



**Private Water Well Screening Set On
 November 2nd for Atascosa, Dimmit,
 Frio, LaSalle, and Zavala Counties.**

The Texas A&M AgriLife Extension offices in Atascosa, Dimmit, Frio, LaSalle, and Zavala Counties will be hosting a water well screening.

Area residents are asked to pick up a sample bag and instructions from their county offices

*Atascosa County Extension Office is located at 25 East 5th Street, Leming Texas 78050

*Dimmit County Extension Office is located at 303 S, 5th Street, Carrizo Springs, TX 78834

* Frio County Extension Office is located at 400 Pecan Street, Pearsall TX 78061

*La Salle County Extension Office is located at 101 Courthouse Square, Ste#215, Cotulla, TX

*Zavala County Extension Office is located at 221 N. 1st Ave in Crystal City, TX 78839

The cost is \$10 per sample and samples must be turned in by 9 a.m. on Wednesday, November 2, 2016. Samples will be screened for common contaminants, including fecal coliform bacteria, nitrates and high salinity.

Screening results will be available at 9a.m. on November 4th at your Local Extension office.

The screening is presented by AgriLife Extension in partnership with Dimmit, La Salle, Frio, Atascosa and Zavala County AgriLife Extension. “Private water wells should be tested annually,” said John W. Smith, AgriLife Extension Program Specialist. “It is very important that only sampling bags from the Dimmit, La Salle, Frio, Atascosa, or Zavala County AgriLife Extension office be used and all instructions for proper sampling are followed to ensure accurate results.”

The presence of fecal coliform bacteria in water indicates that waste from humans or warm-blooded animals may have contaminated the water. Water contaminated with fecal coliform bacteria is more likely to also have pathogens present that can cause diarrhea, cramps, nausea or other symptoms.

“Water with nitrates at levels of 10 parts per million is considered unsafe for human consumption,” Smith said. “Nitrate levels above 10 parts per million can disrupt the ability of blood to carry oxygen throughout the body, resulting in a condition called methemoglobinemia. Infants less than 6 months of age and young livestock are most susceptible.”

Salinity as measured by total dissolved solids will also be determined for each sample. Water with high levels may leave deposits and have a salty taste, and using water with high levels for irrigation may damage soil or plants.

For more information, please contact your local AgriLife Extension Office.

Atascosa; (830) 224-0366

Dimmit; (830) 876-4216

Frio; (830) 334-0099

La Salle; (830) 483-5165

Zavala; (830) 374-2883

Upcoming Educational Programs

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Location</u>
thru 9/14	Forage Testing	Atas & Frio
8/30	Small Grain Program	Uvalde
8/31	Small Grain Program	Rio Medina
9/13	Master Gardening Training	Leming
9/20	Wildlife Coop Annual Mtg	Pleasanton
9/22	S.TX Peanut Growers Tour	Pearsall
10/11	High Tunnel Conference	Fort Worth
10/12	SARE Strawberry Workshop	Fort Worth
10/15	Veterans Workshop	Laredo
10/27	Frio County Range Tour	Pearsall
11/2	Water Well Screening	Leming

AgriLife Extension Offers Tips for Avoiding Zika

The mosquito-transmitted Zika virus is a potential threat to the health of unborn babies in Texas and other states, and the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service has stepped up efforts to educate the public on ways to protect themselves from this new menace, said agency entomologists.

“While people enjoy outdoor activities and travel this summer, it’s important to remember that our first line of defense against Zika is to avoid being bitten by mosquitoes,” said Dr. Sonja Swiger, AgriLife Extension entomologist at Stephenville. “The *Aedes aegypti* and *A. albopictus* mosquitoes that transmit Zika occur commonly in our backyards where their eggs are laid and larvae live in standing water. Like other mosquito species, they are active at sunrise and sunset, but commonly bite throughout the day as well.”

Swiger said it’s important to remember the “Four Ds” as a first line of defense. They are:

- Drain: Empty standing water, thus eliminating mosquito breeding sites.
- Dress: Put on long sleeved shirts and pants when going outside.
- Defend: Apply mosquito repellent when going outside.
- Dusk and Dawn: Avoid outdoor activity during these two most mosquito-active periods.

Swiger said simple steps such as repairing screen doors and window are critically important to keeping mosquitoes out. Managing landscape water features is another key area in the fight against the spread of the Zika virus.

