

What's in your water?

Well Water Screening & Program

Two ways to participate:

- (1) Bring your fresh water sample to our office March 3, 4, or 5 and Ag Agent Brock Fry will take it to SFASU for testing* on Friday, March 6; \$20 per sample & we save you the postage.

See p. 2 for directions on taking samples.

- (2) **Come to the Well Water Program** at our office in Jasper on April 17, 6 to 9 pm, \$25 for the program & meal.

Featured speaker will be Leon Young, Ph.D., Regents Professor of Agriculture and Director of the Soil, Plant & Water Analysis Lab at Stephen F. Austin University.

***Please note:** this inexpensive, simple test will tell you most of what you want to know about your water, including:

E. Coli test for bacteria, water pH, electrical conductivity (which is a measure of salts), and minerals such as Na, K, Ca, Mg, P, Fe, Mn, Zn, Pb, As, Cr, Cu, B, S, and $\text{NO}_3\text{-N}$

Forgotten your Periodic Table of Elements? As = arsenic and Cu = copper.

Find the rest online at <http://www.ptable.com/>



Brock Fry

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Texas A&M AgriLife

Extension Service, Jasper County
103 E. Houston St.
Jasper, TX 75951—409-384-3721

County website:
<http://jasper.agrilife.org>

Private Applicator Pesticide Recertification Program

Last Chance videos for those needing CEUs to renew their license.

8 CEUs, 1.5 Laws & Regs,
2 IPM, Drift, General HRS

Thursday, Feb. 26, 8 am—5 pm

Cost: \$30 includes lunch

Place: Jasper County Ext. Office

103 E. Houston St. Jasper, TX

RSVP required: 409-384-3721

**SEE more on page 2 if you need
training to get your PAT license**

A Private Applicator license allows individuals to buy state-restricted pesticides/herbicides for use on their own property.



Announcing new Jasper Master Gardeners classes starting Feb. 23 through July 13 — see page 5 for more

This is the first class offered in 2 years and it is already half sold out — **don't** wait, come and buy your book soon!

More JASPER programs

Grafting Workshop

Monday, April 13, 2—5 pm

103 E. Houston St., Jasper TX 75951

Cost: \$15 includes snacks

Speaker: Truman Lamb, Anderson County Extension Agent. Truman has years of experience in grafting pecan and fruit trees.

Sponsored by the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension and the Jasper County Agricultural Committee.

RSVP by April 10, 384-3721



1 CEU in IPM



Private Applicator Training (PAT)

Thursday, March 5, 9 am to noon

Due to TDA regulation changes, no testing will be offered after the training. Information on testing locations will be available at the training.

The 3-hour training gives participants the necessary information to take the private applicator license test, which is administered by a commercial firm at 22 locations across Texas. The license allows you to buy restricted pesticides for use on your own property.

Cost of training is \$60 which includes the Private Applicator Manual and the blue book of Laws and Regulations. We need your RSVP by Feb. 24 to ensure we have enough books on hand. Call 409-384-3721 to reserve a seat.

The 5-year license, when you pass the test, costs another \$60 mailed to the state with your test results. Any agricultural producer or land owner who wants to apply restricted-use pesticides to their own property needs a private pesticide applicators license and may participate.

Call 409-384-3721 by Feb. 24 so we can have books here for you by March 5.



PESTICIDE RECERTIFICATION PROGRAM LAST CHANCE VIDEOS 2015

Thursday, Feb. 26, 8 am to 5 pm

If you have your private applicator license and need CEU hours before it expires, you can get 8 CEUs in one day by coming to our office at 103 E. Houston St. in Jasper. \$30 includes lunch.

1.5 Laws and Regs, 2 IPM, drift and general hours
Please RSVP by calling 409-384-3721.

How to take a water sample for well water screening: use a regular 16 or 20 oz. water bottle. Triple rinse in the same water you are wanting to test, and then fill it up.

