Extension Update
Bowie County Extension Office
Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service * PVAMU Cooperative Extension

Keeping You *"In the Loop"*
April 2019

TEXAS A&M AGRILIFE EXTENSION

PRAIRIE VIEW A&M UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE AND HUMAN SCIENCES

Cooperative Extension Program

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For more information on these or other topics contact

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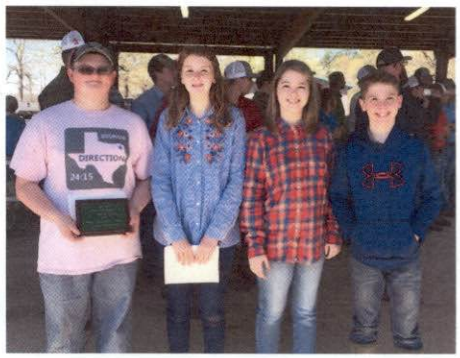
By: Cherrie Curtis, CEA-4-H & Youth Dev.

Bowie County 4-H is getting ready for our District IV 4-H Contests coming up the first 2 weekends in May. 4-H members qualifying for State Competition will head to Victoria &/or College Station June 8-14.

Congratulations to Dylan Hanna - Rodeo Austin Ultimate Calf Scramble Competition Champion! The Ultimate Calf Scramble is a tournament of scrambles. Youth compete 3 times to get to the final round.

Dylan also caught at the Ft. Worth and Houston Calf Scrambles.
Dylan will be a senior at De Kalb this fall. He has high hopes for his senior year in the show ring.

Congratulations to Corbin Stroud - Senior Division at the Texas 4-H Extravaganza. 1st place Skeet, 1st place Hunting Medley and 2nd place Sporting Clays. The Extravaganza is a state-wide competition for novice shooters in all 4-H shooting sports disciplines.



Our 4-H Forestry Team, Caleb Corbin, Laura Fincher, Jaycie May and Carter May, qualified for the State Woodland contest in Nacogodoches.

Bowie County Food Show winners - John Owens, Emma Campbell, Mattie Campbell, Caleb Corbin, London Kohler and Trevor Beal (back row), Stetson Baldwin, Kynzie Baldwin and Brooklyn Burrows (front row).

London received the Golden Spatula award for best overall dish and Brooklyn received the Best Table Setting award.

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

Soil Testing Following Flooding

Cherrie Curtis, Bowie County Coordinator

Bowie County may not have had flooding like we have had in the past but we have had a lot of water this winter and early spring standing in our yards, gardens, pastures and fields.

Freshwater flooding from rivers, rainfall or other sources can have a significant effect on soil fertility as well as the physical and chemical properties of soil. When yards, gardens, pastures and other agricultural lands are flooded, the short– and long-term effects will depend on the source of the flood water and the materials carried in the water.

Flooded plants typically die because of oxygen depletion in the root zone. If the root zone remains saturated, seeds will not germinate and most plants will not grow. Floodwater must drain away or percolate into the soil before any recovery effort can begin. If you have had some flooding due to rivers where debris may have gathered in your pasture or field, you will want to remove any debris where possible to allow natural surface drainage. Once the water has receded, air exchange into the soil will occur and the soil will again support plant growth. Floodwater also makes the soil less fertile by leaching away available soil nitrogen or causing it to volatilize (pass off in a vapor). A soil test should be conducted before any fertilizer is applied to determine the appropriate rate of application.

After the soil surface is dry the soil should be tested. Specific sampling instructions are listed on the Texas AgriLife Extension Service Soil, Water, and Forage Testing Laboratory submittal forms. These forms can be downloaded from *http://soiltesting.tamu.edu/webpages/forms.html* or obtained from your local Bowie County Extension office located in the courthouse.

The characteristics of the flood or standing water will determine which parameters should be measured by a soil test. If there was no saltwater associated with the flood or standing water a routine test by the Soil, Water and Forage Testing Laboratory will generally provide enough information to manage the soil in the near future.

Soil tests can be a useful tool to estimate the kinds and amounts of soil nutrients available to plants. Which in turn can be used to determine your fertilizer needs. Properly conducted soil testing can be a cost-effective tool to tell you how much fertilizer and/or lime is needed to improve crop yield.

