

Ag Newsletter



Stacie Villarreal
 County Extension Agent
 Ag/Natural Resources
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Upcoming Dates

- ◆ Open house at the Extension Office 1-19-16
- ◆ Central Texas Beef 706 Class starts 1-19-16
- ◆ Master Gardeners Intern Class Starts 1-21-16
- ◆ Winter Row Crops Mtg. 1-22-16
- ◆ Wildlife Valuation Workshop 1-28-16
- ◆ Master Gardener Tree Sale Pick up 1-30-16
- ◆ Ag Valuation Workshop TBA
- ◆ Lone Star Healthy Streams 3-4-16
- ◆ MG Spring Gardening Seminar 3-5-16

January 2016

New County Agent FCS

Hello everyone, my name is Hallie M. Decker. I will be the new County Extension Agent for Family and Consumer Sciences. I am thrilled to have the opportunity to be a part of Waller County and the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension service.

I grew up in Arlington, Texas where I developed an interest in health and a desire to help others. I was an active participant in various groups within nutrition, interior design, family development, student leadership, and was president of the apparel/fashion design throughout high school. After graduating high school, I attended Texas Tech University in Lubbock, TX where I studied and earned a degree in Human Sciences. I re-

ceived concentrations in Nutrition, Human Development and Family Studies, and Family and Consumer Sciences-Extension.

I completed an internship within Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service during the summer of 2014 in Lamb County with CEA Mandi Seaton. This internship strengthened my desire to be an Extension Agent myself. After conducting various events such as senior citizens wellness programs, diabetes support group meetings, and kids cooking camps, I knew that Extension is where I want to be.

With my experience in Extension, my passion for nutrition, and my educational background, I am confident that I will make an

outstanding County Extension Agent. I will be starting in the Waller County office on January 4, 2016 and would love to introduce myself, as well as answer any questions you might have.



Last Call– Master Gardeners 2016 Intern Class

Last call to register for our 2016 Master Gardener Intern Training Program. We need a few more to sign up so we can proceed with the class! \$160 per person (or \$260 for 2 if you share a Master Gardener binder) is a great value for the amount of information and activities you'll receive. Just added to the



class schedule is Bill Adams who will speak on home fruit and nut tree production (check out his blog on the Arbor Gate Nursery website). Field trips to the Ft. Bend Vegetable Conference in February and the plant diagnostic lab on the Texas A&M Campus in College Station are included, as are visits to Katy Prairie and Peckerwood Garden. New this year is a class on beekeeping by one of our Waller County Master Gardeners, Pam Romig. We have lined up

some fun field trips for 2016 and have plans for more community involvement, but we need more members to be successful! If you have any questions about the class requirements, etc., please call the Extension Office at 979-826-7651 or email us at waller-mgardener2013@gmail.com. Additional information, including the application, can be found on our website, www.txmg.org/ wallermg. We look forward to speaking with you and hope you'll consider joining our class!



Pre-Sale of 2 Trees (Extras of these were purchased for Fruit Sale)

Cara Cara oranges are believed to have developed as a cross between the Washington navel and the Brazilian Bahia navel at the Hacienda de Cara Cara in Valencia, Venezuela. These distinctive oranges, botanically classified as *Citrus sinensis*, are commonly referred to as "the pink navel"; they look like a traditional navel, but their rosy flesh and remarkable taste make them a stand-out. They are sweeter and juicier, with notes of cherry and blackberry and are virtually seedless.



The Natchez blackberry is easy to grow and nutrient dense. It produces large berries bursting with flavor, great for jams, jellies or eating fresh. It is considered an erect to semi-erect variety, but benefits from trellising. The best part – it's thornless! The Natchez was given the Texas Superstar® designation in 2013, a registered trademark owned by AgriLife Research, part of the Texas A&M University System. More information about the Texas Superstar program can be found at <http://texassuperstar.com/>.

Others will be available the day of pick up, if you would like to see what is available you will need to show up that day! Pick up will start at 10am on Saturday, January 30, 2016 at the Tegeler Used Car Dealership in Hempstead, TX. First come first served.

