

# Luling Foundation Water Field Day to be held Oct. 29

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October 19, 2010 By: [Paul Schattenberg](#)

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LULING – The Texas AgriLife Extension Service, Plum Creek Watershed Partnership and Luling Foundation will be presenting the Luling Foundation Water Field Day from 9 a.m.- 4:15 p.m. on Oct. 29.

The program will take place at the Luling Foundation on 523 South Mulberry St. in Luling.

The field day is free and includes lunch, however attendees must pre-register with the AgriLife Extension office for Caldwell County to ensure an accurate count for the meal. Registration is from 8:30-9 a.m. with presentations to follow.



Tour stops will address rainwater catchment systems and sustainable gardens, a solar-powered water well, the Riparian Area Management and Conservation Reserve Program area, and a rainwater harvesting system at the barn. Presentations will include the new technical and financial assistance program available to producers in the Plum Creek Watershed, the Lone Star Healthy Streams Program, and soil nutrient management and water law.

This program is offered as part of the educational outreach and awareness efforts relating to the Plum Creek Watershed, said Nikki Dictson, AgriLife Extension program specialist and partnership coordinator.

Three Texas Department of Agriculture continuing education credits in the general category will be offered, she said.

Dictson said the watershed is used for a number of recreational purposes and provides an important habitat for a variety of aquatic plants and animals, but high levels of bacteria and non-beneficial nutrients are threatening it.

“From May 2006 through February 2008, the partnership developed a watershed protection plan to protect the water in the creek.” she said. “Since that plan was adopted, the

partnership and other stakeholders have been participating in plan implementation community education efforts, which include the upcoming field day on Oct. 29.”

Dictson added that of particular interest at the program will be a lunchtime presentation by B.J. Westmoreland on a new program offering technical and financial assistance for farmers and ranchers in the Plum Creek Watershed.

“The Caldwell-Travis and Hays County Soil and Water Conservation Districts and the Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board partnered to provide this assistance to develop and implement water quality management plans on agricultural lands,” said Westmoreland, a district technician for the Caldwell-Travis Soil and Water Conservation District.

The site-specific plan developed through and approved by local SWCDs includes appropriate best management practices, land treatment practices, production practices, and technologies that prevent and abate agricultural and silvicultural nonpoint source pollution.

“Livestock waste has been identified as a significant potential contributor of pollutants to the watershed,” he said. “Providing technical and financial assistance to farmers and ranchers to identify and initiate best management practices will help address this and other agriculture-related issues which are having a negative effect on water quality.”

“Some benefits of participating in this program, in addition to improving environmental quality, include creating a strategic plan for how to best manage an operation’s natural resources, enhancing the value of the operation and eligibility for cost-sharing to help defray applicable land-management practices,” he said.

Funding and support for the development of the Plum Creek Watershed Protection Plan and technical and financial assistance to implement agricultural components of the plan are provided through a Clean Water Act §319(h) Nonpoint Source grant from the TSSWCB and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Those interested in attending the water field day in Luling are asked to pre-register by Oct. 23 to ensure an accurate meal count and materials. To pre-register, contact the AgriLife Extension office for Caldwell County at 512-398-3122.

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## **Contacts**

Nikki Dictson, 979-458-3478, [n-dictson@tamu.edu](mailto:n-dictson@tamu.edu)

B.J. Westmoreland, 512-398-2121, ext. 3, B.J. Westmoreland, 512-398-2121, ext. 3,  
[Bradford.westmoreland@tx.nacdnet.net](mailto:Bradford.westmoreland@tx.nacdnet.net)

[Conservation Environment Water Plum Creek, Texas Watershed Stewards, watershed](#)