

# Marion County, Texas



Cooperative Extension Program  
Prairie View A&M University



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Quote of the Month

“Love your life, as it is. You may perhaps have some pleasant, thrilling, glorious hours, even in a poorhouse. The setting sun is reflected as brightly from the windows of the almshouse as from the rich man’s abode.”  
- Henry David Thoreau

Program	October	Time	Place
Cattle Raisers Meeting	4	10 am	Smith Ranch
County Fair	25	8 am	Kelly Park
AARP	16	2 pm	Kelly Park

Topics Covered:	
-Goldenrain Tree Bug	page 2
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- Relating to community	
Wellness	page 4
- Building community	page 6

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## Marion County, Texas

### Agriculture Programs Committee

**President:** Cindy McNeely

**Members:** Johnny Neuville

**Vice-President/Treasurer:** Ray Lewis

Terrie Neuville

**Secretary:** Jane McBride

Lin Mabus

### Trees

Do you have a Goldenrain Tree? Late in the summer you may see this insect appear around your tree. It is a Goldenrain Tree Bug develops on the seeds of goldenrain tree and occasionally is a nuisance as it masses on homes. It is distributed primarily in the southeastern states and if you have this tree in Marion County, Texas you will most likely see a bunch. They are seed-feeding bugs.



### Brood Mare Clinic

It is that time of the year when our Mares are pregnant and need special attention to be most successful. In response to this need the Marion County Extension Office will host a Brood Mare Clinic on November 18, 2008. Key Note Speaker will be Dr. Brett Scott *Assistant Professor and Extension Horse Specialist* at Texas A & M. The program targets those breeders wanting information from a University on Broodmare Management, Do's and Don'ts for more productivity, and Nutrition. Participants will gain knowledge from a very knowledgeable and respected source, have opportunities to ask questions and enjoy a meal from Joseph's Riverport Bar-B-Que. Cost is twenty dollars for the 2 hour program and meal. Location is the Kelly Park Community Center 4.5 miles West of Jefferson on Highway 49. Phone # is 903-665-2421 for more information.



### Wildlife Program Cancelled

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### Hay Show 2008

This year's Hay Show was exceptional! The event started off with participants placing stickers on the hay they would want to feed.

We ate a wonderful meal prepared from Riverport BBQ.

Then Dr. Gerald Ever Forage Management from Texas A&M, Overton Research Station talked about 3 pasture rotation.

Mr. Clint Perkins of Wood County gave a talk about the research study conducted by 4 County Agents performed in Smith County. The talk was over berry vines in East Texas hay pastures and it's controls.

Results of the Hay Show were:

**First Place:** Diane and Lin Mabus with Tifton 85 scoring a 90 or better in quality and protein of 17%

**Second Place:** Johnny McNeely with Tifton 85 mix and protein of 11.5%

**Third Place:** Tim and Eddie Phy with a Coastal Bermuda mix and protein 10.3 %

This year 19 samples were submitted to Texas A&M Forage Testing Lab for analysis. I hope next year to have 30 samples. If you have not found out about the hay show and it's benefits. Join in next by calling the Marion County Extension office 903-665-2421.

*Thanks to Sponsors Abernathy Polled Hereford Ranch, Conroy Tractor Supply, Citizen's National Bank of Jefferson.*



From left to right: Second Place *Johnny McNeely*, First Place *Diane and Lin Mabus*

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### Cypress Basin Chapter of Texas Master Naturalist

September 23 - 25 some of the group from the Cypress Basin Chapter helped the U.S. Geological Survey with Fresh Water Mussel Counts in the Big Cypress Bayou. This work was very interesting because we were diving and dusting the bottom to find huge freshwater mussels. The Master Naturalist learned identification of several kinds and species of fresh water mussels. They helped to record and photograph them as they were found. A few that I can remember from the experience were pistol grips, wash board and three horned warty back. You can imagine what these mussels looked like by their name. Participating in the survey was Cypress Basin Chapter President Brad Bailey, Volunteer Coordinator Ted Barrow, John Cooper, Gary Endsley, and Brock Fry. What an experience getting to know our region of the world better.



The Cypress Basin Chapter will have classes during the spring so if you are interested in being a part of this group. Call the Marion County Extension office for more information.

### Relating to community Wellness

Last month we invited you to attend our "Senior Information Day" at Kelly Park. Much information was shared relating to housing and programs offered by USDA for seniors. Some of the funds are grant related, meaning they don't have to be paid back and, some are very low interest loans. Some programs offer small loans for minor repairs up to \$7,500.00 where payments may be as low as \$35.00 per month over a period of time. For more information on these loans, call the USDA office in Henderson Texas and ask for Joe Jones or stop by the office and pick up or call for an application with most of the information included.