With all of the rain that we have had this year, don't treat your yards, gardens, pastures or fields like it is just another year. Drop by the Bowie County Extension office on the first floor of the courthouse to pick up your soil test bags and instructions.

Texas Community Futures Forum

Bowie County Event - Tuesday, April 30th in First Lutheran Church Fellowship Hall
Meal served at 6:00 p.m. with introductions and overview of TCFF

Developing educational programs based on community needs is the foundation of Texas A&M AgriLife Extension's success. The Leadership Advisory Boards process provides an avenue to hear from all types of clientele and people within a county. Providing solutions to county problems and issues will allow AgriLife Extension to remain viable to constituents. What could be more important to AgriLife Extension than listening to its "customers" – the people of Texas?

Our ability to meet educational needs depends on knowing what local residents see as *their* issues that impact *their* lives. There is no way to know the answers to these questions unless they are asked. Therefore, Extension will involve the Leadership Advisory Boards in a process to ask residents what is important to them – the ***2019 Texas Community Futures Forum***.

Issue identification is one of the most important processes conducted at the county level. Since 1999, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service has conducted a grassroots issue identification process approximately every 5 years. Please join us on April 30th to help identify emerging issues in Bowie County in the areas of youth development, Agriculture and Natural Resourses, Family Consumer Health and Community Development.

The idea is to hone in issues which can be addressed locally. Some may be a multi-county, state, or non-extension issue. That's okay…share those issues with the appropriate organizations. Good time to start partnerships. Once the issues are identified, they are ranked by the small group members. The whole process should take less than 2 hours - we will feed you!

Please call our office - 903-628-6702 to let us know you will be joining us on the 30th (we don't want anyone to work on an empty stomach!)

If you are unable to join us but would like to share your thoughts on emerging issues go to:

https://agrilife.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_73Qz4UGTodvG9Uh

Anyone needing special assistance at an Extension program should contact the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Office at 903-628-6702 at least one week prior to the program or event.

Extension programs serve people of all ages regardless of socioeconomic level, race, color, sex, religion, disability, or national origin. The Texas A&M University System, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the County Com-

Lawn Watering

Brandon Hawkins, CEP Ag & Natural Resources

Watering is one of the most basic practices in the maintenance of a home lawn or landscape. During our dry summers and early fall seasons (June thru mid-September) in East and North East Texas, it become absolutely necessary to water a lawn in order to assure its survival. With the increasing cost of water and the reduced availability of water in some areas, it becomes even more important to water the lawn correctly. When establishing a new lawn, take on the consideration on which turf grasses require less water (Table 1.).

Table 1. **Relative Need of Turf grasses for Water**

1. St. Augustine (requires the most)
2. Centipede (moderate)
3. Carpet grass
4. "Tif" Bermuda and Common Bermuda
5. Zoysia (adapt fairly well in some areas in North East Texas)
6. Monkey grass (can be used as a turf grass; requires the least)

There are a number of factors that should be considered when developing a watering program for lawns.

New Lawns: Newly seeded or sprigged lawns should be watered lightly at frequent intervals. During the period of seed germination or growth of springs, it is important to keep the soil moist; not wet. After the new grass seedlings are visible the frequency of watering should be reduced gradually, and after about one month the lawn should be watered like an established lawn.

Soil Type: Water penetrates a sandy-loam soil much faster than a clay soil, so lawns grown on sandy soils will require more frequent watering than those grown on soils that are high in clay. Water moves fairly slowly into clay soil, the rate at which water is applied to this type of lawn should be as slow as possible.

Slope: Lawns with a high degree of slope will present a particular problem. It is very easy for water to run down the slope without penetrating the soil. Water must be applied at very slow rates from sprinklers near the top of the slope. Sprinklers near the bottom of the slope may prove ineffective.

Fertilizer: The faster the lawn grows, the more water it requires. The slow release fertilizers that contain materials like sulfur-coated urea or urea formaldehyde as nitrogen sources do not tend to produce high growth rates. Heavy applications of fertilizers high in nitrogen should be avoided. It is very important to select the proper fertilizer ratio for specific grass varieties, when using basic granular or liquid fertilizers. If you do not want to use a chemical base fertilizer, you can use organic fertilizers such as compost tea or liquid tea compost and liquid worm castings.

