

August 2019



Stacie Villarreal
 County Extension Agent
 Ag/Natural Resources
stacie.villarreal@ag.tamu.edu

Upcoming Dates

- MG Tree Sale 8/15-9/30/19
- TDA Commercial/Non-Commercial Pesticide Applicator License 8/20/19
- Produce Safety Alliance Grower Training 8/21/19
- New/Small Landowners series- 8/22/19
- Farm Produce Safety for Military Vets 8/23/19
- Owning Your Piece of Texas Agricultural Laws Landowners Need to Know 8/26/19
- Preserving Family Heritage; Estate & Legal Planning Seminar 8/27/19
- Ranchers Leasing Workshop 8/28/19
- Fall Pesticide (CEU) Recertification Training 8/29/19
- Lone Star Healthy Streams TBA
- New/Small Landowners series- 9/26/19
- 8th Annual Seaborne Nature Fest 11/2/19



Horse Fly population higher than normal, hard to control as published in AgriLife today

Writer: Adam Russell, 903-834-6191, adam.russell@ag.tamu.edu
 Contact: Dr. Sonja Swiger, 254-968-4144, slsruiger@ag.tamu.edu



COLLEGE STATION – High populations of horse flies, a stubborn and difficult biting fly to control, have caused problems for Texas livestock producers this year, said a Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service expert. Dr. Sonja Swiger, AgriLife Extension entomologist, Stephenville, said reports of horse fly infestations are higher than she’s ever experienced during her 11-year career. “It’s the worst year I’ve seen,” she said. “We don’t have much data on seasonal horse fly populations to compare, but we can speculate that all the rain we’ve had the last few years has created the right environmental conditions for higher horse fly numbers.”

Swiger said numbers should begin to wane because temperatures have risen to more inhospitable levels. But the pest can resurge with later summer rains or in the fall. Despite the name, horse flies are not host-specific and will feed on opportune human and animal hosts, she said. Like mosquitoes, only female horse flies bite because they need the host’s blood for egg production, Swiger said. But unlike mosquitoes, horse flies cut the host and consume blood as it drips from the wound. Horse flies only bite and feed once a day, she said.

Femal horse flies, *Tabanus americanus*, can be a stubborn, aggressive blood feeder. Reports of the pest have been especially high. (Texas A&M AgriLife Extension photo by Dr. Bart Drees) Swiger said horse flies typically stay in shaded areas, such as along tree lines. They consume carbohydrates, such as nectars and honeydew, but females will range from cover to hunt hosts once a day.

Horse flies typically lay eggs over winter and in early spring, she said. Eggs are typically laid in shady, semi-aquatic to moist areas, including around the edges of ponds or water tanks. “They can be in any number of locations, and that makes them hard to treat effectively,” she said. “The larvae are maggots, but they look like maggots on steroids. They are also very predacious and will feed on each other.”

CONTROL OPTIONS

Controlling horse flies is difficult, Swiger said. But a few things can help reduce numbers and relieve animal bites. There is no available data focused on the effectiveness of pours designed to curtail horse flies, Swiger said. But pyrethroid, especially synthetic pyrethroid-based pours, have been shown to provide temporary relief. And most synthetic pyrethroid products are not labeled for horses.

“There’s just not much labeled for horses, and even on cattle those chemicals don’t do much to deter horse flies,” she said. “Permethrins may work, but again, it’s going to be limited relief.” The best defense for horses is to move them from the infested area, into a barn or to cover them with lightweight summer sheets designed to stop biting flies and mosquitoes, she said. Traps specifically designed for horse flies can reduce numbers in infested areas, Swiger said.

“They are visual hunters so many traps look like a black ball, which mimics the belly of an animal,” she said. “We trapped 350 horseflies and 200 deerflies over a 10-week period in



Master Gardeners News

The Annual Waller County Master Gardener Tree is now open online and will be available until September 30, 2019. Texas AgriLife experts agree that Fall is the best season for planting new trees so they have time to get established in their new homes well before the stress of our hot summers. That means now is the best time to buy!

