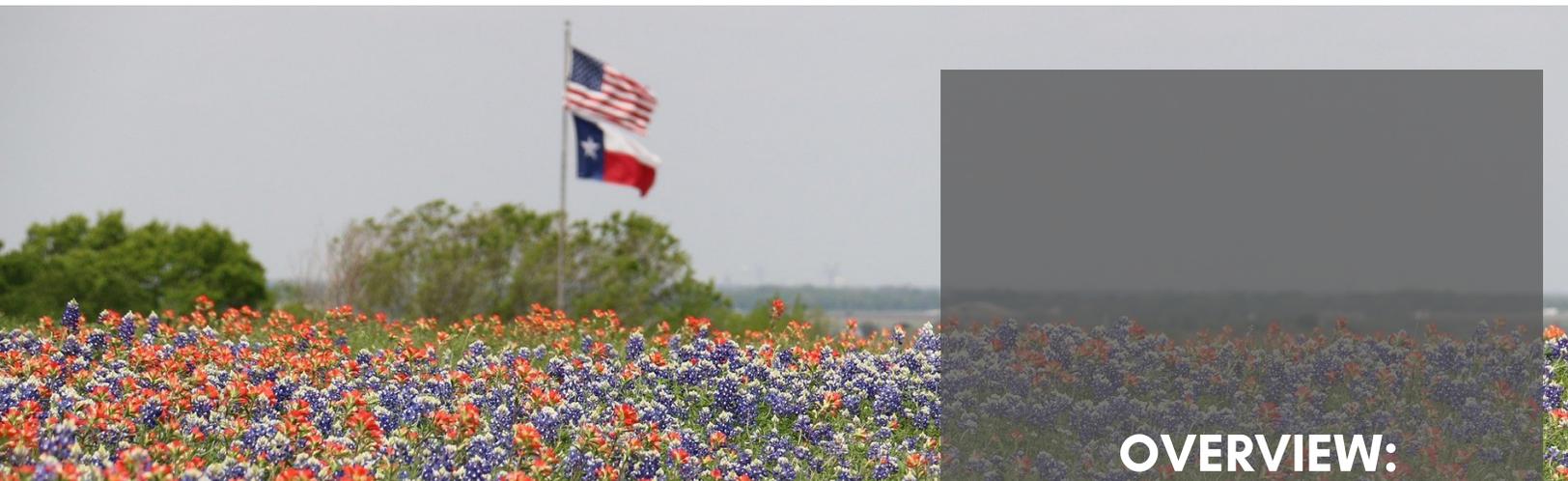


VOL. 17 | MAY 2021

# OUR BACKYARD

An agricultural newsletter by Hardin County AgriLife Extension



## OVERVIEW:

- From the Agent
- Hardin County Youth Project Show
- Horticulture Corner
- Producers Coral
- Good Read
- Programming
- Get Involved

## *From the Agent*

Howdy!

It is hard to believe that it is already May! Last year our Good Read article was about No Mow May, encouraging everyone to skip mowing in May. Now I understand not everyone can go the whole month, but spacing out your mowing can be extremely beneficial to our pollinators in the coming months. Save the Bees!

Y'all have also kept me running this past month with site visits and calls; I absolutely love it! Don't forget we can help you with just about anything you need.

Katie A. Pace | Hardin County Extension Agent

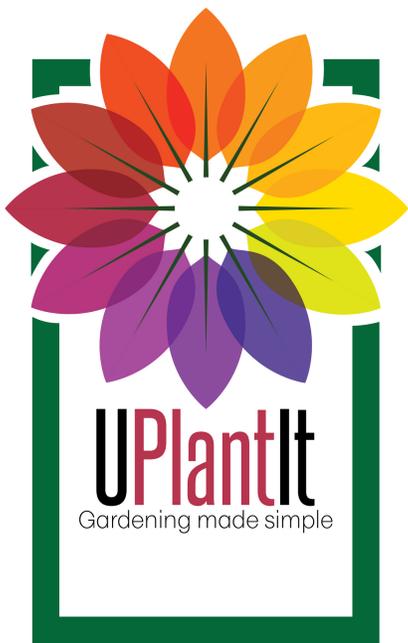
**JOIN THE  
TEAM!**

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**Hardin County Youth Project  
Show is looking for team  
members to help make the 2021  
show better than ever for the  
youth of Hardin County!**