“Mosquito dunks, commonly sold in garden centers for mosquito control in home water features, can be used to treat water that cannot be readily drained,” she said. “The dunks contain insect growth regulators or mosquito-specific bacteria to effectively control mosquito larvae. Neither approach is harmful to fish or other aquatic organisms.”

Dr. Mike Merchant, AgriLife Extension urban entomologist at Dallas, said that fighting Zika will be much different than fighting West Nile virus. *Aedes* mosquitoes infected with Zika are not easily detected, so health officials have to rely on actual human cases to identify hot spots.

“In addition, city and county truck-mounted sprayers are less effective at killing *Aedes* mosquitoes, so stopping these mosquitoes in each and every backyard is even more important. Everyone will need to pitch in,” he said.

“Anything that holds water should be dumped or treated. Breeding areas can include sites as benign as containers under potted plants and bird baths. Other trouble areas are old tires, empty cans and bottles, kiddie pools, buckets, boat tarps and even clogged gutters.

“It doesn’t take much water for them to reproduce,” he said. “Small containers can hold enough water to breed mosquitoes. *Aedes* mosquitoes don’t travel far from their larval habitat, so if you’ve got them, chances are you unknowingly raised them.”

Swiger said there are many mosquito repellents available, but all approved formulations share two commonalities. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency registration of these repellent products means first, that the active ingredient has been tested and is safe for people to use, and second, that it’s effective in repelling mosquitoes when used as directed.

“EPA and the Centers for Disease Control have evaluated scientific reports and conclude mosquito repellents containing DEET, picaridin, oil of lemon eucalyptus, called IR3535, as active ingredients provide reasonably long-lasting protection from mosquito bites,” Swiger said.

“Users should always read and follow label instructions. Most repellents can be used on children over two months of age, with the exception of those containing oil of lemon eucalyptus, which should not be used on children younger than 3 years old. For babies under two months of age, infant carriers fitted with mosquito netting are recommended. Pregnant and breast-feeding mothers can safely use EPA-approved insect repellents.”

Swiger said constant vigilance is the key to slowing Zika and other mosquito-borne diseases such as West Nile virus.

“It’s the global world we live in today,” she said. “As people travel and return from areas affected by Zika, some will return carrying the virus. When *Aedes* mosquitoes bite infected people, they acquire the virus. The mosquito then transmits it to an uninfected person, passing the virus to them.”

Swiger said that as of this writing, there are 46 recorded cases of Zika in Texas, all travel associated, except for one contracted sexually from their partner who traveled. No Texas mosquitoes have been found to be infected.

“Epidemics are expected as infected people arrive and locally acquired infections occur,” she said. “As the many media accounts report, women infected by the virus while pregnant are known to have babies with severe neurological defects. Aside from mosquito infections, additional cases may occur from sexual transmission of the disease. So at this point, controlling mosquitoes and protecting yourself from infection are the two key factors in the rigorous defense against this new mosquito-borne virus threat.”

For more information, contact the Atascosa County Extension Office at (830) 569-0034. More information is also available at the following websites:

Texasinsects.org

Livestockvetento.tamu.edu

Preventingzika.org



FREE FARMING AND RANCHING WORKSHOP FOR VETERANS



The Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service, in cooperation with the Texas AgrAbility Project and the U.S. Department of Agriculture, present agriculture workshops throughout the year in Texas for active duty and veteran military service members.

Program: Battleground to Breaking Ground

Date: October 15th, 2016

Location: *Texas A&M International University, Zaffirini Success Center, 5201 University Blvd., Laredo, TX 78041*

The **FREE** workshop gives current and former military with or without disabilities interested in farming or ranching the opportunity to get information on starting, developing and funding an agriculture business.

Presentations address how to develop an agriculture business plan, starting an agriculture business, possibilities and options for farming or ranching with a disability, and resources available for funding an agricultural enterprise.

For more information, please contact Texas AgrAbility at 979-847-6185.

