



Jack County Wildlife Management Association

PO Box 923
Jacksboro, TX 76458

Who Are We?

Mission Statement, Goals and By Laws

The Jack County Wildlife Management Association (JCWMA) is a voluntary non-profit organization and was formed on February 17, 2001, with the intent of achieving the following mission and goals:

Mission:

To promote a voluntary cooperative effort to help improve Jack County's habitat and wildlife through education and sound management practices.

Goals:

The JCWMA was organized with the following goals in mind:

1. To bring the majority of the acreage in Jack County under proven successful game management practices.
2. To make harvest recommendations for this area and all adjoining properties interested in the co-op.
3. To obtain accurate harvest records for the entire managed area.
4. To have better hunter/landowner relations and neighbor relations through education.
5. To encourage landowners in the managed area to become educated as to land management practices which enrich wildlife habitat and to encourage the implementation of those practices among landowners.
6. To sanction predator control as recommended by the Texas Parks and Wildlife game biologists and the JCWMA.
7. To become educated and implement certain wildlife management practices that will return a balance in nature among all native wildlife including both hunted, harvested wildlife as well as wildlife, which is predatory to harvested wildlife.
8. To gain better hunter/environmentalist/animal rights/landowner relations.
9. To be a non-profit organization.

From the desk of the President

First of all, I want to thank everyone who attended our last meeting and urge you, your friends and neighbors to attend our next meeting scheduled for August 23rd at 1:00 PM. I hope to give a rousing report on our fund raising efforts at the upcoming Jacksboro SummerFest. Our money is in and the permits have been applied for. So I guess that means that it is really official! JCWMA will have a booth in the vendor area and a food booth outside under the name of Cowboy's Kitchen.

We will be providing information about JCWMA and how we are having an impact on wildlife and habitat management at our booth inside the building. We will also be selling JCWMA summer ball caps and membership signs to post on your property proudly proclaiming that you are a member of the JCWMA. Outside, we will be selling hamburgers and cheeseburgers cooked over an open wood fire pit. We may need the entire Jacksboro Fire Department on standby for this event!

Our goal is to raise enough money to send a couple of deserving youths to attend the Texas Brigades next year. I hope that this will become an annual tradition with the JCWMA sponsoring as many youths from the ranks of our membership and Jack County as possible.

The Texas Brigades is a wildlife-focused leadership development program for high school youth (ages 13-17). There are four different camps: Bobwhite Brigade, Buckskin Brigade, Feathered Forces and Bass Brigade. The youths will be introduced to habitat management, honing their communication skills, and developing a land ethic. Top wildlife professionals and resource managers serve as instructors and mentors. Each camp is 4 ½ days long.

The camps are held on private ranches and at environmental camps in different areas of the state. In addition to learning animal anatomy and behavior, botany, nutrition, habitat management, population dynamics, etc., they will learn valuable leadership skills. They will also write news

releases, practice public speaking, and how to handle radio and television interviews.

Check out their website at <http://www.texasbrigades.org> for details.

For all of this to happen, I need volunteers willing to work the booths at the Jacksboro SummerFest on July 31st, August 1st, and August 2nd. I can guarantee you two things: it will be hot and you will have my eternal gratitude. But most of all, you can stand proud as the scholarships are awarded to our deserving youths and know that you played a vital role in making it happen. Call or email me and let's make it happen!

I can be reached by email at keith@cowboyindustries.com or by cell phone at 1-800-410-0181. I travel a lot but I will acknowledge every email, voicemail and call.



Possible New Deer Regulations in Cooke, Denton, Jack, Wise and other north Texas Counties for the 2009-10 Season.

Jennifer Barrow, TPWD biologist

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) biologists are considering proposing a change to hunting regulations affecting white-tailed deer hunting in many counties throughout Texas including Cooke, Denton,

Wise and Jack Counties. What started out in 6 southeast Texas counties 5 years ago as an experimental "Antler Restriction" regulation has

Birth control pill for wild hogs



grown in popularity both with hunters and biologists. Currently this regulation is in effect in 61 counties, including Eastland, Erath, Comanche, Somervell, Bosque, Hamilton, Lampasas, Bell, Coryell, and Williamson. Due to its overall success of improving the numbers of older-age bucks available to hunters, people in other areas of the state have been asking for the regulation to come to their county.

Under this new regulation, a lawful buck would be defined as any buck having at least one unbranched antler OR an inside antler spread of at least 13 inches. The bag limit in the affected counties will be two lawful bucks, no more than one of which may have an inside spread of greater than 13 inches. In other words, a hunter under the new regulation could harvest two bucks with an unbranched antler (commonly referred to as spikes and 3-pointers), or one "spike" and one buck with an inside antler spread of at least 13 inches.

