



Walker County Agriculture News Update

September 2017

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

Good Afternoon,

You will note a change in this newsletter. Hopefully this will be a short-lived difference from our typical news and educational activities updates.

Hurricane Harvey and the impact created by this natural disaster in our area of the state has initiated a temporary but major change in our short-term programming for Texas A&M AgriLife offices along the Gulf Coast. Walker County is included in these counties. We are now working diligently to assist the Rebuild Texas Commission led by Commissioner John Sharp. In this role, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension is serving as the liaison between our local governments and the state agencies which will assist in the rebuilding of Texas.

Later in this newsletter, you will find information on agricultural assistance following the recent natural disaster.

Job Well Done!

I want to take this opportunity to **THANK** the **Walker County Animal Issues Committee** for their tireless work during Hurricane Harvey operations. With this group of dedicated volunteers in place we opened the small animal emergency shelter here in Huntsville on Friday, August 25th prior to landfall of the hurricane. Our assigned task is to support the Office of Emergency Management in Walker County and allow needed resources for public safety to be directed in an appropriate manner. In support of the emergency shelters housing people affected by disaster, the Walker County Emergency Animal Shelter housed up to 70 animals throughout the twelve days of operation. We received excellent support from our communities via supplies and short-term volunteerism which allowed us to function at a very high level. Due to the efforts from this committee, the Walker County Animal Issues Committee has been selected to be the recipient of WC Productions upcoming "Backyard BBQ Bash" to be held at the Walker County Fairgrounds, September 16th. The event sponsors will be donating 50% of the gate ticket sales to the Animal Issues Committee. The Saddle & Sirloin Club at SHSU also donated a significant amount to assist the committee's efforts – **THANK YOU for your support!**

Other communities to our south and east have had an even larger set of animal related issues to deal with. At the time of this writing; Animal Supply Points are still operating in six locations in Southeast Texas. At the high point of this disaster, there were thirteen locations in operation. These efforts have included the distribution of feed and hay to stranded animals by boat or air operations. Other additional assistance has been provided for livestock owners through the region to help normalize operations. Other counties have been housing both large and small animals in substantial numbers to support their Emergency Management efforts. **Donations of feed, hay, or other supplies are being coordinated through an Animal Supply Point phone bank at Texas A&M AgriLife at (979) 845-7800.**

*Due to the after effects of Hurricane Harvey, we did have to cancel the **Edible Landscape Symposium** which was to have been held September 8th & 9th. Currently we are looking to reschedule the event for February 16th & 17th, 2018.

All previously scheduled or announced educational events are still on the calendar to be held:

In County Educational Topics:

Whitetail Deer Management Seminar #4
September 14th, 2017 @ 6:30 PM
Texas A&M AgriLife Office, Walker Co (102 Tam Road)
\$10.00 /person (RSVP to 936-435-2426 for seating)

Interpreting harvest records and Developing harvest recommendations are the focus of this seminar. This will be the last whitetail deer program for 2017. Participants have learned in-depth concepts and techniques to assist in managing their wildlife resources. Dr. Larry Redmon has served as a great resource instructor for this series and will bring the lessons of the past year to a conclusion. Join us to understand how and why harvest recommendations are made which ultimately support the whitetail deer population and the health of the herd.

A.W. – H.E.C.K.! Ants! (2 CEU's)
Tuesday, September 20, 2017 @ 6:30 PM-approx. 8:30 PM
Walker County AgriLife Extension Office
102 Tam Road,
Huntsville, TX 77320
\$10.00 /person (RSVP to 936-435-2426 for seating)

Ant Workshop – Helping Environmental Control Kick-In! Do you have ants around the yard or around the barn areas? I bet you do! Dr. Paul Nester, Extension IPM Specialist, Harris County, will be our guest speaker for this workshop. Dr. Nester will have a variety of equipment on hand for demonstration which will help you choose options that may best fit your needs for fire ant control. Recommendations for products and their applications will include strategies for controlling this pest to your best advantage.