The Texas Department of Human Services also gave some valuable information on how seniors can use their office to ask questions related to their needs that they might be in question about. TDHS has services that assist seniors in meeting health needs, utility needs, medical needs, housing needs and are often seen by seniors on a more



Joe Jones presents information to local resident Mrs. Mc Millan

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regular basis through the many outreach arms in their organization. The key to getting help is writing those questions down and keeping the list handy so when meeting with service representatives, seniors those questions were. It is also helpful to have a care giver or relative handy to make sure the process works well for the person being affected.

Local Texas Department of Human Services Representatives: Letty Galvan and Christy Newton talk about their services that can be forever for their clients. Their arm of TDHS is "Department of Aging and Disability Services".

This month the AARP/Diabetes group will present a program titled: "Am I Loosing My Mind", and we invite the public to come and invite others for a filled evening. The program is being presented by Andrew Crooker an Extension Gerontology Specialist.



Mr. Crooker states that: "Many people believe that memory loss and aging go hand-in-hand: as a person gets older his or her memory begins to fail. Not true! Your memory is only as good as the information that your brain takes in - if you don't learn it to begin with, you will never remember it. We will explore how your brain takes in new information and processes it. You will discover that there are several different ways to learn new things and may be surprised at how you yourself learn new information. Additionally, whether you make a shopping for the grocery store or make a mnemonic to remember how to spell "success," you are employing a strategy to help your memory. Memory strategies are very healthy and should be used anytime you are uncertain about your ability to remember. You will learn different memory strategies and see which one or which combination fits you best. You will see that with a little effort to employ a memory strategy, you may be able to remember like never before."

The Meeting is set for October 16 ,2008 2:00pm at Kelly Park. Come early and get your seat.

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### YEAR TWO COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CLASSES OFFERED:

#### Building Communities Series to Focus on Sustainability

Today's society is complex and challenging. There are myriad social, environmental and economic opportunities and challenges facing communities and businesses of all types and sizes. How do we engage each other in ways that benefit more than just a few special interests? How do we proceed so that we can achieve important objectives, but not do so at the expense of other ones that we also value? Is there a way of balancing a healthy economy, a healthy ecosystem and a healthy community? If we find that balance, can we sustain it?

This year's Building Communities Webinar Series tackles these important questions. We address global, regional and local issues and challenge ourselves as both a community and as individuals. Join us in discovering some of our constraints and uncovering the limitless potential we possess to overcome them. If you care deeply about the economy and the viability of our businesses ... if you care deeply about the ecological health of our planet ... if you care deeply about the quality of life of our community – this webinar series is for you. Join us to be enlightened, to be informed, to be challenged, and to be called to action!

Last year ten students participated in the Webinar sessions and found them to be very beneficial to them in their personal areas of leadership as they worked in their communities to meet the needs of the future. Program participants were: Gala Rice, Carolyn Wedding, John Cooper, Mildred Bonner, Brock Fry, Brad Bailey, Jack Nelson, Sharron Woods, Vicky St. Denis Karen Jones and Paulette Cooper. The sessions focused on Community Capacity Building, Preparedness and areas centered around the market place for community development.

You're invited to join other community development educators, professionals and clientele as we explore how to best position today's community to succeed in sustainable ways. Beginning Tuesday, October 21, 2008 and continuing each third Tuesday of the month through June 16, 2009, this one-hour web-based conference will highlight both individual and community aspects of sustainability – featuring the economy and the environment. The series is targeted to Extension educators, their collaborators and partners, and practitioners (including local elected and appointed officials and especially those hoping to one day fit this category). Recognizing the nature of a national audience, efforts are made to make sure that the sessions address issues beyond Wisconsin. There are awesome opportunities to localize these sessions with wrap-around programming.

Sponsored by the University of Wisconsin-Extension Center for Community and Economic Development and Energy and Sustainability Teams, this nine-session web conference will be held at the Collins Center. Again we are inviting other collaborators and partners to join us for a "peer learning" experience (invite as many people as you would like to participate that you feel would benefit from this experience). You are invited to attend the entire series or pick and choose those that best meet your interests. A registration fee of \$50 for all nine programs applies

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and individual sessions are \$12 per session. The Sessions are co Sponsored by the Collins Academy, The Minority Coalition for Economic Development and the Cooperative Extension Program.

In order to accommodate all those interested in the program and prepare printed materials, you are asked to register in advance by e-mailing: pcooper @ag.tamu.edu or by calling for an application to 903-665-2421. The nine-session series will cover the following topics (all programs 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Central Time): All checks are payable to the Minority Coalition for Economic Development.

### October 21, 2008, 11:30-12:30PM, CT—*Setting the Stage: Sustainability and Sustainable Community Development*

While a growing number of community initiatives are emerging to address sustainability, there is often no clear understanding of how they can or should relate to each other. How does a community make the most strategic use of its limited resources? Where should it start? How does it compare the alternatives? What are the appropriate roles for the private and not-for-profit sectors? Communities need to build the capacity to understand and move toward sustainability on their own. This session will help frame these questions, offer a variety of approaches for communities to consider, and provide examples.