**COME SEE US!**

Third Tuesday of every month at 6:30 PM  
John Blair Pavilion  
3677 Highway 326  
Kountze, TX 77625



# HORTICULTURE Corner

## In the Garden

Side dress fertilize tomatoes and peppers as they set fruit with nitrogen fertilizer every few weeks

It's time to replace those cool season plant for heat-loving ones like zinnia, celosia, cosmos, or sunflowers

Place a thin layer of mulch in flower beds to reduce weed growth and conserve water

It is the time Aphids begin to run ramped, blast them off with water or a water/soap mixture

## Native Texans



Beautyberry is a shrub that has long, arching branches and bright green foliage. The biggest appeal? The striking clusters of bright purple berries that can add an interesting pop of color to any landscape and also feed all the local birds!

Plant it in full sun to partial shade and watch it thrive. While it does prefer rich soils, it can also do well in our sandy soil areas. This shrub can reach 3-8 feet in height, so if you are wanting to keep it a little more compact than that you will need to make sure to prune before the flowering season.

### What should I plant this month?

Garden Transplant:

**Cucumber**

**Okra**

**Peas**

**Peppers**

**Potatoes**

**Squash**

Landscape Transplant:

**Annuals**

**Perennials**

**Trees**

**Shrubs**

# PRODUCERS

## Coval

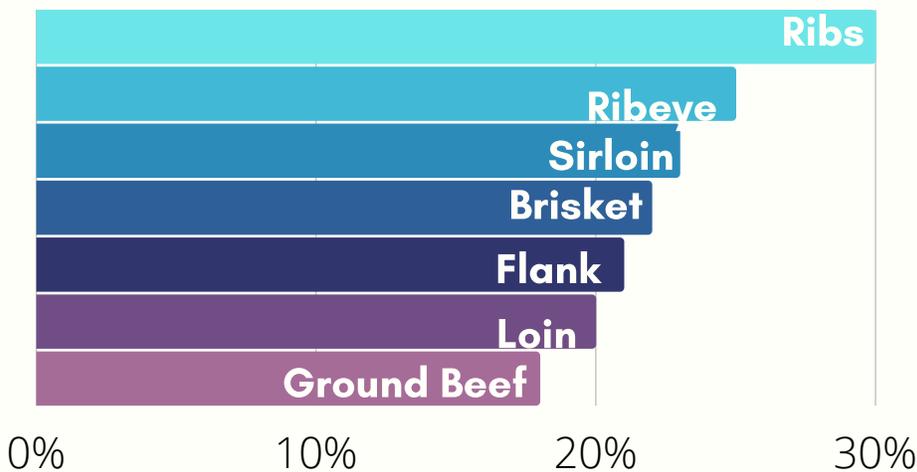


## Cattle Market

### All Beef Steers & Heifers

Purchasing Basis	% Choice	Head	Avg Price	Week Change	Year Change
Dressed	>65% Choice	262,666	\$195.33	(+) \$1.95	(+) \$25.45
	<65% Choice	28,617	\$189.53	(+) \$1.66	(+) \$23.91
	Total	291,283	\$194.76	(+) \$1.86	(+) \$25.24

### Growth in Beef Sales by Cut 2019-2020



### What to do with the herd this month?

Start implementing your fly control program

Make sure cattle will have adequate shade as temperatures rise

Use warm-season forage as it becomes available

Calculate those spring calving percentages and see what cows are no longer productive

### BQA Tip

A target intake of added mineral per head should be approximately 4 ounces. This means a 50 pound sack of mineral should last 30 head about a week.

### When will she calve?

May 1-22 → February 7-28

May 23-31 → March 1-9



## **Mystery Seed Shipments Solved**

**By: Jennifer Whitlock**

After a lengthy probe into the thousands of reports from U.S. citizens who received unsolicited packages of mystery seeds in the mail, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) determined the seeds were not sent in an attempt to attack American Agriculture. "There is no correlation between where the seeds were sent and U.S. critical agricultural infrastructure," APHIS said in a statement.

