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Upcoming Dates

- ◆ 62nd Beef Cattle Short Course August 1-3, 2016
- ◆ 2016 Generation Next: Understanding Market Fluctuations August 15, 2016
- ◆ East TX Fruit & Vegetable Conference August 19, 2016
- ◆ 2016 TX sheep & Goat Expo August 19-20, 2016
- ◆ 2016 Generation Next: Planning Land Use & Surveying Your Resources Sept. 19, 2016
- ◆ Bennett Trust Women's Conference October 3-4, 2016
- ◆ 2016 Generation Next: Agricultural Apps for Smartphones & Tablets October 17, 2016
- ◆ Cow Calf Clinic October 28, 2016
- ◆ 2016 Generation Next: Land Management Toolbox November 21, 2016
- ◆ 2016 Generation Next: Target Wrap-Up Session December 19, 2016

Ag Newsletter

August 2016

Oak Leaf Blister

Oak Leaf Blister. A very common leaf spot disease this year is oak leaf blister. All varieties of oaks can get this disease, although water oak (called pin oak by some folks) seems to be the most susceptible. As the name implies, a blister-like spot is created on the leaves, often causing the leaf to distort. If the infection is severe, some of the leaves may fall off of the tree.

The main thing concerned folks want to know is whether leaf blister will hurt or kill the tree. Leaf spots alone will not kill oaks. Premature defoliation is stressful to trees, but if a tree is otherwise healthy, it will quickly grow back another set of leaves.

Leaf blister infection took place in March and early April. When leaf buds open in the spring, fungal spores present on the bud scales infect the expanding leaves. Infection is most severe in wet, cool spring weather. Because of the narrow window for leaf infection, the fungus seldom becomes severe enough to require treatment. Even in years when early infection is severe, it is normally limited to only the first few leaves that emerge. In areas where spring weather conditions frequently favor disease development, fungicides are applied at early bud swell and repeated in 10 days. Due to the limited injury done to the tree by this fungus, fungicide treatments are normally restricted to only those trees that are highly valuable and visible in the landscape.





Master Gardeners News

We hope you had a chance to visit the Waller County Master Gardeners booth at the Hempstead Watermelon Festival. We enjoyed giving away free plants, watermelon jelly samples and stickers for the kids. Thanks to our generous partners who donated plants - Arbor Gate Nursery, Bluebonnet Herb Farm, Brazos Citrus Nursery, Creekside Wholesale Nursery and Plant Pro Wholesale Nursery, as well as Peckerwood Garden for tour tickets. Master Gardener Linda Dement and her husband Ted once again represented our group in the Watermelon Festival Parade and placed second overall.



Breaking News!!! - Waller County has scheduled the 2017 Master Gardener Intern Training Schedule for Saturdays! We are still working on the schedule but tentatively classes will be scheduled beginning January 7 thru mid April for minimum 6 hours most Saturdays.



More Breaking News!!! - Our next Fruit and Nut Tree Sale Fundraiser is coming up soon. Pickup day is scheduled for January 28, 2017 at the same fantastic location Tegeler's Used Car Lot in Hempstead, as last year.

Look for more information about these 2 events in upcoming newsletters, local papers and emails. If you are not signed up for Waller County Master Gardeners' email blast, send us an email at wallermgardener2013@gmail.com and we'll add you to the list.

Name that Plant? Sedges

There are many types of sedges (over 100) and they are difficult to identify without using detailed botanical keys. In general, sedges are perennial plants that resemble grasses, grow in shallow water or moist soils, and can reach 4 feet in height. Sedges often grow in thick clusters or tussocks. Stems of sedges are usually triangular. Spikes occur on the upper sections of the plant and can be single or in groups. Submerged portions of all aquatic plants provide habitats for many micro and macro invertebrates. These

invertebrates in turn are used as food by fish and other wildlife species (e.g. amphibians, reptiles, ducks, etc.). After aquatic plants die, their decomposition by bacteria and fungi provides food (called "detritus") for many aquatic invertebrates. Sedges are considered good wildlife plants. Sedges are grazed by muskrats, nutria, and rabbits, while the seeds are consumed by waterfowl and small birds.

For management options please visit: <http://aquaplant.tamu.edu/management-options/sedges/>



2016 Agricultural Custom Rate Survey

The Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service has published online the 2016 Texas Agricultural Custom Rate survey of regional and state rates charged for custom agricultural operations. "Each year, AgriLife Extension receives many requests for prevailing rates for certain kinds of work and custom farm or machine operations," said Dr. Steven Klose, AgriLife Extension economist in College Station. "This is an update of information that has been used extensively over the years."

