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Upcoming Dates

- MG Tree Sale Pick up Jan. 20, 2018
- Winter Row Crop meeting Jan. 23, 2018
- Open House Jan. 30, 2018
- Spring Soil Campaign TBA
- 33rd Annual Ft. Bend Regional Vegetable Conference Feb. 8, 2018
- Generation Next: Setting up a New Agriculture Business Feb. 18, 2018
- Generation Next: Understanding Business Taxes 101 Feb. 25, 2018
- Horse workshop series TBA
- Lone Star Healthy Streams TBA
- Generation Next: Business Insurance Needs Mar. 4, 2018
- Generation Next: Finances: Loans and Record Keeping Mar 11, 2018
- Generation Next: How to set up grazing & wildlife lease agreements Mar. 18, 2018



Ag

Newsletter

January 2018

Beef Quality Assurance Training Program

The mission of the Beef Quality Assurance Program is to promote management practices that enable cattle producers to improve beef quality and strengthen consumer confidence in beef as a safe, nutritious, wholesome food product. Program participants receive education and hands-on training to learn about animal health products, feedstuffs, feed additives and medications, care and husbandry practices, and other core practices. The BQA Program also provides systematic information to cattle producers nationwide on production methods and practices for improving beef quality and safety under a wide variety of management and environmental conditions.



BQA-certified calves receive an estimated \$1.59 per hundred weight price premium (Montana State University estimate). For approximately 790,000 head of weaned and stocker calves owned or managed by participants in the Texas BQA Program, the increase in gross returns was estimated at \$7.2 million for 2011.

Fish Farming



Fish Farming in Texas, or Aquaculture, is similar to operating a cattle feedlot. Closely packed and heavily fed fish must be watched closely to detect problems early before they turn into disasters. This is difficult because fish cannot be readily seen. New fish farmers may feel like they are working blindfolded and without sleep until

they become comfortable using water quality test equipment, water color changes and feeding response as their "eyes" to detect early warnings of problems. Nighttime work is done throughout the warm months and includes checking dissolved oxygen levels and running aeration equipment as needed.

As with any other business, finding and keeping good help also is a challenge. Workers must be capable of making the right decisions when the farmer/manager is unavailable. Also, finding and developing good markets for the product takes considerable time and energy. A good fish farmer works to earn and maintain the trust of buyers while continuing to search for new marketing opportunities.



Master Gardeners: News

Vegetables that you should start to plant: Spinach, mustard, turnips, Beets and English Peas, carrots, cabbage, onion, peppers, eggplants, and tomatoes. These will be ready to harvest depending on varieties and species starting in February until June. Please make sure if you have plants they are covered since we are having a very cold winter.

2018 Fruit and Nut Tree Sale Fundraiser - Pick up will be on Saturday, January 20, 2018 at the Waller County Fairgrounds in Hempstead. If you purchased trees please make sure to arrive by 10 am to start picking them up. There are several trees that will also be on sell if you did not get a change to purchase them.

2018 Intern classes are currently underway, We have 9 very excited interns. Classes are being held on Saturdays with the first class on January 6, 2018. If you are interested in becoming a Master Gardener please call the Extension Office and ask to speak with a Master Gardener! For applications please visit our website: <https://txmg.org/wallermg/classes/>.



Have you stopped by the Extension office lately?
Do you know where we are located?

We will be hosting our Annual Open House on January 30, 2018 from 11am to 1pm. Come and Go! Refreshments will be available.

Talk with the agents and see what programs we have coming up and what we have to offer.

Name that Plant? Yaupon

Description

Yaupon is a low-growing, evergreen shrub in the Holly family. It will form a trunk when trimmed but usually grows as a woody shrub. A native, cool- and warm-season perennial, this plant has branches that can reach 20 feet tall.

The leaves are oval, 2 to 4 inches long and entire with toothed margins. The flowers are white, and the fruits at maturity are bright red.

