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New Secretary at the Office

Please join me in welcoming Ms. Candace Chapman to our office! Candace will provide program support to Agriculture, Natural Resources, Family and Community Health, and 4-H & Youth Development as needed.

Vines and Wines, Tuesday, May 24th

We will have our 5th Annual Central Texas Vines and Wines program at the East of West Vineyard, located at 536 Cervenka Road, West, Texas. The Justin Mechell family will be our host as we will focus on vineyard establishment. This property is being converted from a pasture to a productive vineyard. Any person who is interested in planting a few vines should attend. Michael Cook, Extension Viticulturist will speak on Balancing the See Saw, Grape Production Matching Grape Quality. Justin Mechell and Fran Pontasch, an Extension Viticulturist will discuss and demonstrate Planting Vines and Early Vine Management. A Steak lunch will be provided courtesy of Mechell Land and Cattle. Fran will speak again after lunch on the Importance of Early Training and Pruning of Vines. There will be a short demonstration by the Mechells and specialist on Equipment to get started. A highlight will be Joey Bagnasco of Valley Mills Vineyard leading a tasting and discussion of The Five Types of Wines, A Difference in Taste. Sponsors for this program who will be provided time on the agenda. Please contact the office to sponsor or to attend. Capital Farm Credit will be providing breakfast. The registration will begin at 8:30 a.m. and consist of a \$35 registration fee. 1 IPM TDA CEU will be provided.

Central Texas Small Grain Field Day, Thursday, April 14th

Our 14th Annual Small Grain Field Day will be held on April 14th near McGregor. There are 14 Hard Red Winter Wheat varieties planted right off of Hwy 84. Signs are up identifying the varieties. I encourage you to go look at them and how they are adapting to the environmental conditions of Central Texas. Be careful pulling off and on Hwy 84. We will start in the field of Kevin Huffman which is located 1.8 miles East of McGregor on the North side of Hwy 84. Registration will begin at 7:30 a.m. Breakfast will be provided by Lone Star Ag Credit. Dr. Reagan Noland will lead us on a walking tour of the Hard Red Winter Wheat Varieties. He will be discussing the Characteristics of Each Variety Entered. Mark Nemecek of MJN Consulting will provide a Small Grain Insect Scouting Report on Insects and Disease. Mark Welch will speak on Agriculture Commodities and Current Factors Affecting Markets. You will be able to hear from our many sponsors. Dr. Larry Unruh of American Plant Food will discuss various Types of Fertilizer Mixes as well as What is Affecting Current Fertilizer Prices. We will have the famous Tenderloin Steak Tips for lunch. I am still taking sponsors so if you are interested in speaking to the audience, please contact me at the office. This program will offer 2 TDA CEU's and 3 Certified Crop Advisor Credits. Please RSVP before April 10th by calling the office at (254)757-5180 or emailing Candace Chapman at candace.chapman@ag.tamu.edu

East Side Turnrow Meeting, Friday, June 10th

On June 10th we will have a turnrow meeting off Crunk Road, near Asa by a corn field. Breakfast will be provided by Capital Farm Credit. Dr. Ronnie Schnell, Extension State Cropping Systems Specialist will provide an update on the Current Growing Season Primarily on Corn, Grain Sorghum and Cotton. Tyler Mays, Hill/McLennan County IPM Agent will talk about Current Field Conditions pertaining to his Scouting Report on Cotton-Corn-Grain Sorghum. Dr. John Robinson will speak on Cotton and Feed Grains Market Update. No cost to attend and Registration will begin at 8:00 a.m. and we hope to adjourn by 11:00 a.m. You need to call the office to RSVP (254)757-5180 or email Candace Chapman at candace.chapman@ag.tamu.edu. We will offer 1 TDA IPM CEU and 2.5 CCA's.

4224 Cobbs Drive – Waco, Texas 76710 – (254)757-5180

Spring Forage Field Day, Friday, May 27th

For six years we have held our Spring Forage Field Day on local producers' properties and provided a look into others great operations and the 2022 program continues that trend. We are fortunate to have Mr. Mark Perry of MP Brangus host our 2022 Spring Forage Field Day. Mark Perry and the MP Brangus name have become synonymous with raising and selling great cattle. Mark has agreed to have cattle there around the barns and pens for us to look at and use in our program. Garrett Thomas of Hi-Point Sales and Marketing will present on Expected Progeny Difference. Mr. Logan Dodd from Trans Ova Genetics will discuss Artificial Insemination. Jon DeClerck, a Beef Consulting Nutritionist with Purina, will provide a talk on the Importance of Minerals in Your Program. David Groschke, local cattleman and Limestone County Agent will speak on Replacement Females and Herd Sire Selection as high-quality MP Brangus cattle will be on display. Vanessa Corriher-Olson, Extension Forage Specialist will speak on Managing Native Forages. With the high price of fertilizer, native grasses have become very popular. We promise a great Fajita lunch at the MP Brangus location that is off Wolf Lane, between Valley Mills and Waco. We will have direction signs up. Please contact the office to RSVP. There is a \$20 registration fee. Lone Star Ag Credit will provide the breakfast and refreshments.

