

Texas Cottage Food Law & **Food Handler's Card**

Food Safety is in your (clean) hands

Anyone who is selling canned goods, home baked or prepared foods, or offering samples (free tastes) **MUST** have a Texas Food Handler's Card, or be supervised by someone who has been trained in basic food safety. This includes volunteers & concession stand workers, but is not required for vendors selling whole fresh produce that the customer is expected to take home, wash and prepare themselves.

To get everyone up to speed, FCS agent Cindy VanDevender is offering two classes in August:

1. *Cottage Food Law*: Saturday, Aug. 9, 10 am to noon at JNEC Community Room in Kirbyville; \$10. Review and discuss Texas Cottage Food Law, label requirements, what foods are allowed (or not) and why.
2. **Food Handler's class and card**: Saturday, Aug. 23, 9 am to 12 noon at JNEC Community Room in Kirbyville; \$20 for class AND 2-year Food Handler card good anywhere in Texas. *Please reserve your seat so we have enough handouts; call 409-384-3721 or email srkerr@ag.tamu.edu*



HOSTED BY:
Texas A&M AgriLife Extension
FCS agents from
Angelina, Jasper, Newton, Polk,
Sabine, and Tyler Counties

Door prizes and goody bags!

HEALTHY COOKING SCHOOL & KITCHEN EXPO

SATURDAY, AUG. 14, 12 TO 5 PM
2201 S. MEDFORD DR, LUFKIN, TX 75901

Chef Todd Barrios, executive chef, will demonstrate nutritious, quick, easy and economical ways to feed your family. KTRE9 Reporter Michelle Reed will be emcee.

Pre-registration by Aug. 1, \$20; at the door, \$25. Seated is limited—call 409-384-3721

Brock Fry

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CEA AG/NR agent
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Cindy VanDevender

Family & Consumer Sciences
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Texas A&M AgriLife
Extension Service, Jasper County
103 E. Houston St.
Jasper, TX 75951—409-384-3721

County website:
Jasper.agrilife.org

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DEFINITIONS from the SmartPhones class

SmartPhone — cellular phone able to perform many of the functions of a computer such as having an operating system capable of running apps; these require internet access thru cellphone carrier. Basic features usually include a contact list, web browsing, media player, digital camera, GPS, calendar and calculator. Thousands more apps are available.

Tablet — mobile computer (7 - 10 inch display). Input is by touchscreen; virtual keyboard is used for typing, or hybrids come with detachable keyboards. Tablets have larger screens and are more commonly used for reading documents, email, movies or **games (examples: Apple's iPad and Amazon's Kindle Fire)**. Tablets need an internet connection through Wi-Fi or a cellphone carrier.

Apps — applications, program (software) designed to fulfill a particular purpose. There are apps for maps, games, financial calculations, counting calories or exercise, gardening, raising livestock and more. You can download a compass app, a flashlight, a weather bug...

Wi-Fi — wireless local area network (WLAN) that allow various electronic devices to connect to a network resource such as the internet. The access point is called a hotspot and can be an area as small as a single room or as large as a city, by using multiple overlapping access points. SmartPhones can also serve as mobile hotspots to enable tablets and other electronic devices to work.

PC / Laptop / Notebooks & Netbooks — PC stands for personal computer and they stay put on a desk, are plugged into the wall, and usually have a monitor, separate full-size keyboard, mouse, printer, etc. Laptops are portable PCs that you can use anywhere, but laptops need a good battery or must be frequently recharged. Then there are a whole slew of smaller computer-like devices, and they are changing faster than East Texas weather.

From: <http://computer.HowStuffWorks.com/notebook-vs-netbook-vs-ultra-mobile-pc.htm>

Apps for Ag & more

Some of the apps recommended at Brock's recent SmartPhone class: all are free and most are available for iPhone (iOS) or Android:

AGRIplot allows you to plot any area by walking around and adding a landmark, or drag & drop pins anywhere. AGRIplot will calculate the enclosed area and provide distances between points. You can even take pictures associated with each point.

SoilWeb is the USDA / NRCS soil survey information; **it uses your phone's GPS receiver to identify soil types wherever you are.**

AgPhD this field guide helps you identify problem pests, browse weeds by name or photo, and more. IDWeeds is another app for weed identification. *Which one should you use? **They're free. Download both and try them; un-install the one you don't like.***

SeedtoHarvest Lite crop and field record-keeping tool for small farmers; keep detailed planting information, harvest records, sales by cultivar and generate reports of crop and field activity and sales.

