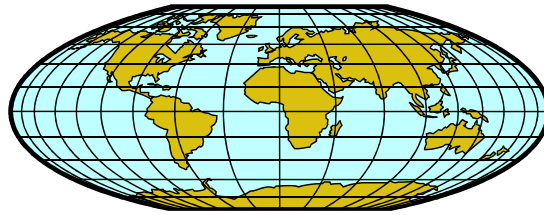


Austin County Ag News



Summer 2016

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Austin County Ag News Is Now Going Digital!

As many of you already know, the Austin County Ag Newsletter has been available on our website for many years. With the help of my staff and the various program area committees that I work with, I am constantly working to update and modernize the way Texas A&M AgriLife does business here in Austin County and get you the most timely and accurate information as I can in the quickest manner possible. It has come to my attention that our paper newsletter has simply grown to the point that it is no longer a fiscally responsible option for getting you this information and will therefore be going almost completely digital. I am strongly encouraging everyone that is currently receiving this newsletter in paper form through the mail to register to receive this newsletter, as well as weekly updates, via email. The cost of putting this newsletter together, along with the sheer volume of newsletters that are printed has made it imperative that we come up with a better solution for getting the announcements of upcoming programs and events to you.

For everyone wanting to receive the newsletter via email, simply go to our website, <http://austin.agrilife.org/> and click on the register for newsletter tab. You will be directed to the appropriate location for you to fill out your information to begin receiving the newsletter online. The information that you provide is strictly confidential and will **NOT** be given to anyone outside the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service. Those of you who do not wish to receive the newsletter via email can still receive a paper

copy in mail as usual, but I would like for you to contact our office at (979) 865-2072 and let us know of your intentions. We realize that not everyone has a computer or an email address and we will continue to provide you with the newsletter at no charge if requested. And for those of you currently receiving the newsletter via email, you will continue to receive it as normal.

Summer 5 CEU Program !!!

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Services of Austin, Colorado, Fayette, and Washington Counties would like to invite everyone to our Summer 5 Hour CEU Program on Friday, July 8th at Cat Spring Agricultural Society. The topics for the program are, Beef Myths, Backyard Poultry, Gardening Basics - Sustainable Gardening, Organic Labeling, and Earth-Kind Landscaping. Registration is at 8:30am with the program beginning at 9:00am. A catered meal will be served at noon and the program will conclude at 3:00pm. You may preregister for the program for \$30 by July 5th. On site registration is available at 8:30 for \$40. To RSVP please contact the Washington County Extension Office at 979-277-6212 or at washington.agrilife.org. If you have any questions about this event or any others, please feel free to contact your local extension office.

Feathers, Furs, and Farming

The Austin and Colorado County Agrilife Extension offices and Texas Parks and Wildlife would like to invite you to Feathers, Furs, and Farming which is designed to help landowners diversify their operations and save money and time while becoming better stewards of the land. This program is offered free of charge. The topics include Wildlife Ecology, Incentives & Cost Share Programs, Plant ID Training, Wildlife Populations and Small Acreage Management, What Texas Parks and Wildlife Can Do For You. The program will be held on Friday, July 15th from 1:00 to 4:00 at the Colorado County Fairgrounds. If you have any questions please call the Austin County Extension Office at 979-865-2072 or the Colorado County Extension Office at 979-732-2082.

Fall Gardening and Garden Pest Seminar

Spring and summer Grgdens are in full swing and with all the extra rain many gardens throughout the county are looking very well. It is now time to start planning for your fall garden as well. The Horticulture Committee of Austin County would like to invite everyone out to the Fall Gardening and Garden Pest Seminar. Boone Holladay, Fort Bend Agrilife Extension Horticulture agent, will give a presentation on fall gardening and Kate Harell, Texas A&M Agrilife Extension IPM Agent will discuss how to manage garden pests. The program is set for Friday, July 22nd in Sealy at the Hill Center. Registration will begin at 1:00 pm and the program will run from 1:30 until 4:30. Three (3) CEU's will be offered. Registration will be \$15 at the

door. If you have any questions or to RSVP to the event please call the Austin County Agrilife Extension service at 979-865-2072 or visit us on the web at austin.agrilife.org

