



**High Plains Water District**  
**[www.hpwd.org](http://www.hpwd.org)**

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# 2025 Annual Report

High Plains Underground Water Conservation District No. 1  
2930 Avenue Q  
Lubbock, Texas 79411-2499

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# High Plains Underground Water Conservation District No. 1 (HPWD)

The district was created to conserve, preserve, and protect the groundwater resources within its 16-county service area.

HPWD consists of all of Bailey, Cochran, Hale, Lamb, Lubbock, Lynn, Parmer, and Swisher Counties, and parts of Armstrong, Castro, Crosby, Deaf Smith, Floyd, Hockley, Potter, and Randall Counties. The district's service area is approximately 11,850 square miles.

HPWD has developed its management philosophy and resulting management strategies to: 1) protect property rights; 2) utilize the best available science to balance the conservation and development of groundwater; and 3) meet the management goals and desired future conditions of aquifers of the District.

The HPWD Board of Directors adopted the original management plan on August 11, 1998. The plan was later amended on these dates:

- January 29, 2004
- February 10, 2010
- July 19, 2011
- August 12, 2014
- September 10, 2019
- September 10, 2024

This document contains management goals, performance standards, and responses to the performance standards for FY 2025. **It is from October 1, 2024, to September 30, 2025.**

***The High Plains Underground Water Conservation District No. 1 Board of Directors reviewed and approved this annual report at their December 9, 2025, regular meeting in Lubbock, TX.***

# BOARD OF DIRECTORS

<b>Brandon Patschke</b>	Member	Precinct One District Director	Lubbock, TX
<b>Brad Heffington</b>	Vice President	Precinct Two District Director	Littlefield, TX
<b>Tony Beauchamp</b>	Secretary-Treasurer	Precinct Three District Director	Lazbuddie, TX
<b>Lynn Tate</b>	President	Precinct Four District Director	Amarillo, TX
<b>Jeremy Reed</b>	Member	Precinct Five District Director	Kress, TX

## DISTRICT STAFF

Tammy Anderson	Accountant
Billy Barron	Field Technician Supervisor
Nathaniel Bibbs	Permit Assistant
Liz Casias	Administrative Assistant
Jason Coleman, P.E.	General Manager
Lance Epperson	Field Technician
Luke Hickey	Field Technician
Jennifer McClendon	Education Coordinator
Vance Porter	Field Technician
Gray Sanders	IT/Permit Administrator
Robert Triggs	Field Technician
DJ Warrick	Field Technician
Jared Watkins	Field Technician
Malachi Wilhite	Field Technician

## COUNTY ADVISORY COMMITTEES

Each county has a county advisory committee that is nominated by the respective Precinct District Director. The members are presented for approval at regular board meetings. These advisory committee members make recommendations to the Board of Directors relating to rules, policy matters, programs, and activities of HPWD. These members are also a liaison between residents and the HPWD Board of Directors. A current list of all county advisory committee members is available here ([map1.hpwd.org/precinctmap.html](http://map1.hpwd.org/precinctmap.html)).

## ***MANAGER'S MESSAGE – Jason Coleman, P.E.***

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This annual report is a summary of the programs and activities conducted during the 2025 fiscal year.

Most of the content is related to the objectives contained in the district management plan. Chapter 36 of the Texas Water Code specifies the goals that a groundwater conservation district (GCD) must address in the management plan. The Board of Directors adopted an updated management plan on September 10, 2024, as required by statute. This annual report addresses the items found in the current HPWD management plan.

HPWD conducted all programs and activities for the 2025 fiscal year at a total cost of about \$2.9 million. About \$2.0 million of the district's revenue for FY2025 was property taxes. The District's Board of Directors has been lowering tax revenue for several years as it has included some use of the fund balance in the budget.

All bills and monthly financial reports for the district are available on the HPWD website ([hpwd.org](http://hpwd.org)). The public has access to the information presented during each board meeting using the "Transparency" link on the website.

Your comments and questions about HPWD programs are always welcome. Please contact us at (806) 762-0181.

# ANNUAL REPORT OF ATTAINMENT OF GOALS 2025

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## **GOAL 1: PROVIDING THE MOST EFFICIENT USE OF GROUNDWATER**

### **Management Objective 1.1 – Monitor Water Levels**

Water level measurements are vital to the study of the aquifers in the district. Annual measurements are taken each winter, during which time most of the irrigation usage is at a minimum.

