



United States Department of Agriculture

Louisiana Conservation Update

October 2015

Wildlife Conservation in Franklin Parish

Soils and Products We Use

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

Projects • Successes • Partnerships



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Wildlife conservation is an important part of a wetland reserve easement. To find out how an easement in Franklin Parish is benefitting wildlife 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

Fall in Louisiana, you just can't beat it! Cooler temperatures, vibrant orange and gold leaves on the trees, football, football and more football. When I think of this time of year, images of white cotton bolls waiting to be harvested come to mind, along with tall, green rows of sugarcane fields lining the sides of the highways and byways of our great state.

With agriculture, fall is also a time to think about the year ahead, planning and preparing for the future. We have all heard the saying, "There's no time like the present," and that is especially true when it comes to NRCS programs. Some of our most popular programs are taking applications now for 2016. In fact, to be considered for the initial evaluation period for this year's funding for the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), applications must be received by the local field office by November 20th. This is important because the application process is highly competitive and most if not all of the contracts will be awarded in the initial evaluation process. If you are searching for ways to improve water quality, wildlife habitat, forest health, irrigation efficiency and mitigate soil erosion then look no further than EQIP. This is our largest private lands cost-sharing conservation program with priorities set locally with our partnering soil and water conservation districts.

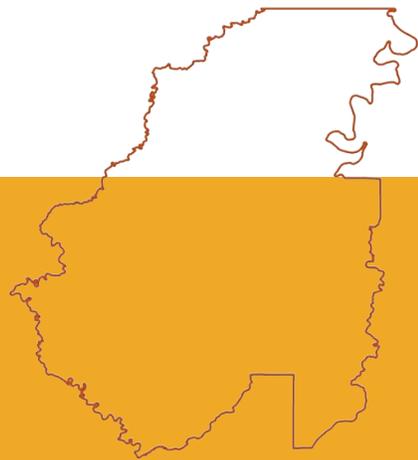
In this month's conservation update, we meet James Moore a life-long resident and farmer from Franklin Parish who has successfully utilized NRCS programs to improve the natural resources on his farm. Mr. Moore has experienced first-hand how EQIP, Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) and most recently Wetland Reserve Easements using the Agriculture Conservation Easement Program (ACEP-WRE) provide benefits to his farm. He is an incredible example of how land owners can incorporate several NRCS programs to realize the greatest conservation outcomes.

Our district conservationists and local soil and water conservation district offices throughout the state are the best resources we have as an agency. I encourage you to visit your local office and work with our employees to learn more about how NRCS can partner with you to meet conservation objectives for your farm, ranch, and forestland.

Kevin D. Norton
State Conservationist



Franklin Parish Ag Facts



There are 915 farms in Franklin Parish
246,122 acres of land is in farms
13.1% is pastureland and 15.4% is forestland
Feed grains are the #1 commodity of the parish

From www.agcensus.usda.gov



James Moore is a life-long resident of Franklin Parish, Louisiana. He and his family have always farmed in the parish. Currently, Moore is farming approximately 2,000 acres which is mainly in row crop production but he also has 200 head of cattle.

Several years ago when cotton prices fell, Moore converted some of his land to pasture. He soon realized that not all of this land was suitable for cattle production. Having been a longtime customer of the Northeast Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) and NRCS, he knew where to go for help.

Upon learning of the benefits to his land, the wildlife that use his land and water quality, Moore decided to enroll some of his acreage into a wetland reserve easement.

“Conservation is a priority to me. I have been using conservation programs to achieve my goals for my farm since

1986,” said Moore. “Enrolling some of my acreage into a wetland reserve easement was a natural fit.”

Moore wants to be able to pass on the values and traditions he grew up with to his own children, which includes an appreciation of all species of wildlife.

To help achieve his main goal of benefitting wildlife, Moore constructed one shallow water area, installed a water control structure and planted approximately 20,000 trees.

The shallow water area provides critical habitat for migratory birds including waterfowl and a host of other wading and shore birds. This area also provides a source of drinking water for other wildlife including white-tail deer.

The water control structure was installed so that Moore can maintain a certain depth of water in the ponds and also allows for the areas to be drained each spring thereby promoting