To view current and past custom rate publications, visit <http://agecoext.tamu.edu/crs>. The online publication is 27 pages. It includes data on tractor rentals, tillage operations, planting operations, application of fertilizer and chemicals, cotton harvesting, peanut harvesting, hauling and drying, combining and hauling grains, haying and silage operations, land preparation, brush control and miscellaneous livestock operations.

2016 Agricultural Custom Rate Survey Cont.

A survey was distributed to select farmers, ranchers, landowners and custom operators across Texas to acquire information for the publication. In addition, this year the survey included an online version open to the public. The results helped establish a baseline of rates statewide to further assist with inquiries about custom-hire activities, Klose said.

“We are very thankful for the people who take the time to complete this survey,” Klose said. “Outside of this survey, market information on specific custom work in Texas is very limited to non-existent. This publication provides a range of rates for different services. It’s an important information resource whether you are providing or hiring custom services in Texas agriculture.”

Myth Busting Cattle, Climate Change and Green house Gas Production *by: Joe*

Paschal, Livestock Specialist, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension

A myth is an unproved or false collective belief that is used to justify a social institution. One popular myth is that cattle production is the major cause of global warming or climate change because of the production and release of greenhouse gases into the atmosphere. These include carbon dioxide (CO₂), methane (CH₄) and nitrous oxide (NO₂) among others. Global warming is caused by the molecules of these gasses trapping the heat of the sun’s radiation as it is reflected from the Earth. A good deal of naturally occurring water vapor is also a major factor causing global warming. Methane and nitrous oxide have a much greater warming potential (25 to 300 times more) than carbon dioxide which is why it is considered more important to reduce them too.



In 2010, carbon dioxide represented 76% of all worldwide greenhouse gas emissions while methane represented 16% and nitrous oxide was 6%. Agriculture and forestry contributed a total of 24% of all greenhouse gas emissions but 20% of that amount was removed from the atmosphere by plants. In 2014, agriculture accounted for only 9% of all greenhouse gases produced in the US, much less than electricity production, transportation and industry. Cows don’t release any carbon dioxide or nitrous oxide but they do produce methane. Methane is created by the digestion of coarse forages and released through eructation or belching, but cows are not the biggest source of methane, agricultural or otherwise. All beef production, including dairy, is responsible for only 9.4% all global or 1.9% all US greenhouse gas emissions.

This small level of emissions can be and is being reduced with the use of improved forage varieties, grain finishing, ionophores, and growth implants. Improved forage varieties have lower structural carbohydrates and are more digestible releasing less methane. Grain finishing produces less methane, grain is more digestible and allows cattle grow faster and more efficiently than on grass. Ionophores reduce methane production in the rumen by shifting the microbial population from methane producers to producers of more easily absorbed volatile fatty acids. Finally growth implants reduce methane production implants increasing growth and efficiency, reducing the amount of feed fed overall.

Cattle production does contribute to the greenhouse gas emission as does all of agriculture, but far less than other sources. In addition cattle producers and the agricultural sciences are continuing to reduce those emissions and improve the efficiency and productivity of beef.

Garden Helpers

Master Gardeners are asking if you enjoy gardening and would like to help others in their garden please let them know. Several individuals have approached them as they need younger labor to help with their gardening chores. Also in turn if you need help in your garden from time to time to let them know as well.

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

TEXAS A&M
AGRI LIFE
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.

Generation Next

Our Turn to Ranch Webinars

Join us for a 12-Webinar Series Agricultural Business Start-Up School

- ✓ Gain ideas for operations you can add to an existing ranch
- ✓ Learn options for setting up grazing & wildlife leases
- ✓ Discuss business types, tax info, & insurance needs
- ✓ Exposure to all the latest land management tools & techniques
- ✓ Taught by professionals in each field and topic

**GENERATION
NEXT**
Our Turn to Ranch

*One Monday of every Month
during the noon hour
January-December 2016
Watch from your computer!*

Course Includes: 12 webinar classes of Expert Instruction and
a Generation Next School Completion Certificate

Registration Fee: \$120

To Register: <https://agriliferegister.tamu.edu/GenNextWebinar>

Or call 979-845-2604

Contact: Megan.Clayton@ag.tamu.edu or 361.265.9203

TEXAS A&M
AGRI LIFE
EXTENSION

2016 Generation Next: Our Turn to Ranch

Webinar School – noon to 1 pm

January 11th (early because of MLK day)