To help combat misinformation and protect U.S. agriculture, the agency released additional guidance that will assist buyers and sellers in complying with U.S. law when importing seeds and live plants from other countries. "Plants and seeds for planting purchased online from other countries can pose a significant risk to U.S. agriculture and natural resources, because they can carry harmful insects and pathogens," APHIS Plant Protection and Quarantine Program Deputy Administrator Dr. Osama El-Lissy said. "We've been working closely with e-commerce companies and other federal partners to stop the flow of illegal plant and seed shipments from entering the country. This new site is a big step forward in our efforts to facilitate the safe trade of plants and seeds through the e-commerce pathway."

The guidance, *Buying and Selling Plants and Seeds Online*, outlines buyer and seller responsibilities, offers information on plant and seed species that have additional import requirements and provides a list of prohibited plants and seeds for import into the United States. It also lists required documents, such as import permits and phytosanitary certificates.

APHIS published the resources after investigating many reports of unsolicited seed deliveries that began suddenly in July 2020. The agency confirmed some seeds were sent to the U.S. unsolicited, but others were seeds ordered by recipients who were unaware they would be coming from a foreign country. Most of the seed shipments were illegal, because they lacked the necessary permit or phytosanitary certificate.

While there was no evidence of foul play or intent to harm U.S. agriculture, the results could have been far worse if noxious plant species, seeds or pathogens had inadvertently been sent. "We are thankful to the public for reporting the seeds and getting them to USDA officials so that we could investigate them and avoid introducing foreign pests into our environment," El-Lissey said.

The agency now believes the unsolicited seeds were used in an internet "brushing scam," where e-commerce sellers ship inexpensive items to increase transactions. As transaction numbers increase, a seller's rating also rises, making them appear more trustworthy and pushing up their products in search result rankings on e-commerce sites.

Investigators are now working with e-commerce companies to remove online sellers who have participated in illegal importation of plants or seeds. APHIS officials remind people and businesses to comply with all applicable U.S. import requirements when purchasing plants or seeds for planting from another country.

If you, or someone in your home, receives an unsolicited package containing seeds or plant materials, or if you'd like additional information, contact the agency's Permits Help Desk by phone at 877-770-5990 or email [plantproducts.permits@usda.gov](mailto:plantproducts.permits@usda.gov)

Learn more about buying and selling plants and seeds in APHIS' Buying and Selling Plants and Seeds Online guidance document available at [www.aphis.usda.gov](http://www.aphis.usda.gov)

# Upcoming Programs for *Nardin County*

The entire agency has been working together in an effort to bring you CEUs and great online programs! I have included just a few that might be of interest to you, but there are so many more coming up on [agrilifeextension.tamu.edu](http://agrilifeextension.tamu.edu)

There are also many different programs on [agrilifelearn.org](http://agrilifelearn.org)



TDA has allowed AgriLife to create a completely online Texas Private Pesticide Applicator Training. This training is \$75 on the AgriLife Learn Portal [agrilifelearn.tamu.edu](http://agrilifelearn.tamu.edu)



TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
COMMISSIONER SID MILLER

# Weed Control in Forages

## SPRING BROADLEAF WEEDS

May 6, 2021 | 6:00 - 7:00 p.m.

*Join us virtually for this live presentation where Extension Specialist Dr. Josh McGinty will give an overview of spring broadleaf weed control in coastal Texas hay & pastures*

**Register by noon on May 6**

Registration required to receive meeting link

<https://tinyurl.com/y8eapnu6>

**\$10/person (+ processing fees)**

**1 CEU (general)**

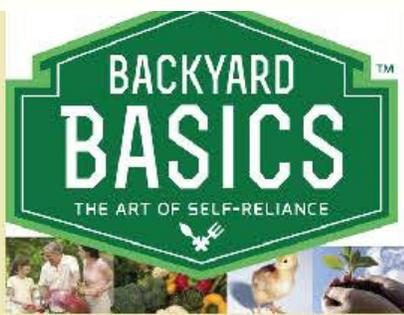
### More information

Galveston County Extension  
Phoenix Rogers, CEA-AGNR  
Reese Daily, Admin Assistant  
[charissa.daily@co.galveston.tx.us](mailto:charissa.daily@co.galveston.tx.us)  
281-309-5068

