



TMBC/Border Region Review

The newsletter for the Texas/Mexico Border Coalition CBO in partnership with UTPA and other border region organizations; providing information about TMBC and border-region projects, which are coordinated and enhanced by Project FORGE.

Issue 8

Aisha Cruz, Writer/Editor

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Annual Conference approaching

A long-standing, positive relationship between the TMBC and USDA NRCS Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) Councils has evolved into a joint effort to host a great event for border region farmers and ranchers. The **2007 Joint Conference** will be held in Eagle Pass, Texas on April 10 through April 13.

The Conference will benefit agricultural producers and organizations. The format is composed of general and breakout sessions, with a special track for administrative assistants or any one that keeps track of farm/ranch or household expenses.

Other topics on the agenda include: USDA border activities, wind energy, farmland protection, farm taxation, risk management, prescribed burning, and electronic government. Conference participants can choose to attend any sessions that interest them most.

For more information about the 2007 Joint Conference, please contact TMBC.

TMBC will provide travel and overnight money for farmers and ranchers to attend the 2007 Joint Conference in Eagle Pass, Texas.

Events Calendar:

April

- 10 2007 Joint Conference
Eagle Pass, TX
- 16 New round of
Computer, Internet, &
eGov training begins
- 21 Ranchers' Workshop
Espanola, NM
- 28 San Isidro Festival
San Isidro, TX

May

- 19 Risk Management
Workshop
Marfa, Texas

June

- 16 Risk Management
Workshop
San Antonio, TX
- 23 Risk Management
Workshop
Robstown, TX

Joint Conference sponsor opportunity

TMBC and the Texas Association of RC&D Councils, Inc. extend an opportunity for sponsorship to organizations that can benefit from exposure at the 2007 Joint Conference. All donations are subject to 501c3 donation benefits, as outlined in the US Tax Code.

Conference Gold Level Sponsorship recognizes entities that contribute \$2,000 in support. They receive two Conference registrations, full page recognition in the Program, and prominent display in the registration area and entrance.

Conference Silver Level Sponsorship recognizes entities that contribute \$1,500 to \$1,999 in support. They receive one Conference registration, half-page recognition in the Program, and prominent display in the registration area and entrance.

Conference Bronze Level Sponsorship recognizes entities that contribute \$500 to \$1,499 in support. They receive one Conference registration, quarter-page recognition in the Program, and prominent display in the registration area and entrance.

Sponsor. Continued on page 2

TMBC projects merge for superb results

Teamwork is the component vital to so much of the work that TMBC does. Most times, the team consists of TMBC, USDA agencies, and other state and local organizations. However, it is the every-day combination of TMBC projects that goes less noticed.

A prime example of TMBC projects and other organizations coordinating efforts and staff for a single purpose occurred on February 23 in Benavides, Texas. The event, titled "Prescribed Burning for Range and

Wildlife", brought together USDA NRCS employees from Starr and Duval Counties and Grazing Land Conservation Initiative (GLCI) staff. It also involved three of the five TMBC projects.



The workshop was initially put together by the Frontera Agriculture Ranch Management (FARM) Project, which is funded by RMA and specializes in providing informational and educational workshops for farmers and

Merge. Continued on page 2

Prescribed Burning CD coming soon!

Many producers can benefit from a prescribed burn, but are hesitant to take on the project. TMBC and NRCS Grazing Lands Conservation Initiative are producing an educational CD with real footage of prescribed burning.

Contact TMBC to reserve your CD!

TMBC CBO Directors and Staff

Chairman, Omar J. Garza
Santa Elena, Texas

Vice-Chairman, Larry Ernst
Leaky, Texas

Secretary, Homero Vera
Premont, Texas

Treasurer, Samuel Rodriguez
Rio Grande City, Texas

Director, Guillermo Benavides
Laredo, Texas

Director, David A. Garza
San Benito, Texas

Director, vacant

Director, Fidel del Barrio, PhD
Leaky, Texas

Director, Mario Escobar
Crystal City, Texas

Director, vacant

Director, Rigoberto Delgado, PhD
El Paso, Texas

Director, Minerva Margo
Santa Elena, Texas

Project Director, eFARM,
Aisha Lee Cruz

Project Director, FARM,
Raul Villarreal, Jr.

Liaison, Cameron/Hidalgo Co.
Adrian de los Santos

Liaison, Hidalgo/Willacy Co.
Cecilia Davila

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ranchers. Other projects that were included in the day's events were the Electronic Farm and Ranch (eFARM) Project and Technical Service Provider (TSP) Project.