Management Factors: The use of an aerifier or a coring device will aid in increasing movement of water into the soil. A surfactant or wetting agent may also aid the movement of water into clay soils.

When to water: Ideally a lawn should be watered just as it begins to wilt. Most grasses take on a dull, dark appearance and the leaf blades begin to fold or roll. Grass under stress also shows evidence of tracks after someone walks across the lawn. A common bermuda grass lawn should be able to go at least 5 days between watering.

Early morning is considered that the best time to water. The wind is usually calm and the temperature is low so less water is lost to evaporation. The worst time to water is late evening because the lawn tends to stay wet all night making the lawn more susceptible to disease.

How much water: When a lawn needs water, enough should be applied so that the soil is wetted to a depth of 4-6 inches. One to 1-1/2 inches of water should wet the soil to a depth of 4-6 inches. If the water applications are too light and too frequent, the turf tends to become weak and shallow rooted which makes it more susceptible to heat and drought stress.

How to Water: Find out how much water your sprinkler puts out in 1 hour. How to find out how much water your sprinkler puts out and check its distribution pattern at the same time:

Set out 3 to 5 empty cans in a straight line going from the sprinkler. Set the last can near the end of the sprinkler's coverage.

Run the sprinkler for a period of time such as an hour.

Measure the amount of water in each can.

If each can has a different amount of water in it, the sprinkler is not providing an even coverage.

Run sprinkler long enough to apply at least one inch of water or until runoff occurs.

If runoff occurs first:

Stop sprinkler. (Note running time)

Allow water to soak into soil for half an hour.

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UNIVERSITY of ARKANSAS AT PINE BLUFF 1873

9th Annual CEP Bi-State Small Scale Producers Conference

Southwest Center (3222 W. 7th Street Texarkana, TX 7550)

April 25, 2019; Thursday @ 9:30 a.m. – 3 p.m.

9:15 a.m. Registration

9:30 a.m. Welcome

9:35 a.m. **"Firewise" Landscaping/Benefits of Prescription Burns** Mr. John Hawkins & Mr. Kevin Boyd, Texas A&M Forestry Service

10:15 a.m. **AgrAbility: Enhancing the Quality of Life for Farmers and Ranchers** Mrs. Angela Moore, Prairie View A&M University, Extension Associate

11:00 a.m. **Food Safety** Dr. Deland Myers, Sr. Prairie View A&M University, Research Scientist Leader

11:45 a.m. **The Effect of Land Fragmentation** Mr. Joe Friend, University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff Forester

12:00 p.m. Lunch (Mr. Square Watson's Bar-B-Que Catering)

12:30 p.m. **Identifying Resources Available for My Farm Enterprise** **USDA, UAPB, AFC, CES**

12:30 p.m. **Farm Tract Number/Microloan Program/Disaster Assistance** Mr. Rusty Pendegraft Farm Service Agency, County Executive Director

1 p.m. **The Key to Applying for Conservation Cost-Share Assistance** Mr. Lovell Foote, Foote Conservation Consulting, LLC, Consultant, Retired NRCS DC

1:30 p.m. **Wildlife and Recreational Income Opportunities** Mrs. Jennifer Caraway Arkansas Cooperative Extension, Ag Agent and Mrs. Penny Wilkerson Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, Wildlife Biologist

2:00 p.m. **Stocking and Managing Recreational Ponds** Mr. Steve Jones University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff, Extension Specialist

2:45 p.m. **The Importance of a Forest Stewardship Plan** Mr. Justin Mallet Arkansas Forestry at Pine Bluff, Howard County Forester

3:00 p.m. **Closing –The Importance of Outreach & Education** Mr. Brandon C. Hawkins & Mrs. Kandi Williams, Prairie View A&M University Cooperative Extension and Small Farms, University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff

3:00 p.m. Evaluation/Adjourn

Note: Some topics or speakers maybe subject of changes due to conflicts.