



(UPDATED) May 2015

Walker County Agriculture News



Greetings from the Walker County, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension office!

Addressing Issues Important To You:

We have been developing additional educational opportunities for you! This update contains a few reminders and some new additions to our list of classes available locally. There are a variety of topics here which should be of great interest to new landowners and those who have been out in the field for a while. We haven't left out our homeowners either, be sure and look at the Aerobic Treatment Unit Class if you are a "hands-on" DIY inclined kind of person.

If you are interested in these local Extension programs, classes or workshops, please call in to secure your registration and help insure that the classes make. Contact the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension, Walker County office at (936) 435-2426.

5 Hours of CEU credit are offered in this upcoming set of Extension educational programs here in Walker County! DON'T MISS THEM!!

In This Update Issue:

- ***Forage Establishment Class (Huntsville) –May 21***
- ***Grassfed Beef Production Conference (TX A&M University) –May 28/29***
- ***Small Scale Livestock Producer Field Day –(SHSU) June 1***
- ***Aquaponics Class (Huntsville) –June 4***
- ***Pond/Lake Management Workshop (Huntsville) –June 23***
- ***Homeowner Maintenance of Aerobic Treatment Units Class (Huntsville)-July 16***
- ***Walker Co Farmers Market- Opens May 30***

Upcoming Events:

Forage Establishment (taking advantage of a wet spring)

Thursday, May 21, 2015

6:30 PM

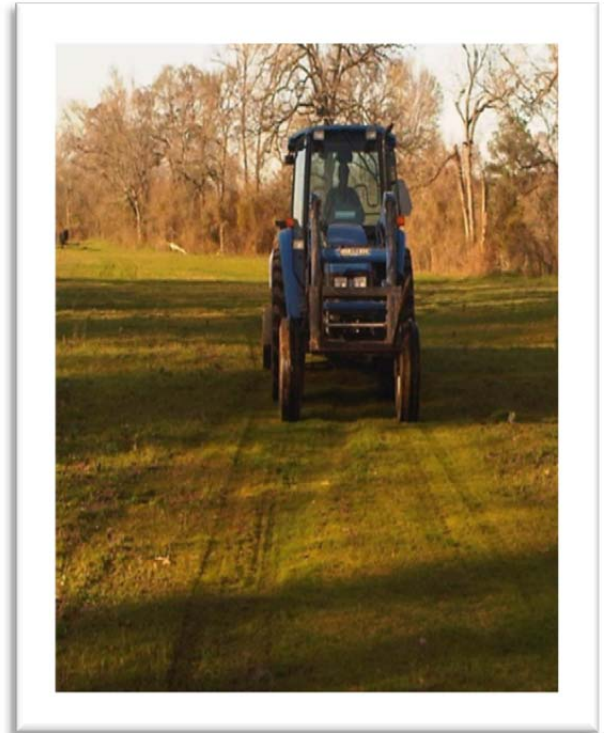
**Texas A&M AgriLife Extension office, Walker County
102 Tam Road, Huntsville, TX**

Registration: \$10.00 per person (CEUs provided)

(Flyer attached to this newsletter) It is late in the year to be talking about establishing warm season forages; however, with the spring rainfall we have an unusual opportunity! The old saying about "Making hay while the sun shines" is most defiantly in play on this educational program.

You are invited to join us as Dr. Larry Redmon; Extension Forage Specialist discusses what you need to know about establishing and managing new warm season forage plantings. Topics to be covered at this event include:

- **Warm Season Pasture Establishment**
 - Forage Selection
 - Soil Preparation & Fertility
 - Equipment Requirements
- Management of Grasses Following Establishment
- Grazing / Harvesting Timeframe Expectations
- Weed Control & Economics



Cost for this educational program is \$10.00 per participant. RSVP is requested by 5/20/15 to insure seating availability to the Walker Co. Texas AgriLife Extension Service at (936) 435-2426. 2 Hours of CEU Credit for TDA Pesticide Applicators will be provided in the General and IPM categories.

Grassfed Beef Production Conference

Rosenthal Meats Center/TX A&M University Campus

488 Olsen Blvd, College Station, TX 77843

May 28th (Thursday) & May 29th (Friday), 2015

Registration: \$250.00 through 5/22, \$300 onsite



Final details on cost and registration for this increasingly popular conference are now available online through conference services at <https://agriliferegister.tamu.edu/index.cfm/productDetails/ProductID/1744/>

Additional information can be obtained from Dr. Rick Machen, Extension Livestock Specialist, (830) 278-9151, or by email at r-machen@tamu.edu

9:00 A View of the US Beef Industry from 30,000 feet
-Dr. Jason Cleere, Texas A&M Agrilife Extension Service
10:00 Growing Forages for Grassfed Beef -Dr. Monte Rouquette, Texas A&M Agrilife Research
Moderator – Dr. Rick Machen

