



Stacie Villarreal
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Ag/Natural Resources
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Upcoming Dates

- Private Applicator training 8/23/18
- Lone Star Healthy Streams 9/11/18 –3CEU's
- Soil Campaign 10/15-11/15/18
- 47th South Central Texas Cow-Calf Clinic 10/26/18
- Private Applicator Training 11/8/18
- Ag & Wildlife Valuation workshop TBA
- Tree Care Workshop TBA

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



Ag Newsletter

August 2018

New Faces at the Extension Office

Since last September we have had several new faces that have joined our team. Along with those new faces our office has had some major update as well. So if you have not seen the office you might stop by. Then talk to some of our new Staff members.

Stedman Douglas moved to Prairie View from Jamaica where he studied Animal Science and minor in Biology. Upon graduation he worked in Houston where he taught Agricultural Science and Physics for four years. His career in Agriculture started in Jamaica where he worked on his father's farm; at the age of 22 he owned and operated a 25 acres farm, and worked as an Extension officer in Jamaica for 5 years. Stedman decided to continue in the field of his passion so he joined the Cooperative Extension Program at Prairie View A&M University where he worked as a Program Associate. After a year he decided his skills would be more useful as an Extension agent in Waller County.



Stedman Douglas



Bridget Minchuk

Bridget Minchuk grew up on a farm in southern Illinois and was very active in 4-H and FFA throughout high school. She attended Saint Mary-of-the Woods College in Indiana and received a bachelor's degree in Early Childhood Education. After teaching pre-school for three years in Illinois, she married her husband, Scott, and they moving to Texas for his job in 2014. After working at Step by Step Christian School in Tomball for over three years, she realized how much she missed agriculture and decided to make a career change. She is so happy she has found a home with the Waller County Extension Office and looks forward to serving the Waller County agriculture community.

Clara Walker, Family & Community Health Extension Agent in Waller County for the Cooperative Extension Program at PVAMU. She is a native of Waller County and has extensive experience in the field of money management. Clara received her Master's in Human Development and her B.S. in Juvenile Justice from Prairie View A&M University. Clara provides programming to the underserved and underrepresented citizens in Waller County. She will provide information on emerging family issues including cyber bullying, bullying, teenagers' behavior, parenting, grandparents parenting again, and conflict and anger management as well as childhood obesity and health and wellness topics.



Clara Walker



Cassidy Meyer

Our new summer intern, Cassidy Meyer is our newest face. She is from Sealy and a recent graduate of Texas State University with a Bachelors of Science in Agriculture, Major in Animal Science Integrated Ranch and Natural Resources Management. Cassidy said, "As a person who loves agriculture and all it has to give to the world, it has always been a dream of mine to share that love and educate people about agriculture."



Master Gardeners: Jr. Master Gardener Program

The Waller County Junior Master Gardeners wrapped up the summer with a graduation ceremony on August 8, 2018, at the Field Store Community Center. The class started in June with nine energetic students that wanted to learn about gardening. The classes began with the students learning about plant parts, how plants reproduce, what plants need to survive and why we need plants. We had a propagation class where the class was able to learn about how to make cuttings of plants and they took home several plants to watch them grow. Next they learned about the different types of soil and how water flows through the various types of soils. They also learned about composting. Lisa Green from the Magic Worm Ranch joined our class to teach them about vermicomposting and the group had a great time playing with the worms. Waller County Extension Agent Stacie Villarreal came by to teach the kids about how plants and animals interact in nature to form a balanced system. The class participated in a recycled art show where they showed off their creativity with bottles, cans, cardboard boxes, and paper. Each student planted a container garden and they were able to watch them grow over the next few weeks. After graduation, each student took their garden home. One of our new Master Gardeners, Harvey Newman dropped by to teach the group about bees and other pollinators in the garden. The bug suckers were a huge success as students tried to perfect the art of catching insects for observation. Deb Cates taught the group about landscape design. The group also participated in vegetable and fruit tasting labs where they were able to sample some things they may have never seen or tried before. All of this was done using fun games, hands on experiments and the help of several volunteers.