Aisha Cruz, eFARM Project Director, described the several projects administered by TMBC, including eFARM, a computer, Internet, and electronic government training program provided free of charge to farmers and ranchers in rural areas.

Following the informational meeting, participants were invited to witness a prescribed



burn. The burn was administered by Duval County NRCS and GLCI with the help of TMBC employee Beto Gonzalez. Gonzalez is one of four TSP Project staff members. The TSP Project provides for man-power in NRCS offices in the South Texas areas.

The culmination of several TMBC projects, resulted in a productive and interesting workshop for ranchers in Duval County and is typical for all TMBC activities.

Since September 1, 2006, the FARM Project has provided four meetings to 178 participants. Producers are notified by mail. To date, 32, 248 letters have been sent out.

Sponsor, Continued from page 1

Luncheon Sponsorships: recognizes an entity that contributes \$1,000 in support of a specific Luncheon, there are two luncheons scheduled. They receive two Luncheon tickets, mention by the MC, and mention in the Program.

Dinner Sponsorship: recognizes an entity that contributes \$1,000 in support of the Conference Dinner Banquet. They receive two Dinner tickets, mention by the MC, and mention in the Program.

President's Reception Sponsorship: recognizes an entity that contributes \$1,000 in support of the President's Reception. They receive two Reception tickets,

mention by the MC, and mention in the Program.

Coffee Break Sponsorship: recognizes an entity that contributes \$200 in support of a specific Coffee Break event, there are four breaks scheduled. They receive recognition at their event, and mention in the Program.

Hospitality Room Sponsorship: recognizes entities that contribute \$500 in support of the Conference Hospitality Room. They receive recognition at their event, and mention in the Program.

For more information, please contact the Rio Grande-Nueces RC&D Office at 830-279-0164 or TMBC.

Exhibitors invited to Joint Conference

The TMBC and the Texas Association of RC&D Councils invites those with interest in promoting their businesses and services to farmers and ranchers to register as exhibitors at the 2007 Joint Conference at the Eagle Pass International Center for Trade, in Eagle Pass, Texas April 10th through the 13th.

Conference participants will include: locally elected officials, agency personnel, rural residents, and other persons interested in the wise and prudent development of rural Texas.

Exhibitors will be provided with a 10'x10' space at the back of our general session area, a six foot table and two chairs, and mention in our Conference Program. The Exhibitor Fee is \$250. Exhibit set-up is scheduled for April 10th, from 1:00 to 5:00 PM and Exhibit take-down is scheduled for April 12th, from 4:00 – 5:30 PM.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the Rio Grande-Nueces RC&D office at 830-279-0164. Your participation is greatly appreciated.

Texas/Mexico Border Coalition Community-based Organization

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2007 Joint Conference



Texas Association
of
RC&D Councils, Inc.



Texas-Mexico Border Coalition

"Managing Rural Risks Through Partnerships"

Please complete a separate registration form for each attendee.

Texas/Mexico Border Coalition Members:

_____ Person attending conference \$35 (after March 30)

Non-Members:

_____ Person attending conference + **membership** \$45 (after March 30)

_____ Person attending conference **w/o membership** \$50 (after March 30)

Total Amount Due \$ _____

Name: _____ Phone No: _____

Address: _____ City, State, Zip: _____

E-mail: _____ Organization: _____

Scholarships for Producers

We understand that taking time away for this conference can be costly, so we have money available to help pay travel and hotel costs. Call us at (956) 481-3256 to reserve your scholarship.

No Refunds, No Credit Cards
Checks & NFC will be accepted
Federal ID Number: 74-2933469

Make Check Payable to:
Texas/Mexico Border Coalition
208 S. Norris
Rio Grande City, TX 78582

Fax: (956) 481-3950
Phone: (956) 481-3256
E-mail: tm-bc@tm-bc.org
Web site: www.tm-bc.org

2007 Joint Conference Lodging

Hampton Inn	\$75	830-757-5565
Holiday Inn	\$65	830-757-3050
La Quinta Inn	\$60	800-531-5900
Best Western	\$70	830-758-1234
Camino Real	\$58	830-757-8111
Super 8 Motel	\$54	830-773-9531
Country Hill Inn	\$55	830-773-1811
Eagle Pass Inn	\$53	830-757-3700

For more information on hotels:

www.eaglepass.com