Calculation of Water Storage Capacity:

Round tank (gallons) = 3.1416 X radius squared (ft.) X height (ft.) X 7.48

Rectangular tank (gallons) = height (ft.) X width (ft.) X length (ft.) X 7.48

Pressure:

1 foot lift of water = 0.433 psi

1 psi will lift water 2.31 feet

COMMON CONVERSIONS FOR PRODUCERS

Area:

1 acre = 43,560 square feet, 209 feet
X 209 feet, 69.5 X 69.5 yards
1/10 acre = 4,356 square feet, 66 feet X
66 feet, 22 yards X 22 yards
1/100 acre = 436 square feet, 21 feet X
21 feet, 7 yards X 7 yards
1 section = 640 acres or 1 square mile
1 hectare = 2.471 acres

Length:

1 mile = 5,280 feet. 1,760 yards or 1.61
kilometers
1 rod = 16.5 feet
1 chain = 66 feet
1 kilometer = 0.62 miles
1 roll barbed wire = 1/4 mile or 1320 ft.
1 roll net wire = 330 feet or 20 rods

Weight:

1 short ton = 2,000 pounds
1 long ton = 2,240 pounds
1 pound = 453.6 grams or 16 ounces
1 kilogram = 2.2 pounds

Liquid Measure:

1 gallon = 128 ounces, 3,785.4
milliliters, 16 cups, 4 quarts,
8.355 pounds or 256
tablespoons
1 quart = 0.946 liters, 2 pints or 32
ounces
1 pint = 16 ounces or 2 cups
1 cup = 8 ounces
1 milliliter = 1 cubic centimeter (cc)
1 tablespoon = 3 teaspoons
1 teaspoon = 5 milliliters
1 cubic foot of water = 62.43 pounds or
7.48 gallons
1 acre inch of water = 27,154 gallons
1 barrel of water = 55 gallons
1 barrel of oil = 40 gallons

Cattle Fever and Fever Ticks

Joe C. Paschal, Livestock Specialist

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension

Cattle Fever, formerly called Spanish, Texas or Splenic Fever is caused by two different protozoa called Babesia (*B. bigemina* and *B. bovis*) that are carried in two cattle fever ticks (*Rhipicephalus annulatus* and *R. microplus*). These were formerly called *Boophilus annulatus* and *B. microplus*. Cattle Fever is caused when an infected tick takes a blood meal and injects the organism into the host animal's bloodstream. The Babesia organism infects and reproduces in the host's red blood cells. Destruction of the red blood cells causes anemia and reduction in oxygen carrying capacity and a reduction in weight and often death. Cattle infected with Babesia often have red colored urine from the excreted hemoglobin (redwater) although this can be caused by other diseases.

Fever ticks get infected by ingesting blood from an infected cow. The protozoa migrate to the reproductive system and when tick's eggs are shed, they are also infected. The principal hosts of the ticks are cattle and horses but can include deer and exotic wildlife like axis red deer and nilgai (an Indian antelope prevalent in South Texas), making control efforts difficult.

In 1906, the fever tick (and the fever) was in 14 southern states and as far north as Virginia. Control methods used were principally long, narrow dipping vats full of an acaricide (insecticide that killed ticks, usually an arsenical compound, and later organophosphates). The cattle and calves were forced swim the length of the vat and they were submerged at least once to treat their head. Dipping vats are still in use but wildlife is being fed avermectin treated corn (until 60 days before the hunting season begins) in certain problem areas. By 1943 the fever tick was contained to a 580 mile long Permanent Quarantine Zone in Texas ranging from Del Rio to Brownsville. It ranges from about 125 yards to almost 8 miles in depth.

Cattle inside the Zone must be examined (scratched for ticks) and treated before they can move outside the Zone. Usually there are a few cases just outside the Zone as ticks migrate. Currently Zapata County has some premises under quarantine outside the Zone because of that. However, recently there have been over 20

cases well north of the Zone in Cameron and Willacy counties and one each in Kleberg and Jim Wells counties. Most (but not all) are thought to be carried by wildlife (white tailed deer and Nilgai). Ranchers have the option of treating all their cattle every 2-4 weeks or vacating their pastures for 6 to 9 months.

Ticks prefer brushy areas over grasslands so brush management can help reduce but will not eliminate tick habitat.

Recently the Texas Animal Health Commission has adopted a new tick vaccine. It must be administered by a veterinarian to beef cattle only, 2 months an older. Two vaccinations (initial and booster) 28 days apart with another booster every 6 months are required. The vaccine will be used on cattle inside the Zone and possibly in some problem areas as well.

There is no Babesia in Texas but if there were, the initial cost is estimated to be \$1.2 billion cost would be well over \$100 million per year.