Texas A&M Beef Cattle Short Course

The 62th annual Texas A&M Beef Cattle Short Course will be taking place on August 1-3, at the Rudder Theater Complex on the Campus of Texas A&M University in College Station. This year's short course will include such topics as 365 Days on a Ranch, Landowner Issues, and Hay and Beyond and a prime rib dinner on Monday night. The short course fee of \$180 per person includes three daily breakfasts, Monday and Tuesday lunch, one prime rib dinner on Monday, one proceedings, trade show admittance, refreshments and access to campus shuttle service. The short course fee will be \$220 after August 1st and for onsite registration. A registration form and a copy of the tentative agenda can be accessed from the internet by going to <http://beefcattleshortcourse.com> . You may also call the Extension Office at 979-865-2072 and we will mail the form to you.

Multi-County New Landowners Educational Series

The Multi-County New Landowners Educational Series will resume on **Friday, August 19th** , in Washington County. The program will be an overview of Weed and Brush Control for Small Acreages. The program is open to anyone that wants to attend, but it specifically targets new landowners in the Austin, Colorado, Fayette and Washington County areas. The programs are held on the third Friday of the month, and all begin at 1:30 p.m. and lasts until 5:00 p.m. Registration is \$20.00 per person and includes refreshments, an evening meal and your educational materials. Three (3) CEU's will be offered to all pesticide applicators - two general and one IPM.

The program for September will focus on Laws and Regulations for Rural Property. This program is set for **Friday, September 16th**, at the Colorado County Fairgrounds in Columbus. The program will begin at 1:30 p.m. with registration, with the program to follow. The \$20.00 registration fee applies. Anyone interested in coming is asked to contact the Extension Office prior to coming so we can know how many to plan for. One (1) CEU in laws and regs will be offered for all pesticide applicators.

Fall Forage Seminar and Austin County Hay Show

This year's show will be held in conjunction with the annual Fall Forage Seminar, sponsored by the Beef and Forage Committee of Austin County. The Seminar and Show will take place on Friday, September 30th, at the Austin County Fairgrounds in Bellville. The seminar is scheduled to begin with registration from 8:30 - 9:00 a.m., with the program starting at 9:00 a.m. and

concluding at 12:00 p.m. This year's seminar will cover such topics as Cool Season Forages, Soil Fertility, and Long Range Weather Forecasting. There will be a trade show with local and area vendors. A total of three (3) CEU's will be given to pesticide applicators. Lunch and handout materials will be provided, all compliments of the Beef and Forage Committee and their sponsors.

Judging of the hay samples will take place during the event, with the winners of the show being named at the conclusion of the seminar. Anyone feeding hay is encouraged to submit a sample of their hay for analysis. The Beef and Forage Committee is encouraging beef cattle producers to simply turn in a sample of their hay for analysis. The analysis will be done by the Texas A&M Forage testing lab and the results will be handed out during the meeting.

The Hay Show will allow any hay producer from Austin, or a surrounding county, to enter forage samples in the show. The focus of the show is to emphasize the importance of utilizing high quality hay. Producers may submit as many samples as they wish for the show, in each of the following categories; Coastal Bermudagrass, Other Bermudagrasses, Other Perennial Warm-Season Grasses, Annual Warm Season Grasses, Cool Season Grasses, Legume-Grass Mix and Legumes. There is no entry fee, however the deadline for entering the show is September 2nd. Please refer to the Austin County Hay Show Guidelines which are available online at <http://austin.agrilife.org/> and at each of the drop off locations.

Hay samples may be turned in at the Austin County Extension Office, Harrison's Farm Service and Linseisen's Feed in Bellville, Adamcik's Farm Supply and Steinhäuser's Inc. in Sealy, Dudensing Farm Service and Schulz General Store in New Ulm, and Lindemann's Store and Blezinger's Inc. in Industry from August 8 - September 2, 2016.

Please contact the Extension Office to preregister at (979) 865-2072, so we can have an accurate count for food and refreshments.

Sincerely,



Travis Gonzales
County Extension Agent-Ag
Austin County

The members of Texas A&M AgriLife will provide equal opportunities in programs and activities, education, and employment to all persons regardless of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, age, disability, genetic information, veteran status, sexual orientation or gender identity and will strive to achieve full and equal employment opportunity throughout Texas A&M AgriLife.