

[LKWCD Current]

Fall Issue

December 1, 2014

Happy Holidays!

Cotton Harvest

We are now in the final month of 2014 and by now most of the cotton crops have been harvested and are now awaiting their turn at the gin. November brought us more needed rain as we are still behind the annual average in many areas of the district. The rain, although needed, postponed harvesting in some areas for a few more days. I have learned a lot about the farming history of the district since I began here earlier this year. Previously I was unaware that Texas produces more cotton than any other state (on approximately 3500 farms), and it is the states leading cash crop. I am quite proud of my small role that I play in this farming community. The groundwater resource needed to water the crops must be protected to ensure that local farmers can continue to grow our state's number one cash crop for years to come. The Lipan aquifer is very unique in that it recharges quickly with substantial rain and water levels can be back up higher than they have been in years in no time at all. That being said, it is important to be aware of overuse during the long stretches of the year where we receive little to no rain.

Monitoring Expansion

Recently, I was given the task to add more wells to our monitoring program that has been active since the creation of the district. I have been all over each county in the district scouting for wells that we can take monthly/quarterly measurements from. New wells were chosen in areas that we have not previously had data of the water table. These new wells will provide more detail to the water table maps that I have been making and further tell us more about how the aquifer is behaving. I have included an up-to-date water table map of the district on the next page. The map shows the overall trend of the water table through interpolation between the data points, which one can see that the water table descends in elevation eastward. Higher elevation does not mean more water, however, this map does give us a good look at how the groundwater lies beneath us and direction of underground flow. A big thanks to all that have allowed us to take water level measurements throughout the years and may all have a merry Christmas!