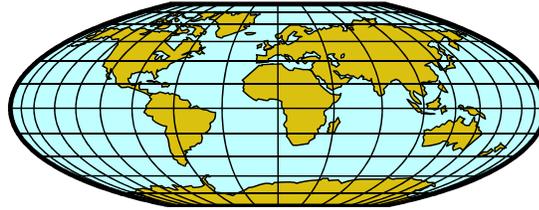


## Austin County Ag News



### Summer 2014

***In This Issue***

Austin County Livestock Assn Meeting ..... pg 1

AG News Goes Digital ..... pg 1

Texas Beef Checkoff Referendum ..... pg 2

Big Tomato Contest and Vegetable Show ..... pg 3

Food Preservation Workshop ... pg 3

Healthy Woodlands and Ranch Scaping Seminar ..... pg 3

Beef Cattle Short Course ..... pg 4

Multi County New Landowners Educational Series ..... pg 4

Water Quality Seminar ..... pg 4

Fall Forage Seminar & Austin County Hay Show ..... pg 5

Upcoming Events ..... pg 6

### **Austin County Livestock Assn. Meeting**

The annual Austin County Livestock Association meeting will take place on Thursday, June 5<sup>th</sup>. This year's meeting will be held at the Cat Spring Ag Society Hall in Cat Spring. The board of directors has again decided to offer two CEU's for pesticide applicators prior to the meeting, one in Laws and Regulations and one in IPM. The CEU program will consist of a program on Weed Control for Stock Ponds, from Extension Fisheries Specialist Peter Wood, followed by an update on pesticide laws and regulations. The CEU meeting will begin at 3:00 p.m. with registration and the program will go from 3:30 p.m. until 5:30 p.m. The social will begin at 5:30 p.m. and the meeting will start at 6:30 p.m. Guest speaker will be Todd Huebner, with Merial Animal Health. He will be discussing parasite control in beef cattle.

A registration fee of \$15.00 per person will be charged prior to the CEU meeting, which includes the annual membership fee. This money is used for the payment of the meal at the annual meeting, and coverage for a \$500.00 reward for the recovery of stolen livestock. Dues are also used in awarding college scholarships to Austin County youth. All livestock raisers are encouraged to attend and become a member of the association.

### **Austin County Ag News is 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.

## **Texas Beef Checkoff Referendum**

As allowed under the Texas Agriculture Code, cattle industry organizations have requested permission from the Texas Department of Agriculture to create a producer-funded and managed, State-Level Beef Checkoff Program financed through a refundable assessment, at each point of cattle ownership transfer in Texas. Eligible Texas producers of cattle will vote to determine if a refundable maximum assessment of \$1.00 per head of cattle will be collected at each point of ownership transfer. The Beef Promotion and Research Council of Texas (BPRCT) will set the assessment rate each year, not to exceed the maximum assessment rate. The assessment will be used for promotion, marketing, research and educational efforts regarding beef and beef products. Only an individual or legal business entity who has owned cattle any time in Texas from June 6, 2013 to June 6, 2014 is eligible to vote in the referendum.

The referendum will be held at Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service Office of Austin County, located at 20 South Holland Street in Bellville, during the week of June 2-6, 2014. Eligible producers may vote on the referendum at the Extension Office during regular business hours, 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon and 1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. If an eligible producer is unable to access the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service office, a ballot may be requested from TDA. This request must be made between May 19 - June 2, 2014.

The Texas Beef Checkoff program is different and separate from the current U.S. Beef Checkoff. The Texas Beef Checkoff program may complement and extend the U.S. Beef Checkoff efforts, however unlike the U.S. program, which requires that fifty cents of every dollar collected be sent to the Cattlemen's Beef Promotion and Research Board for programs, the entire Texas Beef Checkoff assessment would be managed by the Beef Promotion and Research Council of Texas and the assessment is refundable. For more information about the Texas Beef Checkoff Referendum, contact the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Office of Austin County at (979) 865-2072, or visit our website <http://austin.agrilife.org> and click the Ask the Agent tab.

## Big Tomato Contest and Vegetable Show

The Bluebonnet Master Gardeners Association proudly announces the 9<sup>th</sup> annual Big Tomato Contest and Vegetable Show on Saturday, June 14<sup>th</sup> at Linseisen's Feed and Supply in Bellville. Vegetable gardeners from anywhere in the world are eligible to participate in the contest, which will award prizes in several different categories, such as the Biggest Tomato, as well as prizes in many other vegetable categories. Growers are asked to drop off their entries between the hours of 8:30 and 10:00 a.m. An educational program on growing vegetables will be given at 10:00 a.m. The results of the contest will be announced at 11:00 a.m.

There will be fresh vegetables for sale during the contest until 12:00 noon. Cash prizes and gift certificates will be given to the top prize winners. For more information and contest rules, contact the Extension Office.



## Food Preservation Workshop



EEA (Extension Education Association) of Austin County and the Austin County Horticulture Committee will be sponsoring a Food Preservation program and workshop on Thursday, June 19<sup>th</sup> at Sealy High School in Sealy, Texas. Food preservation concepts from canning to dehydration will be covered in detail.

The educational program will be instructed by Dr. Jenna Anding, Associate Department Head and Extension Program Leader for Nutrition and Food Sciences with Texas AgriLife Extension Service in College Station. Registration will begin at 8:30 am and the program begins at 9:00 a.m. and will conclude at 4:30 pm. Registration is \$50.00 and will include the "So Easy to Preserve" book, a class binder,

recipes, tips and tasting.

Call the Extension Office if you would like to register to participate at (979)865-2072 or for more information.

