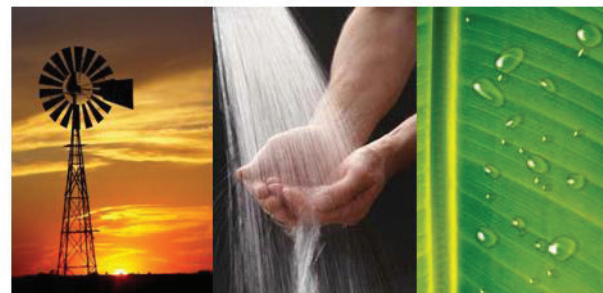


North Plains Water News



A Publication of the NORTH PLAINS GROUNDWATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

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WINTER 2016

Register Now for the 2017 Master Irrigator Program

The limited number of spots available for the second year of the Master Irrigator program are available now on a first come, first served basis for qualified applicants. Only 25 candidates will be accepted for this unique, immersive learning opportunity. Act now to reserve a spot in the Master Irrigator Class of 2017! To register now go to www.northplainsgcd.org/masterirrigator.

The Master Irrigator is a 4-day interactive training program combining lecture, in-field activities and producer panel interaction to provide a fast track to adoption of the irrigation practices, tools and technologies that will help growers be more efficient stewards of the most precious of resources. In addition, thanks to the partnership with the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) – Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), qualifying Master Irrigator graduates will be eligible for a portion of a special Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) fund to implement conservation practices on their own farms.

Here are a few comments taken

from a survey of members of the Master Irrigator Class of 2016:

- “This was a great program that has been a great benefit from a knowledge standpoint and information sharing among producers.”
- “Producer panels were outstanding. It was beneficial just to listen to producers in the audience discuss the things they were doing on their individual operations.”
- “Was well worth the time I spent here.”
- “Steve’s (Amosson) spreadsheet will be very helpful.”
- “We cannot stop doing better or we lose everything.”
- “Meals were great.”
- “Overall, the entire training provided good information, the producer panels showed how many different operations adopted individual practices/tools to make a successful operation.”

Other comments included suggestions, for a more convenient time of the year for the program. Consequently, the district scheduled the sessions for earlier in the spring of 2017 to better accommodate the activity of growers. The 2017 sessions are



David Sloane, AquaSpy, demonstrates the finer points of installation of a soil moisture probe for the 2016 Master Irrigator class.

scheduled for successive Wednesday’s starting on March 22nd and ending April 12th. A preliminary agenda for Master Irrigator 2017 will include March 22 – Agronomics, March 29 – Irrigation Scheduling, April 5 – Irrigation Systems and April 12th – Irrigation Systems and Special Topics.

Master Irrigator 2017 will feature the best technical experts in the industry including, Fred Vocasek, Servi-Tech; Steve Amosson, PhD., Texas A&M;

Jeff Childs, Sales Engineer, Yaskawa America Inc; Charles Hillyer, PhD., Texas A&M AgriLife Extension and Research; David Sloane, AquaSpy; Leon New, Irrigation Engineer; John Gibson, CropQuest; Jourdan Bell, PhD., Texas A&M AgriLife Extension and Research and Steve Walthour, NPGCD General Manager, just to name a few. The experts will cover irrigation planning, SDI and remote sensing,

(continued on page 3)

Officers of NPGCD Board Appointed Zimmer Wins Re-Election

The district board of directors has a new, but very experienced, leadership team, as new officers were sworn in at the December board meeting. Harold Grall, board director for Moore County since 2008 and previous vice president, will now serve as the president of the board. He Farms over 7,000 acres of mostly irrigated land in Moore and Sherman Counties of the Texas Panhandle. Grall is an innovator and early adopter of a variety of irrigation efficiency technologies and crop production strategies including Low Elevation Spray Application (LESA), Low Energy Precision Application (LEPA), Precision Mobile Drip Irrigation (PMDI), minimum tillage practices and crop residue management. (continued on page 2)



Harold Grall, President



Danny Krienke, Vice President

2016 Production Reporting Highlights

A schedule for the 2016 production reporting process has been set by North Plains Groundwater Conservation District staff. The 2016 Annual Production Reports were mailed out on December 5, 2016. The district also mailed out a Groundwater Conservation Reserve (GCR) Worksheet along with the 2016 Annual Production Report.

