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## *New County Extension Agent Haylee Wolfford*



Howdy, first off let me start by saying, I am very honored to be the new Agriculture Extension Agent in Austin County! However, I thought I would share a little background about myself. I grew up in a small southeast Texas town showing

livestock, raising show cattle, and rodeo'n. I attended Texas State University where I obtained a Bachelor of Animal Science and then furthered my education at McNeese State University procuring a Master of Science with an emphasis on animal nutrition. I started my career as an Extension Agent in 2015, in Hardin County, where I served as the sole agent for the county. I performed the duties related to Agriculture, 4-H, Family Consumer Science, and Horticulture. Although being the sole agent allowed me to gain knowledge across many different aspects of Texas A&M AgriLife, my focus is still beef cattle production and horses, but I have also gained a considerable amount of knowledge in forage production and brush control. Outside of work, I continue to enjoy roping and raising exotic and American cross show cattle. I look forward to continuing to expand my knowledge in the field of agriculture and working with the residents of Austin County. If you have any questions, concerns or needs, please feel free to stop by my office, call me or email me. I look forward to getting to know the people of Austin County.

***2018 Schedule***  
***Multi County***  
***New Landowner Series***

***April 20***  
Weed and Brush Control  
Colorado County

***May 18***  
Forage Production  
Livestock Production  
Washington County

***August 17***  
Bees and Trees for Homeowners  
Colorado County

***September 21***  
Horticulture Production  
Fayette County

***October 19***  
Wildlife Management  
Native Grass Restoration  
Austin County

***November 16***  
Hot Topics  
Washington County

***Multi-County New Landowners***  
***Seminar***  
***March 16, 2018***

The 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting for the 2018 Multi-County New Landowner Series will take place on Friday, March 16, 2018, at the Fayette County Extension Office. Registration begins at 1:00pm with the program to follow. There is a \$20.00 registration fee due at the door and 3 CEU's (2 general & 1 IPM) will be available to all pesticide applicators.

This program will focus on pond management for landowners. The goal of this session is to help provide landowners with valuable information regarding pond construction, vegetation, ecology, and stocking rates/management. You may bring a sample of a pond weed to the program for identification. This is a great opportunity to have an expert answer your questions. For more information on this series please contact the Austin County Extension Office by calling 979-865-2072 or by visiting <https://agrilife.org/coastalbend/nlo/>.

***Beef Cattle Management Seminar***  
***March 23, 2018***

The Beef and Forage Committee of Austin County will be sponsoring a Beef Cattle Management Seminar on March 23, 2018, at Four County Auction Center in Industry. Registration will begin at 12:30pm until 1:00pm with the program to follow. This year's program will cover topics such as Range Management, Herd Health, and Insect Management for Cattle. So, bring your questions and get answers from the experts!

Refreshments will be provided and 3 general CEU's will be given to all pesticide applicators. There is a \$20 registration fee. Anyone wanting to participate is asked to contact the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Office by calling 979-865-2072 or by going to our website at <http://austin.agrilife.org> and registering under the Event Registrations tab.

## *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 15<sup>th</sup> and July 31<sup>st</sup>, 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.

## *Multi County Fruit Tree Seminar Friday, April 13<sup>th</sup>*

Do you have a fruit tree and have questions on how to get it to produce fruit? Here is your chance to answer those questions and to learn what is needed to have a successful and enjoyable experience. We will discuss these topics and many more on Friday, April 13<sup>th</sup>, at the Winedale Historical Complex at the Dolph Briscoe Center for American History in Winedale. Monte Nesbitt, Extension Horticulture Associate, will be the main speaker and will cover a wide range of topics, including varieties, selection, pruning and planting.

This program is a multi-county effort that includes Austin, Colorado, Fayette, and Washington counties. Refreshments and handouts will be provided. Registration is from 1:00 pm - 1:30 pm and the program will run from 1:30 pm to approximately 5:00 pm. A registration fee of \$20.00 will be charged at the door to help defer the cost of refreshments and materials. 2 CEU's, in the general category, will be available to pesticide applicators. To register, contact the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Office of Austin County at (979) 865-2072 or go to our website at <http://austin.agrilife.org> and register under the Event Registrations tab.