Each student had to complete one group activity and one individual project for each section we covered, along with a service project for each chapter to receive their certificates. We had seven students complete the program, Austin and Jacob Bengé, Brooke Herr, Abigail Metcalf, Jett and Steele Pate and Jacob Wilkins. The other two students, Cash and Cinder Payne, will be finishing up in the next few weeks and receiving their certificates. Not only did the group receive their Certificates for becoming Junior Master Gardeners but they were also presented with bug catching nets that were built by Teresa Dodds and decorated by the kids. Our class Valedictorian, Jacob Wilkins, who asked if he could complete more than one project per section (he finished the entire book), was awarded a pair of gardening shears. Brooke Herr was awarded a water can for being the Most Helpful. She offered to water the garden and sweep up at the end of the day. Austin and Jacob Bengé were a little late for class one day because they had to catch some bugs to share with the class. They both received bug catching kits as the Best Bug Catchers. Abigail Metcalf was awarded pair of garden gloves as Miss Congeniality for always having a big smile and a kind word for everyone. Jett Pate and Cash Payne were honored with magnifying glasses as Most Creative for the city they designed and the story to go with it in our recycled art show. Steele Pate was awarded a magnifying glass as Most Focused when doing his work in class. Cinder Payne was awarded a pair of garden gloves for the Best Use of Materials in the recycled art show for the leaf collection album she made.

Thank you to all of our sponsors who helped to make this year a success. The Waller County Master Gardeners, Hempstead Garden Club, and Waller County 4-H for help in purchasing supplies and shirts for the class. Haney Feed and Tractor Supply in Waller both donated the seeds we used for our garden and various other projects. The Field Store Community Center donated the use of the facility for us to hold class and teach the group about gardening. Not only did the Magic Worm Ranch come out to teach the group about vermicomposting but they also provided kits that contained worm castings and seeds for them to grow.

None of this would have been possible without the hard work of the volunteers that helped to make it a success. Leaders Suzanne Anderson, Cheryl Thomas, Toni Thomas and Teresa Dodds spent countless hours preparing lessons for the classes. Master Gardeners Lori King, Kennedy Page, Arian Kaufman and Julie Lepper volunteered their time to help out the group by teaching classes and helping the students. Waller County Extension Agent Stacie Villarreal took time out of her busy day to come help educate the group. Master Gardeners Harvey Newman and Deb Cates stepped in to teach a class. A special thank you to the parents for allowing us the privilege of working with your kids this summer to instill a love of gardening which we hope they will continue to pursue.

Plans are already in the works for next year's program. We hope to reach more kids in Waller County and share our love of gardening with them.



Expert: Texas Outdoor enthusiasts, livestock producers, homeowners advised to watch for new tick, *Source AgriLife Today, Writer: Steve Byrns*

STEPHENVILLE – Confirmed reports of the longhorned tick, *Haemaphysalis longicornis*, in seven states have prompted a Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service entomologist to alert Texans to its possible arrival here.

Dr. Sonja Swiger, AgriLife Extension veterinary/medical entomologist at Stephenville, said the longhorned tick isn't named for the iconic bovine symbol of the Lone Star State, but rather for the distinctive, but underrated "horns" sprouting from a portion of its head. "This tick is a relative newcomer to the United States and though it has not been confirmed here in Texas, it has been confirmed in Arkansas," she said. "It's not at all choosy about who or upon what mammal it feeds on or who it dines with, as it has been found feeding right alongside other external parasites." Some ticks, like the cattle fever tick, prefer to complete their life cycle on a single host. Not the longhorned tick, which Swiger said is a three-host tick, meaning it requires three different hosts to complete its life cycle. Animals on the menu include, but are not limited to: cattle, white-tailed deer, horses, goats, sheep, dogs, cats, opossum, birds and raccoon.

Swiger said she has no reports of it feeding on people in the U.S., though it is known to attack people in Asia and the Pacific. She did say the longhorned tick is not a known carrier of the pathogen causing Lyme disease. "Even though there are no reports of it being a Lyme disease carrier, this tick is a known vector of several bacterial, viral and protozoan disease agents that affect both livestock and humans," Swiger said. "So, it's worth keeping an eye on.

