

AGRICULTURE IN LIBERTY COUNTY

Roy Flora, County Extension Agent—ANR

501 Palmer Ave.
Liberty, TX 77575
936-334-3230

SPRING, 2016

SPRING BREAK, WHAT'S THAT??

IT'S SPRINGTIME—BUSY, BUSY, BUSY!

Just in case you live under the proverbial rock, you might not have noticed all the Facebook posts of Texas wildflowers in full bloom, violent winds and storms producing 30-40 degree temperature swings, and vegetative plants beginning to green up all around, its spring time. Spring time in Texas is one of the most beautiful times of the year. Wildflowers popping up- 250+ varieties of them, decorate and beautify the landscape and roadsides from Beaumont to El Paso, and Perryton to Brownsville. Taking a little time to appreciate these natural wonders is one the many joys being involved in agriculture and out in that environment. Thanks to the National Wildflower Research Center in Austin, and Texas A&M AgriLife Horticulture, many varieties of wildflower seeds are available for your home lawns and gardens (even MAROON Bluebonnets! Whoop!) But as far as a spring break goes.....

We don't get vacations from some things in production agriculture, but spring time would be the worst time to take a "break." As the air and ground temperatures become conducive to grow things again, most producers have already begun preparations for spring and summer production. From crop farmers cultivating seed beds and engaging in the battle of weed control, to cattle ranchers gathering herds to implement and administer herd health protocols, the last thing on their minds is to take a "break." To be diligent in the business of feeding the world, a break is simply out of the question.

The following is a partial list of upcoming ag programs and tentative dates:

Private Pesticide Applicator Trainings:

offered Quarterly- contact office for more information

Monthly Master Gardener Meetings:

2nd Thursday of every month at Extension Office.

Texas Master Naturalist Info/Recruitment Mtg.:

April 21st, Trinity River National Wildlife Refuge.

Hardin County Pasture Management Program:

April 25, Hardin County Extension Office, Kountze

Feral Hog Management Workshop:

May 3rd, Cornerstone Church Cleveland, TX.

Grass Fed Beef Production Conference:

May 26th-27th, Texas A&M University College Station.



After wrapping up a busy spring stock show season, we are back to working on upcoming educational programs. Education also comes in many different forms here in the AgriLife Extension office. From Monthly Master Gardener meetings, the Master Gardener hot line and library, Private Applicator Trainings, programs offering CEU's, as well as updated and archived information for producers on our web site, and state wide programs offered by Texas A&M. If we don't have it, we can find it!

Individuals with disabilities who require an auxiliary aid, service or accommodations in order to participate in this event are encouraged to contact the Liberty County Office of the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service at 936-334-3230 in order to prepare the auxiliary aid or service that you will require.

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.

CACTUS MOTH

Class: Insecta

Order: Lepidoptera

Family: Pyralidae

Host Plant: Prickly Pear Cacti

Native Origin: South America



Once hailed as a hero in Australia when it was introduced to control unwanted populations of exotic prickly pear cacti, the cactus moth has recently established itself as an American pest. Now it threatens native landscapes and agriculture in the Southern United States and Mexico. The cactus moth requires prickly pear cactus as a host plant to complete its life cycle, it is therefore found in habitats where prickly pear cactus occur (pasture lands, coastal upland habitats, arid and semiarid lands). Cactus moth larvae feed on and can destroy large stands of prickly pear cacti. Through the loss of prickly pear cacti, the cactus moth threatens native habitats and agriculture. Prickly pear is a source of food for birds and wildlife and represents a major plant genus of desert ecosystems in the southwestern U.S. and Mexico. Since early detection is key to preventing the spread and establishment of this species, regional/local monitoring or surveillance is essential. Prickly pear cacti should not be imported from quarantine areas.

INVASIVE SPECIES

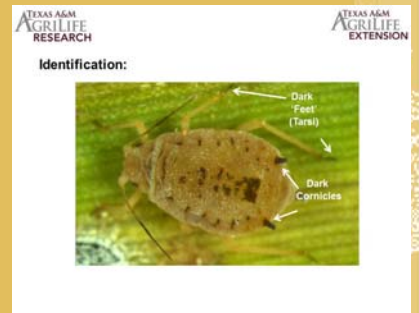
SOUND THREATENING? *THEY ARE!!*

Invasive species are one of the leading threats to native wildlife. These invaders, large and small, have devastating effects on U.S. wildlife. An invasive species can be any kind of living organism—an amphibian, plant, insect, fish, fungus, bacteria, or even an organism's seeds or eggs—that is not native to an ecosystem and which causes harm. Invasive species are primarily spread by human activities, often unintentionally. People, and the goods we use, travel around the world very quickly, and they often carry uninvited species with them. **Ships** carry aquatic organisms in their ballast water. **Insects** can get into wood products, shipping palettes and crates that are shipped around the world. Some **ornamental plants** can escape into the wild and become invasive. Some invasive species are intentionally or accidentally released from the **pet trade**.

