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Soil Testing Campaign Austin and Colorado Counties November 1-30, 2018

Growing better quality hay and pasture grass is a major goal of all hay and livestock producers. Starting with a soil test is the most important step to determining the amount of fertilizer needed each year. Producers should consider soil testing as an investment in this year's hay and pasture, because the correct amounts and timing of fertilization can greatly enhance hay quality and growth.

November 1st thru November 30th has been set as the time for all Austin County landowners to participate in the soil testing campaign for this year's hay meadows and pastureland. Soil samples submitted during this time frame, will be \$8.00 for a routine analysis and \$15.00 for a routine analysis including micro-nutrients. Samples may be turned in to one of the following locations around Austin County: Bellville - Harrison's Farm Service and Linseisen's Feed; Sealy - Adamcik's and Steinhauser's; Industry -Lindemann's Store; or to the Extension Office in Bellville. Soil sample bags, special information sheets and directions for sampling are available at each of the locations.

For more information about soil testing contact the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service of Austin County at (979) 865-2072.

Bluebonnet Master Gardeners 2019 Training Class Information

Austin, Colorado, Fayette and Washington Counties

Are you interested in becoming a certified Master Gardener? Do you want to learn more about the art and science of landscape plants, gardens, fruit trees and more?

The Bluebonnet Master Gardener Association is offering a training program with weekly classes running from **January 17, 2019, to graduation on April 23, 2019**. Classes will be held on Thursday

mornings from 9:00am-1:00pm in La Grange. Topics for the class include plant growth and development, entomology, soils and plant fertility, landscape and fruit trees, plant pathology, vegetable gardening, lawn care and various aspects of environmental horticulture. Classes are taught by Texas AgriLife Extension specialists, agents and local experts.

The Texas Master Gardener program boasts the largest corps of Master Gardener volunteers in the nation. A love of gardening and search for knowledge is central to why Master Gardeners join the program. They remain Master Gardeners to enjoy the camaraderie and friendship of others who share their interests, to gain and share horticulture knowledge and to give back to the community.

The Bluebonnet Master Gardener Association spans four counties: Austin, Colorado, Fayette and Washington. An open house is scheduled to answer questions and provide more information about the Master Gardener Training Course.

January 10, 2019. 9:00 a.m. until 12:00 p.m. Fayette County Agriculture Building, 255 Svoboda Lane, LaGrange, TX 78945. 979-968-5831

For more information on the program, contact Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service of Austin County at (979) 865-2072, or visit our website at <https://txmg.org/bluebonnet/>

Homeowner Maintenance of Septic Systems December 3, 2018

If you are interested in learning how to keep your septic system functioning properly, this program provides the basic understanding of operational and maintenance activities of conventional and aerobic septic systems. Presentations will cover the treatment processes, health and safety considerations, an overview of how to inspect and maintain the system and goes in depth on aerobic septic systems and their operations and maintenance. This class will provide homeowners in Austin County with the certification to maintain their aerobic system. The program will be held Monday, December 3, 2019, from 8:30am – 4:00pm at the Bellville Volunteer Fire Department. **THIS IS A FREE PROGRAM!** To register please contact Ward Ling at wling@tamu.edu or 979-845-6980. Seating is limited so RSVP now!

Grape Growers Field Day February 1, 2019

The 27th annual Gulf Coast Grape Growers Field Day will be held on Friday, February 1st, at the Cat Spring Ag Society building in Cat Spring. The day will begin with registration from 8:30-9:00 a.m., with the program beginning at 9:00 a.m. The field day will conclude around 4:00 p.m. There will be several topics of interest to those in the Wine Grape production business as well as those who are thinking about getting started growing grapes. There will also be an update from the Texas Wine and Grape Growers Association and a social at the end of the evening. A minimum of 3 CEU's will be given to all pesticide applicators. Anyone that plans to attend or needs more information is asked to contact the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Office of Austin County at (979) 865-2072.

Multi County New Landowners Program February 15, 2019

The Multi-County New Landowner Education program is a series of nine informational meetings/seminars/field days designed to make new landowners in Austin, Colorado, Fayette & Washington Counties aware of what types of agricultural enterprises are best for their property. Participants in the program will hear from experts in certain fields of agriculture about the best management practices that they can implement on their own property. This innovative program assists new landowners in understanding the concepts of rural living. Participants in the program are given exposure to ideas on raising livestock and horses, plant identification, fence building, applying pesticides, soil testing, stock pond management, pond construction, fruit and nut production, and much more. The program also serves as a way for new residents of the four counties to network and meet new people in their communities, find out what can be done on their land, what operations can be profitable, and possibly what opportunities they have to serve the community. Program will be held on the third Friday's of the months of January, February, March, April, May, August, September, October and November. Each month's meeting will be held at different locations in each county. The meetings begin at 1:30 p.m., and last about 4 hours. CEU's for Pesticide Applicators will be given at each meeting, and refreshments will be served at each program session. For more information on the program, contact Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service of Austin County at (979) 865-2072, or visit our website at <https://agrilife.org/coastalbend/program-areas/nlo/>