"It's an exotic East Asian tick, originally from China, which moved to Australia and then to different locations in the Pacific and eventually here," Swiger said. "It's highly adaptive to a broad range of climates as evidenced by the six states where it's been documented, which along with Arkansas, include New Jersey, Virginia, West Virginia, North Carolina, New York and Pennsylvania. So, it's at home in climates from tropical to temperate and is also quite cold tolerant."

Swiger said it's an aggressive biter that frequently builds intensive infestations on domestic hosts such as livestock. "Their presence causes great stress to the animal, which translates to reduced growth and production, and exsanguination, or serious blood loss," she said. To make matters worse, Swiger said the tick is parthenogenetic, meaning females can reproduce without a male, so a single fed female tick can create a whole population by herself.

To prevent and offset concerns, Swiger said producers, homeowners and hunters this fall should consider conducting surveillance of ticks on their livestock, pets and harvested game and submit any suspicious ticks they find to: Texas Animal Health Commission, State-Federal Laboratory



Longhorned ticks, *Haemaphysalis longicornis*, pictured on a U.S. dime. The smaller tick is a nymph, the other is an adult female. (Photo by James Gathany, provided by Anna Perea, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention)

Name that Plant? Macartney Rose

Description

Macartney rose is an introduced, warm-season perennial of the Rose family. It is an evergreen shrub that can grow to almost 10 feet tall. This plant is commonly considered an invasive species or pest. Historically, Macartney rose was planted on Texas landscapes as a living fence.

The stems have paired, very broad-based prickles. Each leaf is made up of five to nine tough, thick leaflets. The leaflets are lustrous above and a duller green beneath.

The flowers occur singly or in groups of one to three on short stalks. The flower petals are white. The fruit is round or spherical like that of other members of the Rose family.

Macartney rose has no grazing value for livestock or wildlife but may serve as escape cover for rodents and other small mammals.

Habitat

This shrub grows in disturbed areas, rangeland, pastureland, drainage ditches and river bottoms, and along roadsides and fence lines.





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>

TEXAS A&M
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Private Applicators Licenses Training

When: Thursday, February 15, 2018

Thursday, May 10, 2018

Thursday, August 23, 2018

Thursday, November 8, 2018

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

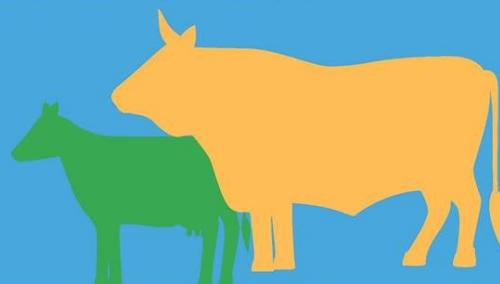
The purpose of this training is to obtain a Private Applicator License from Texas Department of Agriculture. This license will enable the applicator to purchase and apply state limited use and federally restricted chemicals on his land or land he has control of for the purpose of production of agricultural 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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5 TIPS TO KEEP YOUR CATTLE SAFE IN THE SUMMER HEAT



OFFER SHADE WHEN POSSIBLE

Shade is important during hot days so the cattle can get out of direct sunlight if needed.

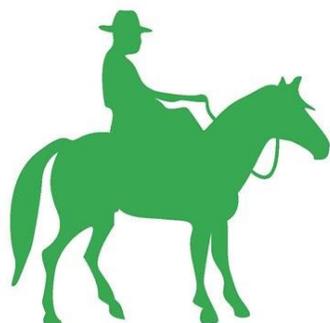


PROVIDE HIGH-QUALITY FORAGE

High-quality forages generate less heat during digestion.



WORK CATTLE EARLY IN THE MORNING OR LATER IN THE DAY



Avoid bunching the cattle and give them rest periods if it's hot.

WATER INTAKE IS CRUCIAL



High moisture feeds such as silage's or pastures have increased water content.

HEAT STRESS IN HIGH RISK CATTLE

Rapid change in temperatures may affect cattle with previous health conditions.