**West Side Turnrow Meeting,
Friday, June 17th**

On June 17th we will have a turnrow meeting off Farmview Parkway near a cotton, grain sorghum and corn field. It will be near the 2022 corn and grain sorghum replicated plots. Breakfast will be provided by Lone Star Ag Credit. Dr. Ronnie Schnell, Extension State Cropping Systems Specialist will provide an update on The Current Growing Season Primarily on Corn, Grain Sorghum and Cotton. Mark Nemeck of MJN Consulting will talk about a Current Scouting Report on all the crops he is looking at but Primarily Cotton-Corn-Grain Sorghum. Dr. Jason Johnson will be in attendance and is going to speak on Ag Commodity Market Updates. No cost to attend and registration will begin at 8:00 a.m. and we hope to adjourn by 11:00 a.m. You need to call the office to RSVP (254)757-5180 or email Candace Chapman at candace.chapman@ag.tamu.edu. We will offer 1 TDA IPM CEU and 2.5 CCA's.

**Central Texas Stocker Cattle Program &
Beef Quality Assurance Certification,
Wednesday, June 22nd**

The 12th Annual Stocker Cattle Program will be held at the West Auction Barn in West, Texas. This program is very unique this year as we are offering producers the opportunity to receive BQA certification for completing the day's activities. Jason Bagley from the Texas Beef Council and Emily Lochner from Texas Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association will both provide an Update on Their Activities and Organizations. Dr. Jade Cooper, Extension Meat Specialist will provide a Presentation on Freezer Beef. Dr. Jeff Sarchet, DVM Zoetis Animal Health will perform a necropsy and demonstrate for all How to Improve Profitability and Beef Carcass Integrity. Dr. Ron Gill will provide a live cattle demonstration on Low Stress Handling of Livestock. Jason Swain, Livestock Production Specialist with Zoetis Animal Health will speak on the Veterinarian Feed Directive & the Future Use of Antibiotics. All of our sponsors will have an opportunity to speak to the audience. Brian Uptmore will present on Transportation and Proper Hauling of Cattle. We will wrap up our day with the Beef Quality Assurance Wrap Up. I am still accepting sponsors for this program as well. There is a \$10 registration fee. Steak Lunch at noon. Vendors will be on display as well. Call the office to register!

**CenTex Beef Cattle Symposium
Friday, September 23rd**

We are not hosting this year but will be involved. Preliminary plans are for the event to be at our neighboring Bosque County. More information will be shared as it develops.

Tree Problems

I continue to receive phone calls on tree problems. Please remember that our trees have been through many extreme environmental events: freeze, drought, too much water, and very big swings in temperatures. The best thing for them is time and correct supplemental watering. Extra treatments and care typically magnify problems.

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2nd Annual Harvest Celebration Thursday, September 29th

Excited to announce plans continue for our very successful Harvest Celebration. We have confirmed our guest speaker Dr. Tiffany Dowell Lashmet. Dr. Lashmet serves as the Agricultural Law Specialist for Texas A&M AgriLife. Dr. Lashmet's work focuses on legal issues impacting Texas Landowners and agricultural producers including leases, water law, oil and gas law, pipeline easement negotiation, estate planning, and land

Auxin Training

Auxin training is required prior to applying Engenia, Xtendimax, or Tavium herbicides for use on dicamba tolerant crops. EPA rules state annual Auxin training is required prior to applying Engenia, Xtendimax, Tavium, Enlist One, or Enlist Duo each growing season. Auxin training is also required prior to applying Enlist One or Enlist Duo herbicides over the top transgenic 2,4-D tolerant crops. Remember that Enlist Duo or Enlist One is prohibited in Hill and McLennan Counties. I can provide the training at my office ONLY if you will call in advance and schedule a time. The training is 50 minutes in length.

Rain Dance

When I was a kid growing up at Avoca, Texas and we went through a dry spell (yes, it's always dry there), we would draw a rain turtle with a shell, four legs, and a head and spit in the middle of the turtle body. Another rain spell we would do was catch a horned toad and put him on his back and rub his belly. Not sure if any of that ever made it rain but it kept us kids entertained. There is a horned toad in my hay field and he/she lives off the one big red ant bed in my pasture. I am going to go find that horned toad and I've already spit in my rain turtle.

Facebook and E-Mail Information

Keep up to date with program announcements and follow McLennan County Extension – Agriculture on **Facebook @McLennanAgExtension**. If you are not receiving our updates via e-mail, e-mail Candace Chapman at candace.chapman@ag.tamu.edu or call the office at (254)757-5180

Lawns

With the dry weather, we have had little to no growth in lawns. With the little bits of moisture we have received, cool season and warm season weeds and grasses will emerge. The optimum time to apply pre-emerge products was early to mid-February as they should give you 45 to 60 days of control IF you received enough moisture to activate the herbicide. This time of year, I mow more often to manage weed and grass in my lawn. Fertilizer applied now will greatly increase cool season growth and not as much warm season growth.

For those wanting to help the fire victims:

Please call before you collect and haul supplies to drop-offs.

