

Top of the Windmill News

Spring Update 2015



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Roy Walston

By: Roy Walston – CEA-Ag/NR

Calendar of Events

- Apr 11 - Hill Country Master Gardener
Blooms & Barrels Plant Sale
- Apr 14 - Backyard Poultry Seminar
- Apr. 17 - Multi County New Landowner
Series Focuses on Homeowner Issues
- Apr. 21 - Pecan Grafting & Production
Field-day (3 CEUs)
- Apr 23-24 - Bennett Land Stewardship
Conference (CEUs)
- May 1 - Kerr County Spring Range &
Wildlife Field-day (CEUs)
- May 11 - Pond Management Seminar
(CEUs)
- May 28-29 - Texas Range Webinar Series
(CEUs for some programs)

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Subject title as: Top of the Windmill.**

Blooms & Barrels Plant Sale

The Hill Country Master Gardeners will be hosting their annual Plant Sale on **April 11th** at the Kerr County Youth Event Center.

Educational programs and information will be available along with the opportunity to purchase landscape plants and rain barrels. So, put April 11th on your calendar and stop by and meet a Master Gardener.

Backyard Poultry Seminar



Are you interested in having your own backyard poultry operation? If so, you may be interested in this upcoming seminar on **April 14 from 6-8 p.m.** at the Kerr County Event Center at 3775 Hwy 27 in Kerrville. Texas Agrilife Extension in Kerr County is partnering with Double L Feed to host a Backyard Poultry Seminar for those individuals interested in having their own flock. Mr. Roy Flora, Agriculture Extension Agent in Bexar County will be presenting a program on all aspects of growing poultry for egg production and or meat production.

Keeping a small flock of chickens for home use, a practice commonplace during our grandparents' time, is seeing resurgence today for a number of reasons. Mr. Flora will touch on some of those reasons, as he also provides a broad introduction for those wanting to keep a small flock of laying hens."

Participants will learn about poultry feeding, health and egg production, as well as food safety in handling homegrown eggs. Come enjoy a meal and learn all you need to know to have your own flock of back yard chickens.

Please RSVP by calling Double L Feed at 830-896-7722.

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

Commercial products and trade names are used for information purposes only.

Multi County New Landowner Series Focuses on Homeowner Issues in Kerrville on April 17th

Having a landscape in the Texas Hill Country can be at the very least “challenging”. Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service is hosting A Multi-County New Land Owner Series of meetings, seminars and field days designed to educate new landowners in Blanco, Kendall, Kerr & Gillespie counties. The third meeting of the series is April 17th in Kerrville at the Kerr County Extension office. During this session topics to be covered will include Oak Wilt, Rainwater Harvest and Landscape design and Plant Selection for the Hill Country.

Registration for the meeting is \$30 per person. You may register by contacting the Kerr County Extension office at 830-257-6568.

Session 4 will be May 1st in Comfort with information on livestock, forage and crop production. Session 5 will be May 15th and will be held in Doss at the Henry Welge Ranch with a focus on Wildlife Management. Session 6 will be June 5th in Stonewall concentrating on commercial horticulture with tours of area vineyards, orchards, and produce management.

All educational programs will begin with registration at 12:45 p.m. with registration and conclude at 5:00 p.m. Participants will be provided a notebook along with printed publications and educational material for each topic. Maps and details will be provided at the previous meeting or can be requested by contacting Texas A&M AgriLife Extension offices in Kerr County 830-257-6568 or Gillespie County 830-997-3452 or Kendall County at 830-868-7167.

Pecan Grafting and Production Field-day

A Pecan Grafting and Production Field-day hosted by Texas A&M AgriLife Extension is scheduled for April 21st at 9:00 a.m. at Bill Hathaway’s Orchard. 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 by Dr. Larry Stein, Extension Horticulturist from Uvalde.

The orchard is located on Texas highway 173, approximately 4 1/2 miles from Kerrville-Schreiner State Park. Turn left on Center Point River road and enter the first gate on the right; signs will be posted. Three hours of CEU’s will be offered to Private, Commercial and Non-Commercial applicators.

Anyone interested in learning more about pecan production will benefit from this field-day. Registration for the field-day is \$10.00 and is payable at the field-day.

Please contact the Kerr County Extension office to pre-register for the field-day at 830-257-6568.

Bennett Land Stewardship Conference set for April 23-24 in Kerrville

The second annual Bennett Land Stewardship Conference is scheduled for April 23-24 at the Inn of the Hills Resort and Conference Center in Kerrville.

The conference is funded by the Ruth and Eskel Bennett Endowment and hosted by the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service, said Dr. Larry Redmon, co-chair and Bennett Trust AgriLife Extension specialist.

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Redmon said the Bennetts posthumously provided an endowment that will support land stewardship education in the Edwards Plateau for generations to come. The Bennetts retired to a ranch just outside Dripping Springs and established this endowment by generously gifting a portion of their estate to AgriLife Extension.

“Mr. Bennett loved the Edwards Plateau and left a legacy that will afford landowners and resource managers ongoing opportunities to acquire knowledge and sharpen their skills as responsible stewards of this unique and storied part of Texas,” Redmon said. “The proceeds from the invested endowment will provide unparalleled private sector support for AgriLife Extension educational efforts in the region.”

Cost of the two-day conference is \$75 and includes all meals, break refreshments and tour transportation costs. Register by going to <https://agriliferegister.tamu.edu/BennettTrust> or by calling 979-845-2604.

Dr. Rick Machen, AgriLife Extension livestock specialist from Uvalde, said the conference will include “the best and wisest, accomplished stewards, visionaries and legacy-leavers together as educators for this conference. Those with a passion for natural resource stewardship and a love for the Texas Hill Country will want to be there.”