In order to determine local support for this regulation, TPWD biologists are asking for your input on whether or not you would like to see this regulation passed in Wise, Cooke, Denton, Jack, Montague, and many other north Texas Counties for the hunting season of 2009-10. If you own land or hunt in these counties and would like to voice your support or opposition, please visit the website shown below. If your county isn't shown in the list of counties on the website, the regulation won't affect that county. After reading the information provided on that web page, you will be able to provide your input (via email) directly to your local wildlife biologist. In order to most accurately gauge support for this new regulation, TPWD is encouraging local landowners to notify their hunters of this comment opportunity as well. Comments from this webpage will be taken until June 2. If proposed, more opportunity for public comment on this potential regulation change will be available during the normal regulations process this winter and the following spring, prior to any official change. For more detailed information about the new regulation and full instruction on the comment process, please visit the following web address:

http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/huntwild/wild/game/management/deer/antler_restrictions/extra

The population of Texas wild pigs is exploding thanks to high reproductive rates and few natural predators. The Texas AgriLife Extension Service estimates the hogs cause \$50 million in damage each year. This month, the Texas Department of Agriculture awarded the Extension Service \$1 million to provide technical help to landowners under siege from the beasts.

At Texas A&M University, a team of researchers is testing an oral contraceptive for the hogs and other pests. Duane Kraemer, a professor of veterinary physiology and pharmacology who heads the Texas A&M team, said ranchers and farmers who hear about his research want to know more, "but development of an oral contraceptive for an animal that people eat and is to be released into the environment is a complex issue, no question about it."

The contraceptive called a phosphodiesterase 3 inhibitor and in development for about a year and a half, is now in a capsule form and has been captive pigs at the university's research facility. "It does appear to be effective," Dr. Kraemer said, in preventing the females' eggs from maturing. Dr. Kraemer estimates it could be three to five years before the pill for pigs is readily available. The next step is to get some experience outside the lab, where the test pigs have gobbled up the drug mixed with Oreo cookies. Clearly, some delivery system for the drug other than cookies will be required in the field. Already, he's got offers from "quite a few people" eager to participate in the testing.

Among hurdles yet to be overcome are how often the drug will be dispensed, how to get it only to the animals that need to be controlled and assurances that long-term

environmental damage won't result from any drugs not consumed or left behind in animal waste. "It's got to be effective, it's got to be specific, it's got to be acceptable to meat consumed by humans ... and it's got to be environmentally safe. It's a complex situation," Dr. Kraemer said. Learn more about feral hogs at <http://feralhog.tamu.edu/>

Pond Weed Control

Can Be a 'Sticky' Problem



Runaway moss growth can make pond fishing about as exciting as, well, watching moss grow. "Aquatic vegetation are the 'yin and yang of ponds," said Dr. Michael Masser, Texas AgriLife Extension Service fisheries specialist. "It would be nice to have some aquatic plants for esthetics and wildlife, but too many are a nightmare." But control of moss and other aquatic plants need not be expensive or complicated, he said. Such vegetation can be controlled by mechanical, biological or chemical methods – either singly or in combination – in an integrated pest management approach.

Pond moss and aquatic weeds can not only turn a pleasant day of fishing into a perpetual snag, they can make swimming and boating impossible too. "Ten to 15 percent pond coverage of rooted aquatic vegetation would probably be good from a fish and wildlife standpoint, but ponds typically start out with almost none and after a very few years are almost entirely covered," he said. There's a misconception, Masser said, that ponds and lakes can't be cleared of all rooted vegetation without critically reducing the food chain. True, plants are the beginning of any food chain, he said, but rooted vegetation tends to take over small ponds. Too many rooted plants not only disrupt recreational activities, but also increase sedimentation, disrupt the oxygen balance and prevent largemouth bass from finding prey fish, such as sunfish.

And also contrary to popular belief, bass do not need rooted vegetation to spawn. "No, actually bass have to remove weeds to build their nests," Masser said. "In fact, scientific research has shown that the most productive bass and sunfish ponds are actually those that have little or no rooted aquatic vegetation and instead have green water or planktonic algae blooms." Other research has shown that the same stringy, filamentous algae – what most would call "pond scum" – produces a more constant food supply than rooted vegetation, he said.