#### **Performance Standards:**

**1.1a Number of wells marked as current observation sites each year**

1,383

**1.1b Number of wells with publishable measurements each year.**

1,356

**1.1c Number of wells without publishable measurements each year**

27

**1.1d Publish yearly water level changes on the interactive web map.**

District staff updated the annual changes in depth-to-water and saturated thickness in wells within the district's observation well network. These data are available for online viewing at ([map.hpwd.org](http://map.hpwd.org)). Dockum Aquifer data are available for viewing at ([dockumstudy.hpwd.org](http://dockumstudy.hpwd.org)).

**1.1e Maintain continuous water level monitoring transducers in at least 10 water wells**

There are 47 continuous water level monitoring transducers installed/maintained in wells within the district. The sites are located as follows: Armstrong (1), Bailey (3), Castro (2), Cochran (2), Crosby (3), Deaf Smith (8), Floyd (5), Hale (2), Hockley (2), Lamb (2), Lubbock (3), Lynn (3), Parmer (6), Randall (2), Swisher (3).

All available data is presented on the HPWD interactive web map ([map.hppwd.org](http://map.hppwd.org)).

## Management Objective 1.2 – Monitor Saturated Thickness

Saturated thickness represents the aquifer section where pumping occurs. Water users should be aware of changing saturated thickness.

### Performance Standards:

#### 1.2a Once per year, calculate saturated thickness for water level observation wells that have a log of well construction

County	Number of Observation Sites With Log of Construction	Average Saturated Thickness from Observation Wells (feet)
Armstrong	7	38
Bailey	77	62
Castro	85	49
Cochran	53	42
Crosby	19	80
Deaf Smith	85	58
Floyd	84	63
Hale	48	56
Hockley	75	38
Lamb	96	47
Lubbock	89	58
Lynn	59	46
Parmer	95	45
Potter	5	59
Randall	38	54
Swisher	55	43

#### 1.2b Provide saturated thickness data on the HPWD website

The *Aquifer Info* tool on the interactive map ([map.hpwd.org](http://map.hpwd.org)) provides estimates of saturated thickness in the Ogallala/ETHP Aquifer.

## Management Objective 1.3 – Technical Field Services

HPWD is frequently asked to measure well capacities. District staff use a variety of tools for this purpose, including ultrasonic flow meters and e-lines.

### Performance Standards:

#### 1.3a Number of flow tests performed by HPWD staff each year

866 (786 of these measurements were taken on wells, and 80 of these were taken on irrigation systems.)

#### 1.3b Number of water level measurements performed by HPWD staff each year

1252 (476 of these were taken for the Irrigation Assessment Program, 206 were taken upon request, and 570 were obtained as permit field checks.)

## Management Objective 1.4 – Irrigation Assessment Program

Agricultural irrigation comprises the majority of groundwater usage within the district. For this reason, it is important that the district understand the patterns of usage on different crops. Using a network of cooperators, the district should monitor application amounts and crop types.

### Performance Standards:

#### 1.4a Number of sites enrolled in the district's irrigation assessment program

149

#### 1.4b Calculate and perform a summary of crops reported by participants in the irrigation assessment program once each year.

Cotton, Corn, Peas, Grain Sorghum, Corn Silage, Sorghum Silage, Hay, Corn Grain, and Wheat

## GOAL 2: CONTROLLING AND PREVENTING WASTE OF GROUNDWATER

### Management Objective 2.1 – Well Permitting and Well Completion

HPWD requires permits for wells that produce 17.5 gpm or more.

### Performance Standards:

#### 2.1a Number of water well permits granted by the HPWD Board (by aquifer) each year

AQUIFER	2024	2025
Dockum Aquifer	92	107
Edwards-Trinity (High Plains) Aquifer	34	33
Ogallala Aquifer	967	798
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1093</b>	<b>938</b>

#### 2.1b Production categories of well permits granted by the HPWD Board (by aquifer) each year

DOCKUM AQUIFER		
Maximum Production	2024	2025
70 gallons per minute	1	4
165 gallons per minute	0	0
265 gallons per minute	10	12
500 gallons per minute	80	90
> 500 gallons per minute	1	1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>107</b>

OGALLALA/EDWARDS-TRINITY (HIGH PLAINS) AQUIFER		
Maximum Production	2024	2025
Under 17.5 gallons per minute	1	0
70 gallons per minute	394	269
165 gallons per minute	412	433
265 gallons per minute	148	100
390 gallons per minute	33	23
560 gallons per minute	10	6
800 gallons per minute	3	0
> 800 gallons per minute	0	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,001</b>	<b>831</b>

## Management Objective 2.2 – Open, Deteriorated, or Uncovered Wells

Uncovered or deteriorated wells pose a threat to groundwater quality and human and animal safety. HPWD staff may discover such a well during routine fieldwork, or the office may receive notice from a member of the public.

