

# Calhoun County Ag Talk



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Calhoun County

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## Your trees after Harvey:

Trees for the most part are very hardy but it can sometimes take years for trees to show that they are sick. Your trees might look battered and bare right now but ask yourself these questions before you cut it down.

Other than the storm damage, is the tree basically healthy and vigorous? If the answer is yes, and the tree is not creating a hazard or has suffered major structural damage, it will usually recover if first aid measures are applied (for more tips on tree first aid please see the link below)

Are major limbs broken? The larger a broken limb is the harder it will be for the tree to recover. If your tree has the majority of the main branches gone or severely damaged, the tree may have little chance of surviving.

Has the leader (main upward-trending branch) been lost? The tree might live without its leader, but this could cause the tree to be stunted or a deformed version of what it used to be.

Is at least 50% of the tree's crown (branches and leaves) still intact? A tree that has lost more than half its branches may not be able to produce enough foliage to nourish the tree through another season.

How big are the wounds where



branches have been broken or bark has been damaged? The larger the wound is in relation to the size of the limb, the less likely it is to heal, leaving the tree vulnerable to disease and pests.

Are there remaining branches that can form a new branch structure? The limbs that are left on the tree will grow faster because the tree will try to replace the missing foliage.

Is the tree of a desirable species for its location? If the tree is in a poor location it could be best to remove it now. Examples are: the tree is too close to houses or beneath power lines.

What if the tree has significant bark loss? Bark loss should be addressed immediately.

These are just a few things to keep in mind as your trees recover from the hurricane. For more information please call the Calhoun County AgriLife Extension Office 361-552-9747 or visit the websites below.

For more information and pictures please visit;

<http://texasforests.tamu.edu/afterthestorm/canmytreebesaved/>

First aid information:

<http://texasforests.tamu.edu/AftertheStorm/Treefirstaid/>

Find Certified Arborist:

<http://www.isa-arbor.com/findanarborist/arboristsearch.aspx>

## STAR Fund - Helping Texas Farmers and Ranchers Recover from Disaster

**Background** Many of our fellow Texans are in need of a helping hand. Texas Agriculture Farmers, Rancher, producers and agribusiness owners are rebuilding and working towards picking up the pieces after all of these natural disasters. As natural disasters continue to impact Texas farmers and ranchers, the need for donations continues.

**The Fund** The STAR Fund (State of Texas Agriculture Relief Fund) was created solely with monetary donations from private individuals and companies. STAR Fund money may be used to assist farmers and ranchers in rebuilding fences, restoring operations and paying for other agricultural disaster relief. If you'd like to help folks impacted by the wildfire, floods or tornadoes, consider making a donation to the State of Texas Agriculture Relief, or STAR Fund.

**Assistance:** We are Texans, and when disaster strikes, we rise up to help our neighbors. The STAR Fund is one way to do that. TDA is offering a cost share (50% of eligible expense) to qualified agricultural producers not to exceed \$4,000 per applicant. Example: A producer would need to submit documentation for \$2,000 of eligible expenses to receive \$1,000 in reimbursement. STAR Fund money may be used to assist farmers and ranchers in rebuilding fences, restoring operations and paying for other agricultural disaster relief costs needed to rebuild their producer operations. If the applicants county is listed the Texas Governor's declaration of disaster, they have 90 days from the date of his proclamation to turn in an application. "Every day, we depend on farmers and ranchers to provide our families with the healthy food and warm clothes that sustains our lives, and now is the time for Texas producers to lean on us," Commissioner Miller said. "This is not a hand out, rather it's a helping hand. I hope people will take advantage of these funds if you need them." Funds are not intended to compensate individuals or businesses for losses incurred, but to assist agriculture producers in cost-sharing some of the unexpected expenses associated with the repair or replacement of items necessary for their agricultural operation. See the application for more information.

**Eligibility:** Texas Agriculture Farmers, Rancher, producers and agribusiness owners will be required to complete an application and present such information as copies of invoices, proof of payment and proof agricultural loss specifically attributed to the specific natural disaster identified by the Texas Governors Disaster Declaration, property identification number, and other records needed by the department to determine eligibility.

Agriculture business means - a business that is or proposes to be engaged in producing, processing, marketing, or exporting an agricultural product

Agricultural product means - an agricultural, horticultural, viticultural, or vegetable product, bees, honey, fish or other seafood, planting seed, livestock, a livestock product, a forestry product, poultry, or a poultry product.

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## Upcoming event:



### 5 Hour CEU Event

November 30, 2017

Jackson County Services Building Auditorium

Registration starting at 8:00, First program at 9:00

The Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service of Jackson County, the Field Crops committee and the Beef Committee are sponsoring a 5 Hour CEU Event to be held on Thursday, November 30, 2017, at the Jackson County Services Building Auditorium. Registration will begin at 8:00 a.m. and the programs will conclude at 3:00 p.m. There will be a \$25 registration fee, which includes refreshments and lunch.

#### Programs:

- 9:00 - Greg Baker – “Texas Pesticide Laws and Regulations”, Inspector, Texas Department of Agriculture (1 hr. Laws & Regs.)
- 10:00 – Dr. Megan Clayton - “Weed Control in Pastures and Sprayer Calibration”, Associate Professor and Extension Range Specialist, Corpus Christi, (1 hr. IPM)
- 11:00 – Dr. Paul Nester – “Fire Ants and Crazy Ants Management”, Extension Program Specialist II, Houston, (1 hr. IPM)
- 12:00 - Lunch.
- 1:00 - Dr. Joe Paschal – “Livestock Diseases, Insects, Parasites and their Control”, Extension Livestock Specialist, Corpus Christi, (1 hr. General.)
- 2:00 - Eddie Davis - “Feral Hog Management”, Texas Wildlife Services - hunting, trapping, Brucellosis & diseases, watershed pollution, (1hr. General)

Five (5) total CEU’s will be offered for TDA pesticide applicator license holders.

