPARIAN WORKSHOP

Wichita County Commissioners, Vernon City manager and staff, area residents and natural resources specialists recently convened on the banks of the Wichita River to discuss how upland management practices affect stream function, particularly during flooding events.

Riparian workshop attendees on the banks of the Wichita River to discuss how upland management practices affect stream function

The workshop covered the interaction of hydrology erosion and deposition, and the riparian vegetation for North Central Texas creeks and rivers. This workshop was hosted by the NRCS, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, Tarrant Regional Water District, in cooperation with the Wichita Soil and Water Conservation District, Hotter'N Hell 100, and Wichita Falls Streams and Valleys.

Topics covered included channels, floodplains, water table, vegetation, base flow, flood flow, sediment and how these in combination are what make up a Riparian Area. The term "proper functioning condition," or PFC, was discussed. Examples were given to assists in promoting the understanding of healthy creeks and rivers.

"We showcased how different upland management practices affect stream conditions," said event organizer Eileen Vale, resource conservationist for NRCS in Iowa Park. "When you look at a water system like the Wichita River and its function, it tells you a lot about what is going on in the landscape around it. We are wanting to bring awareness to those management activities."

UPDATE ON EWP PROJECTS IN ZONE 5

In May, Zone 5 received $6.1 million in conservation funding through the USDA Emergency Watershed Protection (EWP) Program to repair damages in five north Texas counties affected by severe flooding that occurred in May 2015.

Sponsors have been actively working on these projects and zone staff has been deployed to assist as needed. Cooke, Dallas and Denton are still in the early stages of getting agreements signed and details worked out. Construction has not yet started.

Montague has been surveyed and is being designed by State Office engineers. Wise County is working with the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) on relocation plans for fish - which should start soon. In Navarro County, agreements have been finalized with TWPD on fish removal or relocation. Repairs should begin in the very near future.

PROGRAMS REPORT

EQIP – Field office staff are fully engaged in writing conservation plans and contracts for funded applicants. On July 18, the balance of state held funding was allocated to high-quality applicants - there is a high demand for program participation. Even though we allocated funding after April 15, our initial application period, we still have 2,628 applications requesting $85M in funding. Additional funding has been requested, however, attaining it does not look promising. All of the EQIP funding in Texas has been allocated to high-quality applications. The $1M difference between the FY16 funding and amount obligated is a result of cost overruns and cost estimate miscalculations. We are still accepting applications and will continue to do so. If no additional funding is received to address the demand, we will carry over those applications for consideration of FY17 program funding.

CSP – We ended the open sign-up for CSP on March 31. Texas received 620 applications on 900,000 acres. As noted in the table below, Texas was only allocated 300,000 acres so competition for this program is extremely high. Additional acres were requested to address the 600,000 acres that will not be funded. It is unknown if any acres from other states will be turned back and made available to Texas. Acres were allocated on July 20 and the field is working through the field verification process with a completion deadline for signed contracts of September 15.

ACEP – We received $11.4M in funding for ACEP and have agreements in place to obligate all of this funding prior to the end of the fiscal year. We are working with cooperating sponsors who are matching funding amounts from NRCS to get easement agreements, surveys, restoration (if needed) and closings scheduled. This is a time consuming process and we expect to complete the easement acquisitions by the end of the year.

Program	Applications	FY 16 Funding	Program Demand	Amount Obligated	Program Balance
ACEP	15	$11.4M	$25M	$11.4M	$0
EQIP	2628	$69M	$85M	$68M	$1M
CSP	620	300,000 Ac. (Texas Goal)	900,000 Ac.	300,000 Ac.	0 Ac.

MEETINGS STATE CONSERVATIONIST IS SCHEDULED TO ATTEND

TAMU Beef Cattle Short Course,
College Station, TX - August 1-3, 2016

TSSWCB Meeting and Dedication,
Temple, TX - August 4, 2016

South Central NACD,
Arkansas - August 10-12, 2016

NCAT Meeting – Organic Producers,
Austin, TX - August 30, 2016

NatGLC Fall Meeting , *Greenville, SC - September 7-10, 2016.*

TSSWCD Director's Annual Meeting , *Waco, TX - October 16-19, 2016.*

NLT Meeting, *Cleveland, OH - October 17-21, 2016.*

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