### Performance Standards:

#### 2.2a Number of uncovered wells that are covered each year

10

#### 2.2b Number of deteriorated wells reported each year and the status of each at the close of the fiscal year

1

## Management Objective 2.3 – Waste of Groundwater

Since waste is prohibited by state law, HPWD will emphasize public awareness of this matter.

### Performance Standards:

#### 2.3a Include a waste prevention reminder in each newsletter

Month	Article
October	Waste Reminder – Closing Pool – Do not drain into street, alley or storm drain.
November	Waste Reminder – Water running down alley is considered waste of water.
December	Waste Reminder – Running lawn sprinklers during freezing weather is wasteful.
January	Waste Reminder – What is waste? Chapter 36.001(8)(A)
February	Waste Reminder – What is waste? Chapter 36.001(8)(B)
March	Waste Reminder – Use for Beneficial Purpose: Chapter 36 (9) (A-C)
April	Waste Reminder – What is waste? Chapter 36.001(8)(C)
May	Waste Reminder – What is waste? Chapter 36.001(8)(D)
June	Waste Reminder – What is waste? Chapter 36.001(8)(E)
July	Waste Reminder – What is waste? Chapter 36.001(8)(F)
August	Waste Reminder – What is waste? Chapter 36.001(8)(G)
September	Waste Reminder – Water running down the alley is considered a waste of water.

## GOAL 3: CONTROLLING AND PREVENTING SUBSIDENCE – Not Applicable

Using the TWDB subsidence predictor tool, we analyzed selected water level observation wells. The transient predictions ended in the year 2070. The minimum predicted subsidence values were about 0.15 feet, while the maximum predicted subsidence values were about 0.70 feet. We also reviewed the TWDB report, "Identification of the Vulnerability of the Major and Minor Aquifers of Texas to Subsidence with Regard to Groundwater Pumping". The district concluded that this goal is not applicable to the operation of the district.

## GOAL 4: CONJUNCTIVE SURFACE WATER MANAGEMENT ISSUES

### Management Objective 4.1 – Coordination with Surface Water Management Agencies

HPWD has very limited surface water resources. Attending Regional Water Planning Group (RWPG) meetings within HPWD will ensure that the district stays current with issues affecting the region's surface water agencies. Several HPWD surface water entities supplement their surface water with groundwater

wells. Groundwater needs are most often discussed during regional water planning group meetings.

### **Performance Standards:**

#### **4.1a Number of RWPG meetings attended by staff each year**

HPWD Staff attended four Region O meetings and four Region A meetings.

## **GOAL 5: NATURAL RESOURCE ISSUES**

### **Management Objective 5.1 – Monitor Water Quality**

Water quality affects many different user groups within HPWD. Screening factors for water quality may include total dissolved solids (TDS) or other parameters that assess water quality. HPWD has several tools available for conducting these tests.

### **Performance Standards:**

#### **5.1a Document the aquifer(s) being sampled**

Dockum Aquifer, Edwards-Trinity (High Plains) Aquifer, and Ogallala Aquifer

#### **5.1b Number of sites sampled each year**

164

#### **5.1c Document the type of sampling methods**

Water quality samples were gathered for analysis using grab samples at well sites. In addition, water levels, pressure, conductivity, and temperature are measured using a multi-parameter sensor.

## **GOAL 6: DROUGHT CONDITIONS**

### **Management Objective 6.1 – Provide ongoing and relevant drought information**

Drought awareness helps water users understand the level of conservation required to meet a particular need. The Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) has a very useful website for drought information, which is [waterdatafortexas.org/drought](http://waterdatafortexas.org/drought). HPWD will promote drought awareness through the newsletter, which is our most popular information source.

### **Performance Standards:**

#### **6.1a Number of newsletters with drought-related information each year**

12 (a link to the current U.S. Drought Monitor website is provided in every newsletter)

## **GOAL 7: CONSERVATION, RECHARGE ENHANCEMENT, RAINWATER HARVESTING, PRECIPITATION ENHANCEMENT, OR BRUSH CONTROL, WHERE APPROPRIATE AND COST-EFFECTIVE**

### **Management Objective 7.1 – Newsletter**

HPWD will produce and distribute a newsletter to area residents and other interested parties. The newsletter will include articles discussing methods to conserve and preserve groundwater quality and quantity.

