

Gillespie County Extension
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Agriculture & Natural Resources

TEXAS A&M
AGRILIFE
EXTENSION

GILLESPIE COUNTY

SPRING 2016

UPCOMING EVENTS

*Last Chance CEU
Program—February 23rd

*Mitigating Drought
Losses—March 2nd

*Multi County Wildlife Field
Day—April 7th

*Pecan Grafting Seminar—
April 19th

Bennet Trust Land Steward-
ship Conference—April 14th
& 15th

Water Conservation Expo—
April 16th

NRCS Fish Sale—
Deadline is April 21st

Private Pesticide Applicators
Training—May 10th

*Beef & Range Field Day—
May 12th

Summer Dormant Tall Fes-
cue Grass Trial

*Indicates that CEU's will be
offered at event

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Gardening Tips from Brad Roeder

The following gardening tips might be useful for you in preparing for your spring gardening activities.

- Take a soil test to see what nutrients are lacking or that you have too much of (forms and collection bags can be found at the Extension Office)
- Add compost and sand to your garden if needed; it helps to reduce root rot problems.
- Buy only healthy transplants and spray with an insecticide and fungicide when you get them home. Most problems are brought in with transplants.
- No need to buy the biggest transplants, select ones that are proportional to their root system.
- Expose transplants to shady spots with indirect sunlight for a day or two before planting in full sun.
- Pluck bottom leaves off of transplants so remaining leaves do not come in contact with soil. This helps to reduce disease transmission until plants get older and stronger.
- Protect plants from wind by wrapping cages in saranwrap and leaving the tops open. Will also help prevent insects from infecting your plants with a virus like the tomato leaf curl virus.
- Add mulch or plastic under transplants to reduce weed germination and also prevent soil from splashing up on leaves which can spread diseases and viruses.
- Water with drip tape or black poly pipe on the ground so no leaves are dampened,
- Watering is a fine line between too much and not enough. Too much can cause fungus problems and too little can obviously stress the plants.
- Pay attention after several cloudy damp days in a row. Fungi like powdery or downy mildew can form especially on vine crops like melons, squash and cucumbers. Apply natural neem oils as a preventative, pluck infected leaves, and discard. Use stronger fungicides when natural controls don't stop the spreading.
- Use some sort of weed guard or mulch in walk ways to prevent weeds from germinating.
- Add several inches of compost each year.



**The last average freeze
date in Gillespie County is
March 18th**

“Licensed private applicators are required to recertify every five years by obtaining 15 continuing education credits, including two (2) credits in laws and regulations and two (2) credits in integrated pest management (IPM), prior to expiration of the license “ - TDA

Last Chance CEU Program

On Tuesday, February 23rd, the Texas A&M Agrilife Extension Office in Gillespie County will be offering three CEU credits to participants.

The course will begin at 1:00pm and will go until 4:00pm. The cost for participants is \$10.00, and payment will be collected at the door. There is no need to RSVP.

1 hour of General, 1 Laws & Regs, and 1 IPM credit hour will be given.

The location address is 95 Frederick Rd. in Fredericksburg. Participants must bring private applicator's license with them to the course.

According to the Texas Department of Agriculture's (TDA) website,

“Licensed private applicators are required to recertify every five years by obtaining 15 continuing education credits, including two (2) credits in laws and regulations and two (2) credits in integrated pest management (IPM), prior to expiration of the license”.

<https://texasagriculture.gov/RegulatoryPrograms/Pesticides/PesticidePrivateApplicatorLicense.aspx>.

Mitigating Drought Losses Program



A workshop discussing how to use an online decision aid to assist in mitigating drought losses is scheduled March 2nd at the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service office in Gillespie County at 95 Frederick Road in Fredericksburg.

“We will be discussing how to use the tool and how it might help landowners and livestock owners make timely decisions to help mitigate lack of rainfall in the region or longer periods of drought,” said Dr. Rob Hogan, AgriLife Extension Service economist in Uvalde, who will lead the workshop.

The workshop will be held from 1-3 p.m. Cost is \$10 and one general continuing education unit will be offered for Texas Department of Agriculture license holders. Individuals are asked to bring their license number with them to register.

Attendees will receive an online demonstration of the U.S. Department of Agriculture-Risk Management Agency pasture and rangeland tool.

“We will customize each scenario for each county of the region to give attendees a better understanding of how the tool works and how they can use it to suit their own needs,” Hogan said. “We will also have plenty of time set aside for questions and answers.” For more information, call 830-997-3452.



Multi County Wildlife Field Day



A Multi County Wildlife Field Day at Mason Mt. Wildlife Management Area has been

scheduled for Thursday, April 7th. The cost is \$25 including a lunch and refreshments. Tentative times are from 9:00am to 4:00pm with a multitude of wildlife and range biologists speaking.

