

REGISTRATION INFORMATION

TEXAS SOIL HEALTH SHORT COURSE

Feb. 26-27, 2019



Increasing Biological Wealth with Livestock

**Palentine Civic Center
1819 W Spring St
Palentine, TX 75803**

Join us in learning how to improve your operation through increased soil function and management techniques used to accomplish those beneficial functions for greater water, nutrient, and energy efficiency.

The Short Course will provide:

- Leading soil health research
- Practical approach to implementing soil health principles
- Rancher speaker panel
- Field tour with soil pits, pasture and soil assessments, and much more
- Conservation demonstrations



USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer and lender.

WHY SOIL HEALTH?

Whether you drive a tractor, ride a horse, or a hunting UTV, your success depends on the ability of your soil to produce the commodity or experience that you desire. Join us in learning about soil management strategies from farmers and researchers across the country on methods to improve the health of your soil at the Texas Soil Health Short Course. This will be an educational experience that will give you new insight about your own operation.

5 Functions of Healthy Soil

1. Regulate water through available water holding capacity, porosity, and infiltration
2. Provide plants and animals a functioning habitat
3. Filter pollutants through biological and chemical processes
4. Cycle nutrients using carbon : nitrogen ratios and a biological predator /prey relationship
5. Provide stability and strength for greater resilience to adverse weather conditions.

How do you answer these questions for your operation?

- Concerned about rising cost of inputs?
- Degraded soil function: takes more to make less.
- Water quality/quantity concerns.
- Dissatisfied with part of your operation?
- Interested in trying something new?



If “yes” to any of these, the Texas Soil Health Short Course will address these concerns by providing greater understanding of the following:

- Water cycle and movement in soils
- Nutrient cycle and timing
- Harvesting solar energy to power the soil system
- Partnering with soil biology to gain efficiency
- Build resilience in extreme climatic areas

The Texas Soil Health Short Course has been designed to provide leading dynamic soil properties research and technical information in Texas and surrounding areas along with producer’s practical approaches to implementing a system to improve their soil health. The Short Course will also provide conservation demonstrations and hands-on field activities that will help you start implementing soil health the minute you return to your operation.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotope, American Sign Language, etc.) should contact the responsible Agency or USDA’s TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

FEATURED SPEAKERS



Ben Davis

A USDA-NRCS employee, Davis has researched soil health and has hands on experience that proves that livestock can be used to increase not only soil health, but also improve wildlife habitat and that wildlife and livestock can easily co-exist.



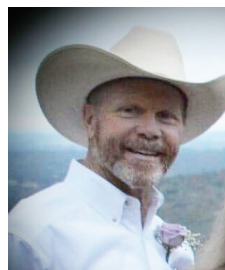
Jason Hohlt

Rangeland Management Specialist for USDA-NRCS in Bryan, Texas. He provides leadership and technical training on livestock grazing and other land management issues throughout a 50 county area in eastern Texas.



Brandon Bing

His work as a soil conservation technician has given him an opportunity to see many unique operations and meet innovative producers throughout east Texas. He organizes monthly grazing tours at a regional level for producers to network and learn how other producers are utilizing soil health practices.



Jimmy Downe

Jimmy and Wende have enjoyed producing wholesome beef cattle in Anderson County for over 23 years. With assistance from NRCS, Jimmy has been able to increase the health of the soil he manages, while maintaining his beef cattle production.



Carlos Villarreal

A soil scientist by trade, Villarreal has been reading books, digging holes, and listening to podcasts trying to better understand the relationships between soil management and soil function, with hopes of being able to provide knowledge, experience, and data to NRCS employees and our customers



Joe Beall

Joe has worked toward implementing sustainable and natural management practices that promote the health of the soil, cattle and wildlife at the B2 Ranch he and his family own in Buffalo, Texas.



Dr. Christine Jones

Dr. Christine Jones is an internationally renowned and highly respected groundcover and soils ecologist. She has a wealth of experience working with innovative landholders to implement regenerative land management practices that enhance biodiversity, increase biological activity, activate soil nutrient cycles, improve productivity and create new topsoil.



Matt Machacek

Rangeland Management Specialist for USDA-NRCS in Corsicana, Texas. Matt has worked in North Texas for the past seven years and has assisted the Blackland Prairie Grazing Land Coalition.



David Daigle

Retired from the Louisiana Dept. of Environmental Quality, Daigle's passion now is to proactively manage land in a way that is good for the land and good for the landowner. As owner of Daigle Farms, he lives in Beauregard Parish, LA, growing longleaf pine and utilizing cattle and fire to manage the native understory and to maintain the landscape.



Dr. Richard Teague

As an ecologist for Texas A&M AgriLife Research, Teague knows that for an adequately functioning ecosystem, you have to have good soil function. He has assisted many ranchers and farmers to increase productivity by improving soil health, manage for decreased inputs, improve the health of their cattle and increase profits.