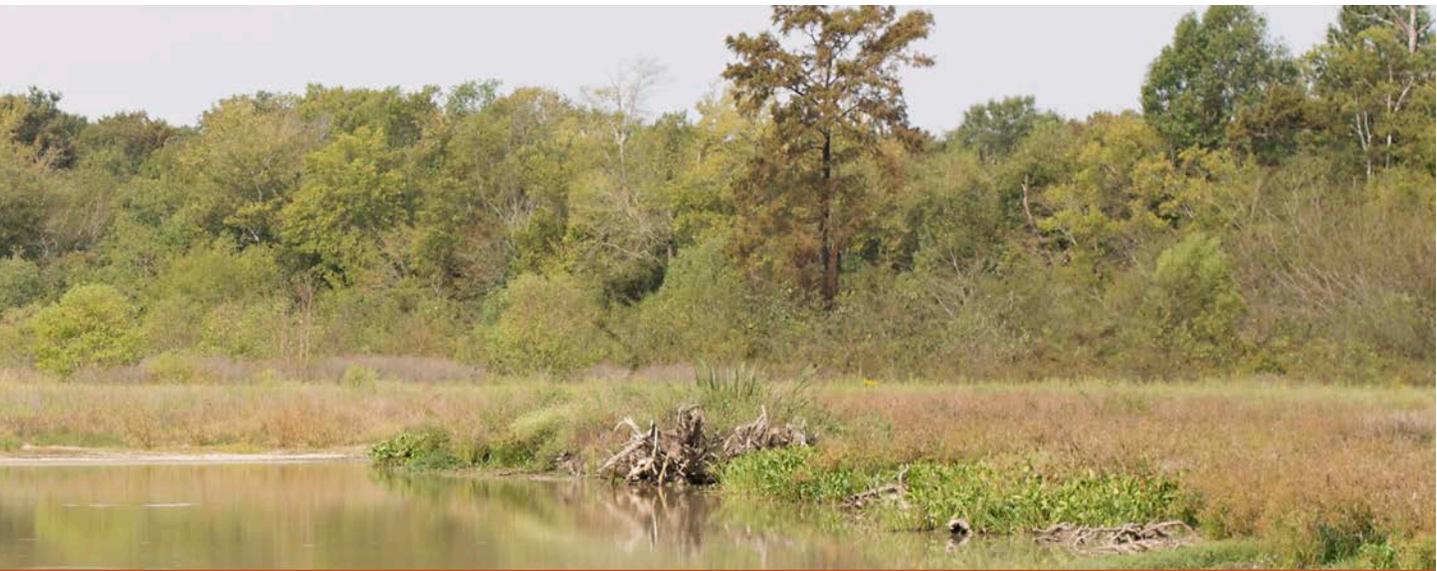
growth of aquatic vegetation, a vital food source for waterfowl.

A variety of hardwoods were planted including nutall oak, white oak, green ash, pecan and cypress which will provide a source of cover and food for all types of wildlife and birds.

Since then, Moore has seen deer, raccoons, rabbits, ducks, coyotes, bobcats, otters, beavers, mink, a variety of shorebirds and waders as well as the federally protected Louisiana black bear and whooping cranes on his easement.

Another major goal for Moore is to improve the quality of water leaving his farm. The water from Moore’s cropland drains through the wetland area which acts like a filter before exiting his property and ultimately the watershed.

Moore said, “Water is the most crucial resource we have on earth. If we don’t



Conservation in Franklin Parish

do what's necessary to conserve and protect it, it will be detrimental for future generations."

Moore has also utilized other NRCS programs such as the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) and the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) to benefit the water resources on his farm.

Moore is truly a conservation leader. He actively works to make his farm the best it can be not only for himself, but for those around him and for future generations.

He spends time discussing the benefits of sound conservation to other farmers in the area and encourages others to visit the local office and improve their own farm's natural resources.





2015
International
Year of Soils

Soils and Products We Use

Submitted by: Mitchell Mouton, Assistant State Soil Scientist

Besides food and fiber - soils provide us with many more products that we use in our daily lives! Here are just a few examples of the products that come from soil:

- The clay used in making pottery, figurines, and fine china comes from soil. Clay is the smallest mineral fraction found in soil. It is very sticky, and holds together very well which makes it a great material for making plates, urns and building materials such as bricks and adobe.
- Mud or clay masks have been used for many centuries to detoxify, deeply cleanse, and soothe the skin. Even today there are therapeutic

treatments given, which include hot spring soaks and mud baths. At one time, Chênière Au Tigre located along the coast in Vermilion Parish had a hotel and health resort. People from all over would visit the island because they believed that the sandy mud was good for many maladies, including skin disorders.

- There are many products that are made from sand. Crystal, glass, and eye glasses are made from quartz, which is derived from sand. Computer chips in game controllers, laptops, tablets, and phones contain silicon, which also comes from sand. Besides these household products, the exterior of space shuttles have heat tiles made of ceramic fibers which are made from silica found in sand. The material must withstand the wide temperature range of cold space to atmospheric entry temperatures, minus 250 °F to nearly 3000 °F!

- Soil is also a very important source of commonly used antibiotics. Soils in natural environments have a very diverse ecosystem made up of billions of microbes per tablespoon of soil. The competition between these microbes were studied by scientists and adapted to help fight infections in the human body. Important antibiotics used to treat numerous infections and ailments would not have been possible without soil.

Not only is soil the primary source for our food but it is an important ingredient in many of the products we use on a daily basis. On a given day can you figure out how many products you use that comes from soil??

“Essentially, all life depends upon the soil. There can be no life without soil and no soil without life; they have evolved together.” – Charles Kellogg, 1938.

StrikeForce Initiative



Louisiana Update

for Rural Growth and Opportunity

The agreements that NRCS had with the various grassroots organizations in fiscal year 2015 yielded some positive results from the various meetings that were held in the designated StrikeForce Parishes. USDA had 146 requests for assistance and approximately 90% of the requests were from first-time USDA participants.