Primary Contact: Texas A& M AgriLife Extension Service

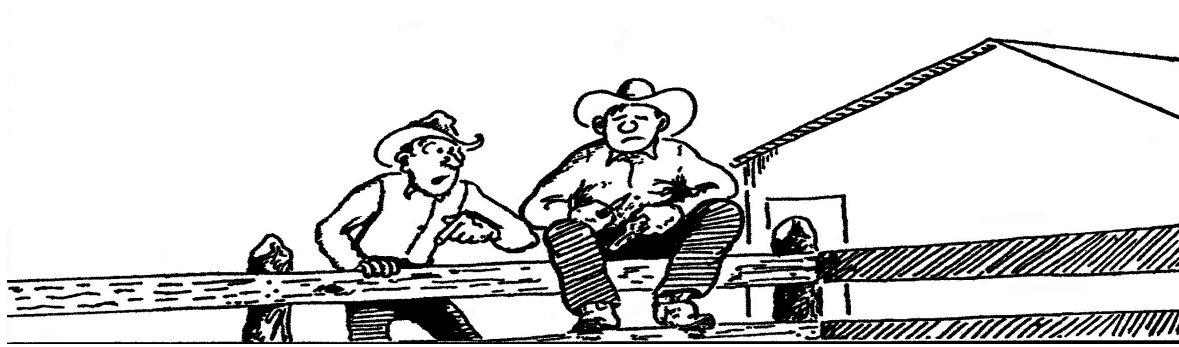
Donations Hotline: (979)314-8200

Drop-Off Point for Feed/Hay/Supplies:

Gorman Milling Company, Inc. – Fiber Plant
1200 East Townsend
Gorman, Texas 76454
Contact: Luke Fritts at (254)485-9193

WS Cattle Company
611 County Road 411
Contact: Will Hogan at (254)631-8005
Shelby Hogan at (979)204-9923

Monetary donations are being coordinated by the Texas Department of Agriculture through their Star Funding Account (via PayPal): [tx.ag/EastlandFireAgRelief](https://www.paypal.com/donate/?url=https://www.tx.ag/EastlandFireAgRelief)



Even in the Fire, Hope Remains

There are people down the road that are hurting. Some have lost a hayfield, some have lost livestock, some lost their homes, and some have lost everything they own to a fire. On Sunday, March 20th my family and I were driving back to Waco. We had been at my mom and dad's 50th Wedding Celebration (congrats mom and dad!). We got to Moran, Texas and could smell smoke, not long after we could see smoke that was towards Cisco, Texas. Between Cisco and Eastland, we saw the fire North of Interstate 20 burning towards Highway 6. Saw the fireman working hard and thought, Lord please protect them. We exited near Eastland and got back on Highway 6. Reports were that the road was clear. You could barely smell smoke, wasn't sure if that was what we drove through or headed to. Then we saw the smoke and started to wonder if we needed to turn around. It wasn't the typical white, kind of grey smoke from a grass fire. The smoke we saw made the sky to the South and East look dark and ominous. With smoke in the distance, I saw first-hand farmers racing around their homes preparing for what might come, the hot, consume everything, wind-blown fire. I saw tractors pulling tandem disc across hay fields, as they tried to make a barrier to slow the fire down. You would see the pickup parked on the hill and people watching, hoping, praying the fires would stop at their man-made barriers of plowed ground. Right after we had to pull over on the road to let fire "brush" trucks have the road as they came back from filling up with water, headed back to hot spots. You could see three helicopters hauling water at a rapid pace. I was told later those helicopters were racing to save homes and structures. We saw firetrucks from as far away as Weslaco and Brownsville. I saw the big planes slowly creeping and dropping water in the horizon. Among the flashing red lights, the smoke everywhere, ash blowing across the road, we met pickups pulling single hay bales with one hay bale on a buggy, and hay in the back of pickups. We met convoys of pickups pulling loaded down goosenecks with rolls of hay. We met semi-trucks loaded with hay and all of them coming from the East to the drop-off points. In the middle of hell, angels were coming to help their brothers and sisters. As we rounded the curve at Carbon and saw the houses, the homes burned to the ground there was a somber... silence in our pickup. We just saw people fighting to stop a wind driven destroying flame to only see what happened when the fire won. The hayfields were so burned that no blade of grass remained, and I don't know if roots are near the surface. The fire burned so hot right there on the South side of Highway 6 it looked like a barren desert. I have been in contact with the County Extension Agents from Comanche and Eastland counties since late last week and again on Monday morning just asking, "What do your folks need?" and "Where do we take it?" In events like this, many needs are fulfilled quickly while others develop. It is important we stay in contact with local people there to ensure that we know what and where help/supplies need to go. There are several drop-off points for feed, supplies, and hay. I will continue to update what I hear from agents on Facebook and put on the Ag email list. Needs are going to change almost daily as supplies come in and then go out to the affected people. Looking at maps today, hearing from a friend, and the struggles we saw, the fire was contained there in the hayfields off Highway 6. Further back in the wooded areas, the fire roared on towards the North. But this morning, the report I was given was very optimistic. They had the fire slowed and hoped to put it out soon. Last but not least, I ask you to pray for the people affected and pray for a rain. sMc