1:00 Defining Natural, Grassfed and Organic Production Systems -Dr. Rick Machen, Texas A&M Agrilife Extension Service

2:00 Cattle Best Suited for Grassfed Beef -Dr. Joe Paschal, Texas A&M Agrilife Extension Service

3:00 Nutrient Needs of Growing & Fattening Cattle -
Dr. Jason Banta, Texas A&M Agrilife Extension Service

4:00 Preventative Herd Health Management -Dr. Glenn Rogers DVM, Grassy Ridge Consulting

5:30 A Grassfed Prime Rib Dinner / Louis Pearce Pavilion

Dr. Davey Griffin, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service

Low-Stress Handling Cattle for Wholesome Beef

Dr. Bruce Carpenter, Texas A&M Agrilife Extension



Photo from aggieclover.tamu.edu

Friday, May 29 / Rosenthal Meats Center

Moderator – Dr. Ron Gill, Assoc. Dept. Head, Animal Science

8:00 Fabrication – from Carcass to Retail Cuts -Drs. Davey Griffin and Dan Hale, Tx A&M AgriLife Extension Service

11:00 Pre-Harvest Production System and Beef's Nutrient Content
Moderator – Dr. Rick Machen

1:00 Production & Marketing Grassfed Beef (Producer Panel)
Dr. Glenn Rogers, Grassy Ridge Natural Beef, Aledo, TX
Pati Jacobs, Bastrop Cattle Company, Bastrop, TX
Charlie Bradbury, JBS Grassfed Beef, Huntsville, TX

4:30 Adjourn

Small Scale Livestock Producer's Field Day

June 1, 2015

8:30 AM – 11:30 AM

SHSU Department of Agricultural Sciences at Gibbs Ranch

101 Fraser Rd, Huntsville, Texas 77820

Register For Free at: <http://goo.gl/forms/RjfxglOJq5>



This Field Day takes place on June 1, 2015 at the university's very own educational facility, Gibbs Ranch, located off of Highway 75. SHSU would like to

invite you to come out for a question and answer field day with Sam Houston State University professors on sustainable agriculture practices. Attendees will be exposed to topics including Grass Fed Beef Quality, Practical Pond Management Techniques, Forage Considerations for Sheep and Goats, and Agriculture Business Structure Advantages. Register at the website listed at the top of this article.

Event Field Seminar Discussions

- Agriculture Business Structure Advantages
Art Wolfskill, M.B.A., Ph. D.
- Practical Pond Management Techniques
Doug Ullrich, Ph. D.
- Forage Considerations for Sheep and Goat Producers
Robert Lane, Ph. D.
- Grass Fed Beef Quality
Mark Anderson, Ph. D.
- Kristin Lambrecht, Field Representative, Texas Department of Agriculture

Aquaponics Class

Thursday, June 4th, 2015

5:30 PM

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension office, Walker County

102 Tam Road, Huntsville, TX

Registration: \$25.00 per person (1 hour IPM CEU provided)/fee includes printed material and evening meal.

(Flyer attached to this newsletter) Alternative agriculture options! This educational event is a result of the TCFF held in April. Landowners, Agricultural Producers are almost always looking to enhance their production systems or support their income in various ways. In addition, homeowners are often interested in adding sustainability to their personal households.



If you have ever considered exploring aquaponics as a method to accomplish any of the items mentioned above, you need to attend this class. Peter Woods, Extension Fisheries Specialist will be on hand to discuss many of the items important and critical for a successful aquaponics enterprise. Small or large in size, there are items that must be planned for and built into these systems. Topics to be covered in this educational program include:

- System Design Requirements & Construction Suggestions
- Water Quality & Management Issues
- Fish Species Stocking Decisions
- Plant Species Decisions
- Nutrient Management
- How to Avoid Costly Mistakes!
- Managing Fish Population & Health

Cost for this educational program is \$25.00 per participant. RSVP is requested by 6/2/15 to insure seating availability to the Walker Co. Texas AgriLife Extension Service at (936) 435-2426. 1 Hour of CEU Credit (IPM) for TDA Pesticide Applicators will be provided.

Pond/Lake Management Workshop

Tuesday, June 23rd, 2015

6:30 PM – approx. 8:30 PM

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension office, Walker County

102 Tam Road, Huntsville, TX

Registration: \$10.00 per person (2 hour IPM CEU available)



(Flyer attached to this newsletter) Drought, Wet Weather, Dry Seasons, and then the occasional deluge of rainfall.. A pond or Lake Owner's nightmare! We have had it all in just a few years' time. All of these fluctuating conditions have left many of our ponds and lakes in an unbalanced state with lots of aquatic weeds, struggling fish populations and possibly physical damage to the pond as well.