**Suggested additional reading
(all at beef.tamu.edu)**

<http://animalscience.tamu.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/14/2012/04/nutrition-body-conditionnutrition.pdf>

<http://animalscience.tamu.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/14/2012/04/beef-factors-and-feed.pdf>

Small Farms & Vegetable Conference

The Horticulture Committee of Austin County will be sponsoring a Small Farms and Vegetable Conference on February 22nd at the Cat Spring Ag Society Hall. Registration will take place from 8:30 a.m. until 9:00 a.m. with the program to follow. This year's program will focus on fruits, nuts and bee production for South Central Texas, and strategies related to raising, marketing and the economics of production. The program will begin at 9:00 a.m. and last until about 3:00 p.m. Lunch will be served and there will also be several snack breaks built-in to help get the blood flowing again. There will be a guarantee of 3 CEU's with a possible 5 CEU's offered pending TDA approval. Cost for the event is \$30.00 per person, which goes to cover speaker materials, meal cost and the handouts. To pre-register for the event, contact the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service Office of Austin County at (979) 865-2072, or visit our website at <http://austin.agrilife.org>.

Winter Supplementation of the Cowherd *Dr. Joe C. Paschal* *Livestock Specialist* *Texas A&M AgriLife Extension*

About this time of year, I get a lot of questions about supplementing the cowherd. My response is based on the status of the cowherd and forage conditions. Dry pregnant cows in mid gestation have the lowest nutritional needs. Depending on the amount and quality of the grass, a protein supplement may be all that is needed. Cows that have calves at side will require additional protein and energy, adding to the cost of supplementation. One other factor I consider is cow fatness or body condition. Cows that are in good body condition will require less supplementation than cows that are thin. If you test your hay or forage you might find that it is the only supplement you need, that it meets the nutritional requirements of your cows. More likely than not however, it will be deficient. However at least you will know what you need to supplement with, and more importantly how much. Feed costs are a large part of cow expenses and knowing what is needed and how much to feed can reduce that cost considerably. In addition to feeding the right amount of supplement and saving money you improve the performance of the cow's fertility and milk production and her calf's growth. You will have to supplement more energy when it is cold and wet than when it is just cold but dry. The amount of standing forage you have due to stockpiling or grazing will also affect your feed costs. Protein supplementation when deficient can improve the digestibility of poor-quality roughages

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significantly. Form of supplementation is less important than cost per unit of nutrient. When supplementing protein (but not energy), the amount can be doubled or tripled and fed every other or every third day reducing travel and labor. Whenever possible feed should be placed in bunks or troughs to minimize waste and reduce cost. Once you know what and how much you need, consider labor and travel in your costs. For more information on hay and forage testing or supplementation, contact your local County Extension Agent

Upcoming events:

November

- 1 – 30 Soil Test Campaign
- 5 Mill Creek Watershed Meeting, Bellville Extension Office
- 16 New Landowners Meeting, Washington County Fairgrounds
- 30 5 Hour CEU Seminar, Four County Auction, Industry

December

- 3 Homeowner Septic Training, Bellville Fire Department
- 4 – 5 Plant Protection Conference, College Station

January

- 10 Bluebonnet Master Gardener Open House, LaGrange
- 17 Bluebonnet Master Gardener Intern Class, LaGrange

February

- 1 Grape Growers Field Day, Cat Spring
- 15 New Landowners Program
- 22 Small Farms and Vegetable Conference

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.



AGRICULTURAL
PESTICIDE WASTE
COLLECTION

WEDNESDAY
NOV 28
8a.m. - 12p.m.



UNWANTED AGRICULTURAL SURPLUS PESTICIDES? DISPOSE OF THEM PROPERLY

WHARTON COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS • 6036 FM 961 ROAD • WHARTON, TX 77488

ACCEPTED ITEMS INCLUDE:

- Outdated, discontinued or unwanted agricultural pesticides
- Insecticides
- Herbicides
- Fungicides
- Rodenticides
- Nematicides
- Growth Regulators
- Empty, Triple-Rinsed Plastic Pesticide Containers
- Empty or Partial Metal Drums

***PESTICIDES MUST BE KEPT IN ORIGINAL CONTAINERS,
EVEN IF LABEL IS NOT PRESENT.***

Unknown pesticides will be sampled and identified on site.



TEXAS A&M
AGRI LIFE
EXTENSION



Contact Wharton County Extension to inquire about
special requests for assistance at 979-532-3310.

MATERIALS NOT ACCEPTED:

- Explosive ordnances and ammunition
- Petroleum-Based Products
- Paints
- Medical Wastes
- Radioactive Substances
- Household Pesticides, Chemicals, and Waste
- Tires
- Fertilizers, Propane or Butane Cylinders
- 2,4-5T
- Chlorinated Hydrocarbons
- Fumigant Canisters
- Used motor oil and other automobile fluids
- Auto Batteries
- Empty Totes
- Methyl-Bromide Cylinders
- Dioxins

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. The Texas A&M University System, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the County Commissioners Courts of Texas Cooperating