

THE TEXAS WATER SOURCE

UPDATING HARDIN, JEFFERSON & ORANGE CO. FOREST LANDOWNERS ON FORESTRY AND WATER ISSUES

Updated BMP Product and Vendor Guide

Do you have plans to construct or repair a road on your property? Maybe you are considering putting in a stream crossing, or have one that is in need of repair or replacement. It is very important to use the proper materials while constructing or repairing your roads and stream crossings to ensure they will not erode or wash out. A severely eroded road or washed out stream crossing not only limits access to your land, but can also pose a real threat to water quality.

The Texas Forest Service website has a very useful Best Management Practices (BMP) Product and Vendor Guide. The guide is broken down into 10 main products or product categories: 1) Geotextile Fabrics, 2) Geogrids, 3) Geocells (Geoweb), 4) Reno mattresses, 5) Gabion Baskets, 6) Culverts, 7) Temporary Crossing Mats, 8) Railcars, 9) Miscellaneous Products, 10) Fill Materials.

Each product listed has a description and applications of the product, specifications, and approximate costs. The guide lists several ven-

dors for many of the products listed.

There is also a distributors section which lists all of the vendors and a variety of ways to contact each vendor. The Texas Forest Service does not endorse specific products or vendors listed in the contents of this guide; this is just a service to show you what products are available and aid you in finding products and contractors to meet your needs.

For more information or to download a PDF version of the Best Management Practices Product and Vendor Guide, visit the Texas Forest Service Best Management Practices webpage at <http://texasforests-service.tamu.edu/BMP> and click on "Publications." Scroll down to the "Reports" section and click on "BMP Product and Vendor Guide."

Detailed information of each product is available from the BMP Project foresters. If you need specific information about the use of a product, call Hughes Simpson at (936) 639-8180. or e-mail us at hsimpson@tfs.tamu.edu.

For more information:

- <http://texasforests-service.tamu.edu/bmp>

Local Forest Landowner Association

Local forest landowner associations help landowners keep in touch with what is going on in the forest industry and what is available to them. The **Southeast Texas Forest Landowners Association** does just that for landowners with property in

your counties.

For information on how to join and the where and when of upcoming meetings, contact Rich Dottellis, District Forester, using the contact information on back of this newsletter.

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*Agency Spotlight***Texas AgriLife Extension Service****For more information:**

- <http://texasextension.tamu.edu/>

Texas AgriLife Extension - it's not just about agriculture. AgriLife Extension offers a diverse array of educational programs, activities, and resources. They are generally organized under one of four broad program areas:

- **Agriculture and Natural Resources** - Some of the fields covered include all aspects of agriculture and animal science, agriculture economics, entomology, horticulture, recreation, veterinary medicine, wildlife and fisheries sciences, and even forestry.
- **Family and Consumer Sciences** - This program offers practical information for families: raising children, housing and environment, eating well, managing money, and staying healthy.
- **4-H and Youth Development** - 4-H is a community of young people across America who are learning leadership, citizenship, and life skills. 4-H gives them a chance to pursue their own interests - from photography to computers, from building rockets to raising sheep.

- **Community Economic Development** - The mission of this program is the development of individual abilities and community support for creating and growing businesses, jobs, wealth and income. Some of the programs under this division include Business Retention and Expansion, Disaster Preparedness, Entrepreneurship and Business Development, and Community Leadership.

Extension information may be read in newspapers, heard on radio, presented at Extension workshops, offered in Extension publications, or by visiting with a local county agent.

Some extension specialists are affiliated with various academic departments of Texas A&M University. However, many of these specialists and most other extension personnel are located across the state to work directly with Texas residents.

AgriLife Extension custom-designs its programs to different areas of the state, significantly depending on residents for input and program delivery.

Texas Watershed Steward Program**For more information:**

- <http://tws.tamu.edu/>

The Texas Watershed Steward (TWS) program is a statewide one-day educational program designed to improve the quality of Texas' water resources by educating and informing local stakeholders about their watershed, potential impairments, and steps that can be taken to help improve and protect water quality in their watershed.