This worksheet gives producers the opportunity to calculate their GCR for 2017. The GCR worksheet is for the producer’s information only and it is not necessary to return it to the district.

The reports are due in the district office by Wednesday, March 1, 2017, by close of business. Due to the high volume of reports, if you need assistance in person and need to come by the district office, please call ahead and make an appointment. Also, make sure the required supporting documentation is included with your report.

If you have any questions or you think you are not responsible for the report(s) you received, please call the district office as soon as possible. We will be emailing a confirmation of receipt this year, so make sure the email address on the front page of the report(s) is current.

All 2016 production reports not turned in by March 1, 2017, are subject to daily fees of \$50 per day after March 1, up to \$500 per report, as set by the board.

If you failed to turn in your 2015 Annual Production Report on time and paid a late filing fee, the district would like to remind you that the late filing fee for 2015 will be refunded in full if the 2016 Annual Production Reports are filed by close of business on Monday, January 16, 2017. 💧

Achieving the District's Groundwater Conservation Management Goals

Groundwater Conservation Districts in Texas are required to establish goals in a comprehensive 50-year management plan and adopt rules to ensure those goals are met. An important part of the management plan is the adoption of Desired Future Conditions (DFCs) for the district’s groundwater resources.

DFCs are the desired, quantified conditions of groundwater resources (such as water levels, water quality, spring flows, or volumes) at a specified time in the future. A DFC is a management goal that captures the philosophy and policies addressing how an aquifer will be managed.

On December 15, 2008, the North Plains Groundwater Conservation District recommended that the Joint Planning Committee of Groundwater Management Area 1 adopt DFCs for the Ogallala aquifer in the counties that comprise the district. The Joint Planning Committee considered two DFCs, one for the eastern counties and one for the western counties. Two DFC’s were proposed because they reflected the stakeholder’s desires, and because the uses or conditions of the aquifer within the district differ substantially from one geographic area to another. The DFCs were adopted in 2009 and continue to be a vital tool in managing groundwater in the northern Panhandle.

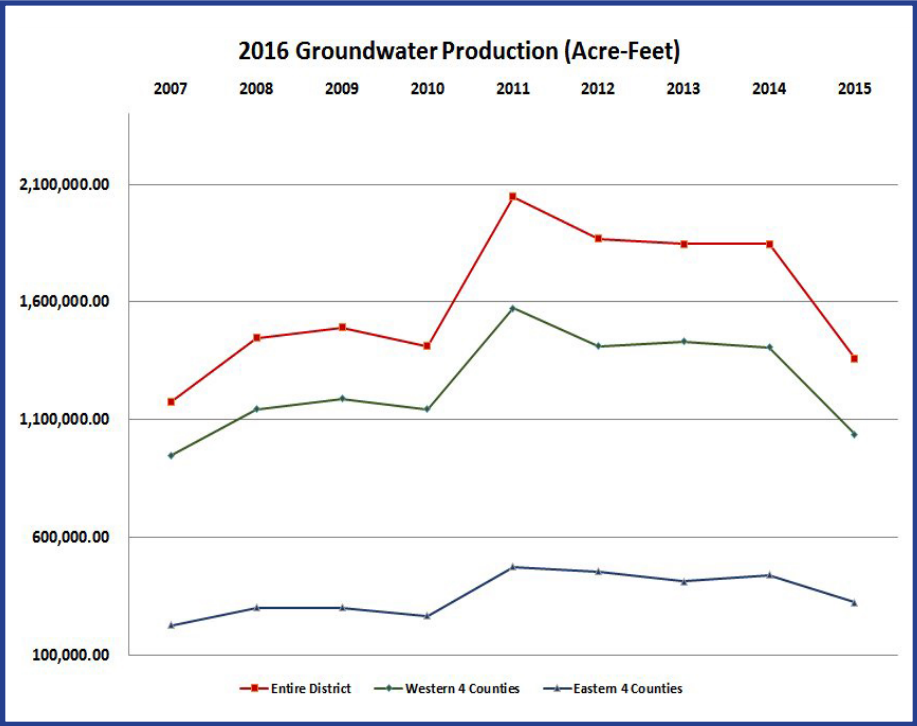
Using the District’s adopted DFCs, the Texas Water Development Board runs a Groundwater Availability Model (GAM) to determine how much water may be pumped each year and still achieve the DFCs. The amount of water the model predicts to be available, while still meeting the DFCs, is called the modeled available groundwater (MAG).