Bring samples to the our office at 103 E. Houston St., across from the courthouse in Jasper, on March 3, 4, or 5. Ag Agent Brock Fry will deliver to the testing lab at SFASU on March 6. \$20 per sample, cash or check.

VIP — samples should be fresh, **don't take them a week before** and let them sit around



Resources to find CEU classes:

ceusearch.texasagriculture.gov/
Now is a good time if you hold a private applicator license to pull it out and check the expiration date. You need 15 CEUs in a 5-year period to be able to renew your license without re-taking the test. **Please don't wait** until the last minute to take classes. Also, if you just want to learn more on a variety of **topics, it's never been easier to find classes:**

naturalresourcewebinars.tamu.edu/

also: agriliferegister.tamu.edu

"View all" to see classes that are open to the public for a small fee (and some are free).

STATE resources, workshops & events

SFA Garden Lecture Series

The Reeves Lecture Series are held second Thursdays at 7 pm in the Ina Bundrett Conservation Education Building at the Pineywoods Native Plant Center, 2900 Raguet St., Nacogdoches (just north of the University).

Feb. 12— Dr. Jared Barnes, assistant professor of horticulture at SFA's College of Forestry & Ag, "Headed Down South from the Land of Pines."

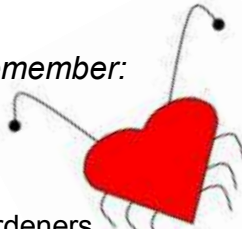
A rare plant raffle is held after the program. This event is free and open to the public but donations are always appreciated. Park at Raguet Elementary School next door — shuttle serve to the Conservation Education Bldg.

For more information, call 936-468-1832.



For your Valentine, a date to remember:

Homeowner Pest Walk



Sponsored by Newton Master Gardeners, Saturday, Feb. 14 at 9 am in Newton City Park

Speakers:

Mike Murphrey, Texas A&M Forest Service; plant identification and control options of common pest and invasive plants, and identification of trees and shrubs on the Pest Walk.

Dr. Paul Nester, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service, issues and control options for leaf cutter (aka Town Ants); also control of fire ants and emerging issues with exotic Crazy Ants.

Wear weather appropriate clothes and good walking shoes or boots (could be wet).

FREE to the public — Please RSVP to Newton by Feb. 12; call 409-379-4831.

2 CEUs available for Private Applicators license renewal for \$10 fee



Forest Pesticide Seminar, Feb. 13

Texas A&M AgriLife office for Angelina County
2201 S. Medford Dr., Lufkin TX



5 Pro Logger CEUs, 5 CFEs for foresters
5 CEUs for private applicator license holders

Topics & speakers:

Forest Pest Management (IPM), Dr. Ron Billings, forest health manager, Texas Forest Service

Application Issues and Solutions, John Hamilton, silviculture manager, Campbell Global

Success versus Failure with Forestry Herbicide Applications, George Bieber, area manager, Red River Specialties Inc.

Legislative Update Key to Resource Management, Ron Hufford, executive director, Texas Forestry Association.

Forest Pesticide: News, Changes, Use and Availability, Bieber.

\$50 includes a meal and educational materials.
Registration at 8 am; adjourns at 2:15 pm

RSVP required by Feb. 9 for meal planning: call Carey Sims office, 936-634-6414 ext. 102

NOTICE: SOAR (Save Our American Raptors) program at Shangri La Botanical Gardens that was set for Feb. 7 has been cancelled due to unforeseen circumstances.



SAVE the DATE: April 11, statewide Annual **Trash Off Day**, clean up campaigns all over the state. Go to **www.ktb.org** (Keep Texas Beautiful) to join a clean up crew create your own clean up event right here?



USDA Accepting Applications for Conservation Stewardship Program ***\$100 million Expected to Attract Enrollment of 7.7 Million Acres for Conservation***

The U.S. Department of Agriculture will make available \$100 million this year through the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) and although applications are accepted all year, farmers, ranchers and forest land-owners should **submit applications by Feb. 27, 2015** to ensure they are considered for this year's funding ...

