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LAWRENCE COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT

1100 West Main Street Walnut Ridge, AR 72476 (870) 886-7791 ext. 3

Directors: Tony Teel, Larry Jones, David Foley, Ray Moseley, Jr., and Roger Tinsley
District Employees: Deb Lamb, District Secretary; Robert Counts, SWAT Technician; Harold Foley, District Technician; Doris Williams, District Technician

NRCS Staff: Ben Starr, District Conservationist; Zach Trublood, Soil Conservationist; Greg Howard, Civil Engineering Technician; and Tim Ferguson, Soil Conservation Technician

District Newsletter
Summer 2013



2013 Plat Books Are Here!

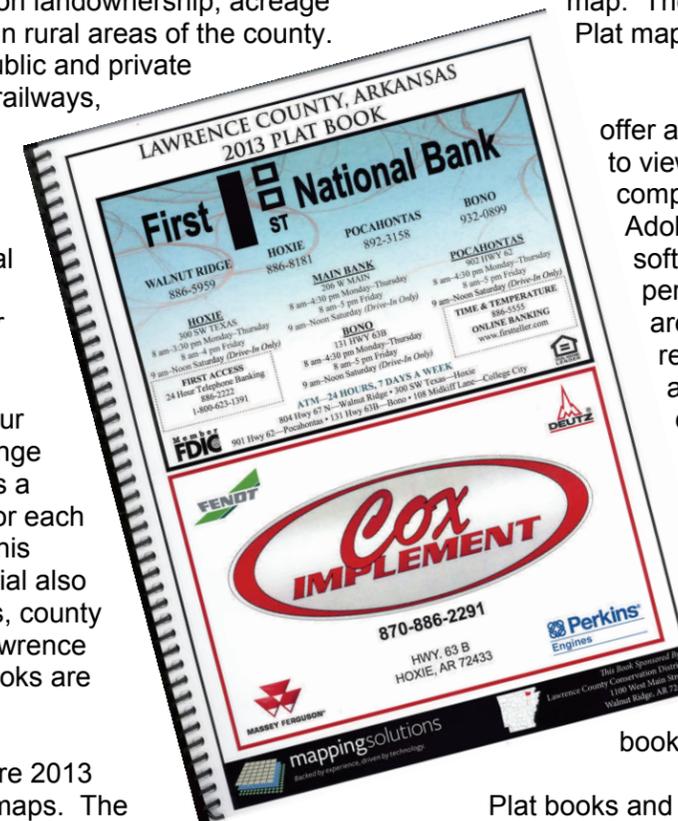
2013 Lawrence County plat books are now available at the LCCD office. The plat books contain maps that concentrate on landownership, acreage and parcel boundaries in rural areas of the county. They show details of public and private roadways, waterways, railways, and section lines, etc. This is a handy landowner index which allows for easy identification of any rural landowner in Lawrence County with 10 acres or more.

This low-glare, high grade photo stock paper provides a beautiful, long lasting image for your wall map. The map measures 36" x 48". Plat maps are \$100 each.

In addition to your typical township and range page, our book includes a **full-color aerial map** for each township and range. This unique reference material also includes school districts, county officials, and a bit of Lawrence County history. Plat books are \$40 each.

Also available are 2013 Lawrence County plat maps. The wall maps are large plat maps ideally suited to hang on an office wall for quick and easy reference. Our wall maps combine and condense all the detail within the plat book providing an entire view of the county. Wall maps are printed on 90-lb. photo matte

If you like digital maps, we offer a plat eBook which allows you to view our plat book on your computer, which is viewed with Adobe's free Adobe Reader software. These files are great for personal and business use. They are commonly used by farmers, realtors, bankers, insurance agents, construction contractors, land surveyors and other personal use. An eBook is perfect on a notebook or laptop computer for use when on the road or out of the office. It is great for quickly looking up a land owner while at your computer, rather than trying to locate your plat book. Plat eBooks are \$40 each.



Plat books and maps may be purchased in the LCCD office Monday through Friday 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. If you would like to order by mail, please download the order form located on our website at www.lccdDistrict.com Click on the "Sales" tab and follow the mail-order instructions.

Check out our website www.lccdDistrict.com for information and upcoming events!

Rain Gauges



CoCoRaHS is an acronym for the Community Collaborative Rain, Hail and Snow Network. CoCoRaHS a unique, non-profit, community-based network of volunteers of all ages and backgrounds working together to measure and map precipitation (rain, hail and snow). We are looking for one more volunteer who has access to the internet and is willing to report weather conditions to the CoCoRaHS website on a regular basis. Reporting is very easy and fun. To learn more about CoCoRaHS, visit their website at: <http://www.cocorahs.org/>

If you are interested in being a CoCoRaHS volunteer, please contact Deb Lamb at (870) 886-7791 x-3.

Beaver Bounty Report

A big "Thank You" to all the beaver harvesters in Lawrence County this year. Bounty was paid on a total of 590 beaver tails.

The District expects to have beaver bounty again this fiscal year, beginning in July. Please call the office or visit our website to find out when we will begin accepting beaver tail.

