



New 2014 master naturalist classes announced

If you are interested in nature, resource conservation, preservation of wildlife, native plants and Texas ecosystems, the Texas Master Naturalist (TMN) program is for you.

TMN offers in-depth training taught by experts and customized to focus on the native plants and animals of our area.

The local chapter, Longleaf Ridge Master Naturalists (LRMN), will offer classes to become a Certified Texas Master Naturalist **beginning Tuesday, Feb. 18, 6 to 9 pm** at Coleman Hall behind the Presbyterian Church at 740 W. Verna in Jasper.

Classes will be held every 2 weeks on Tuesdays, plus several weekend field trips. Each class features an expert in an ecosystem of Texas, on topics ranging from archaeology to zoology. Field trips teach volunteers to observe nature and include hands-on experience. Volunteers sometimes get to visit areas not normally accessible to the public. Advanced training in subjects that interest the individual is also available.

In return for their training, volunteers provide their communities with service in the form of educational activities, projects and demonstrations. They help children and adults learn about Texas' natural resources and conservation. **—read more on p. 4**

it's still a mystery

???

CEA AG/NR agent
Texas AgriLife Ext., Jasper County

for now, email county secretary
Sharon Kerr

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County website:
Jasper.agrilife.org

Quote: Let our New Year's resolution be this: we will be there for one another as fellow members of humanity, in the finest sense of the word. *Goran Persson*

NEWS inside: Newton County has a number of programs coming up, including some **CEU classes for private applicators.**

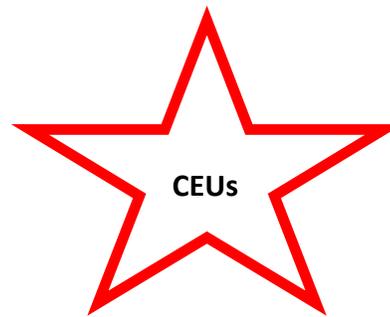


Please, folks, when our agents put on great programs like these classes and seminars, show your support and sign up. Without your participation, nothing else happens.

If you have an Ag question, please call Aaron Sumrall in Newton at 409 384-4831; he is helping our county until we get a new agent hired and trained.

East Texas classes & workshops

Newton County Ag News and Events
January/February 2014
Aaron Sumrall, Newton-Tx@tamu.edu
409 379-4831



Horticulture Program — Winter Lawn and Landscape Care, Monday, Jan. 20 6 pm at Grace Bible Church in Newton

\$10, 2 CEUs for private applicators RSVP to Newton, 379-4831 so they know how many to expect

Though winter has been cooler than usual, many of you have been thinking about what needs to be done outside. Winter is a great time of the year to catch up on some of the hot work we put off from the summer. This is a great time to clean out flower beds and raised gardens, refresh the compost pile, conduct a soil test, transplant and prune. Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service in Newton County will hold a Winter Lawn and Landscape Care program covering pruning, transplanting, composting, and general landscape care. Fee is \$10 payable at the door. Please call 379-4831 to RSVP.

Newton Master Gardener Course 2014

If you wish to become a Texas Master Gardener in Newton County the first class will be held on Monday, Jan. 20 at 6:00pm at Grace Bible Church in Newton. Please be in attendance for the first class to see if Master Gardener is for you. The first class is \$10. If you have questions, please call 379-4831.



FIRE!!! Weather permitting, prescribed fire program Feb. 8 at 9 am

FREE prescribed fire program with a discussion of the benefits of fire in the management plans for your property, followed by traveling to a burn location and conducting a prescribed burn. Please RSVP to find out the location. 379-4831.

Forestry Re-Certification Program — Friday, Feb. 21, pro-logger and pesticide CEUs available

The annual forestry re-certification program will be held on Friday, February 21, 2014 beginning at 9:00am. There will be pro-logger credits and pesticide CEU credits available. There is more information to come on this program—stay tuned.

Rose Care and Pruning — Thursday, Feb. 13 at 7 pm

\$10 and 2 CEUs will be available. Please call to RSVP and get the location: 379-4831. This event will be followed up by a pruning and rooting activity to assist the Newton Garden Club on Saturday, Feb. 15 at 9:00am at the Powell Hotel.

Vegetable programs will be coming during the months of February and March.

Livestock, forages, and farm pond programs will begin in March.

Wildlife programs will begin in March.

If you have any specific topics you would like addressed during an event, please call the Newton Extension office at 379-4831 so we can make sure it is on the agenda.

Aaron Sumrall
County Extension Agent – Agriculture/Natural Resources
Newton County, 379-4831

Beef producers & Cow / calf news

Note: these two stories seem to be at odds...read the complete story and more like this at <http://today.agrilife.org>

Beef Cattle prices to continue record run

For beef cattle prices to continue their record run, the 2014 U.S. corn crop will have to produce record yields, according to a Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service economist.

That aside, the 2014 beef cattle market outlook is poised for another historic run as lack of supply will continue to fetch strong bids on calves.

Dr. David Anderson, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service livestock economist, College Station, provided a market outlook at the Central Texas Cow-Calf Clinic in Milano.

"Look for continued high prices," said Dr. Anderson. "Tight supplies are underpinning the market. I think we are going to have higher calf prices than we did in 2013 and higher prices in 2015 than we did in 2014."

Fewer cows and calves will lead to less beef production over the next couple of years, Anderson said. Cattle on feed numbers as well as slaughter and beef production are down from levels a year ago, signaling less supply.

...read the rest at <http://today.agrilife.org>

Be cautious about restocking your herd

Even though parts of Texas have received beneficial rainfall, experts urge cattle producers to be cautious when thinking about restocking herds. Dr. Larry Redmon, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service state forage specialist, told beef producers at the recent Central Texas Cow-Calf Clinic in Milano that 71 percent of the state is abnormally dry.