### November 18, 2008, 11:30-12:30PM, CT—*Energy Efficiency*

In this time of record-high energy prices and recognition of the ties between national security and energy independence and between utility system reliability and global climate change concerns, energy efficiency is a key approach among the remedies. But how does a local government or business act strategically to make the most of every Btu? This session will describe how to measure current energy use and to create an energy plan with the technologies, practices, programs and policies that maximize energy efficiency and cost savings.

### December 16, 2008, 11:30-12:30PM, CT—*Renewable Energy*

Renewable energy is part of a strategic approach to energy that reduces carbon emissions, improves energy reliability and may protect against escalating fuel costs. This webinar examines the renewable energy technologies available and how to choose the options best for your community or your site. Questions to be considered by the presenters include: Is it affordable? Who are the service providers in my area? How do I proceed? What renewable installations are already operating?

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January 20, 2009, 11:30-12:30PM, CT—*Sustainability and Comprehensive Planning*

This webinar will focus on infusing sustainability concepts (the three E's of Economy, Environment and Equity and The Natural Step principles) into the elements of the comprehensive plan. How to create goals, objectives and policies that reflect sustainability will be discussed along with resources to assist with sustainability planning efforts.

February 17, 2009, 11:30-12:30PM, CT—*Sustainable Business Practices and Strategies*

Some businesses have embraced the idea of sustainability while others still reject it. Why have some companies resisted sustainability strategies? How can business leaders be persuaded to go further? What is the business case for sustainability? This session looks at how businesses can capture the opportunities associated with sustainability. It quantifies the benefits of business sustainability strategies and offers insights into how these advantages can be communicated to business leaders. Specific examples are used throughout the presentation.

March 17, 2009, 11:30-12:30PM, CT—*Green Collar Jobs: Sustainable Work in a Low Carbon World*

Will future jobs be increasingly “green?” If so, what makes a job or an industry green? Is a green job a good job? What constitutes this “green economy” that we hear so much about these days? This session explores the nature of green collar jobs and their implications for business and community development. It looks at links with environmental concerns, efficiency considerations, and workforce (and employment) development in terms of education and skills requirements.

April 21, 2009, 11:30-12:30PM, CT—*Local Food Networks: Food Localization as a Sustainability Strategy*

Localization strategies often characterize sustainability efforts. And nothing is more central to our lives than the food that we eat. Building a local sustainable food economy has implications related to local spending choices, nutrition and health, developing strong linkages between rural and urban areas, creating local jobs, land use patterns, and regenerating community. Learn about this rapidly growing sustainability strategy—through examples and best practices—and how it is helping to reshape our food system and our communities.

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May 19, 2009, 11:30-12:30PM, CT—*Sustainability Indicators and Measurement*

It's one thing to pass a resolution to become a sustainable community or adopt a corporate sustainability policy and another to make steady progress toward that end. How do you gauge overall health and long-term sustainability? Sustainability indicators use data to measure that progress. The resulting information can be used to raise awareness about community health, the environment, social well being and economic development. Learn about an array of indicator models across the country and how they are used as a basis for further policy development, funding targets, and improved activities and strategies to promote sustainability.

June 16, 2009, 11:30-12:30PM, CT—*Community Organizing for Sustainability*

Where does a community start if it is interested in organizing for sustainability? Who takes the lead? What are the roles of local governments, local businesses, and local organizations? Do we need a "fire soul" to lead the effort? Why do some communities seem to move forward while others don't? Is it easier to pursue sustainability in urban versus rural areas? This session explores these questions and offers examples that include study circles, early adopter projects, comprehensive planning, and local sustainability alliances.

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### October

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4<sup>th</sup>, Tuesday Cattle Raisers Meeting - Chute Side - Dr. Jason Banta  
Smith Ranch Lewis Chapel Rd.

16<sup>th</sup>, Thursday AARP - "Am I Loosing My Mind" Andrew Crooker Extesnion Gerontology  
Specialist - Kelly Park Community Center

### November

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18<sup>th</sup>, Equine Brood Mares - Dr. Brett Scott  
Kelly Park Community Center 6:00 p.m.

19<sup>th</sup>, Tuesday Animal Issues Committee Meeting  
Kelly Park Community Center 6:00 PM

20<sup>th</sup>, Thursday AARP - Health Care Interpretations  
Kelly Park Community Center

### December

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16<sup>th</sup>, Tuesday Pesticide Class, 2 CEUs  
Kelly Park Community Center 6:00 PM

18<sup>th</sup> Thursday AARP - Celebration  
Kelly Park Community Center

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“Improving Lives. Improving Texas”