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## Upcoming Dates

- ◆ Lone Star Health Streams: Mar. 31, 2017
- ◆ Soil Workshop: TBA April 2017
- ◆ Agriculture Symposium-Webinar: April 18, 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
- ◆ South Central Cow Calf Clinic Oct. 27, 2017
- ◆ Private Applicators Licenses Training: Nov. 9, 2017

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



# Ag Newsletter

March 2017

## **Bull Management is key to successful breeding season** *by: Adam Russell*

Bull management before and during breeding season can improve producers' chances for reproductive success, said a Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service expert. Proper bull management is necessary for successful breeding programs. Monitoring the health of bulls prior to and during breeding season can improve a producer's chances of having a successful calf crop. (Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service photo by Adam Russell)

Dr. Jason Banta, AgriLife Extension beef cattle specialist, Overton, said it's important to make sure bulls are ready and in good condition heading into breeding season. A body condition score of 5-6 is recommended before breeding season starts, he said. "If they are too fat or too thin it can impact fertility," he said. Bulls also need to be on an appropriate vaccination program and treated for internal and external parasites, Banta said.

Four to eight weeks before breeding, consider having a veterinarian perform a breeding soundness exam on bulls, Banta said. The exam will determine if a bull is a satisfactory potential breeder. A semen sample will be collected to assess sperm motility and whether sperm morphology is good or shows defects. The veterinarian will also palpate the reproductive organs to make sure everything is normal, he said. "We want to do this a few weeks before turnout so that we have time to find a replacement if there is a problem," he said.

Once bulls are placed on pastures it's important to monitor them, Banta said. Producers should be sure bulls are checking to see when cows are in heat and that the bulls are physically able to breed normally. "Additionally, any injuries or foot rot will impact a bull's desire to breed and should be addressed immediately," he said.

Banta said it is also important to keep records of cows that have been bred by a bull. Write down the identification numbers, and make sure the cow does not come back into heat. "A lot of cows in heat at the end of breeding season is a bad sign and generally indicates fertility problems in one or more bulls," he said.

Banta said some producers keep bulls in pastures with heifers and cows year-round, but that he recommends setting a fixed breeding season. Bulls should be allowed access to cows for no more than about 90 days to reduce the potential for heifer calves being bred prior to weaning.

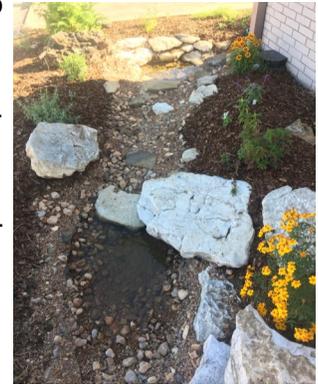
"Physiologically, 6-7 month old heifers aren't ready to be bred even though they may come into heat," he said. "It's best to wait until they are 13 ½ months to 15 months old."

Banta said a fixed season also makes day-to-day management practices, such as vaccinations, simpler to implement because calves are of similar age and cows are in similar stages of production. "Keep these management tips in mind as we get closer to breeding season because any problems could end up costing you a future calf crop," he said.



## Master Gardeners: Extension Garden

Well the Master Gardener Butterfly garden is complete... for now! We are just missing the butterflies but soon they will be happy to have such a beautiful garden to lay eggs in and hatch. If you have not stopped by since the Master Gardeners have completed it please do, and the best part is there is a lovely bench to have a seat on and rest.



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 next presentation is on Thursday, May 4 at 9AM at the Extension Office. Dr. Ron Billings will discuss Garden Photography 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? Henbit

Henbit (*Lamium amplexicaule*) is a cool season, annual broadleaf weed. Seedlings begin to emerge in early fall and grow throughout the fall, winter and spring. Henbit can dominate turfgrass in the spring throughout the southern region.

Although henbit is not known for any herbal or medicinal purposes, this plant is used in flower arrangements because of its unusual leaf shape and arrangement.

### Description:

Henbit, a member of the mint family, has characteristic square stems. Stems are slender, ascending or prostrate, and freely branched at the base. Stems may root at the lower nodes. Leaves are opposite, nearly circular, deeply veined, hairy and petioled. Upper leaves clasp the stem and the lower leaves are distinctly



petioled. Roots are shallow and fibrous.

Flowers, conspicuous in early spring, are tubular, pink to purple, and borne in the leaf axile. Seeds are borne in a pod.

### Control:

Henbit is most effectively controlled with herbicides in the fall while plants are small and immature. Products containing dicamba, MCPP and 2,4-D have demonstrated effective control in the fall and early spring. In dormant bermudagrass, glyphosate,



diquat or metribuzin will control henbit.

If applied prior to germination, products such as surflan, bensulide, pendimethalin and simazine also provide good control of henbit. Follow label directions on all products recommended for henbit to obtain the best control.