## Performance Standards:

### 7.1a Number of newsletters produced each year

12

### 7.1b Include a conservation reminder in each newsletter

Month	Article
October	Conservation Reminder – Adjust Water Schedule for Fall Weather, WaterMyYard
November	Conservation Reminder – Winterizing-Make sure pipes will not freeze and leak
December	Conservation Reminder – Run the dishwasher only when it is full.
January	Conservation Reminder – Install a lower-flow showerhead and take shorter showers.
February	Conservation Reminder - Check faucets, pipes, and hot water heaters for leaks.
March	Conservation Reminder – WaterMyYard program offered by HPWD
April	Conservation Reminder – Keep mulch or compost around trees and plants.
May	Conservation Reminder – How much water are you using outdoors this summer?
June	Conservation Reminder – Save Water with Rainwater Harvesting!
July	Conservation Reminder – Skip the hose-grab a broom!
August	Conservation Reminder – Choose reusable water bottles and lunch containers!
September	Conservation Reminder – Taper your lawn watering. Sign up for WaterMyYard

## Management Objective 7.2 – Public presentations

HPWD representatives will present information about water conservation practices and other subjects to civic clubs, professional groups, and other interested parties

## Performance Standards:

### 7.2a Number of public presentations delivered each year

12

### 7.2b Document the estimated attendance at each venue

617 total people at the 12 events.

Date	Venue	Attendance
10/21/2024	TALL (Texas Agricultural Lifetime Leadership) Cohort Meeting	32
10/23/2024	National Cotton Council	16
10/30/2024	38 <sup>th</sup> Annual West Texas Turfgrass & Irrigation Conference	42
11/20/2024	Xcel Energy Talk Station	48
1/29/2025	Water for Texas Conference	50
5/27/2025	Coldwell Banker	32
6/18/2025	AGWT-2025 Texas Groundwater Conference	42
7/31/2025	Hi-A Corn Breeding – Plot Tour Field Day	35
8/26/2025	2025 48 <sup>th</sup> Randall County Ag Day & Crop Tours	28
9/10/2025	West Mark Realtors	22
9/18/2025	2025 Cochran County Farm Fair	260
9/22/2025	Keep Levelland Beautiful Advisory Board – Levelland Chamber	10

## Management Objective 7.3 – Conservation research

HPWD will seek opportunities to participate in and partner with other groups conducting water conservation research and demonstrations.

### Performance Standards:

#### 7.3a Once per year, document the number of water conservation research/demonstration projects in which the district participates

Ten projects were approved for funding by the HPWD Board of Directors.

Project	Awarded
Texas 4-H Water Ambassadors Program	\$5,000.00
WaterWorks: Hands-on Water Education Exhibit Completion at Fibermax Center for Discovery	\$88,336.74
LMGA Demonstration Garden Expansion – Rainwater Harvesting for Butterfly Habitat	\$27,495.00
Ogallala Commons Stewarding Our Water Future: Field Days, Roundtables and Festivals	\$20,000.00
Plant Based Polymers as Effective Treatment Agents in Removal of Per-and Polyfluoroalkyl PFAS from Underground Water	\$42,353.00
Creating Precision Water Management Infrastructure for Wine Grape Research and Extension in the Texas High Plains	\$22,284.00
Evaluation of Cotton Varieties and Cultural Practices - Weather Station Telemetry	\$16,110.00
Development of Stress-Tolerant Hi-A Sweet Corn for High-Value Crop Production Under Limited Irrigation	\$31,000.00
Increasing Subsurface Drip Irrigation Capacity at Texas A&M Research Center-Lubbock	\$24,750.00
Reducing Turfgrass Irrigation using WaterMyYard Application	\$8,333.00

## Management Objective 7.4 – Public information

HPWD staff will provide general water conservation information at suitable venues within the district each year. This may include exhibits at farm shows and information tables with publications at other meetings.

### Performance Standards:

#### 7.4a Document the venues at which water conservation information is provided

Approximately 4,700 people attended or visited the HPWD public information booth.