Brazoria County Extension  
Jessica Chase, CEA-AGNR  
Jean Godwin, Admin Assistant  
[jean.godwin@ag.tamu.edu](mailto:jean.godwin@ag.tamu.edu)  
979-864-1558

TEXAS A&M  
**AGRI**LIFE  
EXTENSION

If you need special accommodations, please contact the Extension Office no later than seven days before the program so we can consider your request. Texas A&M AgriLife provides equal opportunity in programs and activities, education, and employment to all persons regardless of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, age, genetic information, or veteran status. Texas A&M University System, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the County Commissioners Courts of Texas Cooperating.



**HARDIN COUNTY**

# LAWNS & LANDSCAPES

Do you want your lawn or  
landscape to look beautiful?

Do you have a weed or plant you  
want identified in your lawn?

This is the program for you!  
Bring in your a sample/pictures of  
your weed or plant, your questions  
and join us for some Basic  
Backyard Lawn & Landscape Care

**THURSDAY, MAY 6, 2021**

**6:00 P.M.**

**\$15.00**

**1135 REDWOOD, KOUNTZE, TX 77625**

-RSVP to [Tammy.goodman@ag.tamu.edu](mailto:Tammy.goodman@ag.tamu.edu) by  
Monday 5/3/2021.

-Payments will be taken at the door.

Persons with disabilities who plan to attend  
this meeting and who may need auxiliary  
aids or services are requested to contact the  
Jefferson County Human Resources  
Director at (409) 839-2391 five working  
days prior to the meeting so appropriate  
arrangements can be made.

Educational programs of Texas A&M  
AgriLife Extension Service are open to all  
people without regard to race, color, sex,  
religion, disability, national origin, age,  
genetic information, veteran status, or  
gender identity.

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

# 2021 Mid Coast Beef and Forage Seminar

May 7, 2021

Program 8:45 am - 3:00 pm  
Sign up - in person 8:00 am

Cost \$30- in person  
\$20- online

5 CEU's offered  
2-General, 2-IPM  
1-Laws and Regulations

To Register double click on the image below:

<https://agriliferegister.tamu.edu/Beef>

Please RVSP by May 5, 2021

Location In person :  
Calhoun County Extension  
186 Henry Barber Way  
Port Lavaca, Texas 77979

For information, contact  
Greg Baker at  
(361) 552-9747  
(979) 943-1973  
greg.baker@ag.tamu.edu



## Agenda:

### 8:45 a.m. - Introduction

Greg Baker, CEA - Ag and Natural Resources - Calhoun County  
Texas A & M AgriLife Extension

### 9:00 a.m. - Livestock Diseases, Insects and Parasites

Dr. Jason Cleere, Associate Professor and Extension Beef Specialist  
Texas A&M AgriLife Extension

### 10:00 a.m. Brush and Weed Control

Dr. Megan Clayton, Associate Professor and Extension Range Specialist  
Texas A&M AgriLife Extension

### 11:00 a.m. - Selection and Management of Introduced and Native Grasses

Dr. Jamie Foster, Associate Professor and Forage Agronomist  
Texas A&M AgriLife Research

### 12:00 p.m. Lunch - Included In person

### 12:15 p.m. - MULTIMIN® USA, INC.

Dr. Don Goodman

### 12:30 p.m. - TSCRA - Special Ranger

District 25 - Robert Fields

### 12:45 p.m. - Elanco Animal Health

Jana Seeton

### 1:00 p.m. - Prescribed Fire as a Pasture and Range Management Tool.

Dr. Morgan Treadwell, Associate Professor and Extension Range Specialist  
Texas A&M AgriLife Extension

### 2:00 p.m. - Texas Pesticide Laws and Regulations

Melissa Barton, Texas Department of Agriculture Pesticide Inspector

TEXAS A&M  
AGRI LIFE  
RESEARCH

TEXAS A&M  
AGRI LIFE  
EXTENSION



CS NUTRIENTS

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.

# GARDENING IN THE GULF COAST

Join our Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Horticulture agents and specialists online as they discuss gardening in the Gulf Coast Region of Texas.

