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### Upcoming Dates

- ◆ Soil Campaign, Feb 1-28, 2017
- ◆ WCMG Speaker Series: Mar. 2, 2017
- ◆ Lone Star Health Streams: Mar. 3, 2017
- ◆ IPM in Rice Mills: Mar. 7, 2017
- ◆ WCMG Speaker Series: May 4, 2017
- ◆ Private Applicators Licenses Training: May 18, 2017
- ◆ WCMG Speaker Series: June 1, 2017
- ◆ WCMG Speaker Series: July 6, 2017
- ◆ Backyard Basics: July 6, 13, 20, 2017
- ◆ Private Applicators Licenses Training: Aug. 17, 2017
- ◆ Private Applicators Licenses Training: Nov. 9, 2017

Check for fliers in the back of the newsletter for more information



# Ag Newsletter

February 2017

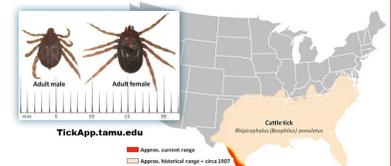
## Cattle Fever Tick *by: Joe Paschal, Livestock Specialist, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension*

As we begin a new year we are faced with an old pest, the fever tick. The fever tick (actually there are two different species) once ranged as far north as Virginia and is the host for the blood parasite that causes Cattle or Tick Fever. This disease can kill as many as 90% of the affected cattle.

Beginning in 1906, the USDA Fever Tick Eradication Program eliminated fever ticks down to a 500 mile stretch of Texas along the Rio Grande. This line runs from Del Rio to the Gulf of Mexico and is known as the Permanent Quarantine Zone. Inside the Zone, actually a buffer between the US and Mexico (which has both the ticks and the disease), fever ticks are often found since the river is not a perfect barrier. Wildlife and stray cattle from Mexico can bring ticks across. Tick riders patrol this Zone on horseback to look for cattle with ticks.

Outside the Zone, the fever tick is not usually found unless it is carried by wildlife or in a special case, by an exotic antelope, the Nilgai. Cattle and other livestock inside the Zone must be treated for ticks with an insecticide and inspected before leaving.

Recently fever ticks (but not the disease) were found in Live Oak County requiring a Temporary Quarantine Zone to be established by the Texas Animal Health Commission, the state regulatory agency responsible for animal health. TAHC is inspecting and treating affected herds to reduce the economic impact on producers. Cattle producers have their choice of two treatment options or their pastures can be vacated for 6-9 months to starve the tick.



### For more information:

Texas Animal Health Commission

[http://www.tahc.state.tx.us/animal\\_health/cattle/#ticks](http://www.tahc.state.tx.us/animal_health/cattle/#ticks)

TAHC Fever Tick Brochure

[http://www.tahc.state.tx.us/news/brochures/TAHCBrochure\\_FeverTick.pdf](http://www.tahc.state.tx.us/news/brochures/TAHCBrochure_FeverTick.pdf)

TAHC Frequently Asked Questions

[http://www.tahc.state.tx.us/news/brochures/TAHCBrochure\\_FeverTickFAQ.pdf](http://www.tahc.state.tx.us/news/brochures/TAHCBrochure_FeverTickFAQ.pdf)

APHIS Fever Tick Fact Sheet

[https://www.aphis.usda.gov/animal\\_health/animal\\_diseases/tick/downloads/pest\\_alert.pdf](https://www.aphis.usda.gov/animal_health/animal_diseases/tick/downloads/pest_alert.pdf)



## Master Gardeners: Tips

February can keep you busy in the vegetable garden. Now is a good time to continue planting radishes, spinach and lettuce, all of which you can harvest in March and April. Continue planting mustard greens and turnips and add some chard to harvest in April. Beets, Onion transplants, cabbage and broccoli plants can be planted now to enjoy in April and May. put potatoes and cauliflower plants in the ground now to be harvested in May as well. Add some carrots for May and June harvesting. if you started tomato, pepper and eggplant seeds in January, move the plants to a cold frame to prepare them for March planting.