Dennis Brezina

A soil scientist for the USDA-NRCS, Brezina was raised on a small cow-calf operation near Axtell, Texas where he and his wife use Soil Health principles on that operation today. Brezina works with producers in 50-counties of East Texas from Hempstead to Paris and east to the Sabine River to help them understand how to implement soil health practices on their land.



William Payne

A district conservativist for the USDA-NRCS, Payne first gained an interest in soil health and land stewardship through his family's cattle company in the Texas Panhandle where he learned the importance of sustainable agricultural management practices like rotational grazing, forage monitoring systems and bale grazing.

TEXAS SOIL HEALTH SHORT COURSE

Feb 26-27, 2019 | Palestine, TX

Tuesday, February 26

7-8:30 am *Registration*

8:30-8:45 am *Welcome*

8:45-12:00 pm Morning Session **Studying the Natural System**

8:45- 10:15 *The Liquid Carbon Pathway and Common Mycorrhizal Networks*
Dr. Christine Jones

10:15 - 10:30 *Break*

10:30 - 12:00 *Grazing Down the Carbon: Essential Ecosystem Processes*
Dr. Richard Teague

12:00-1:00pm Lunch

1:00- 4:30pm Ranch Tour **Joe Beall's B2 Ranch**

Experience an Adaptive Multi-paddock Grazing (AMP) system with discussion and demonstrations including electric fence design and construction, forage monitoring for soil improvement, animal performance and much more.

6-9:00 pm Evening Social & Catfish Dinner **"A Plan and Purpose for Every Acre"**

Guest Speaker Louisiana Rancher David Daigle

Wednesday, February 27

8-12:00 pm Ranch Tour
Downe Wholesome Beef
Tour a soil health project designed to capture the benefits and challenges of several grazing and land management strategies to improve soil health. This tour will explain the goal of 7 different management units and how the soil is reacting to each management system.

12:00-1:00 Lunch

1:00 - 3:30 Afternoon Session Implementing Nature's Principles

1:00 - 2:15 *The Extraordinary Power of Diversity!*
Dr. Christine Jones

2:15 - 2:45 *Break with Rainfall Simulator*

2:45 - 3:30 *Grazing Systems and Soil Function*
Dr. Richard Teague

3:30 - 4:30 All Rancher Speaker Panel - Moderators -Jason Hohlt/Brandon Bing

4:30- 4:45 *Survey completion and Drawing for prizes/ Dismiss*

CONFERENCE REGISTRATION

Texas Soil Health Short Course * Febraury 26 & 27, 2019

REGISTER ONLINE AT:

<https://www.texas-wildlife.org/resources/events/texas-soil-health-short-course>

Mail in Registration Form

Name: _____ Spouse: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____ Email: _____

Organization you are representing: _____

REGISTRATION: BY FEBRUARY 1.

No. of attendees _____ @ \$50 = Total _____

Includes admission to all conference sessions, field tours, refreshment breaks, social and dinner, two lunches, and one copy of the conference packet.

Payment: Please make checks and money orders payable in U.S. dollars to: TWA

CHECK #: _____ Name on Check: _____

NAME ON CREDIT CARD: _____

Credit card type: Visa Mastercard Am Express Discover

CARD #: _____ EXPIRATION DATE: _____

SIGNATURE: _____

Send paid pre-registrations to:

Mail: Mail this form with check or credit card info to:

Texas Wildlife Association; C/O Iliana Pena, 3660 Thousand Oaks #126, San Antonio, TX 78247

Call: 210-826-2904 (credit card registrations can be taken by phone)

Cancellation policy: No cancellations or refunds will be given after Feb. 1. All cancellations subject to a \$25 processing fee.

Sponsorships Available

The following sponsorships are available to your non-profit organization, foundation or agency:

- **Level 1 - \$50 (includes name recognition)**
- **Level 2 - \$100 (includes name recognition, 1 free admission)**
- **Level 3 - \$200 (includes name recognition, 2 free admissions, and a vendor table)**
- **Other Donation**

Contact Iliana Pena at 210-826-2904

SPONSORSHIP DEADLINE: JANUARY 1

Hotel Information

The Host hotel is the Hampton Inn & Suites Palestine
2700 South Loop 256, Palestine, Texas, 75801
903-723-0016

A Block of Rooms and Special rates available with code "SHS" at Hampton Inn

Other Accommodations:

Comfort Suites
301 Willow Creek Pkwy
Palestine, TX 75801
855-516-1090

La Quinta Inn and Suites
3000 South Loop 256
Palestine, TX 75801
903-723-1387

Holiday Inn Express
1030 East Palestine Ave
Palestine, TX 75801
903-723-4884