ArcGIS uses your location to offer information about areas of interest, measure distance or create your own maps.

WeatherBug get pinpoint forecasts and early warning alerts when severe weather strikes.

StarGazer shows constellations so you can tell if that bright spot on the horizon is a star or Venus. Hold overhead and rotate to see star maps, even during daylight hours.

Apps that do exactly what the name says:

Flashlight
Maps
Compass
Clinometer or Level
USDA News Reader
CalibrateMySprayer
WeedManagerPlus
LivestockManager (Android) or Herd (iOS)

East Texas events

Stephen F. Austin State University
Garden Lecture Series

Second Thursdays at the Pineywoods Native Plant Center, 2900 Raguet Street, north of SFASU campus. 6:30 pm for refreshments/social; 7 pm lecture followed by plant raffle.

AUG 14 — Ethan Kaufmann, Director Moore Farms Botanical Garden, Lake City, South Carolina - "Green Roofs, Green Walls."

SEPT 11—Dawn Stover and Greg Grant with intro by Dave Creech; Plant Sale preview, picking the best of the best

OCT 9 —Patty Leander, Texas Gardener; Goodness from the Vegetable Garden, enjoying the fruits, roots, seeds, leaves and flowers of your labor.

NOV 12—Jenny Wegley, Dallas Arboretum; "I think if I hear the word COLOR one more time, I'm changing my profession."

DEC 11—Dave Creech, SFA Gardens; "The tru and unabridged story of this past year."

They also hold Saturday workshops priced according to cost, usually \$25—\$30.

Next garden workshop: Saturday, Sept. 13, 9 am to noon. PROPAGATION; Dawn Stover on secrets of successfully starting garden plants from seeds and cuttings.

sfagardens@sfasu.edu

or call 936-468-1832

HAVE YOU been keeping up with your hours to renew your Private Applicator License?

Resources to find CEU classes:

ceusearch.texasagriculture.gov/

You need 15 hours of CEUs within a 5-year period to be able to renew your license without taking the class and test over.



Neches River Conversation

Tuesday, July 22, 7 pm

First Bank & Trust lobby, 204 E. Lamar in Jasper

Wildlife photographer Adrian Van Dellen's work is currently on display in the FBT lobby during business hours through Friday, July 25.

On Tuesday Eddie Hopkins will host an informal talk with Van Dellen on *Saving the Wild Neches River*. The program is described as presenting "a broad vista of an extraordinary free-flowing river in East Texas."

Hopkins says this exhibit is "a wonderful depiction of wildlife inhabiting natural areas of the Neches River corridor, one of our special treasures in East Texas."

20th annual Gem & Mineral Show

Saturday, Aug. 23, 9 to 5

Sunday, Aug. 24, 10 to 5

at the Event Center

6258 Hwy 190 West. Jasper 75951

Rocks, fossils, minerals, gemstones & jewelry; silent auction; good eats; activities for the kids

For info call 409-331-4004
or 409-384-3974

This event is a fundraiser for the Pine Country Gem & Mineral Society



Junior Master Gardeners

Junior Master Gardeners is a program designed for 3rd—5th graders (ages 8—10) but can be adapted

Teacher/Leader
Training
Aug. 14 in Conroe

for other ages too. If you are a teacher or work with scouts or other youth organizations, this training is geared for public, private and home schoolers, 4-H leaders and master gardeners. Master Gardeners receive CEUs and school teachers earn SBEC hours.

Class is \$60 and includes lunch, refreshments & training materials, plus Level 1 teacher guide. If two people attend and can share a teacher guide, the second person is \$30. For questions, call **Montgomery County AgriLife at 936-539-7823**. Deadline to register & pay: July 31.



Jasper County Farmers Market

Only two more Saturdays before
August shut-down

Farmers Market will be open as usual July 19 & 26, Saturday, 8—11 am in the Tractor Supply parking lot at the intersection of Hwys. 190 & 96. Then it shuts down for August and reopens the first Saturday in September, same as last year.

RIGHT NOW is HONEY season. Most local beekeepers harvest around the 4th of July. Small producers sell out quickly and then it's another year before you can expect to find local raw honey.



Market is open to local growers for fresh produce and fruits, home canners and bakers, and for hand-crafted items and home-made gifts like woodworking, birdhouses, jewelry, soaps and lotions, and more. Last market of the season is a Holiday Market with lots of unique gifts, and local churches and clubs use this market for their bake sales and other fundraisers. Holiday Market Nov. 8th!