Winedale Historical Complex is a division of the Dolph Briscoe Center for American History, the University of Texas at Austin. Winedale is located at 3738 FM 2714, four miles from Round Top, Texas. Take FM 1457 to FM 2714. You can visit the website at <http://www.winedale.org>.

## *Master Gardener Plant Sale Saturday, April 14<sup>th</sup>*

The Bluebonnet Master Gardener Association's annual plant sale will be held on Saturday, April 14, 2018, from 9:00 am – 5:00 pm at Sealy Spring Fest Santa Fe Museum Grounds (211 East Main Street, Sealy, Texas).

Included in the sale will be plants that are drought and heat tolerant, cold hardy, and minimal maintenance. Expect many Earth Kind varieties, succulents, Texas Super Stars, herbs, annuals and perennials, as well as some unique and

## Selected References from Dr. Joe Paschal

### *Blackleg and Clostridial Diseases*

<http://animalscience.tamu.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/14/2012/04/beef-blackleg-clostridial-diseases.pdf>

### *Implanting Beef Calves and Stocker Cattle*

Dr. F. T. McCollum

<http://animalscience.tamu.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/14/2012/04/beef-implanting-beef-calves.pdf>

### *Common Cattle Parasites*

Dr. F. C. Faries

<http://animalscience.tamu.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/14/2012/04/beef-common-parasites.pdf>

### *Protecting Cattle from Horn Flies*

Dr. Jeffery K. Tomberlin

<http://animalscience.tamu.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/14/2012/04/protecting-cattle-from-horn-flies.pdf>

hard to find plants. There will be a Micro Greens demo at 10:00 am along with rainwater harvesting tips and tools.

Proceeds will advance education, scholarships and beautification for Austin, Colorado, Fayette and Washington counties.

For additional information, contact Renee Kofman at 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.

## *Spring Management Tips for Cattle*

Joe C. Paschal

Livestock Specialist, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension  
Corpus Christi, Texas

Spring is here, and it is time to consider some management tips for the cowherd. With most of the calves on the ground, now is the time to begin planning to work this year's calves. Vaccination for Blackleg and other Clostridial diseases should be a priority. The Sudden Death diseases (including Blackleg) are the number one killer of calves and cows. In addition, castration of bull calves, implanting the steer calves, internal and external parasite control treatment, dehorning, and identifying all calves with an ear tag and a ranch or holding brand should be included. Any heifers considered for replacements should be vaccinated for Brucellosis or Bang's disease between the ages of 4 and 12 months of age. Brucellosis causes abortion and was once a significant reproductive disease in the state. After many years of vaccination and testing, Texas is Brucellosis free, but I highly recommend continued vaccination of replacement heifers, both purebred and commercial. Your veterinarian will have to administer the brucellosis vaccine, so you will have to schedule your calf working around an appointment with them. Although I prefer knife cutting for castration, some prefer to use an elastic band to castrate calves. If you prefer to band your bull calves, I recommend a tetanus toxoid vaccination. Since the process of castration by banding takes a little longer and the wound caused by the band takes longer to heal, there is a greater risk for infection. Some of the Blackleg vaccines, especially some of the 8-way vaccines, contain tetanus. Check the label or vaccinate with a separate injection. While planning for the

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calf working consider any cow work that might be done. If the calves are 3-4 months old, some early pregnancy checking could be conducted. In addition, there might be some vaccinations your veterinarian recommends, and certainly horn fly control would be appreciated by your cows. It has been an early season for horn flies and a combination of both a “knock down” product like a pour-on and long-term control like a fly tag should be used.

If you have more questions about this or other topics discussed, contact your local County Extension Agent or beef cattle veterinarian.

***Upcoming Events***

**March**

- 16 New Landowner Series—Pond Management
- 23 Beef Cattle Management Seminar

**April**

- 13 Multi County Fruit Tree Seminar
- 14 Bluebonnet Master Gardener Plant Sale
- 20 New Landowner Series - Weed & Brush Control

**May**

- 18 New Landowners Series—Forage Production
- 28-29 Grass-fed Beef Conference—College Station

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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.