- 1 hour in Laws and Regulations.
- 2 hours in Integrated Pest Management.
- 2 hours in General.

Five (5) total CEU’s will be offered for Texas CCA program.

Integrated Pest Management: 3  
Soil & Water Management: 1  
Professional Development: 1

For enrollment in this event and more information contact the Jackson County AgriLife Extension Office at 361-782-3312. Individuals with disabilities who require an auxiliary aid, service or accommodation in order to participate in this program are encouraged to contact the Extension Office to determine how reasonable accommodations can be made.

Sponsors: Capital Farm Credit, Jackson County Soil & Water Conservation District, NewFirst National Bank

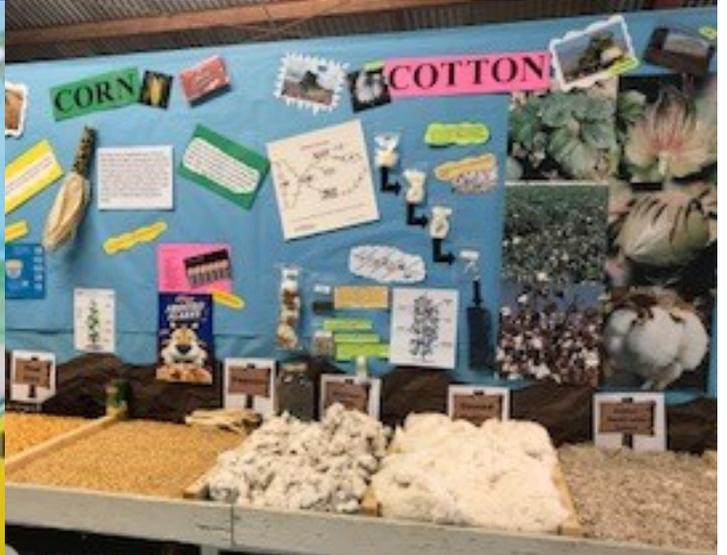
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## Teaching youth the importance of agriculture:

As today's youth are further removed from farming, many do not understand the importance of agriculture and how it impacts their daily lives. One of my personal goals is to teach youth the importance of agriculture and to remind their parents where their food and clothing comes from. This year at the Calhoun County Fair the new attraction was the Agriculture Discovery Zone. It was the idea of Katherine Sutherland and was constructed by Eric Taylor and I where the school art projects used to be. The goal of the ag discovery zone is to teach children the importance of agriculture and remind their parents where their food and clothing comes from. It featured interactive and informative "booths". On the left side of the building was booths that highlighted the importance of the four major crops in Calhoun County (corn, cotton, grain sorghum and soybeans) cattle, the Texas A&M Forest Service and information about Texas A&M AgriLife Extension and 4-H. Youth and adults could feel all the different crops, cattle cubes and sweet feed. Moreman Gin donated some unginning cotton, ginned cotton and seeds with linters so everyone could see the ginning process as well. On the right side of the building were gardening facts, information about pollinators, flip up questions, the United States of Agriculture Facts and the commodity carnival. There were even caterpillars and butterflies. Butterflies were actually hatching as well! But the overwhelming crowd favorite was the incubator and the live baby chicks. Youth and adults could see the eggs hatching before their eyes. After the baby chicks were dry and strong they were moved to the coop where people could watch them eat and drink. Broilers and laying hens were in the coops next to the chicks to show what they would look like when the chicks grew up. Tractor Supply donated two incubators and Holmes Foods, Inc. from Gonzales donated the eggs. I stuck around the zone the first night and got to hear a lot of the compliments on the Ag discovery zone. Parents and youth alike were amazed at all the work myself and my coworker, Eric Taylor had put in. I could hear a lot of "I didn't know that" and "Look how cool this is". I'm pretty sure we accomplished our goal to spread agriculture literacy. But the best moment was when I was taking pictures of the school tours that came to the fair and met a little girl and her mom watching the chicks hatch at the Ag discovery zone. The baby chicks fascinated the little girl. Her mom explained to me that she had some learning disabilities and had never gotten this close to any animal before (dogs and cats included). I asked if she would like to touch one of the baby chicks. After a few tries and some squeals of delight the little girl finally stuck one finger out and touched the baby chick. Her mom profusely thanked me for being so patient and letting her touch the baby chick. Eric and I will be adding on to the Ag discovery zone and will make it even better for next year!



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We are on the web!

<http://calhoun.agrilife.org/>

<https://twitter.com/CalhounTXAG>

<https://www.facebook.com/CalhounTXAG/>

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*“Texas A&M AgriLife Extension provides equal opportunities in its programs and employment to all persons, regardless of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, disability, age, genetic information, veteran status, sexual orientation, or gender identity.”*

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## **Picture of the month**

The picture to the right is a pecan tree. It is one of my favorite trees and is the state tree. The first Friday in November was Texas Arbor Day. November is a great time to plant trees. If you want to plant some trees around your house but don't know what kind you want the Texas A&M Forest Service has a great website that gives you suggestions on what trees to plant. You can pick Calhoun County (or any county) and it will ask you how much space you have and various other questions.

<http://texastreeplanting.tamu.edu/index.html>

I also have guides if you want some more information as well.

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*“The best time to plant  
a tree is 20 years ago,  
the second best time is  
now.”*

*- African Proverb*