Some recommended varieties for Waller County are Packman and Green Comet broccoli, Imperial and Snow Crown cauliflower, Red Ace and Ruby Queen beets.

**We're excited to announce our 2017 Speaker Series scheduled the first Thursday of each month at 9AM. Each month we've scheduled a speaker to discuss various gardening topics. Our first presentation is on Thursday, February 2 at 9AM at the Extension Office. Mike and Connie Arden will discuss Fire-Wise Landscaping and how to protect your buildings with good landscape design. All presentations are free! Come have a cup of coffee with us and learn about a new topic each month.**

***See the flyer for more details.***

## Name that Plant? Bag-Pod Sesbania

### Description

Bag-pod sesbania is an annual herb in the legume family that grows to 6 to 10 feet tall. The leaves consist of 20 to 40 alternate leaflets. Drooping spikes of yellowish to coral-colored flowers appear in late summer.

The beaked pods consist of two membranes, the outer one thick and the inner one papery. Each holds two or three seeds. The pods persist on the plant long after the leaves have fallen. The kidney-shaped seeds have a prominent hilum, or eye.

### Habitat

These plants grow in the eastern half of Texas and extend eastward through the coastal states to North Carolina. They are usually found in well-drained sandy sites in wetter regions and in low sandy areas subject to flooding in drier regions.



### Toxic Agent

Bag-pod sesbania contains sesbaimide, which is concentrated in the seed. Fresh green plants are unpalatable; only the mature dry seedpods and seeds are consumed. Animals pastured with the plant during the growing season are seldom poisoned, but naïve ruminants, especially goats and cattle, are often poisoned when they are introduced to the dried plants in the fall and winter. Clinical observations indicate that newly mature seeds are more toxic than those that have weathered on



the plant. The seeds of bag-pod sesbania (*S. vesicaria*) seem to be more toxic than those of sennabeen (*S. drummondii*).

### Signs of Livestock Ingestion

Signs of poisoning occur within 1 or 2 days after consumption and can include: depression, diarrhea, Weakness, Rapid heart rate, Labored breathing, and Death. Death quickly follows the onset of clinical signs, which in many cases go unobserved. Seeds and/or seed fragments are routinely found in the rumen contents of animals that die from eating this plant.



## Master Gardeners: The Rosarian's Corner *by: Connie Holub WCMG*

January was the month for relaxing, dreaming of new roses and planning where to put them. February is the month to get started.

February 14, is the day for giving and receiving roses. It's also the designated day in our area for pruning those rose bushes. If you don't know anything about pruning there are many books, classes, and "You Tube" videos online. Arbor Gate of Tomball usually has a rose pruning class in March featuring Houston Rose Society's Gaye Hammond. You can check Arbor Gate's website for their March Classes.



February is also a good time to move roses that are in the wrong place, grown too large for their location, or ended up in a shady spot. When it comes time to transplant, prepare the bed first. Make sure the hole is not deeper than the rose root ball you dug up. When you dig up the rose, check for damaged roots and trim if need be. Water but do not fertilize for about six weeks.

This month is also a good time to clean and sharpen your pruners. It might also be the time to change out blades or buy a new pruner. I have a pair of Felco #6 rose pruners. They are a size medium which fits my hand perfectly and keeps it from cramping.

Right after pruning is a good time to fertilize established roses. It doesn't really matter if it's organic or synthetic. Organic is fish emulsion, animal manure, bone meal or alfalfa meal. When Looking at synthetic fertilizers, use a balanced N-P-K which is nitrogen (N), phosphorus (P), and potassium (K), such as 10-10-10.

Many rosarians recommend Microlife 6-2-4, Microlife Ultimate 8-4-6, Magic Rose Mix, Osmocote Plus and Nelson Color Star. These can be found at many of your box stores such as Lowe's and Home Depot.