Comparing the results of the model run with the reported production, the district is in line to achieve it’s 50-year DFCs goal of having 50 percent of the groundwater resource available in the eastern four counties and 40 percent of the groundwater resource available in the western four counties.

The figures below illustrate that the district has pumped below the MAG since 2010, producing 21 percent below the MAG from 2010-2015. While the western counties have produced 2 percent more than the MAG during the period, the eastern counties have produced 56 percent less than the MAG. 💧

The following tables show groundwater production compared to the MAG from the Ogallala, Rita Blanca and Dockum aquifers.

District Production Average				
County	Average Annual Production 2010-2015	Estimated MAG Average 2010-2015	Annual Average MAG Above or Below Production	MAG Percent Above or Below Production
Dallam	356,522	395,608	39,086	10%
Hansford	190,993	279,009	88,016	32%
Hartley	435,606	414,284	-21,322	-5%
Hutchinson	64,890	60,575	-4,315	-7%
Lipscomb	45,349	288,831	243,482	84%
Moore	213,252	196,684	-16,568	-8%
Ochiltree	94,629	263,716	169,087	64%
Sherman	329,426	317,830	-11,595	-4%
Total	1,730,666	2,202,951	472,284	21%



District Production Comparison				
County	2015 Production	2015 Estimated MAG	2015 Above or Below Production	MAG Percent Above or Below Production
Dallam	296,975	378,541	81,566	22%
Hansford	148,730	273,430	124,700	46%
Hartley	332,693	396,622	63,929	16%
Hutchinson	57,632	59,845	2,212	4%
Lipscomb	39,383	287,152	247,769	86%
Moore	156,600	189,578	32,977	17%
Ochiltree	77,342	257,969	180,627	70%
Sherman	251,647	311,796	60,149	19%
Total	1,361,002	2,154,930	793,928	37%

West - Production Average				
County	Average Annual Production 2010-2015	Estimated MAG Average 2010-2015	MAG Above or Below Production	MAG Percent Above or Below Production
Dallam	356,522	395,608	39,086	10%
Hartley	435,606	414,284	-21,322	-5%
Moore	213,252	196,684	-16,568	-8%
Sherman	329,426	317,830	-11,595	-4%
Total	1,334,805	1,310,820	-23,986	-2%

2015 West Production Comparison			
County	2015 Production	2015 Estimated MAG	2015 MAG Above/below Production
Dallam	296,975	378,541	81,566
Hartley	332,693	396,622	63,929
Moore	156,600	189,578	32,977
Sherman	251,647	311,796	60,149
Total	1,037,915	1,276,535	238,620

East - Production Average				
County	Average Annual Production 2010-2015	Estimated MAG Average 2010-2015	MAG Above or Below Production	MAG Percent Above or Below Production
Hansford	190,993	279,009	88,016	32%
Hutchinson	64,890	60,575	-4,315	-7%
Lipscomb	45,349	288,831	243,482	84%
Ochiltree	94,629	263,716	169,087	64%
Total	395,861	892,131	496,270	56%

2015 East Production Comparison				
County	2015 Production	2015 Estimated MAG	2015 MAG Above/below Production	MAG Percent Above or Below Production
Hansford	148,730	273,430	124,700	46%
Hutchinson	57,632	59,845	2,212	4%
Lipscomb	39,383	287,152	247,769	86%
Ochiltree	77,342	257,969	180,627	70%
Total	323,087	878,395	555,308	63%

Board Election

(Continued from page 1)

Danny Krienke, director for Ochiltree County since 2000 and outgoing secretary, is the new vice president. Krienke, a former NPGCD board president as well, has been involved in Panhandle water issues for over 39 years. He’s spent 39 years as a farmer, using both irrigated and dry land techniques. Krienke also serves as a member of Texas Regional Water Planning Group A and is a past Chairman of Groundwater Management Area (GMA) 1.