Cow Country Congress (to be followed by an evening TSCRA Ranch Gathering/same location)
Friday, October 13, 2017 @ 8:30 AM (Registration)
Santa Rosa Ranch (Houston County – Hwy 21 @ Sand Ridge, TX)
Registration Fee: \$20.00 prior to October 6th, \$30.00 after October 6th (No charge for the TSCRA Ranch Gathering)
Registration form is attached to this mailing.

8:30am	Registration and Vendor Set Up	
9:30	Ranch Welcome and History	Gerald Sullivan, Kelley Sullivan, Randy Parten
	Santa Rosa Ranch – A Virtual Tour	Kelley Sullivan, Kent Smith
10:30	Santa Rosa Herbicide & Forage Program	Dr. Vanessa Corriher-Olson
11:30	Legislative Update	Representative Trent Ashby Congressman Robert Nichols
12:00	Lunch and Vendor Time	
1:15	Global Trade Impacts	Mr. John Porter, Congressman Kevin Brady's Legislative Director
2:00	Global Trade Impacts on Beef Industry	Dr. Jeff Savell
2:45	Break and Vendor Time	
3:15	Group Split into 2 Groups: <i>Groups will switch to other session at rotation time</i>	
	Bull Selection (Pens)	Dr. Jason Cleere
	Winter Feeding (Commodity Barn)	Dr. Jason Banta
5:00	Return Evaluation and Pick up CEU and BQA Certificates	
5:30	Registration for Ranch Gathering	

Fall Plant Identification Workshop (3 CEU's)

Friday, October 20th, 2017

3:00 PM

SHSU – Gibbs Ranch (Hwy 75 N, Huntsville)

\$10.00 /person (RSVP to 936-435-2426 for workshop)

We walked the roadsides, fields, timber lines and woods this past spring. Now it is time to look at the fall season plants, both native and introduced that commonly grow in our area. If you have ever wondered what that plant was, join us as Dr. Barron Rector, Extension Rangeland Specialist shares his knowledge of our local flora. Emphasis will be placed on the utilization of plants by wildlife, livestock and the plants role within the environment.

Walker County Olive Field Day (2 CEU's)

Monday, October 30th, 2017

4:00 PM

SHSU – Gibbs Ranch (Hwy 75 N, Huntsville)

No Charge (RSVP required to 936-435-2426 for field day)

Join us to view the Olive orchard at SHSU and learn about this exciting and new developing agricultural crop in Texas. Dr. Bobby Lane, SHSU Professor of Agronomy will be our field day guide to growing olives in Walker County. Learn about the selection, planting, care and maintenance needed to grow olives in our area of the state.

1st Friday Webinars (Monthly Horticulture Topics)

Walker County, Texas AgriLife Extension Office

12 Noon – 1:00 PM

(FREE – RSVP is required 936-435-2426)

We are still offering these sessions! The presentations have been full of outstanding information. If you wish to watch the webinar on your own computer at home or elsewhere, you do have that option. All you must do is go online to <http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/smallacreage/> and click on the link for that date, then enter the password which is: online

Interested in some additional horticulture topic trainings? If so, here is the answer! These webinars will be shown at the Walker County AgriLife Extension office. Trainings will be held the first Friday of the month. If you wish to attend, RSVP to (936) 435-2426. RSVP is requested for those attending here on-site is so that we may contact you in the event of any changes.

I am providing this set of diverse presentations as continuing education credit for our Walker County Master Gardeners; however, anyone is invited to attend. Bring your lunch with you! The remaining 2017 schedule is:

- October 6 – Successful Watermelon and Tomato Production
- November 3 – Growing Vegetables in Containers
- December 1 – Hugelkultur

Online Educational Topics:

2017 Texas Range Webinar Series

12:00 PM (Recommended: check each webinar prior to day to confirm starting time)