Central Texas Beef 706

The Texas Beef Council (TBC) and Texas AgriLife Extension Service have teamed up to present a special Beef 706 program, a three-part series of hands-on sessions focusing on beef quality management and marketing opportunities. This program is available to beef cattle producers from Austin, Colorado, Fayette, Lee, Waller, and Washington counties.

The checkoff-funded program is designed to help producers maximize profits and have a better understanding of the production process after their cattle enter the feedyard.

Session one will be held January 19, 2016 at Cattlemen's Livestock Auction Center in Brenham, TX. Here industry experts will discuss factors effecting feeder calves. Producers will then choose a calf to monitor through the production system at the following two sessions.

More Information to come, be on the look out for flier.

**Extension
Office Open
House Tuesday,
January 19,
2016
11am-1pm
Come & Go
Refreshments,
Please RSVP to
office 979-826-
7651**

New Trichomoniasis Regulation

The Texas Animal Health Commission made some changes to the Trich control program regulations that will be implemented starting January 1, 2016. The regulations now state:

"The maximum age for bulls to be sold as 'virgins' in Texas was lowered from 24 to 18 months. Bulls may still be sold as 'virgins' up to 30 months of age if a veterinarian will co-sign a statement along with the owner, stating that the bull has not been in contact with female cattle. Virgin bulls are not required to be tested upon change of ownership. A separate Trichomoniasis rule passed which requires the testing of bulls on adjacent pastures to where an infected bull was disclosed."

Enrollment Period for the Conservation Reserve Program Begins

The general enrollment period for the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) began Dec. 1, 2015, and ends Feb. 26, 2016. The CRP is a federally funded program that assists producers with the cost of restoring and protecting land, water quality and wildlife. As of September 2015, 24.2 million acres were enrolled in CRP. Producers with expiring contracts or producers with environmentally sensitive land are encouraged to evaluate their options under CRP. For more information visit your local FSA office.

Name that Plant? Antelopehorn Milkweed

Antelopehorn milkweed is an erect-stemmed plant growing to about 15 inches tall. Leaves are narrow, lance-shaped and about 3 inches long. The flowers are greenish with distinctive purplish horns and are present from March to October. The fruit is a wrinkled pod containing silk-tufted seeds.

Most abundant in western Texas, this plant has also been recorded in the northern, central and east central regions of the state. It ranges north into Nebraska and west into southern Utah and southeastern California. It often abounds in open pastures, along arroyos, draws, bar ditches, trails and roadsides.

The toxic agents involved are cardiac glycosides. Antelopehorn milkweed poisons all

livestock, especially sheep. A toxic dose is generally considered to be 1.2 percent of the animal's body weight in green plant material.

Signs of poisoning produced by most species of *Asclepias* differ only in degree. They include: First, profound depression, weakness and staggering; Collapse, followed by fre-

quent, intermittent muscular tremors; Labored respiration, elevated temperature and pupil dilation; Death after a comatose period of variable duration.

Signs appear within a few hours of ingestion of a toxic dose, and death follows within a few days in most fatal cases.



The following are from the Veterinary Entomology Newsletter

Mineral needs of cattle throughout the year

Minerals are important building blocks of functional life. A 1,500-pound beef cow may need supplemental minerals during several crucial periods throughout the year. A beef cow requires both macro minerals and trace elements. It is important to have proper mineral balance in the forages a cow might be consuming and be aware of the demand the cow has for those minerals. Management of minerals comes with assessing the needs of the animal. For example, gestating cows have different requirements than lactating cows. Have the forage analyzed for mineral content and then work with your veterinarian or beef nutritionist to determine proper supplementations. Don't put off the minerals, a good mineral program should remain important.