We invite you to attend this workshop to learn more about the management needs and methods for caring for your pond or lake. Have a weed problem in your water? Bring sample of your pond weeds to the workshop for ID & control recommendations! Dr. Todd Sink, Extension Fisheries Specialist will be with us to discuss the issues and help answer your questions.

Homeowner Maintenance of Aerobic Treatment Units Class

Thursday, July 16, 2015

8:30 AM – 3:30 PM +/-

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension office, Walker County

102 Tam Road, Huntsville, TX

Registration: \$100.00 per person

(Flyer attached to this newsletter) This class will be for individuals wanting to manage and maintain their home waste treatment system. Directed to the homeowner, this session provides a basic training in proper evaluation of structures, equipment and operation of already installed aerobic septic systems in homes. A certificate of attendance will be provided.



These classes usually run for 6 Hours (will be a weekday/daytime class) and cost \$100.00 per participant which will include lunch. There will be a minimum number of participants for the class to make. ***If you are interested in this topic, please contact the Extension Office at (936) 435-2426 so that we may place you on the class list.***

2015 Walker County Farmers Market

The 2015 Walker County Farmers Market will open in the parking lot of West Hill Mall located in Huntsville, Texas beginning **May 30 2015**. Hours for the market will be 8:00 AM until sell-out on Saturdays and Wednesdays.

Local producers will have a variety of farm fresh produce throughout the summer including; Tomatoes, Melons, Yellow Squash, Zucchini Squash, Potatoes, Lettuce, Onions, Peppers: (Pablono, Bell, Jalapeno, Banana, & others), Corn, Purple Hull Peas, Black Eyed Peas, Pinto Beans, Snap Beans, Okra and a seasonal variety of herbs.

Farmers interested in participating in the market are encouraged to contact the Walker County, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension office at (936) 435-2426 for additional information.

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

TEXAS A&M AGRI LIFE

Are you interested in taking advantage of the exceptionally wet Spring we have had? If so, this year may be an opportunity to establish warm season forages later than normal.

- ♦ **Warm Season Pasture Establishment**
 - Forage Selection
 - Soil Preparation & Fertility
 - Equipment Requirements
- ★ Management of Grasses Following Establishment
- ★ Grazing / Harvesting Timeframe Expectations
- ★ Weed Control & Economics

GUEST SPEAKER:
DR. LARRY REDMON
TEXAS A & M AGRI LIFE EXTENSION SERVICE

**EDUCATIONAL
PROGRAM
DEVELOPED BY:**
THE EXTENSION LIVESTOCK & PASTURE
COMMITTEE OF WALKER COUNTY

Extension programs serve people of all ages regardless of socioeconomic level, race, color, sex, religion, disability or national origin. The Texas A&M University System, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the County Commissioners Courts of Texas Cooperating.

Walker County Agriculture

Forage

Establishment

(taking advantage of a wet spring)

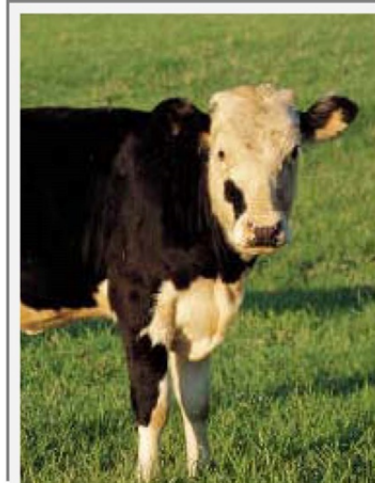
Texas AgriLife Extension
102 Tam Road

May 21, 2015

6:30 PM

\$10.00 Registration Per Person

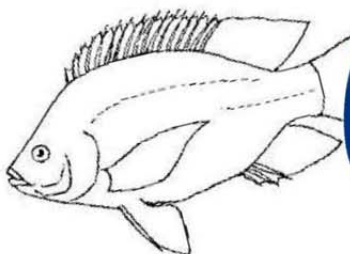
RSVP requested by 5/20/15 to Walker Co.,
Texas AgriLife Extension at (936) 435 2426.



**2 HOUR TDA PESTICIDE APPLICATOR
C.E.U. CREDIT
(GENERAL & IPM CATEGORIES)
WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR TDA PESTICIDE APPLICATORS**

TEXAS A&M
AGRILIFE

Aquaponics CLASS



Program will be held at the Walker County Extension Office 102 Tam Road Huntsville, TX approximately two miles north of the Pilot Truck Stop on Highway 75 N

**1 Hour TDA
Applicator
(IPM) CEU**

Join us on

Thursday– June 4th, 2015

5:30 P.M. –9:30 PM

Registration: \$25.00 per person includes evening meal and printed materials.

