

Coke County Soil & Water Conservation Day 2012

The Coke County Soil and Water Conservation District hosted the fifth annual Coke County Conservation Field Day on October 24, 2012. Co-sponsors of the event were the Coke County Underground Water Conservation District, Kickapoo Water Control and Improvement District, Texas Agri-Life Extension, The First National Bank of Sterling City in Bronte, Hall's Super Save, Super H, Wal-Mart, Albertson's and Sam's. NRCS personnel from the San Angelo team and the Zone Office with help from volunteers hosted the learning stations. With monetary donations from our co-sponsors, students and adults were provided a Conservation Field Day T-shirt.

77 fifth and sixth grade students from Bronte and Robert Lee elementary schools gathered at the historical Fort Chadbourne Ranch for a fun filled day of soil and water conservation education. The morning session began at 9:30 a.m.

Garland and Lana Richards along with Ann Pate and Brent Bryan of the Fort Chadbourne Foundation, played host to Station #1 which included a tour of the awesome new visitors' center. They briefed the students on the history of the Fort. It was established in 1852 by Companies A & K of the 8th US Infantry. The Fort was put here to protect early settlers who were making their way west during the Gold Rush in California. The Fort was surrendered in 1861 to Texas Troops at the outbreak of the Civil War. Following the war, the 4th US Cavalry returned in 1867 to reestablish Fort Chadbourne. Due to severe drought conditions, and no water or supplies readily available, a decision was made to abandon Fort Chadbourne and establish a new post, Fort Concho in present day San Angelo. In

1877, Thomas and Lucinda Odom purchased the Fort to establish Chadbourne Ranch. Although the names have changed from Odom, Wylie, and Richards, the same family owns it today making eight generations that have resided on the ranch.

Wade Day, assisted by Jacob Maenius, NRCS, hosted Station #2. Using a watershed model they explained that proper farming practices, correct usage of chemicals on fields and lawns, disposal of oil and chemicals play a vital role in the quality of water heading into our streams and rivers.

James Jackson, Texas Agri-Life Extension, Station #3, had the students actively applying rain harvesting methods. They used a water filled coffee can with holes for rain on top of a tin roof with guttering and a collection bucket signifying a water tank to store the rain water to use in times of need or for everyday use.

Joe Franklin and Ryan McClintock, NRCS assisted by volunteer, Quentin Holik, hosted Station #4. They discussed with the students the needs of plants and animals including daily requirements of food and water for each with students acting the role of different animals.

The rainfall simulator was Station #5 hosted by Cliff Kinnibrugh, NRCS Zone Agronomist and Chris Wolfenbarger, NRCS. The simulator shows the affect rainfall has on grass covered soil as opposed to bare ground and the difference in the quality of water runoff



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from these.

Station #6 featured the many different types and profiles of soils found in Coke County hosted by Amanda Bragg, NRCS. Students were allowed to "feel" the difference in soil textures when they are dry and how they change when they become wet from rainfall.

Following these six stations, the group broke for a hot dog lunch provided by Coke County SWCD and friends.

To conclude the outdoor education day, students alternated between the edible aquifer station and an exciting hayride to the buffalo pasture guided by Fort Chadbourne personnel. A model of the underground aquifer was demonstrated by Ty Williams and Grant Teplicek, NRCS. Following

the demonstration, the students enjoyed their own version of an "edible aquifer" built with gummi bears, sprite, ice cream, sprinkles and chocolate syrup.

As a result of a very successful fifth annual Conservation Day, Coke County SWCD is looking forward to hosting the next one.

4-H having fundraiser

Coke County 4-H is having their RADA Cutlery fundraiser. All proceeds will benefit 4-H projects.

If you are interested in ordering, you may call

Texas A & M AgriLife Extension office at 325-453-2461 or order directly from the web site www.helpourfundraiser.com. The customer order number is 504110 and ID rada76945 (all lower case).

All orders and money need to be turned in by Tuesday, November 20, 2012.

Account opened for Burwick Family

An account has been set up at First National Bank in Bronte for the Burwick Family in honor of Darin Burwick.



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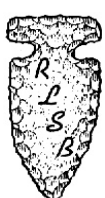
Drawings will be held on Saturday, December 1st @ 3 pm.
Presence is not needed to win.

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