- Setting up a New Agriculture Business

February 15th

- Understanding Business Taxes 101

March 21st

- Business Insurance Needs

April 18th

- How to set up Grazing and Wildlife Lease Agreements

May 16th

- Shaping Your Own Future Using Social Marketing

June 20th

- Ecotourism

July 18th

- Alternative Ranching Operations

August 15th

- Understanding Market Fluctuations

September 19th

- Planning Land Use and Surveying Your Resources

October 17th

- Agricultural Apps for Smartphones and Tablets

November 21st

- Land Management Toolbox

December 19th

- Targeted Wrap-Up Session

East Texas Fruit and Vegetable Conference

TEXAS A&M
AGRI LIFE
EXTENSION

Friday, August 19, 2016

**Overton Research and Extension Center, 1710 FM 3053 N, Overton, TX
75684**

Program Offers 3 CEU Credits

8:00 a.m.: Registration Starts

8:30 a.m.: Welcome

8:45 a.m.: Wildlife Management and Feral Hog Control, *Billy Higginbotham*

9:45 a.m.: Break

10:00 a.m.: Aquaponics, *Joe Masabni*

11:00 a.m.: Beekeeping, *Gus Wolf*

Noon: Lunch Break

12:45 p.m.: Concurrent Sessions Start

Producer Session

Moderator: Randy Reeves

12:45-1:30 p.m.

Vegetable Production

Lowell Tanksley

1:30-1:45 p.m.

Break

1:45-2:30 p.m.

Stone Fruit Production

Elizabeth & Brady Johnson

2:30-3:20 p.m.

Marketing

Kim & Randy Snyder

3:30 p.m.: Tour of Aquaponics Greenhouse

Homeowner Session

Moderator: Chad Gulley

Backyard Grape & Muscadine

Justin Scheiner

Break

IPM

Joe Masabni

Figs

David Creech

Registration/Information:

Fee: \$30 for individuals or \$50 for couples.

Deadline: August 1, 2016 – Additional \$5 for late registration after

Cancellation policy: No refund

Make checks to: East Texas Fruit and Vegetable Conference

Mail to: Chad Gulley, Smith County Extension Office, 1517 W Front St, Room 1116, Tyler, TX
75702

*For more information, contact Dr. Joe Masabni at jmasabni@tamu.edu or 903.834.6191
Or your local County Extension Agent*

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A premier sheep and goat educational event



SPEAKERS

DR. DAVID ANDERSON
 AgriLife Extension Economist, College Station

MIKE BODENCHUK
 Director, Texas Wildlife Services

BOB BUCHHOLZ
 Rancher, Schleicher County

DR. THOMAS CRAIG
 Professor, Veterinary Medicine, Texas A&M University

WARREN CUDE
 Rancher, Pecos County

PRESTON FARIS
 Rancher, Sutton County

NICK FORREST
 Past Chairman, American Lamb Board

PHILLIP GLASS
 President, American Dorper Society

DR. RON GILL
 AgriLife Extension Livestock Specialist, College Station

KAYLN HODGES
 Sterling Lamb, Sterling City

WESLEY HODGES
 Rancher, Sterling County

CRAIG JONES
 Capra Foods, Goldthwaite

DR. RONALD POPE
 AgriLife Research Scientist, San Angelo

DR. SHAWN RAMSEY
 Assoc. Professor, Animal Science, Texas A&M University

DR. REID REDDEN
 AgriLife Extension Sheep & Goat Specialist, San Angelo

BRAD ROEDER
 AgriLife Extension Agent, Gillespie County

DR. CAREY SATTERFIELD
 Asst. Professor, Animal Science, Texas A&M University

DR. DENNIS STIFFLER
 Chief Executive Officer, Mountain States Rosen

DR. Charles "BUTCH" TAYLOR
 AgriLife Research Scientist, Sonora (Retired)

BILL THOMPSON
 AgriLife Extension Economist, San Angelo

DR. JOHN TOMECEK
 AgriLife Extension Wildlife Specialist, San Angelo

DR. DAN WALDRON
 AgriLife Research Scientist, San Angelo

AUGUST 19 & 20

Friday &
 Saturday

**SAN ANGELO
 FAIRGROUNDS**
 San Angelo TX

REGISTRATION

\$30 early registration
 \$50 after August 17th

**SEE PROGRAM ON
 REVERSE SIDE**

Register online: <http://agrilife.org/westresults/registration>

For more information call (325) 653-4576

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Friday, August 19

- 1:00 pm Registration/Exhibits**
- 2:00 pm Welcome and Introductions**
- 2:10 pm Market Update**
Dr. David Anderson
- 2:30 pm Mock Auction-Marketing Tips using Live Animals**
Expert Panel
- 3:45 pm Break**
- 4:00 pm Concurrent Sessions - A, B, C**
- Session A**
Developing a Plan to Manage Internal Parasites...Smart Drenching
Dr. Reid Redden
- Session B**
How to Cook Awesome Lamb... Old Favorites and New Recipes
Nick Forrest
- Session C**
How to Minimize Losses to Predation
Dr. John Tomecek & Mike Bodenchuk
- 6:00 pm Dinner/Guest Speaker**
"Past, Present, and Future of Mountain States Rosen"
Dr. Dennis Stiffler
- 7:15 pm Demonstrating Low Stress Animal Handling- Techniques, Facilities Equipment, Stockman Skills**
Bob Buchholz

