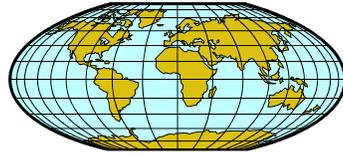


Austin County Ag News



Spring 2016

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Austin County Ag News Letter Mailing List

We have so many great things going on in the ag program in Austin County and we are engaging more people than ever. Our paper newsletter has simply grown to the point that it is no longer a fiscally responsible option for getting you this information. Therefore, our paper mailing list will now need to be reduced to a more manageable size. Our preferred method of delivering our newsletter is via email. You can subscribe to our newsletter from our website. Simply go to our website, <http://austin.agrilife.org/> and complete the form located on the home page.

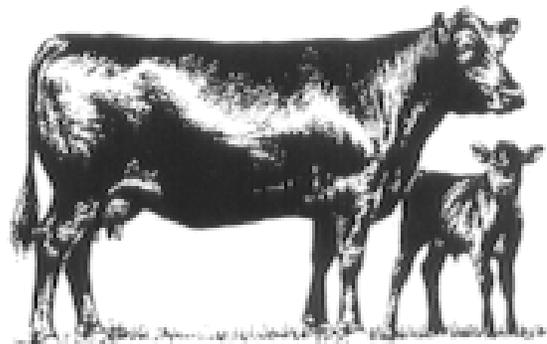
If you are currently receiving our newsletter via email, thank you and you need to do nothing further. Please remember to update your email address if it should change.

In order to complete this task, you ***MUST*** complete the enclosed form and return it to our office as soon as possible. If we do not receive this form, you ***WILL NOT*** receive any newsletters from this point forward.

Thank you for your understanding. Our goal is to serve our clientele as efficiently as possible.

Beef Cattle Management Series

The Beef and Forage Committee will be sponsoring a Beef Cattle Management Series this spring devoted to beef cattle producers interested in rebuilding their cow herd. The first in the series will take place on Friday, March 18, 2016, at Four County Auction Center in Industry. Registration is scheduled from 1:00 pm to 1:30 p.m. with the program to follow. Dr. Josh McGinty, Extension Agronomist, will speak on pasture management and weed control, followed by



Dr. Joe Paschal, Extension Livestock Specialist, who will discuss calf management practices for cow calf producers.

The program will begin with registration at 1:00 p.m. and the program scheduled to last from 1:30 p.m. until 5:00 p.m. There is \$15 registration fee. Anyone wanting to participate is asked to contact the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Office via the website at <http://austin.agrilife.org/event-registrations/> and register. You may also call in with your intentions of registering for the event by calling (979) 865-2072. Refreshments will be provided and 2 CEU's will be given to all pesticide applicators in the general category. There will also be 2 credits given for the Beef Quality Assurance Program.

Spray Permits Required for a Portion of Austin County

As a reminder to anyone that will be using state limited use or state restricted use herbicides in Austin County, a permit to apply these herbicides must be obtained through the Texas Department of Agriculture if you plan on spraying in certain portions of the county. The following areas of Austin County must acquire a permit as is specified in the Texas Agricultural code, chapter 75,

- I.)* Only the portion of Austin County lying east and south of the line beginning at the point where state highway 36 crosses the north county line, thence southerly along Highway 36 to FM 949; thence westwardly along FM 949 to the San Bernard River
- 2.)* Between March 15th and July 31st, in that portion of Austin County lying south of Interstate Highway 10, the following restrictions on the use of 2,4-D formulations shall apply:
 - (A.)* The application by aircraft is prohibited
 - (B.)* The use of all ester formulations by any method is prohibited

Permits may be obtained from the Texas AgriLife Extension Service of Austin County at (979) 865-2072, or visit our website at <http://austin.agrilife.org/files/2013/03/Regulated-Spray-Permit.pdf>. Forms can also be obtained by contacting the Texas Department of Agriculture Gulf Coast Regional Office in Houston at (713) 921-8200.

Master Gardener Plant Sale

The Bluebonnet Master Gardener Association's annual plant sale will be held on Saturday, April 9, 2016, from 8:30 a.m. until 4 p.m. at Liedertafel Building in Sealy (114 Lux Rd at West Main Street, Sealy, Tx).

Included in the sale will be plants that are drought and heat tolerant, cold hardy, and low maintenance. Expect many Earth Kind varieties, succulents, Texas Super Stars, herbs, annuals and perennials, as well as some unique and hard to find plants. Fruit trees can also be ordered on the day of the sale with delivery at a later date. Experts will be available to give demonstrations on irrigation, water catchment systems, and to answer gardening and watering questions. Proceeds will advance education, scholarships and beautification for Austin, Colorado, Fayette and Washington counties.