Bovine Anaplasmosis

Anaplasmosis has been the buzz this year in the south but many are not sure what it is. Anaplasmosis is a disease of the blood caused by the parasite *Anaplasma marginale* in cattle. It is seen worldwide and reported in at least 40 states. Disease outbreaks can lead to death due to anemia of adult cattle, in addition to abortions, decreased weight gain, bull fertility and treatment costs. *A. marginale* is transmitted two different ways, mechanically and biologically vectored. Mechanical can occur via infected needles, dehorners, ear taggers, castration knives or other surgical instruments. Research shows that 6 out of 10 calves exposed to an injected needle used on a carrier calf will become infected. Another mechanical way of transmission is through the infected mouthparts of biting flies such as horse flies, deer flies and mosquitoes. Mechanical transmission is short lived since the parasite cannot survive long outside the body. *Anaplasma* can also be transmitted biologically by winter ticks. The ticks receive the parasite from an infected animal and replicate it for up to a year. In which time they can transmit to other animals. Anaplasmosis clinical signs are most severe in adult cattle. Calves less than one year do not show clinical signs but will become carriers for life. Cattle 1-3yrs old will show increasingly more severe clinical signs. Cattle over 3yrs old that are newly infected will show the most severe clinical signs and 30-50% will die if not treated early. First signs of infection for most are death, but if observed frequently cattle will start to fall behind the herd and will not eat or drink. Treatment is necessary early on and there is a vaccine.

**TEXAS AGRILIFE
EXTENSION
AND
COOPERATIVE
EXTENSION PROGRAM**

YOU ARE INVITED

O P E N H O U S E

C O M E & G O

J A N U A R Y 1 9 , 2 0 1 6

1 1 : 0 0 A . M . — 1 : 0 0 P . M .

**W A L L E R C O U N T Y
E X T E N S I O N S E R V I C E
8 4 6 6 T H S T R E E T
H E M P S T E A D , T X 7 7 4 4 5**



The mission of the Waller County Extension Service is to serve the citizens of Waller County through education, research, and service which create vital economic, environmental, and societal benefits.

● *Agriculture & Natural Resources-Farming, Ranching, Wildlife, Forages, Horticulture, and Soil Fertility*

● *Family & Consumer Sciences-Health, Nutrition, Parenting, Child & Senior Caregiver Education, Home and Money Management*

● *4-H Youth & Development-Food & Nutrition, Animal-Companion, Livestock, Photography, Public Speaking, and Life Skills*

● *Community & Economic Development- Development of Individual Abilities, Community Support for Creating and Growing Businesses, Jobs, and Wealth and Income*

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

Please RSVP By
January 14th, 2016

By Calling
Texas AgriLife Extension
Waller County Office
979.826.7651

**TEXAS A&M
AGRILIFE
EXTENSION**



**PRAIRIE VIEW
A&M UNIVERSITY**
COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE
AND HUMAN SCIENCES

Cooperative Extension Program



Find us online at:

<http://fortbend.agrilife.org>

John Gordy, CEA- Ag/NR

John.gordy@ag.tamu.edu

Winter Row Crops Meeting

Fort Bend, Brazoria and Waller Counties

Friday, January 22, 2016 ~ 8:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Rosenberg Civic Center
3825 Highway 36 South
Rosenberg, Texas 77471

This meeting will include:

Sugarcane Aphid Management Updates
Waters of the U.S. and Boll Weevil Update
TDA Updates on 2,4-D and Dicamba Products
Minimizing Risk and Techniques for Grain Marketing
Detection and Management of Herbicide Tolerant Weeds

3 CEU's will be offered:

- 1- IPM
- 1- General
- 1- Laws and Regulations

Please RSVP by Wednesday, January 20th at 5:00 p.m.
by contacting Brandy Rader at 281-342-3034 or
by email at Brandy.rader@ag.tamu.edu

Waller County Wildlife Valuation Workshop

Date: January 28, 2016

Time: 9am-12pm

Registration 8:30am

Waller County Appraisal District

*Chris Barzilla, Waller County Chief Appraiser
Becky Gurrola, Waller County Deputy Appraiser*

Introduction to Wildlife Valuation

*Stephanie Damron, Natural Resource Specialist,
Texas Parks and Wildlife Department*

Supplemental Shelter for Wildlife

*Blake Eikenhorst, Private Consultant,
Frontier Land and Wildlife Management*

Invasive Plants

*Paul Baumann, Ph.D, Professor/Extension Weed
Specialist, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension*

NCRS Programs

*Craig Pate, District Conservationist,
Natural Resource Conservation Service*

Hempstead Masonic Lodge #746

701 Main Street

Hempstead, Texas 77445

*Parking is on 7th Street,
across from the*

Hempstead United Methodist Church

Registration is \$10 per person.