Lawrence County Conservation District SALES & RENTALS

2013 Plat Book.....\$40

2013 Plat Map.....\$100

2013 Plat eBook.....\$40

No-Till Drill Rental..\$100 min., \$8/acre

Pasture Punch Rental....\$2/acre

Southern Agricultural Cover Crops Workshop



"There are challenges to planting cover crops," says John Lee, state agronomist for Arkansas, Natural Resources Conservation Service, one reason several organizations are hosting a workshop, the Arkansas Cover Crops Conference, July 24-25, at the Hilton Garden Inn, in Jonesboro, AR. Sponsors include NRCS, University of Arkansas, Arkansas Farm Bureau, Arkansas Association of Conservation Districts, Arkansas Game and Fish Commission, Arkansas Agriculture Department, Arkansas Natural Resources Commission and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

"We're getting a lot of calls from farmers asking questions," Lee said. "We're finding quickly that cover crops don't always behave the same under southern farming conditions as they do (elsewhere). So we're learning by trial and error."

"We want to bring together experts with farmers and see if we can start answering some questions about raising cover crops. We really want to push the envelope on what we can do to help farmers improve yields and reduce their costs, and at the same time protecting the environment by improving soil and water quality." Lee says the benefits of cover crops and other conservation measures can extend far beyond helping control resistant weeds. "We're really riding a wave here. We didn't realize that there were that many farmers who were trying to plant cover crops. We're going to get ahead of the curve now and this conference we're putting together is a way of doing that, not only from a cover crops perspective, but also from a soil health perspective and a water management perspective." (Delta Farm Press)

To register, visit the LCCD website at www.lccdDistrict.com and click on the "Events" button.

Hay Quality Impacted by Five Factors

Of all the feedstuffs livestock consume, hay is probably one of the most variable in terms of quality. Hay can look good and still be low quality, or look bad and be good quality. The best way to know for sure is to have it tested. However, many people never take the time to send off a sample for analysis.

What are the factors affecting the quality of hay?

1. **Stage of Maturity**—This refers to the growth stage of the plant at the time of harvest. Stage of maturity is by far the most important factor influencing quality. The younger the plant, the higher the quality. If you want to harvest or purchase good-quality hay, pay particular attention to maturity.

2. **Leafiness**—This refers to the proportion of leaves versus stems present and is also related to the stage of maturity, especially in grass hays. As a grass matures, stems increase or are elevated, thus decreasing the quality of the forage.

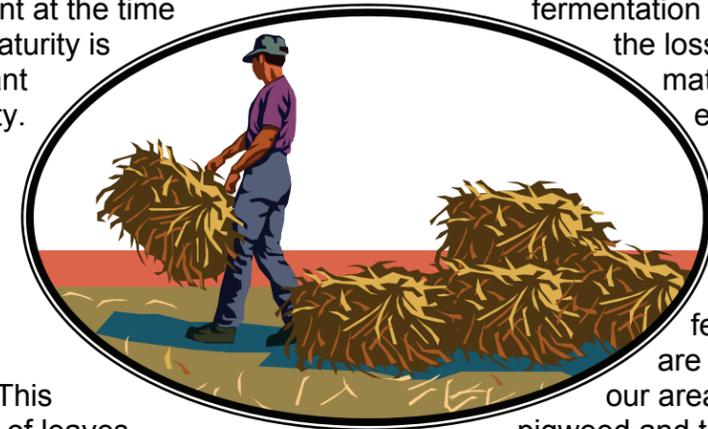
3. **Color**—Color is not always a good indicator of quality. Color often tells us more about the curing process of the hay than its quality. Hay that is bright green was typically cut

at a desirable stage of maturity and rapidly cured. Yellow color is often a result of sun bleaching and does not seriously reduce quality. Brownish hay is usually a result of excessive moisture during the curing process, thus indicating some degree of fermentation. Dark brown or black is often an indicator that the hay was exposed to rain or high humidity and is usually accompanied by a distinctive odor. Overall, slight discolorations from sun bleaching, dew, or moderate

fermentation are not as serious as the loss of green color from maturity, rain damage, or excessive heating or fermentation.

4. **Foreign Matter**—This typically includes materials that are wasted in the feeding process. Weeds are the biggest problem in our area, such as broomsedge, pigweed and thistle. Always inspect hay for foreign matter.

5. **Odor and Condition**—Use the smell of newly mown hay as your standard of comparison. Hays with off odors such as mildew, mustiness or rotten odors often indicate reduced quality and acceptance by livestock. And finally, soft, pliable hays are typically more palatable than hard, firm hays.



How Do Unused Wells Threaten Ground Water?

Ground water is found in underground geologic formations called aquifers. Ordinarily the layers of rock and soil that lie between an aquifer and the surface, or between aquifers, can act as a natural barrier against the spread of contamination. However, an unused (abandoned), unsealed well can provide an open channel between the surface and an aquifer or between a shallow aquifer and a deeper aquifer. An unused well can act as a drain, allowing surface water runoff, contaminated water, or improperly disposed waste to reach an uncontaminated aquifer.

The Arkansas Water Well Construction Commission requires that all abandoned wells be properly plugged. <http://www.arkansas.gov/awwcc/>



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