It is unlikely that you will ever have fever ticks but if you see ticks you aren't familiar with can contact the Texas Animal Health Commission at 1-800-550-8242. For more information contact your local County Extension Agent.

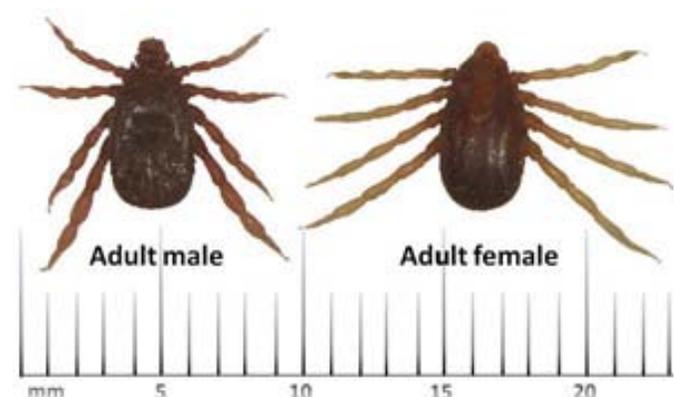
For more information:

TAHC Press release on tick vaccine:
http://www.tahc.texas.gov/news/pr/2016/2016-06-07_TAHCFeverTickVaccine.pdf

TAHC Maps of current infestations:
http://www.tahc.state.tx.us/animal_health/fevertick/2016-04_FeverTickInfestations.pdf

TAHC Fever tick brochure:
http://www.tahc.state.tx.us/news/brochures/TAHCBrochure_FeverTick.pdf

APHIS Fever tick brochure:
https://www.aphis.usda.gov/publications/animal_health/content/printable_version/CattleFeverTick.pdf



Myth Busting Cattle, Climate Change and Greenhouse Gas Production

**Joe C. Paschal, Livestock Specialist
Texas A&M AgriLife Extension
Corpus Christi, Texas**

A myth is an unproved or false collective belief that is used to justify a social institution. One popular myth is that cattle production is the major cause of global warming or climate change because of the production and release of greenhouse gases into the atmosphere. These include carbon dioxide (CO₂), methane (CH₄) and nitrous oxide (NO₂) among others. Global warming is caused by the molecules of these gasses trapping the heat of the sun's radiation as it is reflected from the Earth. A good deal of naturally occurring water vapor is also a major factor causing global warming. Methane and nitrous oxide have a much greater warming potential (25 to 300 times more) than carbon dioxide which is why it is considered more important to reduce them too.

In 2010, carbon dioxide represented 76% of all worldwide greenhouse gas emissions while methane represented 16% and nitrous oxide was 6%. Agriculture and forestry contributed a total of 24% of all greenhouse gas emissions but 20% of that amount was removed from the atmosphere by plants. In 2014, agriculture accounted for only 9% of all greenhouse gases produced in the US, much less than electricity production, transportation and industry. Cows don't release any carbon dioxide or nitrous oxide but they do produce methane. Methane is created by the digestion of coarse forages and released through eructation or belching, but cows are not the biggest source of methane, agricultural or otherwise. All beef production, including dairy, is responsible for only 9.4% all global or 1.9% all US greenhouse gas emissions.

This small level of emissions can be and is being reduced with the use of improved forage varieties, grain finishing, ionophores,

and growth implants. Improved forage varieties have lower structural carbohydrates and are more digestible releasing less methane. Grain finishing produces less methane, grain is more digestible and allows cattle grow faster and more efficiently than on grass. Ionophores reduce methane production in the rumen by shifting the microbial population from methane producers to producers of more easily absorbed volatile fatty acids. Finally growth implants reduce methane production implants increasing growth and efficiency, reducing the amount of feed fed overall.

Cattle production does contribute to the greenhouse gas emission as does all of agriculture, but far less than other sources. In addition cattle producers and the agricultural sciences are continuing to reduce those emissions and improve the efficiency and productivity of beef. For more information on this and other topics, contact your local County Extension Agent.