Don't forget spraying. It's a good time to start a spray program. If you had black spot last year, the spores are in your bed around the rose bush. You need to spray a fungicide on the canes and on the mulch around the bush.

Also, check your mulch. If it is thin in places, put more on. I always put new mulch on each Spring. It makes everything look fresh for Easter.

Looking for a pretty, pink rose? My favorite is Belinda's dream. It blooms profusely throughout the year and needs very little attention. The flowers are 3 1/4 to 4 1/4 inch clusters and have a moderate, fruity, raspberry fragrance. It is a cross between a "Tiffany" and a "Jersey Beauty" and is an upright, sturdy, shrub rose. You can find it at Arbor Gate, Antique Rose Emporium, and Lowe's.





# Waller County Soil Testing Campaign

**February 1- February 28, 2017**

This campaign is open to all Cattle and Forage producers. Soil bags, campaign forms, and directions can be picked up at Waller County Extension Office.

All bags, forms and payment must be received by **February 28, 2017** at:

Waller County Extension Office  
846 6th St.  
Hempstead, Texas 77445

Please make checks payable to:  
**Beef and Forage Committee.**

Stacie Villarreal  
CEA Agriculture/Natural Resources  
[Texas A&M AgriLife Extension](#)  
[Waller County](#)  
979-826-7651  
[stacie.villarreal@ag.tamu.edu](mailto:stacie.villarreal@ag.tamu.edu)



For more information contact us at 979-826-7651.

**TEXAS A&M  
AGRI LIFE  
EXTENSION**

**Routine analysis:  
\$7.00**

**Routine + micronutrients:  
\$14.00**

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension provides equal opportunities in its programs and employment to all persons, regardless of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, disability, age, genetic information, veteran status, sexual orientation, or gender identity. The Texas A&M University System, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the County Commissioners Courts of Texas Cooperating. Individuals with disabilities, who require an auxiliary aid, service or accommodation in order to participate in any Extension activity, are encouraged to contact the County Extension Office for assistance 5 days prior to the activity.

***Insect Pest Management in Rice Mills and Rice Storage Facilities -  
Optimizing Control and Grain Quality***

**Date & Time:** 9:00AM – 2:30 PM, Tuesday, March 7, 2017

**Location:** Hlavinka Equipment Company, 17405 Hwy 90A, East Bernard, TX 77435

**Registration:** Help us obtain an accurate head count by emailing Brandy Morace at [bmorace@aesrg.tamu.edu](mailto:bmorace@aesrg.tamu.edu) or by calling at (409) 752-3045 by March 1

**Workshop Organizers:** Ted Wilson & Yubin Yang (Texas A&M AgriLife Research Center, Beaumont)

Dear Potential Participants:

You are invited to attend an informative workshop on post-harvest insect pest management for rice mills and on-farm rice storage facilities. The workshop is organized by the Rice Post-Harvest Grain Management Project, which is funded by the United States Department of Agriculture, National Institute of Food and Agriculture Methyl Bromide Transition Grants Program. Your presence will help to make this a productive meeting.

***Major topics covered will include:***

- 1) Current status and challenges of rice insect post-harvest pest management
- 2) Integrated pest management programs for post-harvest milled and rough rice
- 3) Monitoring and dynamics of insect pests inside and around rice mills
- 4) Structural treatments, residual insecticides, and aeration
- 5) Economics of post-harvest rice insect pest control
- 6) Integrated post-harvest rice insect pest management tools

***Presenters/Team Members***

Brian Adam	<i>Oklahoma State University</i>
Frank Arthur	<i>USDA-ARS Center for Grain and Animal Health Research</i>
James Campbell	<i>USDA-ARS Center for Grain and Animal Health Research</i>
Tanja McKay	<i>Arkansas State University</i>
Mike Stout	<i>Louisiana State University Agricultural Center</i>
Ted Wilson	<i>Texas A&amp;M AgriLife Research</i>
Yubin Yang	<i>Texas A&amp;M AgriLife Research</i>





**Waller County Master Gardeners**  
**2017 Speaker Series**  
 Free to the Public

Waller County Extension Office (WCEO)  
 846 6<sup>th</sup> St. in Hempstead, TX 77445    979-826-7651



Come for Coffee – Leave with Garden Ideas



Call the Extension Office to reserve your spot, space is limited.  
 All presentations start at 9AM, approximately 1 hour.