JCFM is a member of the Texas Certified Farmers Market Association. Contact our office at 409-384-3721 if you would like to become a vendor and help our market grow.

**2014 VENDOR PACKETS ARE ONLINE
or come at 7:30 Saturday to claim a spot
only \$5 for vendor spots!
(\$10 Holiday Mkt)**

jasper.agrilife.org

Crowd sourcing garden solutions:

there's an app for that

Email from: david@plantvillage.com

Subject: www.PlantVillage.com

I would like to tell you about PlantVillage, which I developed with Marcel Salathe at Penn State. The idea is to create a place where people exchange knowledge on growing food plants. There exists a lot of knowledge but not an ideal way to share it quickly.

PlantVillage aims to change this and is free and open access, with a global reach. We are now 18 months old and have been very successful so far. Some highlights:

Over 330,000 users from around the world; over 70,000 new users/month

Thousands of pages of knowledge on 153 crops on topics like well known (Tomato) to less known (Teff)

2,000 detailed entries on diseases, with >2,000 open access images on diseases

***An iPhone app and mobile compatible site
(viewable on any smartphone)***

A Plant Journal feature where you can add images from your garden. This allows others to help diagnose problems and find solutions

We developed PlantVillage so people could post questions and the crowd could come up with specific answers that draw from our collective knowledge. We have thousands of questions, each of which has multiple answers with the best answer voted up. **The people answering questions are university extension folk, professors, small farmers, gardeners, USDA and CABI folk and those in the food industry, private sector and NGOs.**

Please do be part of this and sign up as a user. The world needs to grow more food and we can only do that as a community. A village!

I hope you can be part of this.

Sincerely,

David

Dr. David Hughes
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<http://www.cid.d.psu.edu/people/dph14>
www.hugheslab.com
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Fall pecan crop—By Robert Burns

Because of significant damage from an April freeze along with other factors, it's become difficult to estimate the size of the 2014 Texas pecan crop, according to Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service experts.

But that doesn't stop Monte Nesbitt, AgriLife pecan and fruit specialist, from "going out on a limb," and predicting a total Texas crop of 50 to 55 million pounds. These production levels, along with increased demand by Asian markets, will probably mean continued high prices for retail consumers this fall, especially for shelled pecans, he said.

Yield projections used to be much easier, according to Nesbitt. Pecan production used to vary from heavy one year to light the next year, then back to heavy, with the cycle repeating.

"Prior to 2009, we would look at a heavy year to be about 70 to 75 million pounds and we would expect 30 million to be a weak production year," he said. So we're kind of averaging out to the mid-range production, (about) 50 million pounds, and that's what I expect this year."

"There was some regrowth after that, which included some new flowers, but there were questions of the pollination sequence being thrown off," he said. As for prices, the pecan market "is often a mystery to pecan growers themselves," Nesbitt said. "But we expect very volatile wholesale prices, with prices very strong early in the season and extremely volatile later in the pecan marketing season."

The June estimates for the overall U.S. pecan crop was 256 million pounds, Nesbitt noted.

More information on current Texas drought and wildfire can be found on the Drought Task Force website at <http://agrilife.tamu.edu/drought/>.

Tomato tip

from Texas Gardener's Seeds

It's getting close to planting time for fall tomatoes. Set seedlings out in the evening, mulch, and water well. Place a board or piece of cardboard on the west side of the plants to protect them from afternoon sun. Once plants are well established, remove the shade device.



Congratulations to the 2014 graduating class of Longleaf Ridge Master Naturalists:

Tom Banks
Jerry Clark
Laura Clark
Kenneth Coshman
Yvette Coshman
Paula Duplantis
John Galbreath
Millie Galbreath
Mary Hamilton
Amanda Haralson
Garry Lamoreaux
Sharon Lamoreaux
Imogene Mitcham
Denise Smith
Bill Talcott
Michelle Talcott



Summer learning opportunities in Orange at
Shangri La Botanical Gardens

Wild Wednesdays nature classes

Guerrilla Gardening – July 23

Wonders of Wetlands – July 30

Under the Bayou – August 6

Animals & Plants on Vacation – August 13

The Thursday nights lecture series has a new twist: each Thursday lecture is followed by a Saturday workshop.