Bob Zimmer, director for Hutchinson and Hansford Counties since 2004, was elected by the board to be the new secretary. Zimmer was re-elected as director for Hutchinson and Hansford Counties in November. He has served as board director since 2004 and is beginning his fourth term. From 2014-2016 Zimmer served his third term as president. Zimmer currently serves as Chairman of the Groundwater Management Area 1 Joint Planning Committee, since being selected in 2014. He has used some of the highest efficiency irrigation systems in his own irrigated operations, and was one of the first to use dual fuel technology in irrigation engines for energy efficiency.

The officers will serve in their respective positions for two years. 💧



Bob Zimmer, Board Secretary

Stallwitz Family Awarded Farmer Rancher of the Year

The Stallwitz family of Moore County, TX was honored with the 2016 Farmer Rancher of the Year Award as part of the Amarillo Ag Appreciation Luncheon during the Amarillo Farm and Ranch Show.

The Stallwitz name was brought to Dumas in 1910, when John Stallwitz came through on a train and saw potential for farming in Dumas. He purchased a section of land, planted some seed, and hoped for a bright future in the farming industry. In 1933, his son Ed moved to Dumas to help with the farm. That same year, Ed had a son, Eddie Stallwitz. Later Eddie Stallwitz brought his two sons into the operation and now Darren Stallwitz continues the family farm business with his son, Garrett.

Darren Stallwitz grew up in Dumas, Texas and now farms with his son, Garrett Stallwitz, a fifth-generation farmer. Stallwitz Farms currently owns and operates 6,632 acres in Moore County.

In 1983, Darren graduated with an "Ag Economics" major from Texas A&M University. Throughout his years in Moore County, Darren has served his community in many ways. He has been on the Farm Bureau board for 25 years and is currently serving as the State Wheat Commodity Chairman for Texas Farm Bureau. He is also on the Dumas Co-op board, NRCS board, and on the Dumas Cemetery board. He serves as a deacon at the First Street Church in Dumas, the "Pit Boss" for Lions Club, is an honorary FFA member, and a member of the Moore County A&M Club. Previous community roles include the founding board for the Dumas Education Foundation and the Sun Bank Advisory board. Darren has also completed the "Master Marketing" program and is currently taking the "Strategic Application of Grazing Ecology for Better Rangeland Utilization and Superior Habitats".

Darren is a loving husband of 31 years to Dana Stallwitz, a father to Garrett and daughter-in-law Madison, and daughter Crysta and son-in-law, Craig Riseling. He is an extremely proud "Grumpy" to his granddaughter, Poppy. He enjoys spending time with his family, working cattle with his son, Aggie football, and trips to the mountains.

In 2009, Garrett graduated from West Texas A&M with a major in "Animal Science". He currently serves as the secretary on the Moore County Farm Bureau board, is a Lions Club member, FFA member, and is



Stallwitz family presented the Farmer Rancher of the Year Award at this years Amarillo Ag Appreciation Luncheon. (left to right) Dana, Darren, Poppy, Garrett and Madison Stallwitz.

the assistant superintendent of steers for the Moore County Stock Show. He has also completed the "Master Marketing" program as well as the "Strategic Application of Grazing Ecology for better Rangeland Utilization and Superior Habitats". In the last few years, Garrett has built his herd to 100 head of cattle.

He is a loving husband to Madison Stallwitz, and father to his 11 month old daughter, Poppy. He enjoys spending time with his family, working cattle, buying cattle, and skiing.