# WILDFIRE RELIEF

## for the Texas Panhandle

Thank you for your interest in helping the residents of the Texas Panhandle who sustained losses as a result of the wildfires beginning March 6, 2017. Following is contact information for donating hay, feed, fencing supplies or other livestock or ranch supplies. If you prefer to make a monetary donation, checks can be made payable to three Volunteer Fire Departments in the affected areas and mailed directly to banking institutions for deposit with the fire departments. Local committees will be established to determine the best way to use donated funds to benefit those affected by the wildfires.

### SUPPLY POINTS FOR LIVESTOCK FEED AND RANCH SUPPLIES

(Please call for supply point hours of operation prior to delivering supplies)

<u>Gray County</u>	<u>Hemphill County</u>	<u>Lipscomb County</u>
Clyde Carruth Pavilion 301 Bull Barn Drive Pampa, TX Contact: Mike Jeffcoat Office: 806.669.8033 Cell: 580.467.0753	Canadian AH&N Ranch Supply 100 Hackberry Trail Canadian, TX Contact: Andy Holloway Office: 806.323.9114 Cell: 325.668.0466	Lipscomb County Show Facility 202 West Main Street Lipscomb, TX Contact: J.R. Sprague Office: 806.862.4601 Cell: 806.202.5288

### WILDFIRE RELIEF MONETARY DONATIONS

	<b>Gray County</b>	<b>Hemphill County</b>	<b>Lipscomb County</b>
Check payee:	Lefors Volunteer Fire and EMS Service, Inc.	Canadian Volunteer Fire Department, Inc.	Lipscomb County Firefighters Association
Mail check to:	Lefors Credit Union Attn: Carole Watson PO Box 425 Lefors, TX 79054	Happy State Bank Attn: Scott Brewster PO Box 300 Canadian, TX 79014	FirstBank Southwest - Booker Branch Attn: Pam Sanders PO Box 636 Booker, TX 79005