"CSP is a way of incentivizing farmers, ranchers, and private forest managers who maintain a high level of conservation on their land and agree to adopt higher levels of stewardship," said Salvador Salinas, USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service state conservationist...Through CSP, participants take additional conservation steps to improve the resource conditions on their land, including soil, air and habitat quality, water quality and quantity, and energy conservation.

Salinas said CSP producers are conservation leaders, showing how science-based conservation and technological advancements can improve the environment and farming operations at the same time. For example, Texas no-till farmer Tommy Henderson plants cover crops between his cash crops to prevent soil moisture lost to evaporation, as well as provide important natural nutrients the soil needs to be healthy and productive. This stewardship of natural resources, encouraged through CSP, helps conserve energy and leads to cleaner water and healthier food sources.

The 2014 Farm Bill brought changes to CSP including an expanded conservation activity list that will offer participants greater options to meet their conservation needs and protect the natural resources on their land. These conservation activities, called enhancements, include cover crops, intensive rotational grazing and wildlife friendly fencing.

To find out if you can benefit from this program, and for the complete text of this press release, contact the local USDA / NRCS office (next to Walmart on Hwy 190); or if you have questions on these programs or need assistance with your farm, ranch, or forestry property, please don't hesitate to contact the Jasper office: Kevin Isom, District Conservationist, Office: (409) 384-3332 Ext. 3.

Applications should be submitted to local NRCS offices. As part of the CSP application process, applicants will work with NRCS field personnel to complete a resource inventory of their land, which will help determine the conservation performance for existing and new conservation activities. The applicant's conservation performance will be used to determine eligibility, ranking and payments. This announcement was made possible by the 2014 Farm Bill which builds on historic economic gains in rural America over the past five years, while achieving meaningful reform and billions in savings for taxpayers.

NOTE: one of the projects is of special interest to East Texas land owners: **Longleaf Pine Initiative** - Applicable states include Texas and Louisiana.

Kevin Isom's office has another opportunity: a five year program that pays producers annually based on the management of their property, and how that impacts environmental resources such as Plants, Soil, Air Quality, Animal, Water Quality, and Energy. Participants have to enroll in conservation enhancements that further improve the environmental resources listed above. Some are just changes on how you operate or manage your property. Most require record keeping. Eligible land uses are Forestland, Pastureland, Hayland/ Cropland, and rangeland. If you are interested, call our Jasper Office at 409.384.3332 Extension 3.

USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer. To file a complaint of discrimination, write: USDA, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Ave., SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (866) 632-9992 (Toll-free Customer Service), (800) 877-8339 (Local or Federal relay), (866) 377-8642 (Relay voice users).

New JASPER MASTER GARDENER training classes

Every Monday night, Feb. 23—July 13,
plus 4 Saturday field trips
and many bonus workshops
Class is more than half sold out already;
call 409-384-3721 if this is something
you've always wanted to do.



Jasper Master Gardeners
are available for educational
programs for schools, clubs and
civic organizations.
Call our office, 409-384-3721

Save the Date! **Saturday, Aug. 8**



9 am to 3 pm
at Rayburn
Country Club

**Sodbusters
Symposium**

an all-day garden
extravaganza by
master gardeners:
speakers, door
prizes, plant
sales, and silent
auction

*Details to be announced — special room
rates for visitors who are coming in for the
symposium. We're looking for sponsors, too!*



Last Thursdays lecture series, 7 pm at the East
Texas Conservation Center (Old Fish Hatchery)
off CR 99 in Jasper. FREE to the public.



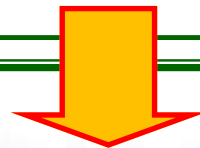
Texasinvasives.org Online Training
Would you like to become involved in this citizen
scientist program? Take the online training and
join the Longleaf Ridge Invaders
www.texasinvasives.org/training/.