Duncan & Boyd Jewelers has proudly supported the Farmer Rancher of the year for the last 25 years. Recognizing farmers and ranchers are the backbone of the Panhandle and the hard work these community members do year round, Duncan & Boyd is proud to honor the Stallwitz family. 💧

Courtesy Torri Monk, Duncan and Boyd Jewelers.

NPGCD Soil Labs at Gruver Ag Day

In October, North Plains Groundwater Conservation District (NPGCD) presented to Gruver students about the soil cycle and permeability at their agriculture day for the Gruver Farm Scholarship Foundation.



NPGCD staff Kirk Welch and Shari Stanford teach students about soil permeability, while the Texas Country Reporter cameraman records the proceedings.

The Gruver Farm Scholarship Foundation got its start when Karl Nielsen of Gruver donated land to the Gruver School District after his death in the 1970s. For many years, the school district leased the land and the proceeds of the lease went toward district operations. Gruver's former superintendent, David Teal, then came up with the idea for the Gruver Farm Scholarship Foundation. The land is farmed by Ag Partners, a group of local farmers, and is supported by many contributors. All the money produced by the crop is used for the scholarship fund. Graduates of Gruver High School can apply each year for four years after graduating.

During this year's corn harvest, NPGCD was invited to talk to students about soil and water conservation. As an added treat, the crew from the famous syndicated news program, Texas Country Reporter, showed up to do a story on Gruver's foundation. The episode aired on November 19 and 20, 2016 and can be viewed at www.texascountryreporter.com.

Gruver students from kindergarten to 6th grade learned about soil properties through NPGCD's soil lab. Students tested the permeability of loam, clay, gravel and sand by pouring the same amount of water through each material and measuring the amount that made it through. When soil labs are conducted in the classroom, lab sheets are provided for students to calculate the relative permeability of each material. Through this experiment, students then make the connection between soil and water in the Texas Panhandle and how its permeability can affect access to groundwater.

NPGCD offers soil labs for 4th grade students within the district. For questions or to schedule a soil lab, call the district at (806) 935-6401, or email Alyssa Holguin at aholguin@northplainsgcd.org. 💧

Master Irrigator Program

(Continued from page 1)

soil fertility and probes, efficient center pivot technology, variable frequency drives and new technology and methods. The technical support will continue with in-season consultation to make sure implementation is effective.

Of the 2016 graduates responding to the survey, 100 percent said they planned to implement the information they learned in the course.

Applications for the 2017 Master Irrigator program accompanied by a \$100 registration fee will be accepted for up to 25 participants or until March 10, 2017. Priority will be given to residents of the North Plains Groundwater Conservation District. For more information and to apply for the program, go to www.northplainsgcd.org/masterirrigator or call 806-935-6401. You can also "like" the North Plains Groundwater page on Facebook or "follow" us on Twitter (@NorthPlainsGCD) to receive updates on district activities. 💧

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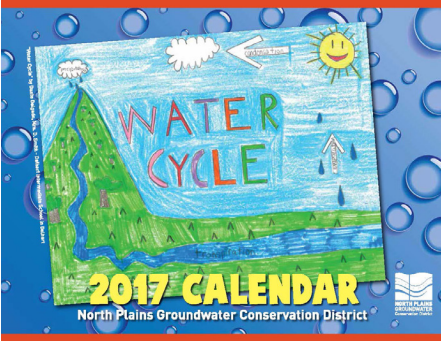
North Plains GCD now offers our district newsletters by email. If you would like us to send you a digital copy of the newsletter, you can go online at www.northplainsgcd.org and fill out the form on the right side of the page, or just email aholguin@northplainsgcd.org. You can also go online to download previous newsletters and find us on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.



2017 Water Conservation Artwork Contest Winners Announced

The results are in! Dante Delgado of Dalhart was this year’s grand prize winner in the Water Conservation Artwork Contest sponsored by the North Plains Groundwater Conservation District. The annual contest is open to all fourth, fifth, and sixth grade students who reside within the district.