Call 830-997-3452 for RSVP and payment will need to be made before hand to secure meal. RSVP's

must be made by Thursday, March 31st.

Three CEU's will be given to participants. More details will be released in the Fredericksburg Standard Radio Post and on our website as the event date gets closer. Our website link is <http://gillespie.agrilife.org>.

Pecan Grafting Seminar in Kerrville

The Kerr County Extension Office will be holding a pecan grafting seminar on Tuesday, April 19th. This will be an informative and educational opportunity for those pecan producers interested in grafting pecans. Early season insect and fertilization management will also be discussed.

The seminar location will take place at an orchard, and this will be announced in the near future. CEU's will be offered. This program is \$10.00 and is open to the public. Please call the Kerr County Extension Office if you have any questions at (830)257-6568.



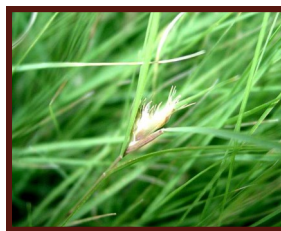
Summer Dormant Tall Fescue Grass Trial

Texas A&M Agrilife Extension is seeking cooperators who would be interested in participating in a forage grass trial. We are looking for three roughly 1-5 acre plots (deer proof fenced plots are preferred).

Two to three different varieties of grasses being Flecha, Prosper, and possibly one other will be planted. These are cool season summer dormant tall fescues.

The seed cost will be covered. Cooperators will need the ability to devote several acres for up to three years to see how the varieties will establish and perform. We are looking at these grasses as an al-

ternative/companion to small grains for more reliable grazing through the fall and winter.



Fields will need to be properly prepared to ensure a good seed bed is prepared. Any weed control and fertilization that is required will be the responsibility of the cooperator. We will need to coordinate the

planting process with all of the cooperators involved so that planting depth and seeding rate are uniform across all trial plots.

Cooperators will need to be able to restrict grazing for the first year and control the grazing for year two and three.

If you are interested in participating this more information can be obtained from our website <http://gillespie.agrilife.org> > Agriculture > Summer Dormant Tall Fescue Grass Trial. Please contact Brad Roeder at 830-997-3452 or bwroeder@ag.tamu.edu if you are interested.

Bennet Trust Land Stewardship Conference

Bennett Stewardship Conference. April 14-15 in Kerrville at Inn of the Hills Hotel.

[https://
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productDetails/
productid/1930/](https://agriliferegister.tamu.edu/index.cfm/productDetails/productid/1930/) for

more info
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The Ben-
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by Eskel and Ruth Ben-
nett to the Texas A&M

AgriLife Extension Ser-
vice. The endowment
will support land stew-
ardship education in the
Edwards Plateau to help



improve and protect the
region's valuable natural
resources.

Our next Land
Stewardship Conference,
"Keys to Hill Country
Living" will be held April
14-15, 2016 at the Inn of
the Hills Resort and
Conference Center in

Kerrville. You will not
want to miss this confer-
ence as experts in their
respective fields discuss
estate planning, elder law
issues, I-D-I Open
Space Land tax valuation,
all things water in the
Edwards Plateau, juniper
impacts and manage-
ment, and choosing the
right animal species com-
binations for your
ranch. Plus, there will be
a choice of day-long field
tours including a working
legacy ranch, wildlife
tour, or agritourism
tour.

Join this confer-
ence in Kerrville in April
at the prettiest time of
the year!



Water Conservation Expo

Mark your calendars....

The City of Fredericksburg Water
Conservation Expo is Saturday, April
16th at Marktplatz from 10:00am to
4:00pm. There will be speakers, live

demonstrations, and a trade show on
water conservation, green living, rain
water harvesting, solar energy, and
much more. More information will be
released about this event in the future.



NRCS Fish Sale



The Gillespie County Soil & Water Conservation District is currently taking orders for fish to stock your pond or lake through April 17th.

Fish species available are Bluegill Sunfish, Red Ear Sunfish, Crappie, Largemouth

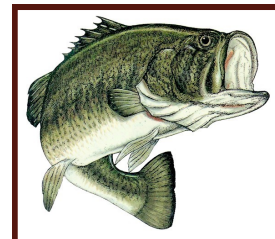
Bass, Channel Catfish, Grass Carp, Minnows, Redhorse Minnows, Goldfish, and Tilapia (if available).

Note, that to buy Grass Carp it requires a permit from the Texas Parks & Wildlife. Depending on growing conditions between time of hatching and delivery date, fish size is only guaranteed to be at least the smaller size listed on the flyer. If

possible, please bring a 5-lb. feed sack for transporting your fish.