SUGARCANE APHID WATCH

Another season is upon us as farmers have begun seeding sorghum in the Lower Rio Grande Valley and coastal Bend of Texas. Sorghum has emerged in the Valley and in some areas around Corpus Christi. Warm and dry conditions have made possible the early start to the season, especially when compared with the 2015 cropping year. The sugarcane aphid has a tan to green body and dark cornicles and dark feet. (Images can be viewed at <http://ccag.tamu.edu/sorghum-insect-pests/>.)

The aphid is typically found on the underside of sorghum leaves. It produces a lot of honeydew that is very noticeable on the top of leaves. If honeydew is observed, look



at the underside of the leaf above the leaf with honeydew for the aphid. If the sugarcane aphid is found on Johnsongrass or volunteer sorghum start scouting sorghum shortly after plants have emerge.

PASTURE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

APRIL 25, 2016

9:00 AM—12:00 NOON

HARDIN COUNTY EXTENSION OFFICE

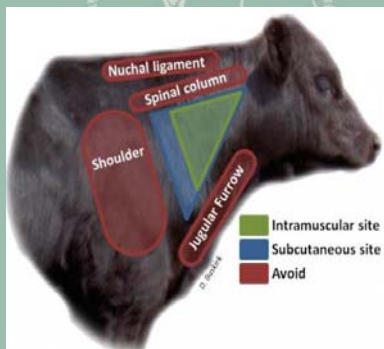
440 WEST MONROE STREET
KOUNTZ, TX 77625

SPEAKERS AND AGENDA

9:30 AM	LAWS & REGULATIONS BRAD TULLIS TDA
10:00 AM	COMMON WEED AND BRUSH CONTROL MISTAKES DR. BARRON RECTOR EXTENSION SPECIALIST
11:00 AM	PASTURE WEED AND BRUSH IDENTIFICATION DR. PAUL BAUMANN EXTENSION SPECIALIST

BEEF QUALITY ASSURANCE TIP OF THE MONTH

Give all intramuscular (IM) injections in the neck and give subcutaneous (SubQ) in either the neck, dewlap, or elbow pocket. This will eliminate injection-site lesions in more valuable carcass cuts while still effectively utilizing animal health products.



Manage Needles And Syringes

- Separate needles should be used for filling syringes and injecting animals.
- Change needles after about 10 injections (depending on biosecurity plan).
- Replace bent or burred needles.
- Disposable syringes are recommended instead of multiple-dose syringes.

3 TDA
CEU'S
OFFERED

CALL 409-246-5128
TO PRE-REGISTER BY
APRIL 22, 2016

\$25 REGISTRATION TO
BE PAID AT THE DOOR
BY CASH OR CHECK

BECOME A TEXAS MASTER NATURALIST

INFORMATIONAL MEETING #2
THURSDAY – APRIL 21, 2016 6:30 P.M.
U.S. PARKS AND WILDLIFE – TRINITY RIVER NATIONAL
WILDLIFE REFUGE
601 FM 1011 LIBERTY, TX 77575

SPEAKERS:

LAURIE GONZALES
WILDLIFE BIOLOGIST
U.S. PARKS AND WILDLIFE

ROY FLORA
CEA-ANR
LIBERTY COUNTY

Enhance your love of nature with research-based, scientific knowledge and receive in-depth training by recognized experts focusing on our native ecosystem. Provide the community with volunteer service and help people appreciate their natural environment while building friendships and working relationships with others who share your love of the natural Texas.



FERAL HOG MANAGEMENT WORKSHOP

TOPICS:

- Feral Hog Biology, Population Dynamics and Research Update
- Laws and Regulations for Hunting Feral Hogs
- Water Quality
- Agricultural Regulations Regarding Feral Hogs
- Feral Hog Control & Trapping Demonstration
- Feral Hog Transportation Regulations & Disease Concerns

TUESDAY MAY 3, 2016

8:30 AM – 4:30 AM

Check in begins at 8:00 AM

CORNERSTONE CHURCH

27453 HWY 105 Cleveland, TX 77327

5 CEU's Offered (1 IPM, 1 L&R, 3 GENERAL)

PRE-REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED

Program is **FREE** Lunch will be \$20.00 per person
RSVP and lunch fee due the Extension Office in Liberty County by closing day on April 25, 2016

Roy Flora CEA – ANR, Liberty County
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