Dante’s artwork titled “Water Cycle” is a colorful depiction of the water cycle with a smiling sun shining down on the landscape. Dante will receive a certificate of recognition, a \$50 cash prize, and his artwork will be featured on the cover of the 2017 North Plains Groundwater Conservation District Water Conservation Calendar. Dante was in Mrs. Dona Smith’s class at Dalhart Intermediate School last school year when the entries were submitted. The calendars are free to the public.



Other winners in this year’s contest were:

Kamryn Long – artwork titled “Turn Off the Faucet!”. Kamryn was in Mrs. Linda Henley’s class at Hillcrest Elementary in Dumas.

Jolee Jones – artwork titled “Don’t Waste Water”. Jolee was in Mrs. Gloria

Mason’s class at Hillcrest Elementary in Dumas.

Arely Acuna – artwork titled “Save Our Water!”. Arely was in Mrs. Krisa Smith’s class at Dalhart Intermediate.

Daya Vasquez – artwork titled “Drops Count”. Daya was in Mrs. Barbara Kaul’s class at St. Anthony of Padua Catholic School in Dalhart.

Mitchell Bailey – artwork titled “H2O is Life”. Mitchell was in Mrs. Krisa Smith’s class at Dalhart Intermediate.

Ashley Rodriguez – artwork titled “Be Water Smart”. Ashley was in Mrs. Kara McDowell’s class at Sunset Elementary in Dumas.

Valerie Najera – artwork titled “Save Every Drop”. Valerie was in Mrs. Kara McDowell’s class at Sunset Elementary in Dumas.

Janette Avila – artwork untitled. Janette was in Mrs. Kara McDowell’s class at Sunset Elementary in Dumas.

Sherlynn Herrera – artwork titled “Save Water!”. Sherlynn was in Mrs. Kourtney Thelander’s class at Dalhart Intermediate.

Kevin Ivan Favela Martinez – artwork titled “Save Water”. Kevin was in Mrs. Dona Smith’s class at Dalhart Intermediate.

Jolie Bowers – artwork titled “In a Drought Don’t be Without”. Jolie was in Mrs. Jantje Olson’s class at Dalhart Intermediate.

Payton Ralston – artwork titled “Don’t Dump Water Down the Drain”. Payton

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was in Mrs. Kourtney Thelander’s class at Dalhart Intermediate.

These students will receive certificates of appreciation, a \$25 cash award, and will have their artwork featured inside the 2017 Water Conservation Calendar. In addition, each student will receive copies of the calendars to share with friends and family.

The free water conservation calendars serve as a colorful reminder throughout the year of ways that each of us can be more responsible for our water resources in the little every day actions that we can take. The calendars will be available at the North Plains Groundwater Conservation District office at 603 East 1st Street in Dumas, and also at water utility offices in each town within the district. You can also request copies of the calendar by calling the district office at 806-935-6401.

The district would like to thank all the students who participated in this year’s contest. We also appreciate the parents and teachers who encourage their students to enter this contest each year. It is an excellent way to challenge students to think about ways they could conserve water, while allowing them to communicate a water conservation message to others through their art.

Artwork for the 2018 calendar is already being accepted. Send artwork on 11X8.5 (landscape view) to NPGCD at PO Box 795, Dumas, TX 79029 or drop it off at the office at 603 East 1st Street, Dumas. Any 4th-6th grade student who lives within NPGCD’s service boundaries is invited to participate. Additional submission guidelines are available at <http://northplainsgcd.org/conservationprograms/classroom/calendar-contest/>. 💧

Calendar of Events

- High Plains Irrigation Conference
 - February 15, 2017 - Amarillo
- Pioneer Crop Production Clinics
 - January 9, 2017 - Dalhart
 - January 10, 2017 - Dumas
 - January 11, 2017 - Stratford
 - January 12, 2017 - Gruver
- Master Irrigator 2017
 - March 22, 29 and April 5, 12
North Plains Water Conservation Center, Etter, TX
- Water Festival 2017
 - May 16, 2017 - Perryton
 - May 17, 2017 - Dalhart
 - May 18, 2017 - Dumas