Counter intuitively, one of the easy ways to prevent root vegetation from taking over a pond is to fertilize, he said. "Note, that I said 'prevent' not 'control,'" Masser said. "Proper fertilization creates green planktonic algae blooms. The algae blooms shade the pond bottom in areas over 2 or 3 feet deep and keep rooted weeds from getting started along the bottom." Because fertilizing promotes algae growth, it also builds the food chain and enables the pond to support more fish, he noted. An option is to use non-toxic chemical dyes to shade the pond bottom. The dyes do not promote green algae growth as does a fertilization program, however. So the treatment will promote higher fish populations.

There are mechanical methods to control rooted vegetation, but they all require considerable industriousness on the part of the pond owner, Masser said. Weeds can be pulled or grubbed by hand or hoe. Some suppliers of mechanical cutters use a sickle wire or blade to shred the weeds. The cutters are usually hand-held and are labor-intensive. And like a home lawn, the vegetation is continually growing, so cutting has to be done again – and again. The heavy, water-laden cuttings have to be removed from the pond. "If you like mowing your lawn, you're going to love mowing your pond," Masser said.

There's only one biological method of pond weed control in Texas: the triploid grass carp, he said. Sometimes called the white amur, grass carp eat most submerged aquatic weeds. They cannot eat weeds that are on or project above the water

surface, such cattails and lily pads. Because it is feared the species might take over ponds and streams and crowd out game fish, only sterile,

Agriculture Property Tax Conversion for Wildlife Management

triploid grass carp are legal. To purchase the fish, pond owners must get a permit from the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. The species is only legally available from certified dealers.

Though sterile, the grass carp live as long as 10 years. Typically, Masser said, they control weeds for five to seven years, but are not effective for all species of weeds. "This type of biological control is inexpensive from the standpoint of labor and chemical costs," Masser said. "Many pond owners, after years of frustration of trying to control aquatic weeds by other means, have found grass carp to be a simple and effective answer to their problems if stocked in sufficient numbers."

And then there's chemical control, Masser said. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has registered only nine active herbicide ingredients for aquatic weed control. All have been extensively tested and are safe if properly used. "However, many of these herbicides still have water-use restrictions of a few days to several months for uses like livestock watering, fishing, swimming and irrigation that may make them unacceptable to many pond owners," Masser said. And there is also the risk of killing too many weeds too fast with chemical controls. Rapid decomposition of plant material in a small pond or lake can cause oxygen depletion and kill fish. Masser offered these guidelines when using chemical controls:

- Treat early in the year, April or May.
- Treat a small section of the pond – about a quarter at most – at one time.
- Allow time for the decomposition process to complete before treating the next section.
- Follow herbicide labels that state the entire pond must be treated at once to get effective control.
- Always read and follow label instructions to letter.

"There are no simple answers to aquatic weed control," Masser said. "Pond vegetation is a difficult and persistent problem, so the best advice is to start control measures early. Don't wait for the problem to get worst, because it will." Proper control starts with accurate identification of the weed species. Weed identification and control information can be found online at Extension's Aquaplant Web site: <http://aquaplant.tamu.edu/>.

In 1995, Texas voters approved Proposition 11, which amended Article VIII, Section 1-d-1 of the Texas Constitution to permit agricultural appraisal for land used to manage wildlife. H.B. 1358 implemented the constitutional amendment by making wildlife management an agricultural use that qualifies the land for agricultural appraisal.

In 2001, the Legislature passed H.B. 3123 requiring the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department to develop and the Comptroller to adopt rules for the qualification of agricultural land in wildlife management use. These guidelines and Chapter 9, Subchapter F, Texas Administrative Code, constitute the rules, as required by Section 23.52(g), Tax Code. The Texas Administrative Code language specifically addresses qualification of land partitioned from a previously qualified larger tract of real property qualified for 1-d-1 appraisal as wildlife management land.

The Tax Code, Chapter 23, Subchapter D, addresses the requirements for landowners to qualify their land for agricultural appraisal and also instructs county appraisal districts on how to appraise qualified agricultural land. Land used for wildlife management must meet all the legal requirements of land qualified for agricultural appraisal. Those requirements, however, are outside the scope of these guidelines. The Comptroller publishes a Manual for the Appraisal of Agricultural Land that discusses in detail the qualification of land for agricultural appraisal, the rollback tax penalty for change of use and appraisal of agricultural land.

Land on which the owner engages in wildlife management and that meets other requirements for agricultural appraisal is qualified for agricultural appraisal and is technically in agricultural use. To simplify terms, however, this booklet refers to agricultural land used for wildlife management as land in *wildlife management use*. To learn more visit http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/landwater/land/private/agricultural_land/.