For fiscal year 2016, NRCS has entered into agreements with Trailblazer RC&D, Campti Field of Dreams, Acadiana RC&D, Capital RC&D and the Louisiana Armed Forces Foundation. The purpose for the agreements is to increase participation in NRCS programs and services by socially disadvantaged, limited resource, veteran and beginning farmers and ranchers in Louisiana in support of USDA's StrikeForce for Rural Growth and Opportunities Initiative.

These agreements have the following deliverables:

- Parish meetings in targeted StrikeForce parishes focused on reaching the socially disadvantaged, limited resource or beginning farmers and ranchers as defined by the 2014 Farm Bill.
- Multi-parish conservation field day/soil health presentation
- Multi-parish StrikeForce Event (The Big Event)/multi-parish soil health presentation
- Workshop focusing on conservation outreach to minority/underserved landowners.
- Workshops educating landowners and loggers on Forestry BMPs.
- Workshop educating landowners on marketing timber
- Annual Women in Agriculture Conference
- Multi-parish Annie's Project Statewide Advisory Meeting
- Conduct workshops focusing on the five risk management areas of

- farming with farm and ranch women
- Identify and develop a survey that will be mailed to combat veterans to determine interest in utilizing farming/ranching as therapy, or entering into farming/ranching as a vocation.
- Establish a partnership network with organizations to promote and solidify agricultural opportunities for veterans
- Host veterans mini-conference with national organizations
- Conduct veteran farmer workshops educating participants on using USDA programs for success.

With the partnerships that NRCS has established, we anticipate a prosperous fiscal new year in promoting USDA's StrikeForce for Rural Growth and Opportunities Initiative. Trailblazer RC&D kicked off the first StrikeForce Meeting of the fiscal year with an October 22, 2015, 5:30 pm meeting in Farmerville, Louisiana.

Around the State

September 26 National Hunting and Fishing Day

NRCS participated in this year's National Hunting and Fishing Day event held at the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Outdoor Education Center in Woodworth, Louisiana. Approximately 4,000 people attended the event.



October 14 CWPPRA 25th Anniversary Celebration

The CWPPRA Task Force hosted a 25th Anniversary Celebration on October 14,

2015, at Grand Isle State Park highlighting the construction success of CWPPRA's coastal restoration projects since its inception.

Speakers at the event included the Chairman of the CWPPRA Task Force, Colonel Richard L. Hansen and the Chairman of the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority, Chip Kline. Coalition to Restore Coastal Louisiana's Board of Directors member, Rob Gorman, then gave the group a brief history of how the coastal restoration movement began in Louisiana.

Colonel Hansen also recognized those individuals and entities who have worked on CWPPRA projects for 25 years.



Upcoming Events

November 17 - 19 Soil Health Workshops

NRCS will be hosting a series of free Soil Health Workshops featuring Ray Archuleta across the state on November 17 - 19, 2015. If you plan to attend, we ask that you RSVP to the numbers below.

November 17 Lake Providence, Louisiana

Please contact Deborah Morris at (318) 559-2604 Ext. 3 to RSVP or for more information.

November 18 Reeves, Louisiana

Please contact Rose Sharbeno at (337) 239-2193 to RSVP or for more information.

November 19 St. Francisville, Louisiana

Please contact Jean Vicknair at (225) 683-5496 Ext. 3 to RSVP or for more information.

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United States Department of Agriculture

Contact Our Offices

Visit our web site at:
www.la.nrcs.usda.gov

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	2259 Business Park Boulevard, Donaldsonville, LA 70346	(225) 473-7638, ext. 3
Assumption	Donaldsonville	Lower Delta SWCD	2259 Business Park Boulevard, 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	5417 Gerstner Memorial Drive, Lake Charles, LA 70601	(337) 474-1583, 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	5417 Gerstner Memorial Drive, Lake Charles, LA 70601	(337) 474-1583, 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	332 Lake Road, Mansfield, LA 71052	(318) 872-4949, ext. 3
East Baton Rouge	Denham Springs	Capital SWCD	907 Florida Boulevard, SW, Denham Springs, LA 70726	(225) 665-4253, 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	New Orleans	Crescent SWCD	1041 Rue La Cannes, Luling, LA 70070	(985) 331-9084
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	907 Florida Boulevard, SW, Denham Springs, LA 70726	(225) 665-4253, 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	New Orleans	Crescent SWCD	1041 Rue La Cannes, Luling, LA 70070	(985) 331-9084
Quachita	Monroe	D'Arbonne/Boeuf River SWCD	2410 Old Sterling Road, Suite B, Monroe, LA 71203-2668	(318) 343-4467, ext. 3
Plaquemines	New Orleans	Plaquemines SWCD	1041 Rue La Cannes, Luling, LA 70070	(985) 331-9084
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	New Orleans	Crescent SWCD	1041 Rue La Cannes, Luling, LA 70070	(985) 331-9084
St. Charles	New Orleans	Crescent SWCD	1041 Rue La Cannes, Luling, LA 70070	(985) 331-9084
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	2259 Business Park Boulevard, Donaldsonville, LA 70346	(225) 473-7638, ext. 3
St. John	New Orleans	Crescent SWCD	1041 Rue La Cannes, Luling, LA 70070	(985) 331-9084
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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