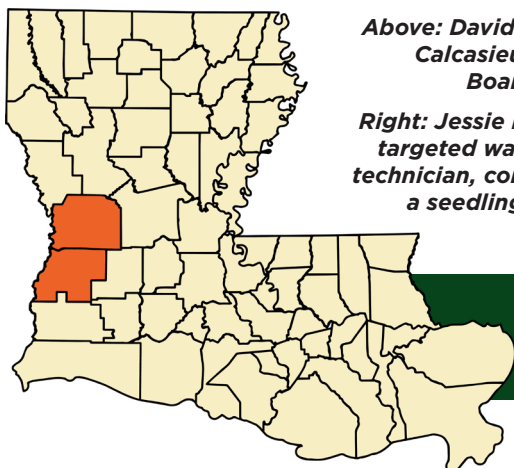


The Calcasieu Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) was established on May 12, 1939, when landowners in Vernon and Beauregard parishes saw the need to provide conservation resources and assistance to neighboring landowners and producers.

Covering over 1.6 million acres, with **over 3,400 cooperators**, the Calcasieu SWCD creates conservation opportunities for all landowners. Through federal, state, and local partnership initiatives, they make conservation technical and financial assistance available to cropland, pastureland, woodland, and urban landowners.

Conservation enthusiasts and professionals throughout Calcasieu SWCD continue to increase conservation efforts toward soil health and habitat on working lands. **Nationally recognized Soil Health Champion** David Daigle uses agricultural processes and practices to reestablish and maintain beneficial and declining ecosystems through



Above: David Daigle, Calcasieu SWCD Board Chair

Right: Jessie Louvier, targeted watershed technician, completes a seedling count.

his successful cattle and longleaf pine timber production operation. Mr. Daigle is a long-time member of the Calcasieu SWCD board and currently serves as the board's chairman.

The Calcasieu SWCD has contributed to **evolving partnerships** with the National Wild Turkey Federation, Texas-Louisiana Longleaf Pine Task Force, Vernon and Beauregard Cattleman's Association, Southwest Louisiana Forestry Association, Louisiana Nature Conservancy, Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Department of Defense (Fort Polk), and the U.S. Forest Service (USFS).

Calcasieu SWCD's growing partnership with the USFS has created the opportunity for a **shared technician** whose purpose is to assist the district's cooperators with technical assistance and conservation planning. This position has facilitated a succession of very productive SWCD agreements for the purpose of prescribed burning for forest health and productivity, enhancing rare and declining longleaf dominated habitats for red-cockaded woodpecker, LA pine snake, eastern wild turkey, and more.

Calcasieu SWCD recently facilitated the nation's first **"Good Neighbor Authority" agreement** between a soil and water conservation district and the USFS, allowing



critical management work to keep forests healthy and productive. Projects including water quality and quantity improvement, watershed restoration, vegetation management, soil and water improvement, and wildlife habitat improvement will be completed through this valuable partnership.



LA NRCS State Conservationist Chad Kacir (right) awards SWCD Board Chair David Daigle with the Hugh Hammond Bennett Award.



Board members Preston Broxson, Michael Lavergne, Jason Nolde, and David Daigle present Wesley Coffman (center) with the Conservationist of the Year Award. Mr. Coffman, who continues to maintain his LA Master Farmer certification, will soon retire from the Calcasieu SWCD after 19 years of service.

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To learn more about **SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICTS** in Louisiana, or to find your local SWCD office, visit www.ldaf.la.gov.