To place an order, contact the Gillespie County SWCD at 1906 N. Llano #106 in Fredericksburg, TX or by phone to 830-997-3349 X 3.

Orders need to be made and paid for by Friday, April 17th. Fish delivery is Friday, April 24th at the Gillespie County Fairgrounds.



**Time to stock
your pond or
lake!**

Private Applicators Training Course

We will be holding a Private Applicators Training Class on May 10 at the Gillespie County Extension Office. RSVP is required to reserve training booklets. The cost is \$75 and old booklets will not work as

they don't correspond with study guides. The class will be from 1:00—5:00pm. Tests are now taken at testing facilities in San Antonio, Austin, Abilene or San Angelo with separate fees.

A complete step-by-

step guide to obtain a private pesticide applicator's license can be found by visiting <https://texasagriculture.gov/RegulatoryPrograms/Pesticides/PesticidePrivateApplicatorLicense.aspx>.

**Private
Pesticide
Applicators
tests are
now taken
at testing
centers**

Beef & Range Field Day

The Beef & Range Field Day is Thursday, May 12th at the Gillespie County Fairgrounds.

A one-hour CEU program in Laws & Regs is scheduled from 3:00—4:00pm with Vick Alexander, a Lead Pesticide Inspector. Registration and Exhibits will be from 4:00—5:30pm, the meal from 5:30—6:30pm, and educational programs will run from 6:30—8:30pm.

Allan McGinty will be speaking on fence line brush control, and Professor and Animal and Natural Resource Management Extension Specialist, Dr. Rick Machen will also be speaking. Also program updates from the USDA Farm Service Agency, Natural Resources Conservation Service, and Gillespie County Extension Office will also be given.

Pre-registration is required. Tickets can be purchased from the

NRCS or the Extension Office, and tickets are \$15.00 each. A limited number of tickets will be available at the door.



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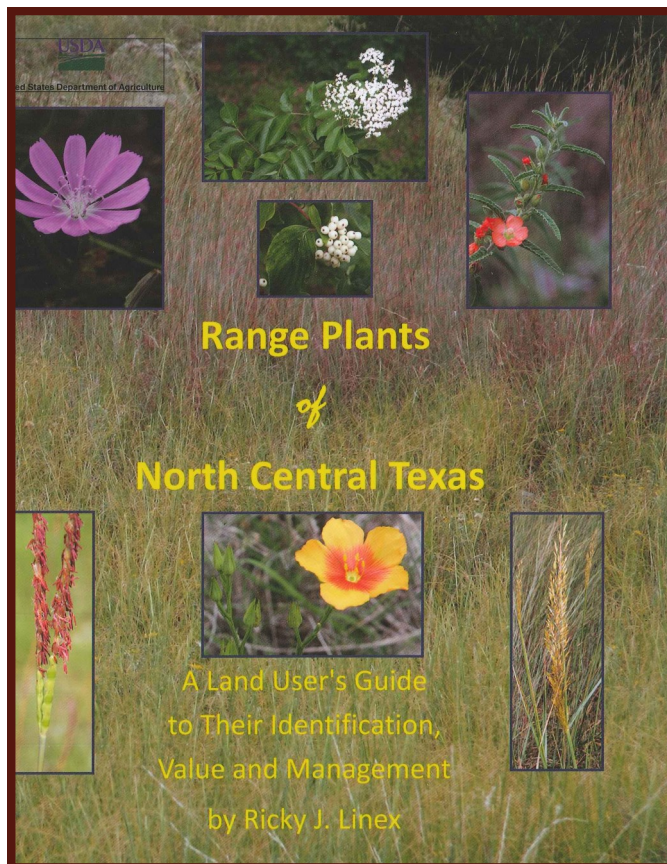
The members of Texas A&M Agrilife provide equal opportunities in programs, education and employment, without regard to race, color, sex, religion, national origin, age, disability, genetic information, or veteran status.

Gillespie County Extension Agents

Brad Roeder is the Ag & Natural Resources (ANR) CEA which encompasses hay production, wildlife management, predator control, farming, lawn care, gardening, pest management, CEU's, livestock production, water conservation, brush management and economic development.

Shea Nebgen is the Family and Consumer Science (FCS) Agent who provides programming in areas like nutrition, sewing, diabetes, child safety seats, and healthy living.

Taylor Osbourn is the 4-H and Youth CEA and oversees Gillespie County's 10 4-H clubs and over 450 4-H members.



Range Plants of North Central Texas—One of the best books for identifying grasses, weeds and brush here in the Edwards Plateau is for sale at the NRCS office in Fredericksburg. The book is titled “Range Plants of North Central Texas” and is for sale for a \$25.00 donation. For more information please call 830-997-3349 x 3.