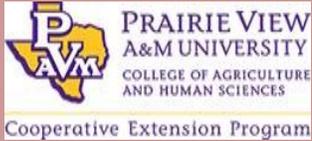
Saturday, August 20

- 7:00 am Chuck Wagon Breakfast** *Cocklebur Camp, Odessa TX*
- 8:30 am Welcome and Introduction**
- 8:40 am Sheep and Goat Industry Updates**
- 9:00 am Concurrent Sessions - SEE SCHEDULE BELOW**
- 12:00 pm Lunch/Guest Speaker**
"What is going to Shape the Future of Animal Agriculture"
Dr. Ron Gill
- 1:00 pm Concurrent Sessions - SEE SCHEDULE BELOW**
- 1:45 pm Demands of Consumers/ Evaluation of Carcasses**
Dr. Dennis Stiffler -Mountain States Rosen
Kalyn Hodges -Sterling Lamb
Craig Jones -Capra Foods
- 3:00 pm Closing Remarks/Door Prize Winners/Adjourn**



Concurrent Sessions –Saturday, August 20

Hair Sheep Session		Wool Sheep Session		Club Lamb Session		Meat Goat Session	
9:00 am	Appreciation for the Unique Traits of Hair Sheep <i>Phillip Glass</i> <i>Wesley Hodges</i>	9:00 am	Labor and Resource Management <i>Producer Panel</i>	9:00 am	Protecting your Investment – Ram Management <i>Dr. Shawn Ramsey</i>	9:00 am	History of Meat Goat Production in Texas <i>Preston Faris</i>
9:45 am	Effective Management Systems for Hair Sheep <i>Producer Panel</i>	9:45 am	Making the most from Wool <i>Dr. Ronald Pope</i>	10:00 am	Ewe Management to Increase Flock Productivity <i>Dr. Carey Satterfield</i> <i>Panel Discussion</i>	9:45 am	Successful Practices in Commercial Meat Goat Production <i>Producer Panel</i>
11:00 am	Do's and Don'ts on Handling Dorper Sheep <i>Brad Roeder</i>	11:00 am	Managing for Profit <i>Producer Panel</i>	11:00 am	Lamb Management; Lambing to Weaning (Pasture Lambing vs Jugs, Nutrition, etc.) <i>Panel Discussion</i>	11:00 am	Can you Manage for Meat Goats and White-Tailed Deer? <i>Dr. John Tomecek</i>
1:00 pm	Getting your Hair Sheep Ready for Sale or Show <i>Warren Cude</i>	1:00 pm	"Shepherds for Profit" Workshops <i>Dr. Reid Redden and</i> <i>Bill Thompson</i>	1:00 pm	Holistic Approach to Parasite Management <i>Dr. Thomas Craig</i>	1:00 pm	Utilizing Meat Goats to Control Brush and Improve Range Health <i>Dr. Butch Taylor</i>



Texas A&M AgriLife Extension
Service
Waller County Office &
Cooperative Extension Program

846 6th Street
Hempstead, TX 77445

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Like us on Facebook
Waller County
Extension Office

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

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Bennett Trust Women's Conference

October 3-4, 2016

Inn on Barons Creek
308 S. Washington St.
Fredericksburg, Texas 78624



Join us for an exclusive 2-day conference for women with property in the beautiful Edwards Plateau.

Conference

Conference includes presentations, discussions, and "behind the scenes" tour:

- History of the Hill Country
- Stewardship of Natural Resources
- 1-D-1 Land Tax Valuation
- Brush Management
- Financial Literacy/Estate Planning

Conference attendees receive all meals, break refreshment items and field tour transportation. Come and join us as we discover the history and resource management of a very special region of Texas: the Edwards Plateau.

For more information and to register, please visit:
BennettTrust.tamu.edu



**SAVE
THE DATE**
45th South Central

Texas Cow-Calf Clinic

October 28, 2016

At the Washington County Fairgrounds in Brenham, TX.

For details or to get involved keep checking our
website at Washington.agrilife.org or

Like us on Facebook:
www.facebook.com/washingtoncountyextension

Welcoming
Display Bulls
& Heifers!!

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