Government Cost Share Program

The 2009 farm bill has passed and the EQIP program is being defined. The information from the Bill will be gleaned for the parts that will address incentive programs and the rules will be developed and placed in the Federal Register for public comment. Therefore, NRCS does not yet know what will be in the program for 2009.

What is known is that any producer that plans to participate in EQIP or any other incentive program will need to have a conservation plan ahead of time. The Conservation Plan basically describes what conservation practices and management items are needed for a pasture or field, or the whole farm or ranch. Then, the items for the contract will be available to be selected from the Plan and placed in the contract for the program.

NRCS is accepting applications at any time. These applications will be held until the approval period (which is unknown at this time). The practices to be addressed will be added into the contracting system and will be ranked based on the work that is to be done, the type of Conservation Plan, and priorities of the area.

Producers that are new to the area will need to contact the Farm Service Agency (FSA) in order to obtain a farm number, if one does not exist or is not assigned to the new operator. Others may or may not have a farm number and may need to contact FSA to make that determination. There are also forms to complete that will be used for eligibility.

Most of the required items are fairly easily addressed, but it may seem like a complicated process, especially to newcomers. Producers that are not familiar with the process are encouraged to contact the NRCS for an explanation and to

find out more. As usual with any government program, there are no short explanations.

You can contact Matt Gregory or Wynne Whitworth at the NRCS office in Jacksboro, at 940-567-5641, or stop by the office at 244 South Main for more information.

USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Upcoming Events

JCWMA Meeting

Saturday, August 23, 1 pm at the Jack County Fair Barn

Special Guest Speaker - Russell Stevens, Noble Foundation Wildlife & Range Consultant "*Developing Contiguous Wildlife Management Areas for Whitetail Deer*"

Whitetail Seminars - Rod Heltzel, Certified Whitetail Breeder

"Field Scoring & Aging of Whitetail Bucks"

-One Saturday in September & one Saturday in October. Dates are yet to be decided, however space will be limited, so if anyone is interested in attending, please contact Leslie Hathorn either through the www.jcwma.org website or call 940.229.8033.



JCWMA Caps and Gate Signs

JCWMA Caps
\$10 Each

JCWMA Gate Signs
\$13 Each

For information on purchasing these items, contact the [JCWMA Secretary](#).

Publications available at the Agrilife Bookstore

<https://agrilifebookstore.org>



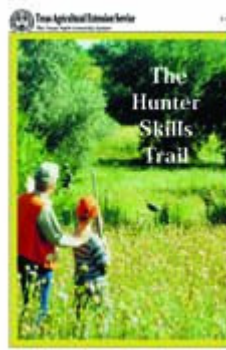
SP-326 The Largemouth Bass (CD)

Fisheries specialists from Texas AgriLife Extension, the Natural Resource Conservation Service (USDA), the Texas Chapter of the American Fisheries Society, and the Southern Regional Aquaculture Center authored the publications collected on this CD. This up-to-date reference covers all aspects of private pond/impoundment management. It includes sections on construction, stocking, pond and lake management, water quality, special problems and more.



B-6197 Wildlife and Fish Management Calendar for Texas and the Southeast--A Landowner's Guide

This full-color calendar is the perfect tool for managing wildlife and fish resources. You'll learn how to improve the fishing in your bass and catfish ponds, how to encourage doves and water fowl with the proper habitat, how to determine the age of deer in the field or from tooth wear, how to control feral hogs, how to select supplemental forages for wildlife, and much more. Use the calendar to record your management activities, and you'll have invaluable data for measuring success, as well as documentation for tax purposes. (40 pp.)



B-6086 The Hunter Skills Trail

Hunter education is most successful when it includes hands-on teaching about hunting and firearms safety. The Hunter Skills Trail is a proven technique for training both adults and young people, and this guide explains how to set up and conduct such a program. (12 pp., 17 photos)

JCWMA Contact List

Current Officers			
President	Keith M. Reeves	(940) 928-0099	President@jcwma.org
Vice President	Tom O. Nethery	(817) 343-8835	VP@jcwma.org
Secretary / Treasurer	Leslie Hathorn	(940) 229-8033	Secretary@jcwma.org
Director NE Quadrant	Mike Campsey	(940) 567-5884	NE@jcwma.org
Director SE Quadrant	Rod Heltzel	(940) 507-1850	SE@jcwma.org
Director NW Quadrant	Tom Carpenter	(940) 693-1618	NW@jcwma.org
Director SW Quadrant	Maurice Graham	(940) 664-2851	SW@jcwma.org
County Ext. Agent-Ag	Heath Lusty	(940) 567-2132	rhilusty@ag.tamu.edu