For more information and references:

World greenhouse gas emissions:

<https://www3.epa.gov/climatechange/ghgemissions/global.html>

US greenhouse gas emissions:

<https://www3.epa.gov/climatechange/ghgemissions/sources.html>

FAO Revised Report:

<http://www.fao.org/news/story/en/item/197623/icode/>

Beef facts:

<http://www.explorebeef.org/CMDocs/ExploreBeef/Beefs%20Shrinking%20Environmental%20Footprint%20Fact%20Sheet.pdfNew>



COTTON FLEAHOPPER TRAINING VIDEO



A new training video created by Jason Thomas briefly teaches how to identify and detect flea hoppers in cotton squares. The technique demonstrated in the video could make your job easier when trying to detect fleahoppers.

The video will be featured on Jason's YouTube page here:

<http://youtube.com/insecthunterplus>.

The video can be found here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BoApDCtkdQk>.

Frio County Range Tour

The Frio County Extension Office and Frio County NRCS office will host the Frio County Range Tour slated Thursday, October 27, 2016. The Cost for the tour is \$10.00. An RSVP is requested by 5 days prior to event. Registration will be from 8:30 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. at the Frio County Extension

Office located at 400 S. Pecan Street Pearsall, Texas 78061. 3 CEU's will be offered for private, commercial and non-commercial applicators. To RSVP and for more information please call the Frio County Extension Office at (830) 334-0099.

South Texas Peanut Growers Association Annual Tour



The South Texas Peanut Growers Annual Tour is slated for September 22, 2016 in Frio County. We will be looking at variety trials and breeding plots. 3 CEU'S for private commercial and non-commercial applicators will be offered. Registration will be from 8:30 to 9:00 a.m. at the Frio County Extension Office located at 400 S. Pecan Street in Pearsall, Texas 78061. An RSVP is requested to help prepare for the noon meal by calling the Atascosa County Extension Office at (830) 569-0034 or the Frio County Extension Office at (830)-334-0099.

Atascosa Wildlife Coop Annual Meeting



The Atascosa Wildlife Coop is planning their annual meeting for Tuesday, September 20, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. at Coastal Bend College. This location is tentative. Please call just prior to meeting date for exact location. Topics for the day will include updates on Chronic Wasting Disease, Hunting Season, and Wildlife Mobile Apps. An RSVP is requested by Friday, September 16, 2016 by calling the Atascosa County Extension Office at (830) 569-0034.



PEANUT MARKETING NEWS

Tyron Spearman, Editor

PEANUT STANDARDS BOARD UPDATES– The Peanut Program, under the Farm Bill, requires USDA to ensure mandatory inspection of all peanuts marketed in the U.S. It requires USDA to develop and implement peanut quality and handling requirements. Further, it establishes the Peanut Standards Board of producers and industry reps to advise USDA requiring the Board to modify the quality and handling requirements when needed.

Recent changes have been published in the FEDERAL REGISTER and the Board believes these changes will make additional peanuts available for sale, help increase efficiencies and reduce costs to the industry. Summary includes:

- Board removes the current limit of 10.49 percent on the amount of foreign material for incoming farmer stock peanuts. Limit will be up to the sheller.
- The 2 columns for damage (1.5% for splits and 2% for lots with splits) will be merged into one column and an overall damage and defects on unshelled peanuts, cleaned in-shell peanuts and kernels at 3.5%.
- PLI(Positive Lot Identification) will be maintained for traceability on outgoing

standards, however other industry traceability systems may be used in place of PLI.

- Modify the reporting requirements to specify that USDA be permitted to any peanuts meeting outgoing standards and any and all records to peanuts meeting outgoing quality regulations. However, USDA may access to all material and records for investigation purposes.

- Clarify handlers and importers noting that neither are not producing a finished product and any peanuts thus require further processing prior to human consumption. Standards apply to those raw peanuts in natural state intended for further processing by manufacturers for human consumption.

- Standards do not apply to green peanuts which are raw for boiling

- Standards do not apply to peanuts for wildlife use

- Updates languages and to reflect current industry practices and changes

- No longer require peanuts testing for 301 ppb of aflatoxin to be crushed or exported.

- Lot size limit will be limited to 200,000 pounds, USDA and inspection requirement for sampling protocol.

- Importers must submit entry info to USDA by International Trade Data System that will automate the filing of import and export information.

CLEAN TRAILERS & SEMIS Between crops – Corn harvest is almost complete. One of the hardest foreign materials to remove from peanuts is corn. Peanut wagons and trailers used in corn harvest and other grains should be pressure washed to make certain no corn or other grain products inadvertently gets into the peanuts.