"Bat's Incredible" – July 31 (6:30 – 7:30 pm); evening hike & bat house workshop – August 2 (7 – 8:30 pm)

"Introduction to Bees & Beekeeping"

by Muldrow Bee Farm, Aug. 14 (6:30 – 7:30 pm); more about bees workshop Aug. 16 (10:30 – 11:30 am)

Limited seating; call 409-670-9799

Find out more online:

shangrilagardens/education/



These classes were recommended by **Jennifer Buckner**, horticulture specialist, at a recent Jasper MG meeting, and can be counted as CEUs for master gardeners or advanced training for master naturalists.

Texas Master Gardeners

Texas Garden Seeds, www.TexasGardener.com

Jasper Master Gardner Margie Saulsbury was recently featured in the Gardening tips section of Texas Garden Seeds. Anyone can subscribe to receive this free email of garden advice, events, lectures and plant sales all around the state.

Gardening tips



"When your watering can gets a leak, just put it next to a plant that needs plenty of water, one that droops easily," suggests **Margie Saulsbury**. "When watering, fill the leaking watering can at the same time you are watering and it will slowly leak out to extend the watering time."

Do you have a garden tip to share?

Have a favorite gardening tip you'd like to share? *Texas Gardener's Seeds* is seeking brief gardening tips from Texas gardeners to use in future issues. If we publish your tip in *Seeds*, we will send you a free *Texas Gardener 2014 Planning Guide & Calendar*. Please send your tips of 50 words or less to the editor at: [Gardening Tips](#).

Newton Master Gardener Intern Classes Begin in August

Texas A&M AgriLife in Newton County will offer Master Gardener classes beginning Monday, Aug. 18; class consists of 13 in-class sessions and 3 field trips. To graduate, interns must complete a minimum of 50 hours training and a minimum of 25 hours of community service.

The Master Gardener course consists of gardening/horticulture topics including plant growth and development, propagation, forestry, soils, pecans, citrus, native plants, turf, landscaping, entomology, plant health and disease, water, ponds, bees, pests, pesticides, vegetables, herbs, food preservation, and more.

Registration is \$150 per person or \$225 per couple. The registration fee covers all necessary books, speaker fees, course materials, tour fees, etc.

If you would like to become a Master Gardener or find out please, call the Newton County Extension office at 409-379-4831. The course will be limited to the first 20 to register.

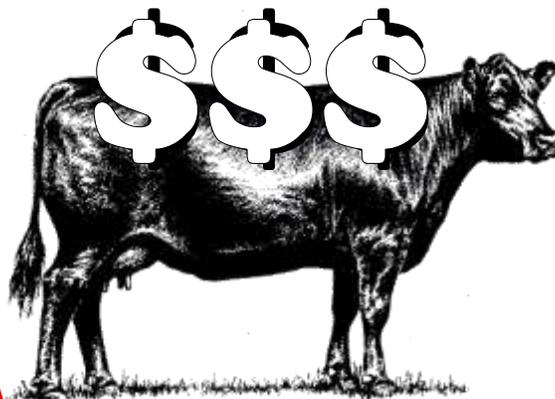
East Texas Cattle Price Trends

Trends of highest prices for various weight calves, highest and lowest prices for packer cows, total head sold; average of three East Texas Livestock Auctions.

Click to connect:

[Cattle Price Trends](#)

Or, go to our county
FACEBOOK page:
Jasperagriculture



You can subscribe for
FREE: [Beef Fax](#)
<http://beeffax.tamu.edu/>

A NEW website from Overton that provides weekly cattle price trends and information on beef cattle production and management.

Subscribe for weekly emails of cattle price trends, and information about upcoming beef and forage programs.

Dr. Jason Banta, Associate Professor and Extension Beef Cattle Specialist at Overton

NOLA Farm to Table International Symposium

Aug. 2-4, 2014

A good excuse for anyone involved in production, processing and distribution of locally sourced produce and protein to spend a couple of days in New Orleans. This includes anyone involved in growing a crop, selling at farmers market, producing beef...

This event is recommended by Rene Schmit, Louisiana Master Gardener Coordinator and LSU Ag Agent. She says: The Farm To Table International Symposium (F2Ti) offers ...discussions on the farm-to-table movement and examines the agricultural-culinary cycle. The symposium features an organic farm research project. Topics include best practices for urban farming, bringing products to market, sourcing locally, sustainability and the Food Safety Modernization Act.

The Symposium occurs in tandem with the Louisiana Restaurant Association's Annual Foodservice Expo. More at: <http://f2t-int.com/#sthash.fHGhuLH7.dpuf>

Two upcoming events:

1. Wildlife Workshop

Thursday, July 24, 6 to 9 pm
Central Fire Station, Hwy 421
Lumberton TX 77657



Topics include Mysterious Animals of East Texas, Gary Calkins; Alligators in East Texas, Bob Baker; Predator Control, Sean Willis; Identifying Deer Browse Plants, Bob Baker; Tax Valuation for Wildlife, Charlie Muller.