Yaupon provides good grazing for wildlife, fair grazing for livestock.

Habitat

This shrub grows in moist, acidic soils in the eastern part of the state.



Generation Next Webinars

The 2018 Generation Next: Our Turn to Ranch Webinar School is now open for registration!

Generation Next is open to all landowners, but may be especially interesting to those who are new or recently have inherited land. The weekly topics only take 1 hour and can be done on your own time! Classes start the week of Feb. 18th and run until May 12th. During early May, an optional, in-person 2 day session will be held for all participants to gain hands-on experiences. A detailed schedule with topics is attached for your information, in the back of the newsletter.

Registration is \$120. Texas. <https://agriliferegister.tamu.edu/ESSM>



Use Earth-Kind® landscaping principles and practices to create beautiful, low maintenance landscapes, while conserving and protecting natural resources and the environment. Reduce the amount of water, fertilizer and pesticides that you use in your landscape.

Americans spend tremendous amounts of money “landscaping” their business-

Earth-Kind Landscaping

es, homes, streets, parks, schools, etc. Much of this money is wasted, however, because of little or no planning. Ideally, you should consult a professional landscape architect or designer on planning, but you can produce good results if you follow these steps.

- ◆ Draw a Base Plan
- ◆ List your Landscape Needs
- ◆ Study your Site
- ◆ Diagram Space Needs
- ◆ Choose Materials

- ◆ Making Plant Selections
- ◆ Constructing the Landscape
- ◆ Create Visual Effects with Accessories

The [Earth-Kind Plant Selector](#), part of the [Texas Urban Landscape Guide](#), is an extremely useful tool for selecting the right plant for a specific location. Each plant in the database is rated for heat tolerance, drought tolerance, pest tolerance, soil requirement and fertility requirement based on region.

Estray Livestock Signs

Estray livestock in Waller County are the responsibility of the Waller County Civil Division, which is a division of the Waller County Sheriff's Office. The Civil Division has the responsibility of maintaining the care and custody of the livestock which has strayed from its home, in the event that its owner cannot be located and/or in the event that the livestock is not claimed by its owner within the time given by the law to do so. Livestock can be defined as horses, cows, sheep, goats, donkeys, pigs and other such animals, but does not include domestic animals, such as dogs or cats.

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, post-

ed 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 estray 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 .

Help estray livestock get home safely

\$12 each

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

Property Gate Signs

Signs are available for Waller County residents signs are about 5"x20" in size. Attaches to gates or fences where they are visible from the road. Individualized for each producer with an assessing number and a place for a phone number, Ranch name, or Owners Name.

Sponsored by the Waller County Beef & Forage Committee

Signs are available at Waller County Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Office
846 6th St., Hempstead, TX 77445; 979-826-7651

Join us for an

Open House



Waller County Extension Service

January 30, 2018 / 11am- 1pm

Open to the public but please RSVP

Located @ the Waller Co. Extension Office

****Refreshments provided****

For more information please come by or call the office at

846 6th Street

Hempstead, TX

or (979) 826-7651

COME BY AND MEET THE AGENTS, SEE WHAT WE'VE BEEN UP TO, ASK QUESTIONS AND SEE OUR 2018 GOALS FOR THE WALLER COUNTY COMMUNITY.



STACIE VILLARREAL: CEA- AG/NR

AMANDA SHORTT: CEA-FCS/4-H

STEADMAN DOUGLAS:EA-FCS





John Gordy, CEA- Ag/NR
John.gordy@ag.tamu.edu



Visit us on the web at:
<http://fortbend.agrilife.org/>

2018 Winter Row Crops Meeting

Fort Bend, Brazoria and Waller Counties

Tuesday, January 23rd ~ 8:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

**Rosenberg Civic Center
3825 Highway 36 South
Rosenberg, Texas 77471**

Meeting topics will include:

