

# Land Stewardship Training Program

## Common Sense Principles for Farm and Ranch Contractors

Land management operations designed to enhance grazing, aesthetics, wildlife habitat, wildfire mitigation, or facilitate mineral extraction have the potential to negatively impact soil, water, and wildlife resources if poorly planned or implemented. Farm and ranch contractors conducting these operations collectively touch millions of acres each year, representing a tremendous opportunity to promote and implement private land stewardship practices.

The *Land Stewardship Training Program* is a collaborative, proactive, voluntary initiative designed to provide contractors with information and tools tailored to specific ecoregions to enhance environmental sustainability, contractor profitability, and landowner satisfaction. Over 96% of participants would recommend this workshop to others and all respondents now believe that their actions on the land can directly affect water quality and wildlife. Course participants also receive continuing education credits towards their pesticide applicators license.

### Workshop Topics

#### **Best Management Practices**

BMPs are a collection of voluntary, conservation practices that protect soil and water resources during land operations.

#### **Streamside Management Zones / Riparian Buffers**

SMZs are vegetative buffers that filter runoff water and trap sediment before it reaches the stream. The establishment and management of these zones play a big role in improving, maintaining, and restoring water resources.

#### **Operation Planning and Layout**

One of the most critical and effective BMPs is the proper planning and layout of management operations. There are many tools and resources available that can greatly assist with this initial step.

#### **Wildlife / Endangered Species**

Land management operations can enhance wildlife and endangered species habitat if done properly.

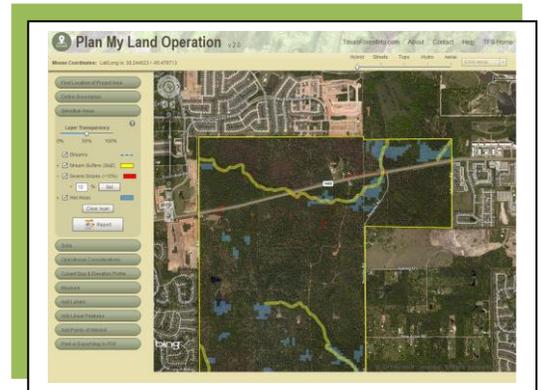
#### **Safety**

Underground pipelines can threaten contractor safety and be very costly to repair if damaged. Texas 811 provides location services and how to operate safely around this infrastructure.

#### **Field Session**

After lunch, workshop attendees are able to see examples of these principles and conservation practices applied on the ground.

For more information, please contact Lori Hazel  
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*Plan My Land Operation is an easy to use, online application that supports operation planning and layout. BMP recommendations based on the soils, topography, and water resources found on a site, are provided.*



*SMZs reduce the amount of sediment that enters streams and provide shade, helping maintain stable water temperatures for fish and aquatic species.*