Date	Topic	Speakers
2/2/17 Thurs	Fire-Wise Landscaping	Mike and Connie Arden
3/2/17 Thurs	Planting Bog Gardens	Suzanne Milstead
5/4/17 Thurs	Garden Photography	Dr. Ron Billings
6/1/17 Thurs	Cactus/Succulents, Medicinal	Liliana Cracraft
7/6/17 Thurs	Worm Composting	Charlene Perry
8/3/17 Thurs	Food Forest Gardening	Michelle Ramotowski

**More to be announced**



Educational programs of the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service and the Cooperative Extension Program at Prairie View A&M University are open to all people without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, disability, genetic information or veteran status. Individuals with disabilities who require auxiliary aide service or accommodation in order to participate in the event are encouraged to contact our office within 5 working days prior to the program. The Texas A&M University System, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the County Commissioners Courts of Texas Cooperating.

## Workshop

### Information

This Workshop is designed to train Personnel in cities and municipalities that are in the field of mosquito abatement or are working on setting up a mosquito control program.

The workshop will educate personnel on mosquito identification, biology, ecology, control tactics, trap use, surveillance, virus testing, Zika and mosquito control.

Registration is

**\*No Charge**

Lunch Provided

# Vector Management Workshops 2017

Victoria—February 27th

Abilene—March 10th

Rosenberg—March 14th

Round Rock—March 20th

Grapevine—March 22nd

In Conjunction with Municipal Mosquito -

Small Fee will be charged

Tyler—April 7th

San Antonio—April 20th

Weslaco—April 27th

Lubbock—May 4th

Houston—May 11th

In conjunction with HCPHES

El Paso—June 15th

## Pesticide CEUs

### Offered:

#### 5 Agriculture:

2 General, 2 IPM, 1 Laws/  
Regulation

#### 3 Structural:

1 General, 1 IPM, 1 Laws/  
Regulation

Registered Sanitarian CE's  
and

Animal Control CE's

Register Online at

<http://livestockvetento.tamu.edu/2017-workshop/>

Or Call Heidi @ 254-968-4144

Contact Dr. Sonja Swiger at

[slswiger@ag.tamu.edu](mailto:slswiger@ag.tamu.edu)

**\*No charge for workshop since funding is through a CDC grant  
focusing on mosquito management education.**

*The members of Texas A&M AgriLife will provide equal opportunities in programs and activities, education, and employment to all persons regardless of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, age, disability, genetic information, veteran status, sexual orientation or gender identity and will strive to achieve full and equal employment opportunity throughout Texas A&M AgriLife.*

# 2017 Texas Large Animal Emergency Rescue

## Sponsored By The Montgomery County Adult Horse Council



Dr. Rebecca Gimenez, of Technical Large Animal Emergency Response will cover two days of lectures and demonstrations. \*Incident Prevention \*Emergency Scene Mgmt \*Large Animal Restraint  
\*Basics of Mud-Water-Ice  
\* Confined Space Rescue  
\* Trailer Incidents  
\*Barns and Wildfires  
\*Integration of Veterinarians into Emergency Response, and MUCH MORE!



**April 21-22, 2017  
in Conroe, Texas.**

**Total cost is 100.00  
(lunch included)**

**For more  
information and  
registration  
contact  
Montgomery County  
Extension Office at  
936-539-7822**

**Approved CE for  
TCLEOSE, TEEX, DSHS (ACO),  
DVM, LVT is pending**



If you are a Veterinarian, respond to Animal Incidents, or own/manage animals, this class is especially for you.



