



Press Release

Re: Stewarding Our Aquifer Field Day on Tuesday, September 17, 2024

For More Information: Contact Darryl Birkenfeld,
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Farmers, ranchers, Master Naturalists, agency personnel, educators, and the interested public are invited to attend the next Stewarding Our Aquifer Field Day (SOA) presented by Ogallala Commons (www.ogallalacommons.org) on Tuesday, September 17th from 9:30am-2:00pm at the Fibermax Center for Discovery, located at 1121 Canyon Lake Drive in Lubbock, Texas.

The purpose of the educational event is to provide information about management practices that can reduce groundwater depletion in the region, improve recharge of the Ogallala Aquifer, as well as assist in the transition from irrigated agriculture to rainfed agriculture.

“This field day is a follow-up to our Stewarding Our Water Future Conference back in March,” notes Dr. Darryl Birkenfeld, Ogallala Commons Deputy Director. “We were introduced to the groundwater conservation being done by Ogallala Land & Water Conservancy, and their impact on future water availability in Curry and Roosevelt counties of eastern New Mexico. At our upcoming Field Day, we will dig more deeply into this work.”

Doors open at 9:00 a.m. at the Plains Cotton Growers Room at the Fibermax Center for Discover. The opening presentation at 9:40a.m., “A Community Vision for Preserving the Ogallala Aquifer” will be given by Dr. Ladona K. Clayton, Executive Director of Ogallala Land & Water Conservancy in Clovis, NM. At 10:10am, a panel of three agricultural producers will respond to Dr. Clayton and voice their perspectives in a session entitled, “An Aquifer Preservation Model for the TX Panhandle-South Plains.” The panel session will include questions and discussion from the audience.

After a short break, Jim Bertram, retired City Planner from Ransom Canyon, TX, will give an overview of how the City of Lubbock Canyon Lakes Project came about nearly 50 years ago. Mr. Bertram will present via a Zoom recording. At 11:45a.m., a sandwich lunch will be served, and then at 12:20pm, there will be a field excursion along Canyon Drive to view and visit 2-3 of the lakes in the Jim Bertram Canyon Lakes Complex. The excursion will end at 2:00 p.m.

Registration for the event is \$25 per person (which includes the cost of lunch and snacks). To register and pay online, please click on this link

Otherwise, please contact Darryl Birkenfeld, Deputy Director, Ogallala Commons to register for the event (darryl@ogallalacommons.org or by phone at 806-945-2255). Registration can be paid at the door

The SOA Field Day is sponsored by Ogallala Commons and its partners: Tecovas Foundation, the Horizon Foundation, and High Plains Water District.