TEXAS A&M  
**AGRI LIFE**  
EXTENSION

## **April 14 at 10:00am - Xeriscape Gardening**

by Kevin Gibbs

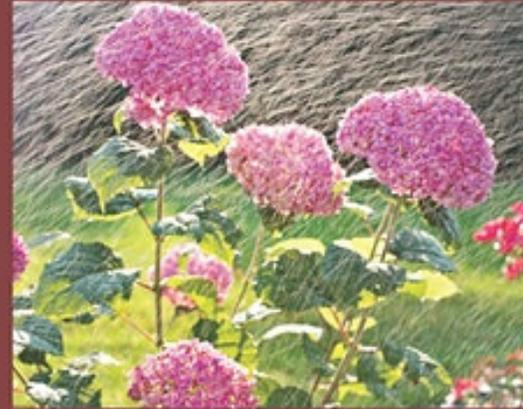
AgriLife Extension Horticulture Agent in Nueces County



## **April 28 at 10:00am - Replace those Water Hogs!**

by Ginger Easton-Smith

AgriLife Extension Horticulture Agent in Aransas County



## **May 12 at 10:00am - Pollinator Gardens**

by Paul Winski

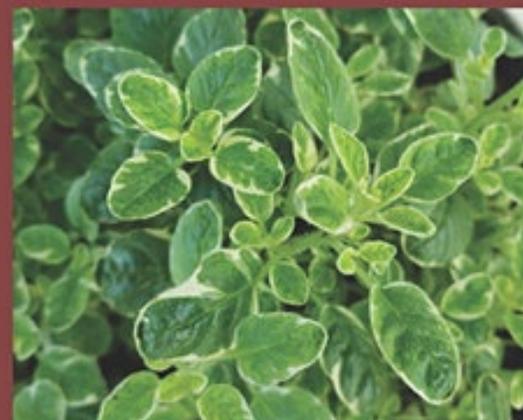
AgriLife Extension Horticulture Agent in Harris County



## **May 26 at 10:00am - Herbs Revisited: Rosemary & Thyme**

by Stephen Brueggerhoff

AgriLife Extension Horticulture Agent in Brazoria County



Online via Microsoft Teams

**[Register Here](#)**

Registration Questions? Please email Janice Anderson at  
[janice.anderson@ag.tamu.edu](mailto:janice.anderson@ag.tamu.edu)



## TEXAS HUNTER EDUCATION COURSE

# Save the Date

June 12, 2021  
OR  
July 24, 2021

Hardin County Annex Building  
1135 Redwood | Kountze | TX | 77625

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. The Texas A&M University System, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the County Commissioners Courts of Texas Cooperating. Persons with disabilities who plan to attend this meeting and who may need auxiliary aids or services are required to contact Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service five working days prior to the meeting so appropriate arrangements can be made.

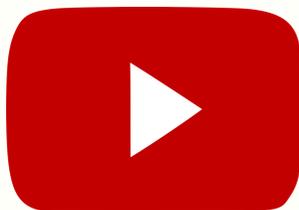
For the most up to date  
information and programming  
efforts:

*Follow Us!*



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- Hardin AgriLife Extension
- Hardin County 4-H Youth  
and Development



YouTube

**Hardin County 4-H**

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

Individuals with disabilities who require an auxiliary aid, service or accommodation in order to participate in this meeting are encouraged to contact the Hardin County Extension Office at (409) 246-5128 two working days prior to the meeting to determine how reasonable accommodations can be made.

# *Get involved with Hardin County Extension*

Please consider joining the Hardin County Agriculture Committee to provide leadership and suggestions for upcoming programming. You don't have to make a large time commitment, with as few as four meetings per year, but we would love to hear your ideas and for you to share input on your county!

Please contact the office to update your email address, or if you know someone that would like to be added to this list, at (409) 246-5128, or by email [katie.pace@ag.tamu.edu](mailto:katie.pace@ag.tamu.edu). We also welcome suggestions for upcoming newsletters!

PO Box 610 | 1135 Redwood | Kountze, TX 77625

p: (409) 246-5128 | f: (409) 246-5201

<http://hardin.agrilife.org>

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**AGRILIFE**  
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