"We are in pretty good shape here in the Brazos Valley, but if you look at the data, about half of the state is in some type of drought conditions," Redmon said. "This cycle started in 1995. **These cycles last 22 to 25 years and we may not be out of this dry cycle until 2020.** You might want to be cautious about restocking or buying a bunch of cattle."

Dr. Redmon, Texas advised cattle producers to have a soil test on their pasture, especially with the price of fertilizer. A soil test checks to see what nutrients are present and which are needed to grow forages. "We can't do anything about the price of fertilizer, but we can do something about how efficiently we use those nutrients," Redmon said. "Spend the \$10 to get a soil test."

Redmon said if you don't fertilize Bermuda grass, it takes almost 20 inches of water to produce a ton of grass, but if you properly fertilize you can cut that amount of water almost in half.

...read the rest at <http://today.agrilife.org>

Show What You Grow

Newton Flower Show is Friday and Saturday, March 28-29, at First Baptist Church, 319 Main St. in Newton.

Anyone can enter the horticulture division by bringing their specimens Friday at 10 am. Judging will be at 1 pm that day and the general public may view the specimens on Saturday from 10 am to 3 pm. Specimens must be picked up at 3 pm Saturday.

Horticulture classes include dish gardens, terrariums, troughs, cut flowers, cut branches in bloom, pot plants, hanging plants. Entry cards should include both the common name and botanical name of each specimen.

New Fisheries info & resource online

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Aquaculture, Fisheries, and Pond Management Website is live! The web address is <http://fisheries.tamu.edu/>.

This website is for anyone looking for information on aquatic issues. With over 180 pages and 1,200 resource publications or links, if you have a question on almost anything related to aquaculture or **farm pond management**, you should find valuable materials.

Urban Tree Workshop

Saturday, Jan. 18, 8 am to 12:30 pm
1225 Pearl St., Beaumont

Landscape and site assessment, Tim Schreck,
Jefferson County Master Gardener

Planting and Care, Mickey Merritt, Regional Urban
Forester, Texas A&M Forest Service

Preservation—Chuck Morris, Certified Arborist

\$15 per person

NO CEUs for private applicators

pre-registration required: Call 409 835-8461

New year — new soil sample

Before you lay out your garden or set out the first seedling, now is the time to take a soil test. Most of the **feed stores** in Jasper County have bags for sending soil samples off for testing. Or you can stop by the Ag office across from the courthouse.

Why take a soil sample? If you want a successful garden and a healthy lawn, you need to get the soil right first. Yes, it costs a little to have tests run, but you may save a lot in the cost of fertilizer, not to mention seed, equipment, etc.

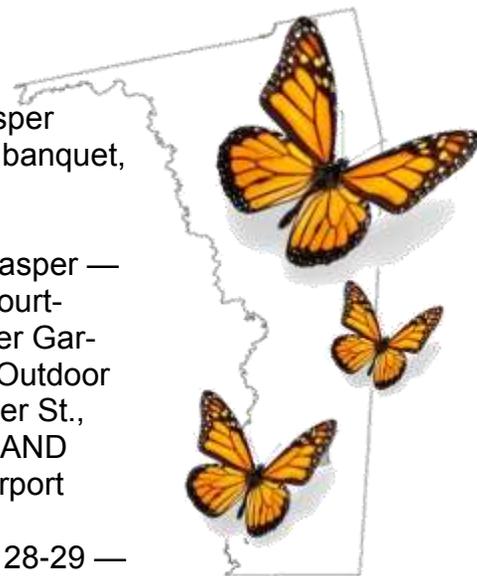
Knowing what the plants need—or *don't need!*—will help make sure your hard work pays off.

Mark your calendar:

Friday, January 31—Jasper Chamber of Commerce banquet, www.jaspercoc.org

Saturday, March 15 in Jasper — AZALEA FEST on the courthouse square and Master Gardener Plant Sale at the Outdoor Learning Center on Water St., book sale at the library, AND Air Show at Bell Field airport

Friday-Saturday, March 28-29 — Jasper County Junior Livestock Foundation Show & Sale at the Livestock arena across from the airport in Jasper



—continued from p. 1, 2014 naturalist classes

LRMN, with Jasper Master Gardeners, is developing a Native Texas flower garden along the banks of Sandy Creek between Main Street and Hwy 96 in Jasper. They hope to build a Nature Center to complement the Outdoor Learning Center.

In 2013, LRMN created and installed signs on the hiking trail at Twin Dikes Park on Lake Sam Rayburn, and the previous year they participated in cleanup and natural habitat building at Martin Dies State Park.

Every January, teams take part in the TPWD National Bald Eagle survey on Toledo Bend Reservoir, spanning an area of over 150 miles.

At Azalea Festival, Fall Fest (Butterfly Fest) and the Chamber of Commerce Business Expo, members participate in outreach to educate the public about Texas Master Naturalists.

Volunteers can choose from a variety of service activities: field surveys, banding and tagging of animals, citizen scientist programs, improving hiking trails, wildlife photography, building wildlife viewing blinds, and creating wildscape gardens.

For more information or to register for the new class, contact the Texas A&M AgriLife extension office at 409 384-3721.



Carnivorous pitcher plants observed near Lake Sam Rayburn on a master naturalist field trip



Resources to find CEU classes:
ceusearch.texasagriculture.gov/
search by county or region
naturalresourcewebinars.tamu.edu/
also: agriferegister.tamu.edu
"View all" to see classes. You don't need a degree to take advantage of these classes, workshops and seminars that are open to the public.