**General questions about donations or relief efforts — please call 806.677.5628**



Producer hauls donated hay to feed his animals



Damages sustained to trailers and equipment



Numerous miles of Panhandle fences were destroyed in the wildfires



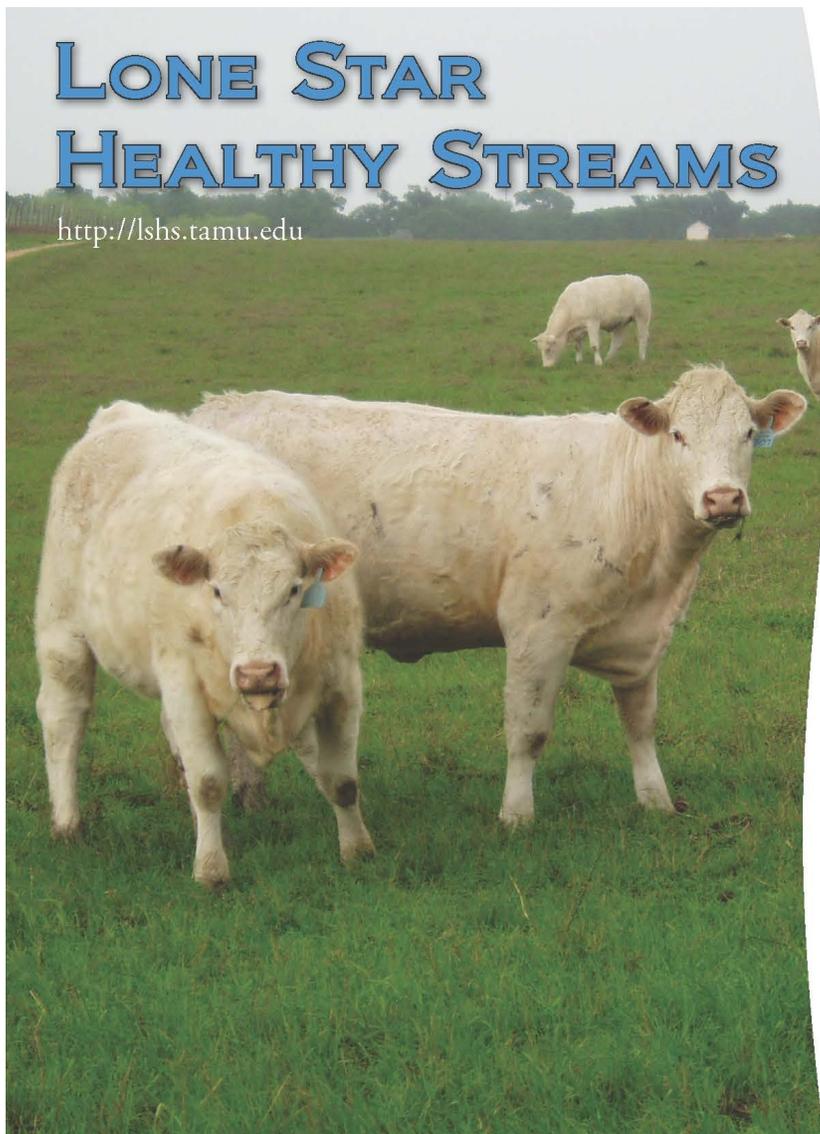
Donations of hay to feed animals

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FOREST SERVICE

# LONE STAR HEALTHY STREAMS

<http://lshs.tamu.edu>



The Lone Star Healthy Streams program educates Texas livestock producers and landowners on how to best protect Texas waterways from bacterial contributions associated with livestock production and feral hogs. There is no cost to attend.

**March 31, 2017: 1:00pm-5:00pm**

Waller County Community Center  
21274 FM 1098  
Prairie View, TX 77446

**\*\*3 General CEUs available for pesticide applicators\*\***

Workshop presentations will focus on the watershed health and will discuss basic watershed function, water quality, and specific best management practices that can be implemented to help minimize bacterial contamination originating from beef cattle, horses, and feral hogs. Please RSVP by March 28nd.

For more information and to RSVP for the workshop contact the Waller County Extension Office at 979-826-7651 or by going to:

<http://lshs.tamu.edu/workshops>.



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# 67th Annual WALLER COUNTY



# 4-H BBQ

## Royalty Coronation & Auction



From Left to Right:

Melanie McBride (2016 Queen), Andrea Thomas (Fieldstore 4-H), Hailey Oldham (Rock Island 4-H), Kylie Matticks (Town and Country 4-H), Haylee Nesbit (Waller County 4-H Horse Club), Aundrea Ibarra (Brazos Valley 4-H Project Club), Joey McGrew (Waller Christian Academy 4-H), Sarah Fox (Rosehill Christian School 4-H), Taylor Frank (2015 Queen)

Sunday  
April 2, 2017  
at the  
Waller County  
Fair Grounds

**Serving Times:** 11:00 am - 1:00 pm

**Live Auction by:** 1:00 pm

**Royalty Coronation:** Following Live Auction

**Raffle Drawing:** Following Queen Coronation

**Dinner:** Beef Brisket, BBQ Sauce, cowboy potatoes, green beans & trimmings

### BBQ & Raffle Tickets

Dinner Tickets: \$12.00 Presale

Whole Brisket: \$55.00 Presale Only

Dinner Tickets at the door: \$13.00

Raffle Ticket: \$1.00 Each

Raffle Tickets will be on sale During the BBQ  
Dinner and Meat purchased at the door is \$1.00 higher  
Raffle Drawing will be held following Coronation  
Need Not Be Present To Win Raffle!

For more info please call the Waller  
County AgriLife Extension Office at  
(979)826-7651



# 2017 Agriculture Symposium-Webinar

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**Date: April 18, 2017**

**Time: 7:30am–12:15pm**

Registration begins at 7:30am

8:00: The Use of Drones in Ranching

*Dr. Megan Clayton, Extension Range Specialist*

8:30: Weed Management Update

*Dr. Joshua McGinty, Extension Agronomist*

9:00: Managing Sugarcane Aphid w/ Resistant Sorghum Hybrids

*Dr. Robert Bowling, Extension Entomologist*

9:30: New Year – Old Pest: An Update of 111 Years of Fever Tick Control

*Dr. Joe Paschal, Extension Livestock Specialist*

10:00 – COFFEE BREAK

10:15: Setting Goals to Determine What to Plant in Your Pasture

*Dr. Megan Clayton, Extension Range Specialist*

10:45: The Financial Truth Behind Planting Your Pasture for Cattle Grazing

*Mac Young, Risk Management Specialist*

11:15: Herd Replacement Selection

*Dr. Joe Paschal, Extension Livestock Specialist*

11:45: Determining What You Can Afford to Pay for a Replacement

*Mac Young, Risk Management Specialist*

12:15 pm – ADJOURN

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

Whole seminar is webinar based

Registration is \$15 per person.

**RSVP'S MUST BE RECEIVED BY  
APRIL 13, 2017 BY 5 PM**

**REGISTRATION MADE AFTER APRIL  
13, 2017 IS \$20 PER PERSON**

CEU's  
TDA-2 IPM

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

**Please mail checks or bring money by  
before the event. Checks payable:  
Extension Program Council**



**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*



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# 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*

**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  
Service

Waller County Office &  
Cooperative Extension Program

846 6th Street  
Hempstead, TX 77445

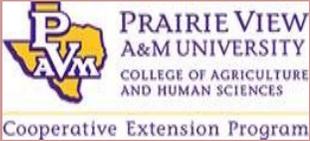
Phone: 979-826-7651  
Fax: 979-826-7654

<http://waller.agrilife.org>

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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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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