No Cost for non-CEU recipients/\$10.00 with CEU's

Enroll in Course: <http://naturalresourcewebinars.tamu.edu/upcoming/>

October 5 – Forage Forecasting: Decision Support for Rangeland Systems

November 2 –(1- CEU-IPM) The Tools in our Land Management Toolbox

December 7 –Grazing with a purpose – Managing for what you WANT

Hurricane Harvey Disaster Related Topics:

Assistance Available for Flood Damaged Ag Land through NRCS

TEMPLE, Texas – *September 6, 2017* — The USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) in Texas has established two special Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) sign ups to help farmers and ranchers that suffered damage to working lands and livestock mortality as a result of Hurricane Harvey. EQIP is available to help farmers and ranchers treat the on-farm/ranch problems caused by the high winds, rainfall and flood waters due to Hurricane Harvey along the Texas Gulf coast.

Declared Disaster Counties and eligible under these sign ups include: Austin, Aransas, Bastrop, Bee, Brazoria, Calhoun, Chambers, Colorado, DeWitt, Fayette, Fort Bend, Galveston, Goliad, Gonzales, Hardin, Harris, Jackson, Jasper, Jefferson, Karnes, Kleberg, Lavaca, Lee, Liberty, Matagorda, Montgomery, Newton, Nueces, Orange, Polk, Refugio, Sabine, San Jacinto, San Patricio, Tyler, Victoria, Walker, Waller, and Wharton.

An EQIP special sign up specific to agricultural livestock mortality and carcass disposal is now open and available to immediately assist producers in disposal of livestock carcasses on their farm or ranch. This special sign up ends **September 22, 2017**.

NRCS is also now accepting EQIP applications from producers in the Harvey disaster declared counties to apply conservation practices, to address resource concerns due to Harvey, as well as agricultural livestock mortality carcass disposal. The first funding deadline is **October 6, 2017**, with additional funding dates of November 3, 2017 and December 3, 2017.

Farmers and ranchers seeking NRCS financial and technical assistance can sign up for EQIP at their local NRCS office or if already a USDA client, on-line via Conservation Client Gateway (CCG). CCG can be accessed at <https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/cgate/>. Conservation practices available through this EQIP funding are specifically designed to address flood and wind damage, and excessive runoff to address natural resource concerns caused by the hurricane and provide future protection from exceptional storm events.

For more information contact your local USDA Service Center office in your county, call 1-888-489-8732 or visit the Texas NRCS Web site at www.tx.nrcs.usda.gov. Information regarding EQIP can be found at <https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/tx/programs/financial/eqip/>.

Did you have flood damage to hay or feed?

How do ranchers replace flood damaged feed and hay of which they had stored up for the coming winter? The 2014 Farm Bill authorized Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees and Farm-Raised Fish Program (**ELAP**) with up to \$20 million in a fiscal year. It covers losses due to an eligible adverse weather or loss condition, including blizzards and wildfires, as determined by the Secretary. See the following link for details.

https://www.fsa.usda.gov/Assets/USDA-FSA-Public/usdfiles/FactSheets/2017/elap_for_farm_raised_fish_aug2017.pdf

Animal Carcass Disposal following a natural disaster: Information from the Texas Animal Health Commission

Animal Carcasses on Private Property: Animal owners and operators are responsible for the proper disposal of their animals on their property. To learn about common methods of non-diseased animal carcass disposal visit [Disaster-Related Carcass Disposal Guide](#). If you find a stray animal carcass on your property, report it to the local jurisdiction (county or city).

Animal Carcasses on Public Property: Animal carcasses found on public property or rights-of-way should be reported to the local jurisdiction (county or city) to be handled through the jurisdiction's debris management plan.

If you have questions or would like more information regarding Extension Educational Programs, call us at (936) 435-2426.



Reggie Lepley

Reggie Lepley,
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Walker County
(936) 435-2426

Provisions from the American Disability Act will be considered when planning educational programs and activities. Please notify the Walker County Extension Office if you plan on attending an Extension Educational program and need specialized services. Notification of at least three to five days in advance is needed, so that we may have ample time to acquire resources needed to meet your needs.

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