REVISED VETERINARY FEED DIRECTIVE

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension

In 1996 the Animal Drug Availability Act established a new category of drugs, the Veterinary Feed Directive (VFD). These were antibiotics used in animal feeds for growth promotion as well as disease prevention, control, and treatment purposes. This allowed livestock, poultry and aquaculture producers' access to low level antibiotics in feed without a prescription.

On October 1st, 2015, the VFD was amended. Antibiotics that are medically important to humans are no longer fed to animals without the permission and supervision of a veterinarian. It also ends the labeling those antibiotics for growth promotion purposes in animals. This change affects feed antibiotics only. The change was made out of concern for the development of antibiotic resistance in humans as a result of long term feeding to animals. No link has ever been found. Antibiotics administered to animals in a bolus, drench, injection, or water, are not affected by this change in the VFD.

If you are using or are going to be using a feed that contains one of the antibiotics listed, you will need to obtain a written VFD order from your veterinarian in order to purchase or mix your feed. You will also need to have a Valid Client Patient Relationship (VCPR) with your veterinarian. This relationship is based on three points: 1) The veterinarian assumes responsibility for making medical judgments regarding the health of the animals and the client agrees to follow the veterinarian's directions; 2) The veterinarian possesses sufficient knowledge of the animals to begin a general or preliminary diagnosis of the medical condition of the animals; and 3) The veterinarian is available to provide follow-up care in the case of an adverse reaction or treatment failure.

If a VFD is needed for your feed, contact your veterinarian to establish your VCPR. It will be needed before any feed containing antibiotics can be mixed or purchased. Once you have purchased the feed follow the label directions exactly, especially the amount fed, the duration of feeding and withdrawal time. Once you have purchased the feed follow the label directions exactly. For

more information contact your local county Extension agent or veterinarian.

For more information:

The Veterinary Feed Directive (VFD) and Related Information for Livestock Producers. Dr. F.T. McCollum. <http://animalscience.tamu.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/14/2015/10/The-Veterinary-Feed-Directive-SEP-2015-V.2-rel.pdf>

Feedstuffs Magazine Veterinary Feed Directive (VFD Central):
<http://feedstuffs.com/vfd.aspx#vProd>

LIVESTOCK SHADE STRUCTURE CAN BENEFIT WATER WAYS AND LIVESTOCK HEALTH AND PERFORMANCE

Description:

A permanent or portable framed structure to provide shade for livestock away from the riparian area and to improve grazing distribution.

Benefits to Producer:

- Improves animal health and well-being.
- Reduces time cattle spend in or near waterway thereby reducing stream bank erosion and protecting riparian area.
- Improves water quality by reducing sediment, nutrient, bacterial, organic, and inorganic loading to the stream.

Bacterial Removal Efficiency:

- Shade structures resulted in the following bacterial reductions:
 - E. coli: 85% when combined with an off-stream water source.
- Shade structures can be used in conjunction with other practices such as alternate watering facilities. This practice has been shown to reduce concentrations of bacteria.

Other Benefits:

- Increased weight of 1.25 lbs/day for cows, 0.41 lbs/day for calves, and 0.89 lbs/day for steers when provided shade in the spring and summer.
- Reduced deep body temperatures of cattle by 0.5 -1.4 F.
- Increased summer gain of yearling Hereford steers by 19 lbs/head in a 4-year study.
- Reduction in cow's radiant heat load by 30%.
- Reduction in total suspended solids and total phosphorus with availability of non-riparian shade.
- Improved grazing distribution.

Estimated Installation Costs:

- \$6.50/square foot
- Cost information obtained from the South Carolina NRCS Electronic Field Office Technical Guide.

Practice Life Span:

- 15 years

Contact your local County Extension Agent, Soil and Water Conservation District (<http://www.tsswcb.state.tx.us/swcnds>) or the Natural Resources Conservation Service (<http://www.usda.nrcs>).



Two Small Grain Production Programs to be held in August

Aug. 30 in Uvalde and Aug. 31 in Rio Medina

By: Paul Schattenberg, 210-859-5752, paschattenberg@ag.tamu.edu

Contact: Todd Swift, 830-278-9151, ext. 281, twswift@ag.tamu.edu

UVALDE – The Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service will present two opportunities for small grain producers to attend production programs.

The first program will be held Aug. 30 at the Uvalde County Fairplex Auditorium, 122 Veterans Ln. (2 miles west on Hwy 90) in Uvalde. The second will be held Aug. 31 at Brady’s Blooming Barn, 2050 County Road 271 in Rio Medina.