**Jasper Master Gardeners
Plant Sale &
Arboretum Tours**

March 21, 2015
9 am to 4 pm
at the
Outdoor
Learning
Center
225 Water St.,
Jasper, TX



Take the City's
shuttle bus from Water St. to Azalea Fest on
the Courthouse Square (arts & crafts, food, music
& more). If you are interested in being an Azalea
Fest vendor, contact the Chamber of Commerce.



**Jasper-Lake Sam Rayburn Area
Chamber of Commerce**



jaspercoc.org

246 East Milam St.
Jasper TX 75951
409 384-2762

**Orange County
Master Gardener's Annual
Bloomin' Crazy Plant Fair**

April 11, 2015, 8 am to 1 pm
Jewel Cormier Park
Exit 869 S of IH 10

Eat.
Real.
Food.



Cooking Well with Diabetes

The key to managing diabetes and having fewer complications from the disease is to learn portion control, how to make better food choices, and how to cook with less sugar, salt and fat. You can still enjoy the foods you love, but in moderation.

Classes will be offered at ETHAN's (East Texas Health Access Network) in Jasper from 10 am to noon on March 3, 10, 12, 17 and 19.

If you have diabetes or are helping someone with diabetes manage their diet better, this is the class for you. In fact, if you just want to learn a lot about nutrition and a healthier way to eat, come join this class.

FCS agent Cindy VanDevender will teach the class, but please **RSVP to ETHAN at 409-384-2099.**



Easy Valentine Steak Dinner

Beef up the romance with with recipes from BeefLovingTexans.com

FCS agent Cindy VanDevender's Jasper County Health & Wellness page facebook.com/jaspercountyfcs/info



Waste not, want not — Jasper does not currently have recycling facilities for all of these things, ...but it's coming, folks, it's coming soon!

Plastics: About 12 percent of municipal waste is plastic such as soda bottles, bags, lids, and shampoo bottles. Most recycling programs accept some but not all kinds of plastics. The numbers in triangles on the bottom are resin identification coding (RIC) that helps distinguish types of plastics. The main markets for recycled plastics are fiber for carpet and textiles and then bottles, depending on the type of plastic. While the markets for recycled plastic are growing, according to the EPA, the United States has the capacity to be recycling plastics at a greater rate.

Glass: glass food & beverage containers can be recycled over and over again. Americans generated 11.6 million tons of glass in 2012, but only 28 percent was recycled.

Used Oil: Never dump used motor oil - including transmission fluids, brake fluids, power steering fluids, and greases - down the drain. The used oil from one oil change can contaminate one million gallons of fresh water. It is illegal in Texas to dump used oil into storm drains or waterways. Check with auto service centers. Some accept used oil.

Tires: 3 million tires were sent to Texas landfills last year. Abandoned tire piles can lead to diseases from pests like mosquitoes and can also cause fires. Most tire dealers or auto shops will accept tires for a fee.

To learn what to do with other items like batteries and ink cartridges, check out the **"What Do I Do With It Now?"**



Take Care of Texas guide. For a quick and easy way to find recycling centers near you, just search for **Earth 911**, and then search by material.

Annual East Texas
Fruit and Vegetable Conference

Tuesday, Feb. 24, 2015

Nacogdoches Expo Center

3805 NW Stallings Ave.—Nacogdoches. TX

Registration \$30 per person, \$50 per couple, lunch included

9:00	Herbicides: Activated Charcoal, Herbicide Calculation, Organic & Conventional Weed Control (1 CEU) Dr. Joe Masabni, Extension Vegetable Specialist, College Station
10:00	Production I: Blackberry, Blueberry, Kiwi Dr. David Creech, Professor Emeritus, Stephen F. Austin State University, Nacogdoches Muscadine Grapes , Dr. Justin Scheiner, Horticulture Extension Specialist-Viticulturist, College Station
11:00	Something Sprouts in Nacogdoches: A New Student Edible Garden at SFASU Dr. Jared Barnes, Assistant Professor-Horticulture, Stephen F. Austin State University Veggie Tales From A Lifetime Gardener , Greg Grant, Research Associate, SFA Gardens
12:00	Lunch
1:00	Production III: Peach Production: Challenges & Opportunities Monte Nesbitt, Extension Specialist-Horticulture, College Station Rainwater Harvesting & Irrigation , Dotty Woodson, Extension Specialist-Water Resources, Dallas
2:00	Vegetable Diseases (1 IPM CEU) Dr. Thomas Isakeit, Professor & Extension Specialist-Plant Pathology, College Station
2:30	Irrigation Practices Jim Robbins, Irrigation Mart Inc.
3:00	Adjourn