Credit!

Class Topics:

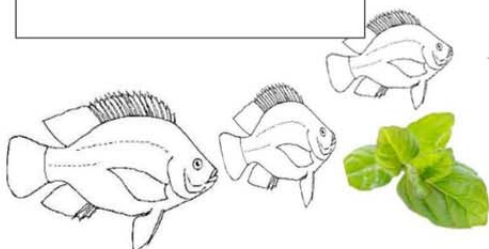
- ✕ System Design Requirements & Construction Suggestions
- ✕ Water Quality & Management Issues
- ✕ Fish Species Stocking Decisions
 - ✕ Plant Species Decisions
 - ✕ Nutrient Management
- ✕ How to Avoid Costly Mistakes!
- ✕ Managing Fish Population & Health

Do you have a desire to learn about alternative agriculture options and aquaponics?

Bring your questions to the class!

Guest Speaker:
Peter Woods,
Extension Specialist,
Wildlife & Fisheries
Sciences
Program Sponsored
by the
Walker County Livestock &
Pasture Committee and the
Extension Horticulture
Committee

For more information
please call 936-435-2426



Extension programs serve people of all ages regardless of socioeconomic level, race, color, sex, religion, disability or national origin.
The Texas A&M University System, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the County Commissioners Courts of Texas Cooperating.



Pond/Lake Management Workshop



Program will be held at the Walker County Extension Office
102 Tam Road
Huntsville, TX
approximately two miles north of the Pilot Truck Stop on Highway 75 N

**2 Hours TDA
Applicator CEU
Credit!**

Join us on **Tuesday– June 23, 2015**
from 6:30 P.M. until approximately 8:30 P.M.
for this informative Workshop.

Workshop Topics:

- x Pond Design Requirements & Construction Suggestions
- x Water Quality Issues
- x Should You Fertilize?
- x Pond/Lake Ecology
- x Stocking Decisions
- x To Feed or Not To Feed?
- x Common Aquatic Weeds
- x Weed Control Options

***Have a specific pond problem?
Bring your question to the
Workshop!***

**Program Sponsored
by the
Walker County
Livestock & Pasture
Committee.**

For more information
please call 936-435-2426

Reggie Lepley
Walker County Extension Agent
Agriculture

**Bring samples of your
pond weeds
for ID & Control
Recommendations!**



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The Texas A&M University System, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the County Commissioners Courts of Texas Cooperating.



Program will be held at the
Walker County Extension
Office
102 Tam Road
Huntsville, TX
*approximately two miles north of the
Pilot Truck Stop on Highway 75 N*

Interested individuals should contact Walker County Planning and Development, at (936) 436-4939, prior to taking the course to make sure their system meets the eligibility requirements for participation in this training.

AUDIENCE

Homeowners interested in gaining knowledge about the operation and maintenance of their onsite wastewater treatment systems.

PURPOSE

Present information on the function, operation and maintenance of aerobic treatment units. Hands-on demonstration of evaluation techniques to determine operational status of the treatment system.

**Program Sponsored
by the
Walker County Leadership
Advisory Board**

For more information
please call 936-435-2426

Reggie Lepley
Walker County Extension
Agent
Agriculture

REGISTRATION FEE \$100.00
Registration Deadline: July 13, 2015

HOMEOWNER MAINTENANCE OF AEROBIC TREATMENT UNITS

Thursday– July 16, 2015

from 8:30 AM. until approximately 3:30
P.M. for this informative Workshop.

\$100.00 Registration Fee Includes Lunch.

This course covers the components of an aerobic treatment unit and spray field onsite wastewater treatment system.

Presentations discuss the importance of maintaining the treatment system, health and safety considerations, basic concepts about the aerobic treatment processes, testing and reporting on the status of the treatment system, care and feeding of the aerobic treatment unit, maintaining the aerobic treatment system and tools and supplies for evaluating the system. These presentations provide a basic

understanding of the operational and maintenance activities for an aerobic treatment unit. The course explains how activities within the home can impact the operation of an aerobic treatment unit. The participants will leave this class with a better understanding of the practices required to keep their system working and limit interferences with the enjoyment of their property.

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The Texas A&M University System, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the County Commissioners Courts of Texas Cooperating.

**Wednesdays &
Saturdays
through the
growing season!**
8:00 AM until Sell out

**Fresh Local
Produce:**

Corn
Onions
Squash
Green Beans
Southern Peas
Potatoes
Peppers
Tomatoes
Okra
Herbs
& other
vegetables

Selection varies
by date and
production/
weather

Visit Regularly!

2015

**Walker County
Farmers**

Market



At the

West Hill Mall

(Hwy 30)

Parking Lot

Grand Opening:

May 30, 2015