



# STONE COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT

*January 2015*

## **POULTRY OPERATORS MUST REGISTER**

The Arkansas Natural Resources Commission (ANRC) and the Stone County Conservation District wants to remind all owners of Poultry Feeding Operations (PFOs) that the annual registration for PFO's begins January 1, 2015 in accordance with the Arkansas Poultry Feeding Operations Registration Act (Act 1060 of 2003). Registration dates will run through March 31 and affect any PFO with 2,500 or more confined fowl.

The ANRC administers the registration program for the purpose of collecting information on the number and type of poultry, and practices of poultry feeding operations in the state. The program is designed to preserve Arkansas' economy and water quality through registration, training and research. The goal of this program is to reduce the overabundance of phosphorus and nitrogen that threaten our water resources, while minimizing the impact on fertilizer users.

Each poultry producer will register their operation through the Stone County Conservation District. There will be an annual ten dollar registration fee per operation payable to the district.

Under Arkansas law, persons in the state of Arkansas who own or operate Poultry Feeding Operations where 2,500 or more Poultry are housed or confined on any given day will be required to register annually with the Commission and pay a \$10.00 fee for each operation. Failure to do so will result in the following penalties:

First Offense: Written notice of Non Compliance with the Arkansas Poultry Registration Act.

Second Offense: You may be fined up to fifty dollars (\$50.00).

Third Offense: You may be fined up to five hundred dollars (\$500.00).

For more information about PFO registration contact Stone County Conservation District or call Arkansas Natural Resources Commission in Little Rock; Patrick Fisk, (501) 682-3968.



## **Wild Hog Management**

Wild pigs are not native to the Americas. They were first introduced to the United States in the 1500s by the Spanish explorer Hernando DeSoto, who traveled extensively throughout the Southeast. Because pigs are highly adaptable and capable of fending for themselves, they were a popular livestock species for early explorers and settlers. In the centuries following European exploration and colonization of the eastern United States, settlers, farmers, and some Native Americans continued to promote the spread of pigs by using free-range livestock management practices. In the early 1900s, Eurasian or Russian wild boar were introduced into portions of the United States for hunting purposes. As a result of cross-breeding with wild domestic stock, many hybrid populations now exist throughout the wild pig's range.

"Wild pig" is a collective term used to refer to feral domestic pigs, Eurasian wild boar and hybrids resulting from interbreeding of the two. As a result of interbreeding and their diverse background, wild pigs come in a variety of colors and sizes. livestock management practices. In the early 1900s, Eurasian or Russian wild boar were introduced into portions of the United States for hunting purposes. As a result of cross-breeding with wild domestic stock, many hybrid populations now exist throughout the wild pig's range.

Today, wild pigs are both numerous and widespread throughout much of the United States, with populations in at least 45 states. Historically, problems with wild pigs were limited mostly to the southeastern states, California, Hawaii, and Texas. However, in the last 20 years wild pig ranges have expanded dramatically to include much of the United States, and populations now exist in such northerly climates as Michigan, North Dakota, and Oregon. This current distribution of wild pigs, almost nationwide in scope, is not a consequence of natural events. Instead, it has resulted largely from translocation of wild pigs by humans and from "the nature of the beast."

# CONSERVATION CONVERSATION

## THE HUMAN FACTOR

The popularity of wild pigs as a game species has played a major role in the expansion of their range throughout the United States. In some cases, the sudden presence of wild pigs in an area where they previously did not exist can be attributed to escapes of stocked animals from privately owned, "game-proof" fenced hunting preserves. In other cases, the sudden presence of wild pigs is a result of illegal translocation: the practice of capturing wild pigs, transporting them to new locations, and releasing them into the wild. One group that continues to fuel this practice consists of irresponsible and uninformed pig hunting enthusiasts whose goal is to establish local wild pig populations for recreational hunting. A second group comprises those whose goal is to profit from the capture and sale of wild pigs to hunting enthusiasts. Because wild pigs are such intelligent animals, trapping those that have been previously captured and released is often a daunting challenge, contributing to the spread of this nonnative, highly invasive species.

## THE NATURE OF THE BEAST: BIOLOGICAL AND BEHAVIORAL TRAITS

Pigs possess many biological and behavioral traits that enable them to live just about anywhere and quickly populate new areas.

1. Wild pigs are habitat generalists, meaning that they are highly adaptable and can live in many different habitat types throughout a landscape or region. They can tolerate a wide range of different climates, ranging from the hot, dry deserts of Mexico to the subzero temperatures of the extreme northern United States and Canada.
2. Wild pigs are opportunistic omnivores.
  - They eat mostly plant matter and invertebrate animals such as worms, insects, and insect larvae.
  - When the opportunity presents itself, wild pigs will eat small mammals, the young of larger mammals, and the eggs and young of ground-nesting birds and reptiles.
3. Wild pigs have a high reproductive potential.
  - 450. They reach sexual maturity as early as 6 months of age.
  - Litter sizes average about six piglets but range from three to eight piglets.
  - Females can farrow twice per year.
4. Wild pigs have low natural mortality.
  - They are most vulnerable to predation when they are young. Once pigs reach about 40 pounds, few predators pose a serious threat.
  - Although diseases and parasites have some affect on wild pig populations, their impacts are not well known and the factors involved are poorly understood.
  - The highest rates of wild pig mortality are a result of human activities: hunting, trapping and automobile collisions. *To be continued.*

