



Walker County Agriculture Update

April 2018

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

“Teaching kids how to feed themselves and how to live in a community responsibly is the center of an education.” Alice Waters

The Walker County Fair is happening...

Supporting the growth and development of youth who will follow our footsteps is essential. These will be the individuals who's endeavors will travel well beyond our footsteps. Think about that. After you have contemplated the situation, join us at the Walker County Fair and support these young people. Everybody can travel further when the trail begins with a good start.

<http://www.walkercountyfair.com/events>

This newsletter is a bit short due to current time constraints. I hope you don't mind too much.

Glad to have you here! Read on.

- *When you have the opportunity, let others hear your message.*

Upcoming Events:

Pond & Lake Aquatic Management Workshop SERIES (CEU's provided)

You are encouraged to attend either workshop or both as needed.

Pond & Lake Part #1

(2 hours CEU credit available)

Tuesday, April 17th, 2018

(6:00-8:00 PM)

Walker County AgriLife Extension Office (102 Tam Rd & SH75 N, Huntsville, TX)

\$10.00/participant for each workshop

RSVP to (936) 435-2426

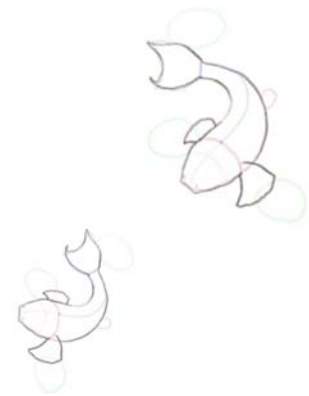
Pond & Lake Part #2

(3 hours CEU credit available)

Monday, April 30th, 2018

(6:00-8:00 PM)

Walker County AgriLife Extension Office (102 Tam Rd & SH75 N, Huntsville, TX)



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

Dr. Michael Masser will be our guest speaker for both aquatic workshops. We will be taking an “in-depth” (pun intended) look at some of the common issues and situations which pond and lake owner experience. If you need help and want to have a real aquatic expert assist you with pond management questions, Dr. Masser is somebody you need to meet!

Workshop Topics:

Part 1: Water Quality Management for new or newly refurbished impoundments, Fish Selection & Stocking with additional information on related management needs.

Part 2: Aquatic Weed Identification & Control Options, Management needs/issues into the Summer season.

Food Handlers Certification Course

April 17, 2018

8:00 - 11:00 AM

Walker County AgriLife Extension Office (102 Tam Rd & SH75 N, Huntsville, TX)

\$20.00/participant

RSVP by April 10th to (936) 435-2426

This course developed from our Farmers Market organizational meeting. We have interest in on-farm/home-based food processing in our area and the Food Handlers Certification is required for some home-based enterprises. For more information, please contact Meredith Cryer, Walker County Family & Community Health Extension Agent, (936) 435-2426.

Preserving the Harvest

May 24, 2018

10:00 AM - 2:00 PM

Walker County Storm Shelter (445 SH75 N, Huntsville, TX)

\$25.00/participant

RSVP to (936) 435-2426

Wasting good home-grown vegetables is a terrible thing. At one time or another, we all grow more vegetables than we can eat. Sometimes we have trouble giving the extra to family, friends, and neighbors. Here is an outstanding opportunity to learn the proper methods to safely preserve your harvest for later enjoyment. Topics that will be discussed: Water Bath Canning, Hands-On Workshop to prepare Tomato Salsa, Pressure Canning and Pressure Canner Testing, Jams, Jellies, and Preserves, Freezing, Drying, Pickling. Join us for this extensive training on safe recommended methods and techniques to preserve the bounty of your home gardens.

Walker County Farmers Market (Grand Opening Date)

June 2, 2018

8:00 AM

West Hill Mall Parking Lot

The 2018 Walker County Farmers Market will open in the parking lot of West Hill Mall located in Huntsville, Texas beginning **June 2nd, 2018**. 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: (Poblano, 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.

Out of County Events:

East Texas Pecan Conference & Field Day

April 16, 2018

Ben E Keith meeting room (2019 W. Oak Street, Palestine, TX)

Cost: Participant/\$20.00 person

Registration/More Info: contact the Anderson County Extension Office at 903-723-3735, RSVP by April 13

On Monday April 16, 2018 there will be an East Texas Pecan Conference and Field Day with registration starting at 7:45 a.m., program will begin at 8:30 a.m. Location is 2019 W. Oak Street at Ben E Keith in their meeting room. We ask that you RSVP by April 13, 2018 by contacting the Anderson County Extension Office at 903-723-3735. Cost for this program is \$20.00, includes lunch and 2 CEU's; 1 hr IPM and 1 hr General. The afternoon part of this program we will travel to Texas Pecan Lakes Ranch, Palestine, Tx, located at 3131 Anderson County Road 2101.

This conference and field trip is designed to assist Homeowner Pecan Producers as well as Commercial Pecan Producers. If you have questions about insects, disease, fertilizing, zinc or watering existing trees then you don't want to miss this event. Perhaps you are interested in starting a Pecan Orchard you will want to attend this program. Topics for this program will be, Early Season Pecan Disease Management, Fertility Management of Pecans, Orchard Rehabilitation and Grafting, Weevils and Orchard Management Discussion.

Speakers include Monte Nesbitt Extension Program Specialist with Texas A&M AgriLife Extension. He works throughout the State of Texas on Pecans, Temperate Fruits and Citrus. He also conducts research on Fruits and Nuts in the areas of Propagation, Freeze Protection, Water Management and Variety Performance. Bill Ree, Extension Program Specialist, Bill directs the statewide Pecan IPM Program focusing on Pecan IPM information to assist pecan growers on how to manage pest in an economically effective and environmentally friendly. His work includes all important Insect Pest of Pecans in the Southwest, Insects and Disease Complexes. Truman Lamb, Anderson County Extension Agent Ag/NR. Lamb has worked pecans since 1984 including Variety Trials, Fertility Studies, Insect and Disease, Result Demonstrations and Research, Lamb also conducts several Pecan Grafting Clinics each year throughout East Texas.

This program is being sponsored by Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service Offices of East Texas.

Yes, I've already had a few of these phone calls:

Grassbur (Field sandbur)

With sandy, acidic, low nitrogen type soils you can expect to encounter this plant sooner or later... Here is a good, quick read on identification of Field sandbur: <https://foragefax.tamu.edu/2018/04/04/weed-of-the-week-grassbur-field-sandbur-sandbur-etc/>

Keep in mind that chemical control options for pasture and turfgrass will not be the same products. If you noted my description of the environment where this plant is commonly found, you know what needs to change to ultimately solve the situation. Soil pH and nitrogen fertilizer will help greatly by encouraging the growth or establishment of desirable plants. The problem is that can become an expensive situation depending on where you are working to modify those environmental conditions.

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



Reggie Lepley

Reggie Lepley,
County Extension Agent – Agriculture & Natural Resources
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