SAVE THE DATES:  
**July 6th, 13th & 20th, 2017**

Be on the lookout for location, time and pricing this summer!

# Waller County

## Backyard Basics

Please join your Waller County AgriLife Extension team  
& Master Gardeners for a **THREE** part educational series.

Topics to include:

*Home Friendly Gardening*

*Backyard Chickens*

*Easy Canning*



TEXAS A&M  
**AGRI LIFE**  
EXTENSION



TEXAS A&M  
**AGRI**LIFE  
EXTENSION

# Private Applicators Licenses Training

Training-\$10

Books - \$40

*(2 manuals)*

***Please RSVP to  
reserve your  
spot, space is  
limited.***

***Please mail  
checks or bring  
money by before  
the Training.***

***Checks payable:  
Extension  
Program Council***

*Nonrefundable*

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension  
Service

Waller County Office &  
Cooperative Extension Program

846 6th Street  
Hempstead, TX 77445

Phone: 979-826-7651  
Fax: 979-826-7654

<http://waller.agrilife.org>

**When:** Thursday, May 18, 2017

Thursday, August 17, 2017

Thursday, November 9, 2017

*Trainings are from 1pm to 5pm*

*Check in/Registration starts 30 mins before*

*Dates & Times are subject to change*

**Where:** Waller County Extension Office,

846 6th Street, Hempstead, TX 77445

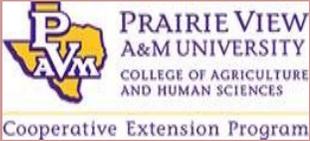
The purpose of this training is to obtain a Private Applicator License from Texas Department of Agriculture. This license will enable the applicator to purchase and apply state limited use and federally restricted chemicals on his land or land he has control of for the purpose of production of agricultural commodities. All farm and ranch operators who do not have a Private Applicator's License to purchase "restricted use" pesticides (such as 2, 4-D, Grazon P+D, Tordon 22K, etc.) will need to attend this training.

If you are interested in obtaining a Private Applicator license, please contact the Waller County office at (979) 826-7651 to RSVP and to purchase the manuals.

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension provides equal opportunities in its programs and employment to all persons, regardless of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, disability, age, genetic information, veteran status, sexual orientation, or gender identity. The Texas A&M University System, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the County Commissioners Courts of Texas Cooperating

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Phone: 979-826-7651  
Fax: 979-826-7654

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Waller County  
Extension Office

We're on the web  
<http://waller.agrilife.org/>

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# Help stray livestock get home

Property  
Gate Signs

\$12  
each

**OWNER/AGENT:** \_\_\_\_\_  
Waller County  
Sheriff's Office 979-826-8282 #XXXX

Unclaimed livestock strays will be held in the custody of Waller County Civil Division a minimum of 18 days and a Notice of the impoundment may be posted on the public notice board at the county courthouse, posted on the website, posted on Facebook or advertised in the local newspaper once per week, for two consecutive weeks and the animal will be held an additional 3 days at the conclusion of the advertisement. In an effort to expedite locating the owner(s) of stray livestock, the Waller County Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Office, through the Beef & Forage is offering pasture gate signs to assist law enforcement in identification of landowners and operators.

These signs are available to the residents of Waller County for \$12.00 each and are about 5"x20" in size. They can be attached to gates or fences where they are visible from the road. The signs are durable and individualized for each producer with an assessing number and a place for a phone number, Ranch name, or Owners Name.

Please call Waller County Extension Office at 979-826-7651 or visit the Extension office at 846 6th Street in Hempstead, TX for further information or to purchase yours today.

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service  
Waller County Office &  
Beef & Forage Committee

846 6th Street  
Hempstead, TX 77445  
Phone: 979-826-7651 / Fax: 979-826-7654

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