**RSVP'S MUST BE RECEIVED BY
JANUARY 25, 2016 BY 5 PM**

**REGISTRATION MADE AFTER
JANUARY 25 IS \$15 PER PERSON**
1 General CEU credit

Please Register at the
Waller County Extension Office
846 6th Street
Hempstead, Texas 77445
979-826-7651



**PRAIRIE VIEW
A&M UNIVERSITY**
COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE
AND HUMAN SCIENCES

Cooperative Extension Program

TEXAS A&M
AGRILIFE
EXTENSION



2016 East Texas Fruit & Vegetable Conference

Feb 16, 2016
Nacogdoches Expo Center

3
CEU's

TOPICS INCLUDE:

Fungicide Trial on Pumpkins
Insect Pesticides
Grape Diseases
Olive Problems
Organic Tomato Production
Organic Pesticides
Kiwis @ SFA
Tecnology on the Farm
SFA GARDEN TOUR

SPONSORS:

Irrigation Mart, Inc.
Farm Bureau
Certis USA
Wildroot Organics
Bayer Crop Science

RSVP WITH
PAYMENT by FEB 12

\$30 cost
\$50 for couples
\$20 for current MG
\$5 late fee after Feb 12

Registration: 8:30am Program: 9:00am
Nacogdoches Expo Center, 3805 Stallings Dr.

FOR MORE INFO

Ricky Thompson 936.560.7711
R-Thompson@tamu.edu

Joe Masabni 903.834.6191
jmasabni@tamu.edu

Call 936.634.6414
for early
registration and
payment

Educational programs of the Texas A&M Agrilife Extension Service are open to all people without regard to race, color, sex, disability, religion, age, or national origin, genetic information or veteran status. The Texas A&M University System, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the County Commissioners Courts of Texas Cooperating. Anyone needing special assistance at an Extension Program should contact the Texas Agrilife Extension Office at 936.560.7711 at least one week prior to the program or event.

Waller County Master Gardeners Association is proud to host our

Spring Gardening Seminar

Saturday, March 5, 2016



Time: 10:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m. Lunch Included
Where: Waller County Road & Bridge Annex Bldg.
775 Business 290 East
Hempstead, TX 77445
Fee: \$25.00 per person Pre-registration only—
closes March 3. Mail or drop off at:
Waller County AgriLife Extension Office
846 6th St.
Hempstead, TX 77445
Checks payable to WCMG Association
CEUs: Master Gardeners Only
Questions: Call the Extension Office at 979-826-7651
M-F, 8AM-5PM or
Email wallermgardener2013@gmail.com

Featuring:

- ▶ Paul Eyre - Vegetable Gardens
- ▶ Herman Auer - Fruit Trees
- ▶ Trey Bethke - Soils
- ▶ Pam Romig - Bees

*****Lunch Included*****

Plants & Garden Items
for Sale

*****Door Prizes*****

Individuals with disabilities who require auxiliary aide service or accommodations in order to participate in Extension programs are encouraged to contact our office to discuss specific needs 5 days prior to program dates.

Facebook—Waller County Master Gardeners

www.txmg.org/wallermg



TEXAS A&M AGRILIFE EXTENSION

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.

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



Cooperative Extension Program

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

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

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Debbie Tiner
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Thank You!

FRUIT AND NUT TREE PRE-SALE IS NOW CLOSED



WALLER COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS

The Waller County Master Gardeners would like to thank all of you who pre-ordered trees and support our fund-raising efforts.

The trees will available for pick-up at the Tegeler Used Car Dealership in Hempstead on Saturday, January 30, 2016 from 10am to 2pm. We will have a limited number of additional trees available for sale at this time as well, first come-first serve!

Waller County AgriLife Extension Office
846 - 6th Street
Hempstead, TX
979-826-7651
Website: txmng.org/wallermg