## Miscellaneous CoCoRaHS precipitation statistics from 2014



Most rainfall for this year as of 12/30/2014:

- 210.75" on the big Island of Hawaii Greatest rainfall in a day:
- 20.00" Baldwin County, AL near Mobile Bay on April 30, 2014 CoCoRaHS observers measured at least 10" of rain that day).
- 10.84" Nevada County NE of Sacramento. Greatest one-day rainfall in California (during the drought, no less):
- There were 11 days during the year where one or more CoCoRaHS observers measured 10" or more of rainfall in a day (that's A LOT of rain!).
- There were 99 days where it rained at least 6.00" somewhere in the country. The most prolific heavy rain producing states in 2014 were Florida and Texas (19 days over 6") followed by Hawaii (12 days). Half of the states had at least one day where it rained 6" or more somewhere in their state.
- Stone County Conservation District, Station #2 logged 64.75" of precipitation for 2014.

For more weather information and data details go to [www.cocorahs.com](http://www.cocorahs.com)

Arkansas Grazing Lands Coalition

# Arkansas Grazing Lands Conference

*A conference for producers and landowners  
who want to have more profitable and  
resource rich operations*



*Learn, from fellow  
producers, how to graze  
more and feed less hay*

**Registration—\$40 (slightly more than  
the cost of one round bale of hay) if  
made by February 23.  
Includes a hearty lunch**

**Call: 501-682-2915**

Support funding provided by Natural Resources  
Conservation Service

**Friday, February 27, 2015**  
Lake Point Conference Center,  
Russellville, AR

9am to 5pm

**Speakers include:**

**Greg Judy**

MO Rancher and Consultant

and

**Several South Central and  
Southeast Producers**

For more information: [www.argrazinglandscoalition.org](http://www.argrazinglandscoalition.org)

# CONSERVATION CONVERSATION

## Acres for Wildlife program helps improve environment

The quality of wildlife habitat in Arkansas is dependent upon decisions made by the many individuals who own and manage the land. Out of 33 million surface acres in the Arkansas, 29 million are under private ownership.

Arkansas Game and Fish Commission Turkey Program Coordinator Jason Honey says the agency's Acres for Wildlife program continues to target all wildlife species in the state, with special emphasis on ground nesting birds such as turkey and quail. "Landowners can play an important part in improving the habitat for wildlife in Arkansas by taking an active role in this program," Honey says.

Native warm-season grasses and forbs are primarily selected to provide nesting, brood-rearing and escape cover for quail and other grassland birds. Along with the native warm-season grass project, landowners can also compete for additional funds to cover costs associated with prescribed fire, herbicide application and travel corridor establishment. The projects require at least five contiguous acres. Applications for the project can be made at any time.

Most landowners and managers are interested in the environment and in wildlife, but they often forget to include such considerations in their management activities or they don't know what to do, Honey says. "In some cases, they unknowingly perform activities detrimental to wildlife and the environment. The results of these facts have been a great, often needless, reduction of habitat for all kinds of wildlife," he explained.

The AFW program is intended to benefit all species of wildlife. It does not retire cropland or grazing land; neither does it open posted land to hunters. This is left entirely to the discretion of the landowner or tenant.

As an AFW cooperator (landowner), farmers and landowners can help Arkansas's wildlife and the environment by managing all or a portion of your land for wildlife. The AFW program creates additional habitat and encourages considerations for wildlife needs, in conjunction with good farming, livestock production and forestry practices on the entire farm.

Landowners enrolling in the AFW program have access to an AGFC private lands biologist who can offer specific wildlife management recommendations for the property along with advice for landowners regarding other state, federal and private programs offering financial and technical assistance. Many program opportunities offer cost-share assistance and other incentives to improve or create habitat on private lands across the state.

For more information on the programs, **call Jason Honey at 877-470-3650** or go to <http://www.agfc.com/species/Pages/SpeciesConservationProgramsAAW.aspx#2>

To contact your Private Lands Biologist call Ted Zawislak, North Central Region at 877-297-4331, extension 126 or email him at [tazawislak@agfc.state.ar.us](mailto:tazawislak@agfc.state.ar.us).



## SCHOLARSHIP OFFERED

Could you use some extra money at college next year? Thinking about studying agriculture, environmental science or conservation? Then listen up!

As part of a statewide education program, Stone County Conservation District is offering a \$250.00 scholarship for a local high school student. As well as receiving the District Scholarship, the winner will be eligible to compete at both the area and state level.

The Arkansas Association of Conservation Districts awards three scholarships (\$1,000, \$750 & \$500) based on student's essay and oral presentation.

The rules are simple, and the contest is open to all sophomores, juniors, and seniors with a minimum 2.0 grade point average who are Stone County residents and will follow a conservation related course of study. Contest entries must be mailed by January to the Stone County Conservation District, 207 Martin Street, Mountain View, AR 72560.