Date	Venue	Attendance
12/3-5/2024	Amarillo Farm and Ranch Show & Texas Wheat Symposium – (Exhibit/Sponsor)	200
1/9/2025	Castro County Crops Conference – (Exhibit/Sponsor)	30
1/22/2025	TAWC Annual Water College – (Exhibit/Sponsor)	150
1/22/2025	Mid-Plains Ag Expo. (Exhibit/Sponsor)	85
1/23/2025	2025 Caprock Crop Production Conference (Exhibit/Sponsor)	165
3/27-28/2025	Ogallala Commons Rainwater Harvesting Conference (Exhibit/Sponsor)	170
9/19-27/2025	South Plains Fair (Exhibit /Sponsor)	3,900

Sponsored events without a booth- approximately 1,272 in attendance at the events.

Date	Venue	Attendance
1/27-29/2025	Water for Texas Conference - Conference Ap Sponsor	700
2/11-12/2025	No-Till Texas Health Symposium - Sponsorship	270
7/19-23/2025	District 2 TCAA Conference for Extension Agents-Sponsorship	302

### Management Objective 7.5 – Youth education

HPWD will provide water conservation education to youth within its service area.

#### Performance Standards:

##### 7.5a Document the number of presentations and youth reached once per year

HPWD staff gave nine presentations that reached an estimated 634 students.

Date	Venue	Attendance
10/1/2024	Whiteface Playa Festival	63
10/8/2024	Hockley Ag Awareness Day	293
10/31/2024	Lamb Co. Ag Awareness Day	136
11/7/2024	Cochran Co. YEA Day	30
1/7/2025	Kairos Enrichment Homeschool Group	19
2/6/2025	Lubbock Christian University Sociology Class	10
2/26/2025	South Plains Regional Science Fair – Water Related Projects	18
3/29/2025	Rural Youth Catalyst Summit	35
6/12/2025	4-H Water Ambassador Tier 1	30

### Management Objective 7.6 – Website

HPWD will provide information about groundwater, water conservation, and other subjects on its website.

#### Performance Standards:

##### 7.6a Document annual web traffic using an analytical program

The total view count for FY 2025 was 1,266,642 visits. This is about 105,554 visits per month.

## GOAL 8: RECHARGE ENHANCEMENT

### Management Objective 8.1 – Research and Demonstration Opportunities

HPWD has committed many resources to recharge enhancement studies and demonstrations since its creation. Several examples of this past work are recharge wells and enhanced recharge structures. As managed aquifer research (MAR) technologies evolve, we expect additional research and demonstration opportunities. HPWD may encourage work in this area through its research and demonstration policy.

#### Performance Standards:

##### 8.1a Number of research/demonstration MAR proposals received by HPWD each year

One project was received:

- Stewarding Our Water Future: Field Days, Roundtables and Festivals

### 8.1b Number of research/demonstration MAR proposals funded by HPWD each year

One project was funded:

- Stewarding Our Water Future: Field Days, Roundtables and Festivals

## **GOAL 9: RAINWATER HARVESTING**

HPWD will promote awareness of this conservation practice among the district's residents.

### **Performance Standards:**

#### 9.1a Number of public presentations addressing rainwater harvesting each year

HPWD staff gave one public presentation dedicated to rainwater harvesting. In addition, rainwater harvesting was mentioned during other presentations given by HPWD staff during the year.

Date	Venue	Attendance
6/3/2025	Lubbock Master Gardeners-Rainwater Harvesting Basics Workshop	48

#### 9.1b Number of rainwater harvesting devices distributed to the public each year

97 rain barrels were given away, as shown below in the accompanying table.

Venue - Distribution of Rain Barrels	Number Distributed
Ogallala Commons Rainwater Harvesting Conference	50
Lubbock Master Gardeners - Rainwater Harvesting Basics Workshop	21
Lubbock Master Gardeners - Association Butterfly Rain Garden Exhibit	1
2025 Hub City Garden Tours	5
July 2025 Newsletter Promotional Giveaway	10
South Plains Fair Horticulture Show - Awards	10

## **GOAL 10: PRECIPITATION ENHANCEMENT - Not Applicable**

Between 1997 and 2002, HPWD conducted a weather modification program. In late 2002, residents of the district voiced strong opposition to this program, and several county commissioners' courts adopted resolutions against its continuation. The HPWD board subsequently terminated the program, and this goal is not applicable

## **GOAL 11: BRUSH CONTROL - Not Applicable**

Existing programs administered by the USDA-NRCS are addressing this issue. This activity is not cost-effective and applicable to HPWD at this time. Therefore, this goal is not applicable to the operation of the district.