Auxin Specific Applicator Training (to apply dicamba products in cotton)
2018 Farm Bill update
Long-term weather outlook
SCA Update - spray tip evaluations and tolerant hybrids
Cotton and Grain Market Outlook

3 CEU's will be offered:
1- IPM
1- General
1- Laws and Regulations

**Please RSVP by Friday, January 19th at 4:00 p.m. by
contacting Brandy Rader at 281-342-3034 or by email
at Brandy.rader@ag.tamu.edu**

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33rd Annual Fort Bend Regional Vegetable Conference

Thursday, February 8, 2018



The 33rd annual Fort Bend Regional Vegetable Conference is a celebration of vegetable production along the upper Gulf Coast region. Counties of Waller, Wharton, Harris, Galveston, Brazoria, Colorado, and Austin join with Fort Bend to put on this event focusing on teaching sustainable practices to help producers maximize efficiencies and profitability. We have something for every producer, and as always, we will offer 5 continuing education credits for TDA license holders.

Early Registration: \$25.00; Door Registration: \$30.00

Thru January 24th

Registration

Register online at agriliferegister.tamu.edu/FortBend

Register by phone: 979-845-2604

For general questions, please contact Brandy Rader at 281-342-3034



Thursday, February 8, 2018, 8:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

(Registration: 7:30 a.m. to 8:00 a.m.)

Lunch Included

Fort Bend County Fairgrounds, Buildings C & D
4310 Highway 36 South, Rosenberg, Texas

- **FSMA Updates**
- **Nurturing Soil Health**
- **Variety Updates**
- **Pest Scouting**
- **Big Mac Award**
- **Simple Organic Methods**
- **Laws & Regulations Update**
- **PVAMU Cucumber Trial**
- **IPM Weed Management**

Earn 5 CEU's

for Licensed Pesticide Applicators

Afternoon break-out sessions

Choose what's right for you!



Fort Bend
County Extension

Program sponsored in part by



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 activities, are encouraged to contact the Fort Bend County Extension Office at 281-342-3034 for assistance five working days prior to activity.



Generation Next

Our Turn to Ranch

Join us for an Agricultural Business Start-Up School

February 18 - May 12th
Participate from your computer on
your own time schedule!

We will cover 1 Topic per Week that
takes 1 hour to complete

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

Course Includes: 12 webinar classes of Expert Instruction, Optional in-person training opportunity in early May, Generation Next t-shirt, and a Generation Next School Completion Certificate

Registration Fee: \$120

To Register: <https://agriferegister.tamu.edu/ESSM>

Or call 979-845-2604

For more information contact: Megan.Clayton@ag.tamu.edu or 361.265.9203





2018 Generation Next: Our Turn to Ranch Webinar School

Week of February 18

- Setting up a New Agriculture Business

Week of February 25

- Understanding Business Taxes 101

Week of March 4

- Business Insurance Needs

Week of March 11

- Finances: Loans and Record Keeping

Week of March 18

- How to set up Grazing and Wildlife Lease Agreements

Week of March 25

- Ecotourism Opportunities

Week of April 1

- Planning Land Use and Surveying Your Resources

Week of April 8

- Understanding Market Fluctuations

Week of April 15

- Alternative Ranching Operations

Week of April 22

- Agricultural Apps for Smartphones and Tablets

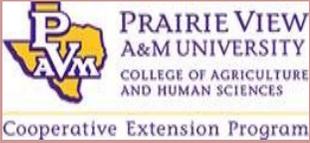
Week of April 29

- Land Management Toolbox

Week of May 6

- Targeted Wrap-Up Session

Optional, in-person training May 3-4, 2018: Location to be decided



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

Like us on Facebook
Waller County Extension Office

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

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Help stray livestock get home safely

Property Gate Signs

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

\$12 each

Signs are available for Waller County residents signs are about 5"x20" in size. Attaches to gates or fences where they are visible from the road. Individualized for each producer with an assessing number and a place for a phone number, Ranch name, or Owners Name.

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