TDA CEUs: 2 Hours, Master Gardener CEUs: 5 Hours

For additional information contact, Ricky Thompson at (936)560-7711 or email rthompson@ag.tamu.edu or Dr. Joe Masabni at jmasabni@ag.tamu.edu.



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.

----- **Cut off and Return with Payment** -----

Print Name _____

TDA License Number If Valid _____ Email _____

Mailing Address _____ City / Zip _____

Phone Number _____

Make checks payable to: Nacogdoches Master Gardeners

Return Registration Form and Fee to: Texas A&M Agrilife Extension Service
East Texas Commercial Fruit and Vegetable Conference
203 W. Main St.
Nacogdoches, Texas 75961

AgriLife Today news

Building back cattle herds — *excerpts from an article by Kay Ledbetter, skledbetter@ag.tamu.edu*
Contact: Dr. Joe Paschal, j-paschal@tamu.edu

Genetic markers give cattlemen a more accurate glimpse into expected progeny differences (EPDs) when selecting for traits to build into their herds. EPDs help cattlemen make informed decisions, whether they have purebred or crossbred herds, said Dr. Joe Paschal, livestock specialist at Corpus Christi.

Paschal said two things are important when crossbreeding – breed selection and hybrid vigor. Typically, a breeding animal is chosen for a given trait, such as weaning weight. One bull

may have an EPD of 20 and another an EPD of 10, which means the bull with 20 will likely sire calves that wean 10 pounds heavier.

EPD traits of interest are birth weight, weaning weight, calving ease score and carcass traits such as marbling, Paschal said. EPDs are calculated from the animal's data and close relatives.

“Select for all traits that are important to you,” he said. “But traits that are economically relevant, those that have an immediate impact on rate of return, are most important.”

Find more stories, photos, videos and audio at <http://today.agrilife.org>

SPRING PLANTING TIME

It's time to start thinking about your spring garden, and maybe expanding it so you have something to sell at Farmers Market which reopens first Saturday in May. Now is the time to start tomato seeds in a cold frame or greenhouse. Protect seedlings from frost until mid March, then harden off gradually before planting in the ground in April.

For a list of what to plant and when, visit our website and click on the [Jasper County Vegetable Growing Guide](#)



SAVE the DATE: Monday, April 27
Commercial Vegetable tour in Jasper County with Dr. Joe Masabni of Texas A&M. Visit two growers in Kirbyville and Peachtree.

Flyer will be posted soon, watch for it on Brock Fry's facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/>



Recommended by Master Naturalist Lori Horne:

Free foraging class

March 7, 2015 - Jesse H. Jones Park
(Conroe Tx)

Edible wild plants of Texas & Southwest
Visit the website for a complete list of common Texas plants in the wild:

www.foragingtexas.com

Did you know that lantana leaves are poisonous?



Lovebugs — aka double bugs — are actually a beneficial bug in the garden. They are pollinators that emerge in the spring and fall when conditions are right (warm temperature, and just after a rain).

Their mating swarms are a nuisance to motorists because they are attracted to the smell car fumes, which is why they mess up your vehicles so badly. However, they do not sting or bite or destroy crops. Therefore, no chemical control is recommended and most insecticides are generally not effective.

Beneficials in the Garden & Landscape is an **Earth-Kind™ program** coordinated through Extension Horticulture at Texas A&M University. Earth-Kind uses research-proven techniques to provide maximum gardening and landscape enjoyment while preserving and protecting our environment.