For additional information, contact Renee Kofman 832-492-3293 or visit <http://www.bluebonnetmastergardener.org>. Bluebonnet Master Gardener Association is part of Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service, Texas A&M System.

Multi-County New Landowners Educational Series Continues

The 3rd meeting for the 2016 series will take place on **Friday, March 18, 2016**, at the Washington County Fairgrounds Sales Facility in Brenham. This program will focus on bees and trees for homeowners. Registration will begin at 1:00 p.m. followed by the program at 1:30 p.m. The goal of the session is to provide homeowners with the tools to manage existing trees, identify common insects and diseases of trees, and help troubleshoot problems typically seen in the area as it relates to trees. In addition to information on existing trees, we will cover tree selection and site selection for planting those new trees on your property. In addition, we will hear from a local expert on getting started with bees. For anyone who has entertained the idea of establishing bee hives for Ag Valuation, this will be a session you won't want to miss.

The Austin, Colorado, Fayette, and Washington County offices of Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service will host their next Multi-County New Landowner Educational Program on **Friday, April 15, 2016**. This program will be held at Howard Farms in Austin County beginning with registration at 1:00 p.m. and the program at 1:30 p.m. Directions and a map will be posted on the New Landowner Program website, and are available at county offices. In this meeting we will discuss selection, planting, and maintenance of forages used for grazing and hay production as well as discuss the importance of soil and forage sampling. The afternoon program will be held outdoors, so it is advised that those planning to attend wear comfortable clothing to fit the outdoor conditions on that day.

The May program will focus on Stock Pond Management. The program will be held on **Friday, May 20, 2016**, at the St. John's Retreat Center North of Bellville on Highway 36. The program will begin at 1:30 p.m. with registration at the site. Peter Wood, Extension Fisheries Specialist, will be the featured speaker. Mr. Wood will cover several topics that would be of interest to new landowners and seasoned landowners alike, such as aquatic weed control, pond construction, stocking recommendations, management of shoreline and tank dam vegetation, and fertilization of farm ponds.

Registration for each of these programs is \$20.00 per person per event. Your registration fee will include all of the handout materials and refreshments.

The 2016 Multi-County New Landowner series is generously supported by:

Citizens State Bank - Somerville
Capital Farm Credit - LaGrange and Bellville

Be sure to remember them for all your banking and lending needs. Additional contact information for each of these sponsors will be provided at the monthly New Landowner Sessions.

Anyone interested in attending any or all of these programs is asked to contact the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Office via the website <http://austin.agrilife.org/event-registrations/> and register. You may also call in with your intentions of registering for the event by calling (979) 865-2072.

Upcoming Events

- | | | | |
|-------|----|---|---|
| March | 18 | - | Beef Cattle Management Seminar, Four County Livestock, Industry, 2 CEU's, 2 BQA Credits |
| | 18 | - | Multi County New Landowners Series, Bees and Trees, 3 CEU's |
| | 25 | - | Good Friday, Office Closed |
| April | 9 | - | Master Gardener Plant Sale, Sealy |
| | 17 | - | Multi County New Landowners Educational Series, Pasture Management and Forage Production, Howard Farms Bellville, 3 CEU's |
| | 20 | - | Pecan Field Day, Wiemar |
| May | 6 | - | Cow Calf Clinic, Fayette County |
| | 20 | - | Multi County New Landowner Educational Series, Stock Ponds, St. Johns Retreat Center, 3 CEU's |
| | 30 | - | Memorial Day Holiday, Office Closed |

Sincerely,



Travis Gonzales
County Extension Agent - AG/NR
Austin County



**May 26-27
2016**

**Texas A&M
College Station
campus**

for more information

Dr. Rick Machen

rmachen@ag.tamu.edu

Office 830.278.9151

To register go to:

<https://agriferegister.tamu.edu/Beef>

Register by phone 979.845.2604

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service is pleased to announce the fifth conference focused on grassfed beef production.

Consumer interest in natural, grassfed and organic beef continues to rise. If you'd like to learn more about grassfed beef production and how it's different, mark your calendar for May 26-27, 2016 to be in College Station for this year's **Grassfed Beef Conference**.

We're excited about the interest among participants and the outstanding lineup of speakers that will come together for this information-sharing opportunity. Here's a chance to learn more about beef production... from pasture to plate.

Here's a quick preview of the agenda:

- Overview of the US Beef Industry
- Handling Cattle for Wholesome Beef
- Defining natural, grassfed and organic
- Carcass fabrication... a demonstration
- Growing forage – the fundamentals
- Consumers... and their expectations
- Cattle types suited for grassfed beef
- A Taste of Texas Beef
- Forage-based nutrition for cattle
- Marketing a unique product
- Preventative herd health
- Sustainability