For more information contact bob Baker at 409-384-6894 or Charlie Muller at 903-657-5060

2. Last Thursdays at ETCC

Coming up July 31, 7 pm at the East Texas Conservation Center (old Fish Hatchery) will be Jason Estrella, Region 2 & 3 GIS Specialist for TPWD talking about GPS and GIS options available. This was postponed from an earlier date.

For questions or directions, call Bob Baker at 409-384-6894.

counts as advanced training for master naturalists

Save the dates!

Saturday, Aug. 2, 9 am to noon, Herbal Seminar at SFA Gardens in Nacogdoches; Cindy Hoyt, Pineywoods Herb Farm. <http://sfagardens.sfasu.edu>

Saturday, Aug. 16, Dinner Tonight cooking class & expo, Lufkin

Saturday, Sept. 27, annual East Texas Child Care Conference for daycare providers & teachers, Woodville

Saturday, Oct. 4, Butterfly Festival and Fall Fest, courthouse square and Outdoor Learning Center in Jasper

Saturday, Nov. 6, Business EXPO by the Chamber of Commerce, Jasper

Saturday, Nov. 8, HOLIDAY MARKET last farmers market of the season & lots of fundraisers & special items on sale; extended hours

Saturday, Nov. 29, CHRISTMAS in the PARK, festival foods & handmade gifts, train rides and holiday decorations, Sandy Creek Park in Jasper

click here :

Jasper.agrilife.org

for a direct link to
our county website
events, newsletters
& more

Jasper County,
Butterfly Capital of Texas



Lawn Myths: Making A Lawn Healthier and Greener

excerpts from story by Bob Dailey, Montgomery County Master Gardener

Here are some myths about good lawn care, & tips to lower overall lawn care costs:

Myth 1—If watering a little is good for lawns, then watering a lot must be better.

Too much water encourages grass to produce weaker root systems... more susceptible to diseases, insect damage and fungal infections. Lawns should receive about an inch of water every 7 to 10 days. Rain sensors can tell how much water has fallen in a given period of time. If it rained a half an inch last week, then grass should receive only a half-inch through irrigation.

Myth 2—Automatic sprinkler systems save money and time

Often, automatic sprinkler systems without rain sensors waste water and money. It's not uncommon to see sprinklers running while rain is falling.

Myth 3—Manually operated sprinkler systems are the only way to go

If sprinkler heads are misdirected or damaged, water may be going to the wrong place. Whether a system is automatic or manual, it should be inspected regularly to make sure it is operating properly.

Myth 4—Grass will dry out and die if it is not watered every day or every other day

Grass doesn't need to be watered every day or every other day. If it starts to curl, or keeps the impression of a footprint, it is time to water. (See Myth 1.)

Myth 5—Watering too much only wastes a tiny bit of water.

50 to 75 percent of all drinking water goes to watering lawns and gardens. In dry summer months that can increase to 80 percent or more. The amount wasted can be enormous. Irrigating wisely helps create healthy lawns, conserves water, and saves money.

Tips to improve watering habits:

Minimize watering. This forces grass to grow long, healthy roots and helps the grass during periods of drought because deep root systems can store plant nourishment and water. Stronger roots can also seek water from the soil more easily.

Leave grass clippings on the lawn. Grass clippings increase carbon storage in the soil by almost 60 percent. It also adds the nitrogen from the tips of the grass back into the soil. It saves time and money. Additionally, it promotes continuous root growth and decreases need for fertilizers.

Mow high. Don't "crew cut" a lawn. When grass shoots are taller, they help create a healthy root system. Healthy root systems mean less watering. Grass should be cut at three inches or higher. Keep mower blades sharp so it cuts the grass keenly. This reduces a plant's water loss and stress.

Water the lawn in the coolest part of the day. This minimizes evaporation and reduces stress.

Following these tips can lead to a healthier, more disease-resistant lawn.



THE TUNA CAN TEST

You don't have to buy a fancy rain gauge to know how much water you are putting on your lawn. When you set your sprinkler, put an empty tuna can where the water falls. Time how long it takes the sprinkler to fill that can.

That's 1 inch of water, what your lawn needs to be healthy. Now you know how long to run your sprinklers without overwatering.