The same agenda presented at different locations for growers to pick the one that best fits their schedule, said Todd Swift, AgriLife Extension regional program leader, Uvalde.

“We have chosen topics we know will be of interest to small grain producers and have some excellent presenters to address those topics,” Swift said.

Each program will begin with registration at 9:30 a.m. and will conclude around 3 p.m. Program cost is \$15 and includes lunch.

Topics to be covered at this event include diseases of small grains, Hessian fly and other small grain pests, weather outlook, managing small grains for profit, and wheat variety selection and trial updates.

Presenters will include experts from AgriLife Extension, as well as Bob Rose, chief meteorologist for the Lower Colorado River Authority.

Two Texas Department of Agriculture continuing education units for private, commercial and non-commercial pesticide applicator license holders will be provided for attendees – one in laws and regulations and one in integrated pest management.

Attendees are requested to RSVP by August 25, 2016 to help ensure an accurate meal count.

For the Uvalde program, contact the AgriLife Extension district office at 830-278-9151, ext. 281 or email twswift@ag.tamu.edu.

For the Rio Medina program, contact the AgriLife Extension office in Medina County at 830-741-6180 or email derrick.drury@ag.tamu.edu.

Frio and Atascosa County Forage Testing Opportunity

The Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service offices in Atascosa and Frio counties will hold a forage testing campaign for hay from Aug 15 through September 14, 2016

During this campaign, hay samples will be analyzed at a reduced cost of \$5 each. Samples will be evaluated for crude protein, acid detergent fiber, neutral detergent fiber, total digestible nutrients and estimated digestibility.

“This is a great opportunity to have your hay analyzed prior to this fall and winter feeding period. “Understanding the nutritional value of dry forage can save a lot of money on supplemental feed.” Samples should only be collected from bailed hay.

Results of the sampling will be available about two weeks after the testing.

Samples and payment are due at the AgriLife Extension office in Atascosa or Frio counties by September 14. For more information please call the Frio County Extension Office at (830) 334-0099 or the Atascosa County Office at (830) 569-0034.



The 5th Annual **Texas High Tunnel Conference** will be held at the Ft. Worth Botanical Gardens on October 11, 2016. Presentations include the following:

8:00 – What’s New and what’s Not in Pesticide Laws and Regulations

Laura Miller, Tarrant Co. Extension Horticulture Agent, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension, Ft. Worth

9:00 – Aquaponics and High Tunnels: Are They a Good Match?

Dr. Joe Masabni, Extension Specialist, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension, Overton

10:15 – Adopting an integrated pest management strategy in high tunnel systems

Erfan Vafaie, Extension Program Specialist, IPM, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension, Overton

11:15 – To be determined

1:00 – Sustainable and Organic High Tunnel Vegetable Crop Production

Luke Freeman, Horticulture Specialist, National Center for Appropriate Technology, Fayetteville, AR

2:00 – High Tunnel Design Options and Construction

Steve Upson, Soils & Crops Consultant, The Samuel Roberts Noble Foundation, Ardmore, OK

3:15 – High Tunnel Blackberry Production on the Texas High Plains: Year 1

Dr. Russ Wallace, Extension Specialist, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension, Lubbock

4:00 – Group Discussion on Critical Issues with High Tunnel Production

Russ Wallace and Laura Miller, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension

The **Texas/Arkansas SARE Strawberry Workshop** will be held on October 12, 2016 also at the Ft. Worth Botanical Gardens. The workshop is funded in part by USDA Sustainable Agriculture Research & Education, includes collaboration with Texas Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association, Prairie View A&M University, University of Arkansas and Texas A&M AgriLife Extension. Presentations include:

8:00 – The Texas and Arkansas SARE Strawberry Project: Improving Organic Pest Control Options

Dr. Russ Wallace, Extension Specialist, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension, Lubbock

8:30 – 100 Years of Growing Strawberries in Central Florida

Alicia Whidden, Extension Faculty, Vegetables & Small Fruit, Hillsborough County, FL

9:30 – Sustainable Soil Management for Strawberries

Dr. Amanda McWhirt, Extension Specialist in Horticulture Cropping Systems, University of Arkansas

10:45 – Season Extension in Strawberry Production (online presentation)

Dr. Marvin Pritts, Professor, Small Fruit Production, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY

1:00 – Strawberry Varieties: What You Need to Know to Improve Your Production

Charlie Whiting, Southeastern US Rep., Lassen Canyon Nursery, Redding, California

2:00 – Diagnosing Strawberry Diseases

Dr. Kevin Ong, Director, Texas Plant Disease Diagnostic Lab, College Station

3:15 – Strawberry Cultivar Performance in High Tunnels under Sustainable and Organic Production Practices in Arkansas.