The program is sponsored by the Texas AgriLife Extension Service and the Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board (TSSWCB) and made possible through a Clean Water Act §319 (h) nonpoint source grant from the

TSSWCB and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

Active public participation in local watershed management efforts is critical in addressing local water quality problems and concerns. The program is open to all watershed residents including homeowners, business owners, agricultural producers, decision-makers, community leaders, and other citizens. Check the website in the sidebar for information on the free and very informative workshops. TWS planners are looking at hosting a workshop in Orange County in the future.

Orange Co. TMDL Project Update

Work has continued on the Implementation Plan (I-Plan) for the Orange County Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) project. This TMDL project was initiated in August of 2002 by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) to restore and maintain the water quality in Adams and Cow Bayous.

A TMDL is a “budget” that determines the amount of a particular pollutant that a water body can receive and still meet its applicable water quality standards. A TMDL summarizes the sources of the pollutants, while its associated I-Plan outlines management strategies needed to restore water quality and maintain the beneficial uses of impaired or threatened water bodies.

The Texas Surface Water Quality Standards establish explicit goals for the quality of streams, lakes, and bays throughout the state. The Standards are written and implemented by the

temperature, pH, dissolved minerals, toxic substances, and bacteria.

Adams and Cow Bayous were placed on an impaired list by the State of Texas because they do not meet the standard conditions suitable for swimming, wading, fishing, or supporting a healthy aquatic environment. Water quality testing found elevated bacteria levels in the bayous and their tributaries that may pose a health risk for swimmers, as well as low concentrations of dissolved oxygen and/or low pH which indicate that conditions are not optimal for aquatic life. Municipal wastewater treatment facilities and failing residential/commercial septic systems have been identified as the primary causes contributing to the impairments.

A stakeholder advisory group (SAG) formed in 2003 has been involved throughout the Orange County TMDL project. Members of the SAG represent government, permitted facilities, agriculture, business, environmental and community interests in the two watersheds. Since the approval of the TMDL report in 2007, the SAG members have been developing the I-Plan that describes the actions that local, regional, and state organizations must take to reduce pollutants to levels established in the TMDL.

The SAG met on October 5th to begin finalizing various components of the Orange County TMDL I-Plan. Efforts to reduce loading from failing septic systems are continuing, and a plan for regional wastewater treatment is moving forward. The next SAG meeting will be held on November 30, 2010, at the Sabine River Authority office in Orange.

For more information:

- <http://www.sra.dst.tx.us/srwpmp/octmdl/default.asp>
- <http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/implementation/water/tmdl/37-orangecounty.html>
- Sabine River Authority office, Orange - (409) 746-2192

Seventeen Total Maximum Daily Loads			
	Bacterial loading	Dissolved Oxygen	Low pH
Adams Bayou Tidal	X	X	
Adams Bayou Above Tidal	X	X	
Gum Gully	X	X	
Hudson Gully	X	X	
Cow Bayou Tidal	X	X	X
Cow Bayou Above Tidal		X	
Coon Bayou	X	X	
Cole Creek	X	X	
Terry Gully	X		

TCEQ under authority of the Clean Water Act and the Texas Water Code. Water quality standards identify appropriate uses for the state’s surface waters, including aquatic life, contact or non-contact recreation, and source of public water supply (or drinking water). Upper and lower limits are set for common indicators (criteria) of water quality, such as dissolved oxygen,

Did you know...

This newsletter is the first of four scheduled to be published over the next year for your area. You can read previous issues of *The Texas Water Source* by going to the TFS website at <http://texasforestservicetamu.edu/BMP> and clicking on “Publications.”

Updating Hardin, Jefferson & Orange Co. Forest
Landowners on Forestry and Water Issues

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The Texas Forest Service is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer committed to Excellence Through Diversity.

Best Management Practices
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Your Local Extension Offices

County Extension agents can provide you with information on a wide variety of topics. Contact the office affiliated with your county to see how they can assist you.

Hardin Co.

Hardin County Courthouse Annex
4400 Monroe St., Kountze
(409) 246-5128
Hardin-tx@tamu.edu <http://hardin-tx.tamu.edu/>

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