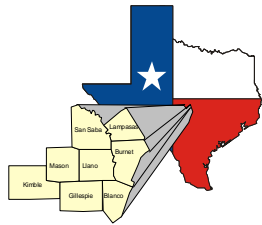




Hill Country  
Resource Conservation & Development Area, Inc.



**EXECUTIVE BOARD**

Marcia Dyer  
Chairman, San Saba County

C.K. Stevenson  
Vice-Chairman,  
San Saba County

Katy Murrah  
Secretary-Treasurer  
Blanco County

Reuben Geistweidt  
Member, Mason County

Travis Herring  
Member, Lampasas County

Ralph Whitman  
Member, Burnet County

Claudette Primeaux  
Member, Kimble County

Mike Reagor  
Member, Llano County

Curtis Cameron  
Member, Gillespie County

David Griffith  
Member-At-Large, Llano County

Dayton Weidenfeller  
Member-at-Large,  
Gillespie County

Jerry Bearden  
Member At-Large, Mason County

Staff  
Tori Dutton  
RC&D Coordinator

Barbara Walker  
Administrative Assistant

**Spring/Summer 2010**



***Spring Expo Coming to Mason in April***

Hill Country RC&D will sponsor a Spring Expo on April 23 at St. Paul Lutheran Church Fellowship Hall in Mason. Registration will be from 9:30-10:00 a.m. with the program starting at 10:00 a.m. A \$15.00 registration fee will be charged to cover the cost of handouts and lunch, catered by Zavala's. The program is as follows:

***Bill Luedecke, Burnet County Master Gardener/Master Naturalist***  
***"Organic Gardening & Composting"***

***Jeff Durst, The Greenhouse, Mason***

***"Organic Weed & Pest Control"***

***David Embry, NRCS Zone 2 Agronomist***

***"EQIP Organic Initiative"***

***Darren Clark, RC&D Coordinator, Knox City RC&D***

***"Water Well Screening"***

***Richard Heinichen, Founder of Tank Town World Headquarters,***

***"Rainwater Harvesting for the Home."***

When Richard Heinichen discovered that his well water was unacceptable, his determination to improve on it led to the birth of a full-scale rainwater collection and bottling facility in Dripping Springs. His company was also the first and only company licensed to bottle rainwater in America. He founded Tank Town 20 years ago after collecting his own rainwater and the word got out to his friends and neighbors. Tank Town has 15 rainwater tanks and a storage capacity of 300,000 gallons of water. Richard will be sharing his experiences and talking about "rainwater harvesting for the home."



**Three CEU's will be offered, two in IPM (Integrated Pest Management), and 1 in Laws & Regulations. Kyle Eckert, TX Dept. of Agriculture, will present the Laws & Regs portion from 2:30—3:30 p.m. Please call 325-347-5005 no later than April 16 to register.**

## Mike Reagor, Llano County, Joins Hill Country RC&D Council

Mike Reagor, Mayor of Llano, will represent Llano County on the Hill Country RC&D Council. Mike graduated from Texas A&M in 1974. He worked for NRCS in Gonzales in 1974, then Victoria in 1976. From 1982 to 2007 he was a Field Office Range Conservation Specialist in Llano, Mason and Junction. He retired from NRCS in 2007. He is currently Mayor of the City of Llano and actively involved with Economic Development, Main Street Project, Red Top Jail Tours & Renovation, Methodist Church Missions, Choir and Youth. We are very happy to welcome Mike to the Hill Country RC&D Council!



\*\*\*\*\*

## NRCS Offers Organic Production Assistance

Agriculture has been swinging toward organic production for the past several years, and to help producers striving to meet the regulations of organic certification, NRCS is offering assistance through the EQIP Organic Initiative.

Most of us are familiar with the aspects of the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) as a cost share program to promote environmental improvement, but we are less familiar with the Organic Initiative that was provided for in the 2008 Farm Bill. Under this program, NRCS can provide financial and technical assistance to producers transitioning to organic farming, or currently certified organic producers. The assistance from NRCS helps producers plan and implement conservation practices to allow their organic operations to be environmentally sustainable. Practices include assistance in implementing an Integrated Pest Management Plan, nutrient management, cross fencing, prescribed grazing, conservation crop rotation, cover crop, forage harvest management, etc. Participants may receive up to \$20,000 annually, or no more than \$80,000 in a six-year period. In order to qualify for this program, producers are required to carry out an Organic System Plan (OSP) or practices consistent with an OSP, and they must be pursuing an organic certification, or be in compliance with their current certification. Minimum contract term expires one year after the last scheduled practice is completed, with a maximum term of ten years. Applications are received continuously.