## Healthy Woodlands and Ranch Scaping Seminar

How healthy are your woodlands? Do they act as a buffer for soil and water erosion? Critical habitat for wildlife like deer, songbirds or the Houston toad? Or are they an eye sore that need to be either dozed or burned? Woodlands health should be important to property owners not just from an aesthetic point of view but also from the standpoint of production and sustainability.

The Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service of Colorado and Austin Counties will be sponsoring a Healthy Woodlands and Ranch Scaping Seminar on July 11<sup>th</sup>, 2014, at Cat Spring Agricultural Society Hall. The focus of this conference is to make landowners aware of their woodland resources, identification of critical habitat and make landowners aware of possible marketing opportunities. Special topics such as the History of the Post Oak Savannah, Identifying and Dealing with Oak Wilt and Rangeland Restoration will also be topics discussed at this program.

The program is scheduled to begin with registration from 8:30-9:00 a.m., with the program beginning at 9:00 a.m., and concluding about 3:00 p.m. You can register online by visiting our website at <http://austin.agrilife.org>. Or you may contact our office at (979) 865-2072. The registration fee is \$30.00 per person or \$50.00 per couple, and can be paid at the door.

## **Texas A&M Beef Cattle Short Course**

The 60th annual Texas A&M Beef Cattle Short Course will be taking place on August 4-6, 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 Animal Reproduction, Genetics, Range and Forages, Beef Quality Assurance Training for Cattle Producers, Cattlemen's College, Beef Industry Trade Show and as always a prime rib dinner on Tuesday 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 <https://events.tamu.edu/EMSRegics/BeefCattleShortCourse2014>. 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 15<sup>th</sup>**, at Cooper Farms near Waldek. The August 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 19<sup>th</sup>**, at the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service offices in Bellville. 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.

## **Water Quality Seminar and Water Testing Campaign**

The Horticulture Committee of Austin County will be sponsoring a Water Quality Seminar on Thursday, August 21<sup>st</sup>, at the Extension Office in Bellville. The program will begin with registration from 6:00 - 6:30 p.m., and the program begins at 6:30 p.m. and lasting until 8:30 p.m. Aubin Phillips with the HGAC will be speaking about a project dealing with Water Quality in the San Bernard River Shed. Dr. Mark McFarland, Extension Agronomist, will also be on hand to discuss a study being conducted on the Mill Creek related to water quality.

As an added bonus, well owners are encouraged to submit water samples from their well for water quality. The water well screening program will be conducted from August 1-11, 2014. Landowners who wish to participate can pick up testing forms and water sample bottles at the Extension office during regular

business hours.

The screening program will offer two separate water well screenings, an elemental analysis and a bacteriology analysis. The **elemental analysis costs \$26 per sample**, and will provide information on well water conductivity, pH, potassium, calcium, magnesium, sodium, sulfur, chlorine, boron, nitrate, hardness, zinc, iron, copper, manganese, and phosphorus of the water sample. This analysis will be conducted by the Texas A&M University Soil and Water Testing Laboratory in College Station. The **bacteriology analysis costs \$25 per sample**, and will provide information on the presence or absence of coliform bacteria. The bacteriology water sample must be taken the morning of Monday, August 11, 2014; right before you bring it to the Extension Office between the hours of 8:00 am and 12:00 pm. This analysis will be conducted by Aqua Water Supply Corporation in Bastrop. Important information that will be required includes the water well's physical address and well depth. Results will be mailed to the address you provide when the sample is submitted. Payment (cash or check only) is required when you drop off your samples.

Results of the well screenings will be available at the Water Quality Seminar, on August 21<sup>st</sup>. Those who participate in both screenings will be allowed into the program at no charge. Those participating in one test or those not participating in the screening program will be charged \$10.00 at the door. For anyone unable to attend the program, the results will be mailed to you. For more information, please contact the Austin County Extension Office at (979) 865-2072.

## **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 26<sup>th</sup>, 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 3:00 p.m. This year's seminar will cover such topics as Texas Water Law, cool season forages and weed control product updates and a panel discussion from local producers. A new addition this year 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 5<sup>th</sup>. 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 Steinhauer'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 18 - September 5, 2014.

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

## Upcoming Events

June	2-6	-	Texas Beef Checkoff Referendum
	5	-	Beef and Forage Committee Meeting
		-	Austin County Livestock Assn. Meeting/CEU Opportunity, Cat Spring (2 CEU's)
	14	-	Big Tomato Contest & Vegetable Show
	19	-	Food Preservation Workshop
	21	-	Austin County Fair, Summer Music Fest
July	2	-	Horticulture Committee Meeting
	4	-	Independence Day Holiday, Office Closed
	11	-	Healthy Woodlands and Ranch Scaping Seminar, Cat Spring (3 CEU's)
August	1	-	Beef and Forage Committee Meeting
	1-11	-	Water Testing Campaign
	4-6	-	Beef Cattle Short course, TAMU
	11	-	Submit water samples for bacterial testing
	15	-	Multi County New Landowners Series, Cooper Farms in Waldek (3 CEU's)
	18- Sept 5		Submit forage samples
	21	-	Water Quality Seminar
Sept.	1	-	Labor Day Holiday, Office Closed
	5	-	Hay Show Entry Deadline
	10	-	Horticulture Committee Meeting
	11	-	All About Ants Seminar, Hill Center in Sealy, (2 CEU's)
	19	-	Multi County New Landowners Series, Extension Office in Bellville (1 CEU)
	26	-	Fall Forage Seminar and Austin County Hay Show (3 CEU's)

Sincerely,

  
Philip Shackelford  
County Extension Agent-Ag  
Austin County

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 Extension programs serve people of all ages regardless of The Texas A&M University System, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the County Commissioners Courts of Texas Cooperating.