Titled “Keys to Hill Country Living,” the conference’s preliminary agenda for the first day includes a presentation on the history of the Hill Country plants, animals and early people found in the region. Additional discussions regarding the water cycle of the Hill Country and Edwards Plateau will highlight the morning’s agenda.

Specific topics will include aquifer recharge and spring flow, drought, urban sprawl and rainwater harvesting, Redmon said. There will also be a presentation on juniper impacts on rangeland health, herbivore-forage interaction, and stocking rate and infiltration versus runoff on the Edwards Plateau.

“Texans work hard to purchase and maintain their Hill Country property, so additional presentations will take place regarding estate planning, elder law, 1-D-1 Open Space land tax valuation, and leasing implications,” he said. “Each of these topics is an important aspect that will enable participants to better understand how to hold on to their piece of Texas.”

The first day will close with a discussion on which animal species combinations are appropriate for which properties and an update on forage crop insurance, Redmon said.

Day two of the conference provides unique behind-the-scenes tours, Machen said.

The first tour, Natural Resource Stewardship, includes a visit to the historic Hillingdon Ranch in Kendall County and a pasture walk with Robin and Carroll Giles. Robin is the grandson of the ranch’s founder Alfred Giles, and the ranch has been in the same family for over 125 years. Identification of local plant species will also be included in this tour.

With agritourism in mind, the second tour will go to Fredericksburg and Gillespie County. It will include visits to sustainable vineyards, orchards and gardens to get a glimpse of essential elements for stewardship success, he said.

The third tour will highlight wildlife management and the hunting industry on the Edwards Plateau with stops at landowners with reputations for being good stewards of their wildlife resources.

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“For as long as I can remember, the Edwards Plateau has attracted hunters from all over the state, nation and world,” Redmon said.

Both days will conclude with Texas Hill Country hospitality – good food, good music and the opportunity to sit and visit with conference presenters, the coordinators said.

For more information regarding the upcoming Bennett Trust Land Stewardship program, contact Redmon at l-redmon@tamu.edu, Machen at r-machen@tamu.edu, or an AgriLife Extension agent in the region.



Kerr County Spring Range & Wildlife Field-day May 1

The Kerr County Soil & Water Conservation District will be holding their annual SWCD Spring Range and Wildlife Field-day on May 1 at the Kerr Wildlife Management Area in Hunt, Texas. Registration starts at 8:30 a.m. with the program to begin at 9:00 a.m. and wrap-up around 3:30 p.m. Cost for the day long program will be \$15.00 per person and will include lunch and educational materials and tons of information. Wildlife biologist will discuss current feral hog research being conducted at the Kerr Wildlife Management Area, water development, plant identification and a tour of the Stowers Ranch. Dr. Bob Lyons, Extension Range specialist will discuss brush control measures using individual plant treatment methods as well as broadcast treatments. Three hours of Continuing education units for private, commercial and non-commercial pesticide applicators. **Registration may be made by RSVP with Name and Phone Number by April 24th to: deanna@kerrcountyswcd.com or 830-896-4911 x 3**

Pond Management Seminar - May 11

Texas Agrilife Extension Service in Kerr County will be hosting a Pond Management Seminar on May 11th with Dr. Todd Sink, Extension Fisheries Specialist from College Station. Dr. Sink will be presenting information on weed identification and control, pond construction and maintenance, fertilization, and stocking. The cost for this seminar will be \$10.00 per person and will include informative information as well as all printed materials. To register for the seminar contact the Kerr County Extension office at 830-257-6568.

Onsite registration will begin at 12:30 with the program from 1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. Pond owners are invited to bring any weed specimens in for identification and control recommendations following the program. Please bring *fresh* samples *in water*. You may bring samples in a plastic bag, but do not seal the plastic bag. Weed samples out of water and no oxygen and summer temps turn aquatic plants into stinky mush in just a few hours. If you choose to bring photos instead, that is fine and even preferred, but they must be *close-ups* of the plant *out of water*. Three hours of pesticide applicator CEU's will be offered to private, commercial and non-commercial applicators. If you have any questions, please

Texas Range Webinar Series

Texas A&M Agrilife Extension Service has organized a series of natural resource webinars designed to assist producers. Webinars are broadcast online with most educational programs offering CEU's. Visit <http://naturalresourcewebinars.tamu.edu/series/range/> to learn about a variety of rangeland management topics along with upcoming class schedules.



**May 28-29
2015**

**Texas A&M
College Station
campus**

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service is pleased to announce the fifth conference focused on grassfed beef production.

Consumer interest in natural, grassfed and organic beef continues to rise. If you'd like to learn more about grassfed beef production and how it's different, mark your calendar for May 28-29, 2015 to be in College Station for this year's **Grassfed Beef Conference**.

We're excited about the interest among participants and the outstanding lineup of speakers that will come together for this information-sharing opportunity. Here's a chance to learn more about beef production... from pasture to plate.

Here's a quick preview of the agenda:

- Overview of the US Beef Industry
- Defining natural, grassfed and organic
- Growing forage – the fundamentals
- Cattle types suited for grassfed beef
- Forage-based nutrition for cattle
- Preventative herd health
- Handling Cattle for Wholesome Beef
- Carcass fabrication... a demonstration
- Consumers... and their expectations
- A Taste of Texas Beef
- Marketing a unique product
- Sustainability

for more information

Dr. Rick Machen
rmachen@ag.tamu.edu
Office 830.278.9151

To register go to:

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

Register by phone 979.845.2604

Hosted by
Texas A&M AgriLife
Extension Service
Animal Science



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