In addition to this program, there are also provisions for organic production in the Conservation Stewardship Program (CStP). This program operates on a similar level to CStP, targeting producers who have already applied the basic conservation practices and are willing to implement a higher level of conservation on their operations. Producers participating under CStP receive incentive payments for the specified higher levels of conservation treatment. For more information regarding NRCS assistance in organic production, please call the Mason Field Office at **(325) 347-5749**.

\*\*\*\*\*

## Marcia Dyer, San Saba County, Elected Chairman of Hill Country RC&D Council

New officers for FY2010 were elected at the recent Hill Country RC&D Council meeting in February. Marcia Dyer was elected Chairman, C.K. Stevenson, San Saba County, was elected Vice-Chairman, and Katy Murrah, Blanco County, was elected Secretary-Treasurer.

Marcia also serves as the Zone 2 Director on the RC&D Executive Board of Directors.



# Farm Safety Days.....

**Llano—April 9**

**Blanco (Blanco & Johnson City) - May 7**

**Mason/Junction—May 12**

**Lampasas ( Lampasas and Lometa) - May 13**



Spring is filled with Farm Safety Days!!!... Sponsors include Hill Country RC&D, Progressive Farmer, LCRA, NRCS & SWCD. These very important events teach 5th graders about Fire, Water, Seat Belt, Tractor, Lawnmower, ATV, Food, Electrical Safety, and whenever possible, students are given the opportunity to see a DPS Search & Rescue or Air Evac helicopter landing! The Mason/Junction Farm Safety Day will be held in Mason this year.

\*\*\*\*\*



Board members attended the Southwest States RC&D Conference in Ft. Worth March 14-17. Pictured at left: Elisha Kuehn, Asst. State Conservationist, San Angelo, Zone 2; and Grady Gibson, outgoing Hill Country RC&D Chairman.

Right: Travis Herring, (Lampasas County), Marcia Dyer, Grady Gibson



\*\*\*\*\*



## 2010 Annual Meeting Focuses on State Conservation Issues and Marketing Texas Products

Don Gohmert, State Conservationist, and Chandra Eggemeyer, Texas Department of Agriculture, were the keynote speakers at the 2010 Annual Meeting in Fredericksburg in February. Elisha Kuehn, NRCS in San Angelo, also gave an update on Zone 2. Don discussed current issues and activities at the State level. Chandra presented a colorful and informative presentation entitled, "Go Texan! What is It and How Do We Promote It?" Andy's Steak & Seafood Grille served a delicious lunch after the meeting to approximately 30 attendees. A big thanks to the following sponsors: The Commercial Bank in Mason and First State Bank Central Texas in Mason.

Hill Country RC&D Area, Inc.  
P.O. Box 303  
1224 Austin St. Suite A  
Mason, Texas 76856  
Phone: 325-347-5005  
Fax: 325-347-5003  
E-Mail: hillcountryrcd8@gmail.com



**Happy  
Easter!  
April 4**

VISIT  
OUR  
WEBSITE!



<http://www.hillcountryrcd.org>

*Our next Hill Country*

***RC&D Quarterly Meeting:***

**10:00 a.m.**

**Wednesday, April 28, 2010**

**NRCS Office**

**Mason, TX**

Persons with disabilities who plan to attend a meeting of the Hill Country Resource Conservation and Development Area, Inc. and who may need auxiliary aids or services, are requested to call (325) 347-5005 at least three (3) business days prior to the meeting so that appropriate arrangements can be made.

## Matching Grant Application Deadline April 23, 2010

Hill Country RC&D Area, Inc. is currently taking applications for the 2010 Matching Grant Program. Applications must meet at least one of the following the criteria: Community Growth & Development; Education & Technology; Natural Resources; and/or Economic Development. Applications for the Spring selection must be received in the Hill Country RC&D office by the close of business (or postmarked) on April 23, 2010. The 2010 Spring selection grant will be awarded in May. To request an application packet, call our office at 325-347-5005 or e-mail us at hillcountryrcd8@gmail.com. Also, you may download an application from our website: <http://www.hillcountryrcd.org>

\*\*\*\*\*

**Soil Stewardship Week**

**April 25—May 2, 2010**



The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or a part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD). To file a complaint of discrimination, write to USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410 or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.