# CONSERVATION CONVERSATION

## CALF Initiative Cost Share Available

The Controlled Access and Livestock Fencing , (CALF) Initiative is a voluntary program for private landowners to minimize stream-bank erosion and improve herd health.

The program is open to any private landowner including LLC, NGO, municipal, company, or other non-state or federal government entities.

- There is no AGI limitation.
- There must be a history of livestock use at the site within the past 3 years or documentation that one will start in the next 6 months (e.g. cattle contract, other livestock related improvements to the property, etc).
- The land-use must already be considered a pasture. Program is not intended to help convert a land-use from forest to pasture.
- Applicant must not be on the Excluded Parties List (sam.gov).
- The riparian area fenced must flow into the next order stream or river. Do not fence areas that are just low, wet, drainage ditches, etc.
- If a buffer does not exist, planner must first consider potential for area to be enrolled in CRP (CP-22 or CP-29) as it is has more financial benefit to the landowner.
- Landowner must sign an agreement for at least 11 years where they agree to maintain the fence.
- Fencing will follow the NRCS practice specifications for Practice 382.
- Funds cannot be combined with NRCS funds for the same practice on the same location.
- Eligible costs include: fencing that meets NRCS specs for practice 382, gates, stream crossings, controlled access points, etc. Troughs, pipelines, pumps, heavy use area protection and solar panels are also eligible costs if stream fencing is part of the application.
- Ineligible costs include the costs to pump water, the costs to hook up electricity, non-native plantings.
- Buffer widths are negotiable, but must address the resource concern.
- The riparian area can be maintained through mowing or flash grazing if desired. However, these projects do not rank as high.
- Projects with match, including donated labor time from the applicant, will score higher.

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## Product, Services and General Information

For your conservation needs come by the office at 207 Martin Street or call 870-269-3726, extension 3 or by visiting us on the web at [www.stonecountyconservationdistrict.com](http://www.stonecountyconservationdistrict.com).

### Maps:

Ownership Books  
Topographical Maps  
Stone County Soil Survey Books

### Other products:

Filter Fabric  
Float Valves/High & Low Pressure  
Feed Bunks  
Freeze Proof Tanks  
Spring Tanks

### Rental Equipment:

Aerator  
3 point hitch Wand Sprayer  
4 Wheeler and Backpack Sprayers  
Boom and Cluster Trailer Sprayers  
Cattle Scales  
No-Till Drills

### Services:

Conservation Technical Assistance  
Conservation Stewardship Program  
Emergency Watershed Protection Program  
Environmental Quality Incentive Program  
Nutrient Management Plans

Support Conservation by buying your personalized plate at your local Department of Revenue Office.

### Staff:

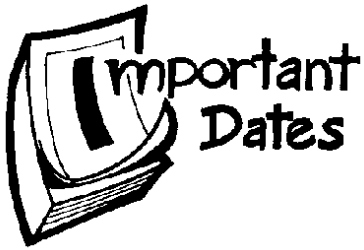
Martha Blackwell, District Coordinator  
Colby Smith, District Technician  
Wendy Hendrix, NRCS, District Conservationist  
Derek Hall, NRCS, Soil Conservationist Technician  
Brian Gawf, NRCS, Civil Engineering Technician

### Board of Directors:

Eddie Stewart, District Chairman  
Larry James Gammill, Vice Chair  
Derek Littrell, Secretary/Treasurer  
Barton Foll, Member  
Terry Joe Stewart, Member  
Stacey Avey, Advisory Member



Assorted nuts and pecans during season.



- SCCD Board Meeting, 2nd Thursday of each month (call for time and place)
- NRCS Program Applications for 2015
- Time to plant winter annuals
- Annual Assorted Nut Sales - Orders begin in October
- Pesticide Applicator Training, Stone County Extension Office, January 22nd, 6:00 p.m.
- SCCD Scholarship deadline
- NACD National Partnership Award Presentation, New Orleans, February 3rd
- Arkansas Grazing Lands Conference, February 27<sup>th</sup>
- Area Scholarship deadline, March 5

## Pasture Management Calendar

### January, February, March

Confine animals to sacrifice areas or winter turnouts to keep them off wet pastures. Take soil samples to determine fertilizer and lime application rates.

### April, May, June

Once soils begin to dry out, set up a rotational grazing system before turning your animals out. Walk fence lines and repair as necessary. Apply approximately one-third of the recommended annual fertilizer in mid- to late-spring and again in early summer. Monitor grass height, moving animals when average grass height reaches three to four inches.

### July, August, September

If no pastures have adequate grass height, use a sacrifice area to rest pastures. Once the season begins to cool, reseed or overseed pasture areas with bare soil where animals will not be grazed again until spring. Apply lime and additional fertilizers as indicated by your soil test recommendations. Monitor pastures when the fall rains begin to determine if animals need to be removed.

### October, November, December

Confine animals to winter sacrifice area(s).

Stone County Conservation District  
207 Martin Street, Stewart Building  
Mountain View, Arkansas 72560

**TO:**