Dr. Elena Garcia, University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service, Fayetteville

4:15 – Group Discussion on Critical Issues with Strawberries in Arkansas and Texas

Please save these dates if you wish to attend. More information regarding registration costs and location will be forthcoming in the next several weeks. You may also contact Russ Wallace (rw Wallace@ag.tamu.edu; 806-746-6101) or Laura Miller (lmiller@ag.tamu.edu; 817-884-1578) for additional information.



Accepting Applications for Master Gardener Training for Atascosa & Wilson Counties

Writer: Paul Schattenberg, 210-859-5752, paschattenberg@ag.tamu.edu

Contact: Dale Rankin, 830-569-0034, dw-rankin@tamu.edu

LEMING – The Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service offices in Atascosa and Wilson counties will be holding a Master Gardener Intern Training from Sept. 13 to Dec. 6, 2016.

The Master Gardener program is a volunteer horticultural program of AgriLife Extension. Master Gardener interns are required to commit at least 50 hours of community service in support of agency horticultural outreach during their first year.

Master Gardener classes will be conducted from 8:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m. each Tuesday, unless otherwise specified.

Classes will be held at the AgriLife Extension office for Atascosa County, 25 E. 5th Street Leming, on Sept. 13, Sept. 27, Oct. 11 and Nov. 1. They will be held at the AgriLife Extension office in Wilson County, 1420 3rd Street, Suite 300, in Floresville on Sept. 20, Oct. 4 and Oct. 18.

The Oct. 25 class will be held at the AgriLife Extension office in Bexar County, 3355 Cherry Ridge Drive, Suite 208, San Antonio. It will include a tour of the San Antonio Botanical Garden.



Classes will be taught by a variety of AgriLife Extension experts. Topics will include plant growth and development, soil sampling, entomology, integrated pest management, plant pathology, plant diseases, soil science, ornamentals, arboriculture, Texas Superstar Plants, the Earth-Kind program, roses, home vegetable gardening, organic gardening, turfgrass, landscape design, fruits and nuts, patio citrus, plant propagation, and rainwater harvesting and rain gardens. Class size is limited to 25 and application submission does not guarantee acceptance.

Educational programs of the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service are open to all people without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, disability, genetic information or veteran status. The Texas A&M University System, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the County Commissioners Courts of Texas Cooperating. We will seek to provide reasonable accommodation for all persons with disabilities for this meeting. We request that you contact the Atascosa County Extension Service twelve days (12) prior to the event at (830) 769-3066 or as soon as possible to advise us of the auxiliary aid or service that you require.

The registration fee of \$160 is payable in full on first day of class. The deadline to apply is Sept. 2.

A background check is required on applicants participating in the Master Gardeners program and will be done on the first day of class.



WE ARE GOING DIGITAL!

In an effort to promote the values of the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service, Extending Knowledge, Providing Solutions, we would like to extend an invitation to all of our subscribers to join our email list. Email subscriptions are proven not only to be cost effective, but aid in protecting of our natural resources. But don't worry...if you prefer, just let us know and we would be happy to keep you on our paper-copy mail list. We hope that you will consider the digital version. Call us at 830-569-0034 to provide your email address if you are ready to make the switch and start receiving your newsletter by email. The newsletter will also be available at atascosa.agrilife.org under the newsletters tab.

The Brush Country Agriculture Newsletter

25 E. Fifth Street
P.O. Box 379
Leming, TX 78050
830-569-0034
830-569-8997 – fax

Dale Rankin – County Extension Agent
dw-rankin@tamu.edu

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Brush Country Newsletter
August 2016



We have a new number

Actually, we have several new numbers. You can now reach us at...

830-569-0034

Or

830-569-0036

Our new fax number is

830-569-8997

Address:
Atascosa County Extension
25 E. Fifth Street
P.O. Box 379
Leming, TX 78050