## **GOAL 12: DESIRED FUTURE CONDITIONS OF THE AQUIFERS**

### **Management Objective 12.1 - Calculate Average Yearly Water Level Change**

HPWD desired future conditions (DFCs) were developed using an average yearly water level change within the GMAs. Each winter, HPWD and other GCDs obtain water level measurements to determine the change from the previous year.

## Performance Standards:

### 12.1a Number of wells included in the calculation

HPWD and the other groundwater conservation districts in GMA #2 collectively had 1,510 wells measured in both 2024 and 2025. A well must be measured in both years to calculate the yearly change.

### 12.1b Calculated average water level change

The calculated average water level change was -0.78 ft across GMA #2. This is from the Ogallala/Edwards-Trinity (High Plains) data.

### 12.1c Compare total cumulative change to the adopted DFC

The total cumulative change was a decline of -9.14 feet. This compares to the adopted DFC of -12.5 feet.

## Management Objective 12.2 – Estimating Annual Usage

Calculating annual usage is helpful for monitoring progress toward achieving the desired future conditions. Although a regional groundwater model provides estimations of usage to meet that goal, a more specific local estimate may increase our understanding of the usage and corresponding changes in volume.

## Performance Standards:

### 12.2a Estimate total usage within HPWD using reported data and irrigation estimates

Irrigation usage accounts for 98% or more of the annual usage within HPWD. Reported data is submitted by water users from a variety of different water user groups. Data obtained from the cooperators in the HPWD Irrigation Assessment Program is also very helpful.

Estimated 2024 Irrigation Water Usage — 1,800,000 acre-feet

Estimated 2025 Irrigation Water Usage — data collection is still in progress

### 12.2b Compare estimated annual usage to data from the High Plains Aquifer System (HPAS) GAM

After adopting desired future conditions for relevant aquifers, each groundwater conservation district (GCD) is given a Modeled Available Groundwater (MAG) report. This data is supplied by the Texas Water Development Board. HPWD is part of Groundwater Management Areas 1 & 2 and consequently has MAG reports for both parts of the district.

#### Ogallala/Edwards-Trinity (High Plains) Aquifers

Total MAG for 2025 — 1,674,630 acre-feet

#### Dockum Aquifer

Total MAG for 2025 — 41,117 acre-feet

**2025**  
*Year*  
**IN REVIEW**



**PRECINCT 5 DIRECTOR  
RONNIE HOPPER RETIRES  
FROM THE BOARD AFTER  
12 YEARS OF SERVICE**



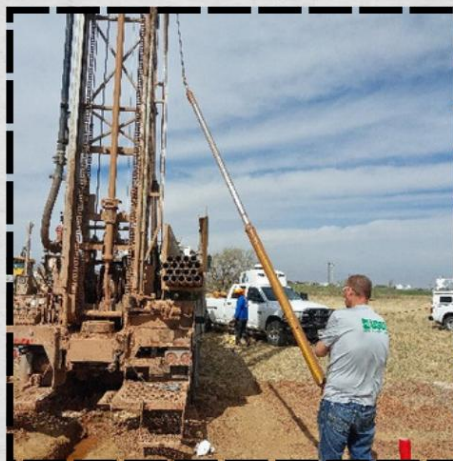
**SOUTH PLAINS FAIR BOOTH  
RAINWATER HARVESTING &  
CONSERVATION**



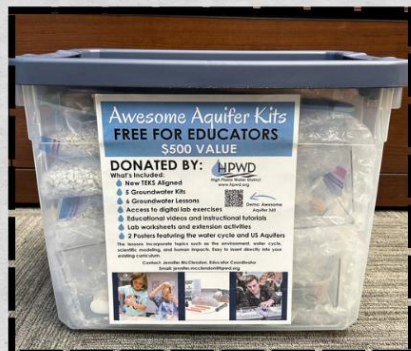
**BRAD HEFFINGTON WITH  
SEN. CHARLES PERRY  
BILL SIGNING CEREMONY  
FOR SB7, HJR7**



**JEREMY REED  
APPOINTED PRECINCT 5  
DIRECTOR**



**CITY OF SHALLOWATER  
DOCKUM AQUIFER TEST  
HOLE**



**AWESOME AQUIFER KITS  
DONATED TO SCHOOLS**



**NATHANIEL BIBBS  
WORKING ON PERMITS**



**TIER I 4-H WATER AMBASSADORS VISIT LUBBOCK**