Mission

The Grazingland Animal Nutrition Lab (GANLAB) offers diagnostic diet analyses and nutritional decision support software for use in monitoring of grazing animals. We are a part of the Center for Natural Resource Information and Technology (CNRIT), a research group within Texas A&M AgriLife Research that develops problem-solving technologies in the realm of natural resource management. The GANLAB services are available for livestock producers and wildlife managers to support strategic livestock nutrition management and provide a basis for sustainable grazing practices.

Fecal NIRS

The GANLAB's research and producer services utilize near-infrared reflectance spectroscopy (NIRS) to analyze grazing animal fecal samples. The NIRS process involves exposing a sample to near-infrared light energy, recording energy reflectance patterns, and linking those patterns to chemical compounds in the sample. Fecal NIRS translates those chemical compounds to dietary crude protein (CP) and diet digestibility (DOM).

NUTBAL Online

NUTBAL Online is a free, web-based livestock nutritional balance model that integrates information from fecal NIRS and producer-provided parameters into a grazing herd's current nutrient profile and predictions of future performance. NUTBAL Reports help producers identify dietary protein and energy deficits, estimate animal performance outputs on a given diet, and evaluate supplemental feeding strategies.

Potential NUTBAL Online Applications

- › Determine the quality of the forage diet consumed by grazing animals
- › Monitor changes in pasture condition over time
- › Develop cost-efficient supplementation strategies during periods of nutritional stress
- › Establish productive rotational grazing protocols

Impacts

GANLAB technologies provide rapid, noninvasive methods for tracking grazing animal nutrition and rangeland health. Laboratories have been established in East Africa, South America, Mongolia, and Afghanistan through World Bank and USAID grants. The USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) has promoted the technology for their Conservation Stewardship Program. As a result, more than 1,500 livestock producers, wildlife managers, and researchers use the GANLAB for animal nutrition and pasture management.



NUTBAL Analysis Options

Standard Report: \$45.00

Includes fecal NIRS forage quality (CP and DOM) analysis for one sample and NUTBAL Online 30-day herd performance projections.

Advisory Report: \$80.00

Includes standard report with strategic supplemental feeding recommendations to meet desired performance goals.

Blackland Research & Extension Center • 720 E. Blackland Rd, Temple, TX 76502 • blackland.tamu.edu
Center for Natural Resource Information Technology • (254)-774-6134 • cnrif.tamu.edu/ganlab
Like us on Facebook! @GANLABTAMU

SAVE THE DATE

47th South Central Texas Cow-Calf Clinic



October 26, 2018

At the Washington County Fairgrounds in Brenham, TX.

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

Enter to
Win a Free
Heifer!

Like us on Facebook:
[www.facebook.com/
washingtoncountyextension](http://www.facebook.com/washingtoncountyextension)

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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. 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 this meeting are encouraged to contact the County Extension Office at (979) 277-6212 prior to the meeting to determine how reasonable accommodations can be made.

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7th Annual SEABOURNE NATURE FEST

November 3, 2018, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Seabourne Creek Nature Park
3831 Highway 36 South, Rosenberg TX 77471

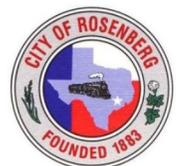
Butterflies & Caterpillars
Alligators & Snakes
Hawks & Owls
Bee Keepers
Native Plant Sale
Edible Plant Display
Children's Crafts
Face Painting
Nature Talks
Food Trucks
Prairie Walks
Horse-Drawn Wagon Rides

**FREE
ADMISSION**



**RAIN OR
SHINE**

Hosted by:
Coastal Prairie Chapter Texas Master Naturalists
<http://txmn.org/coastal/>
281-633-7033





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

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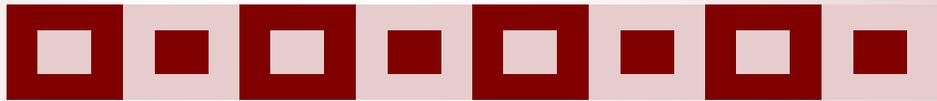
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We have a Soil & Forage Probe that can be rented out to take samples. \$50 Deposit which is returned when the probe is brought back and not damaged. For more information or to check out one of these items please call the office.



*Help stray 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