

### Fall Conservation

by Erin M. Oleksiuk,  
SWCD District Technician

In West Texas, conservation tends to be on the minds of most folks in the hot, summer months. Conservation needs do not stop in fall and winter only to be reapplied in spring, good management is year round. As the days become cooler use those pleasant temperatures to get a jump on fall conservation.

Have a pile of limbs from the summer storms? Utilize those limbs for flower bed ground cover by mulching them in a chipper. While purchasing mulch from your local home improvement store may be convenient, it is not always best for the environment. Bagged mulch creates a much larger carbon footprint due to traveling and the plastic it arrives in. Some mulch is dyed, this dye prevents the wood from breaking down properly and can harm and possibly kill good bacteria, insects, worms, and even plants. It may take extra time and labor, but mulch used from the trees around you are more beneficial to the land and gives you a sense of a "job well done".

We all have food scraps from fruits and vegetables, why not use them to make compost for next year's garden? A compost or worm bin is easy to create at home and most often you already have the materials you need. The internet can provide instructions for very complex

bins and very simple. One way is using a plastic storage bin with a lid, which most of us use to store away seasonal items and clothes. Drill holes in the bottom and lid, fill with a layer of leaves, next soil, scraps from fruits and vegetables, and with a small mist of water and stir, you are on your way. Search the internet for all the safe items you can place in your bin and the "off limit" items such as lime and pet waste.

Since rain is always on the minds of Texans, a rain harvesting system is a great way to store and use water in our drier months. Fall is usually not the time for heavy rainfall, but it is cooler to work in and you will be prepared for the spring and summer rains when they arrive. Rain harvesting systems can range from a rain barrel collecting water to multiple thousand gallon storage tanks. This project will require research and planning to find the best fit; small for watering plants to large enough to support your home in drought conditions.

Fall preparation will lend to a more successful spring when conservation methods are in place.

For questions and additional information on rain harvesting catchments, call or visit the Coke County Soil and Water Conservation District and NRCS office at 453-2623 x3 and 214 E. 7th Street, Robert Lee.



**Field Day!** Amanda Bragg with NRCS presented a program on healthy soil to Bronte and Robert Lee Elementary students at the Coke County Conservation Field Day held at Fort Chadbourne on October 3, 2018.

**Monday, November 12**

Poptarts, fruit, juice, milk

**Tuesday, November 13**

Cereal bars, fruit, juice, milk

**Wednesday, November 14**

Breakfast pizza, fruit, juice, milk

**Thursday, November 15**

Pancakes on a stick, fruit, juice, milk

**Friday, November 16**

Muffins, yogurt, fruit, juice, milk

**Lunch**

**Monday, November 12**

Sloppy Joe, chips, baby carrots, milk

**Tuesday, November 13**

Corn dogs, mac-n-cheese, baked beans, milk

**Wednesday, November 14**

Thanksgiving Meal

**Thursday, November 15**

Spaghetti, corn on the cob, salad, garlic toast, fruit, milk

**Friday, November 16**

Hamburger or cheeseburger, garnish, fries, milk

**Free entrance to Texas State Parks in honor of Veterans Day**

In honor of both active and retired military, daily entrance fees at Texas State Parks will be waived for all visitors Sunday, November 11.

"We give thanks to the service that veterans and active military personnel have dedicated to our country," said Brent Leisure, director of state parks for the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. "We hope that Texans everywhere will make Texas State Parks part of their celebration this Veteran's Day." Parks will be hosting guided

hikes, bird walks and other programs throughout the day. Camping and special activity fees will still apply.

For a full list of events, visit the Texas State Parks calendar page. A map of all Texas State Parks is available on the TPWD website.

In addition to showing support at Texas State Parks, hunting and fishing license buyers can also honor veterans by making a voluntary contribution to the Fund for Veterans. Contributions can be made in increments of \$1, \$5, \$10, or \$20, and 100 percent of the donation goes to the Fund for Veterans. Please note, donation must be in conjunction with the purchase of a license, stamp endorsement or drawing entry and cannot be made as a standalone item in a transaction.

The Fund for Veterans Assistance, administered by the Texas Veterans Commission, helps support government agencies and veterans service organizations that provide direct services to Texas veterans and their families. Since 2009, the Fund for Veterans Assistance has awarded over \$90 million to organizations across Texas to help over 250,000 Veterans and their families. Last year, license buyers contributed close to \$200,000 to the Fund for Veterans.

### Hungry?

#### How about cottonseed?

by Gene Hall

Cotton is grown around the world as a cash crop. The cotton plant produces two marketable products: a unique hollow fiber and a seed.

Cattle can eat the seed because of their ruminant digestive system, but people can't.

That's about to change, thanks to research at Texas A&M University with funding from Cotton Incorporated.

The gene for gossypol—the chemical that makes cottonseed indigestible for humans, hogs and other animals—has been turned off in the research.

This creates a new market for cotton farmers and could provide relief for protein-deficient diets around the world.

The new seeds can be eaten, ground into flour or made into a spread like peanut butter. It will take some time to commercialize this breakthrough, but cotton farmers could enjoy a brand new market and millions of people will have a new source of food.

And cottonseed will be fed to animals that could not previously eat it.

If you've ever smelled cottonseed cake stored for cattle feed, you know it smells wonderful—good enough to eat. Soon that will be literally true.

### ....VP News

(Continued from page 3)

Vision with a Purpose, along with a huge community participation, held the annual Bob Wrinkle Hunter's Appreciation BBQ on Saturday, November 3 from 6 pm until 9 pm at the Robert Lee Rec Hall.

Along with BBQ brisket and sausage, all the sides and homemade desserts were served.

The success of the evening was attributed to many outstanding organizations and individuals, including AON, EMT, '64 Study Club, 4H, Cadets, etc.

Winners of the gun raffle were Ed Moore and Beverly Burdett.

Afterwards, many groups and individuals stayed to help clean up.

Every year this is an event that is anticipated by the entire community and our hunters. All help and those attending are appreciated.

### ...School Menu

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**Wednesday, November 14**

Asian chicken, rice, egg roll, baby carrots, broccoli, pineapple, milk

**Thursday, November 15**

Pizza, garden salad, corn, banana, cookie, milk

**Friday, November 16**

Hamburger, sweet potato fries, cucumber slices, applesauce, milk

**Robert Lee ISD**

**Breakfast**

**Monday, November 12**

Breakfast pizza, fruit, juice, milk

**Tuesday, November 13**

Chicken-n-biscuit, fruit, juice, milk

**Wednesday, November 14**

Power breakfast, fruit, juice, milk

**Thursday, November 15**

Piggies-n-yogurt, fruit, juice, milk

**Friday, November 16**

Cinnamon roll, sausage, fruit, juice, milk

**Lunch**

**Monday, November 12**

Taquito, beans, salsa, fresh fruit, queso, fruit crisp, milk

**Tuesday, November 13**

Meatball sub sandwich, tator tots, mixed fruit, veggie cup, milk

**Wednesday, November 14**

Chicken nuggets, mac-n-cheese, green beans, strawberries, milk

**Thursday, November 15**

Fiesta bowl, tomato cup, fruity gelatin, milk

**Friday, November 16**

Thanksgiving Meal

**Blackwell CISD**

**Breakfast**

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