This year we are offering over 40 expertly curated varieties and pollinating pairs specifically suited to Waller and Harris county environments. Some quantities are limited so shop early for the best selection. All sales are by pre-order only, and all purchases must be picked up on October 26, 2019, at the Waller County Fairgrounds (21988 FM 359, Hempstead, TX.)

We offer two options for selection and purchase:

1. At our website <https://txmg.org/wallermg/treesale/> with secure credit card payment through PayPal.
2. In person at the Waller County Extension office (846 6th St., Hempstead), Monday through Friday 9:00 am to Noon (except holidays), by cash, check, or credit card.

Call us at 979-826-7651 if you have any questions

Name that Plant? Common Oleander

Description

Oleander is an introduced, evergreen, ornamental shrub or tree (depending on pruning) 15 to 25 feet tall. Leaves are entire and leathery, essentially hairless, up to 12 inches long and 1.5 inches across. They are positioned opposite or in whorls of three or four. Each has a prominent midrib with secondary veins parallel to each other extending to the leaf margin. The variously colored, showy, odorless flowers are produced in clusters at the ends of the branches.

Habitat

Oleander is a native of the Mediterranean region and is widely planted in the southern United States. It is often found as an ornamental in eastern, central and southern Texas. It is not cold hardy and often sustains top-kill in the winter. Although it is naturalized in Texas, there are few, if any, escaped populations.

Toxic Agent

Oleandrin, a cardiac glycoside, is the most prominent toxin in oleander, which is probably the most toxic plant in Texas. As little as 0.005 percent of an animal's body weight of dry leaves may be lethal - as few as 10 to 20 medium-sized leaves may kill an adult horse. It is toxic

to all animal species, and many livestock and pets are poisoned, usually because they consumed oleander clippings or dead leaves.

The green leaves of the growing shrubs are bitter and are therefore seldom eaten. The wilted clippings and dead leaves remain toxic, are palatable and are readily consumed. Compost containing oleander leaves has also been incriminated in poisoning.

Signs of Livestock Ingestion

Consumption of this highly toxic plant causes cardiac failure. Signs in poisoned animals develop within 4 hours and can include: Sudden death (no observed clinical signs); Colic; Weakness; Lack of rumen muscle tone; Salivation; Very fast or slow heart rate.



Multi-County New/Small Landowners Series (Grimes & Waller)

The Multi-County New Landowner Education program is a series of 6 informational meetings, seminars, and field days designed to make new/small landowners in Grimes & Waller Counties aware of what types of agricultural enterprises are best for their property. Participants in the program will hear from experts in a variety of fields in agriculture about best management practices that can be implemented on their own property. This innovative program assists new landowners in understanding the concepts of rural living. Participants in the program are given exposure to ideas on raising livestock and horses, plant identification, applying pesticides, soil testing, stock pond management, pond construction, and much more. The program also serves as a way for new residents of the two counties to network and meet new people in their communities, find out what can be done on their land, what operations can be successful, and possibly what opportunities they have to serve the community.

The programs will be held on the third Thursday of the months of August and September. Each month's meeting will be held at different locations in one of the two

counties. The meetings begin at 6pm and will last between 2 hours depending on the topic. The cost for the program series is \$15 per person per meeting. Continuing Education Units (CEU's) for pesticide applicators will be offered as they are applicable. A great meal will be provided at every meeting. There are only 2 left in the series:

August 22nd – Forage Production & Livestock Production, Waller County

September 21st – Private Applicator Information, Grimes County

The fifth meeting for the 2019 series will take place on Thursday, August 22, 2019 at the Waller County Community Center in Waller County located at 21274 FM 1098 in Prairie View. This session will focus on Forage & Livestock Production and stocking rates with Dr. Larry Redmon with the Texas AgriLife Extension Service. Don't miss this wonderful opportunity!

For more information please contact the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Office in Grimes County at 936-873-3907 or Waller County at 979-826-7651.

Check out the Fliers in the back of the newsletter!

Master Naturalist Sept Program-- One-on-One Time with Houston's Gardening Guru: Randy Lemmon

Master Naturalist Program--One-on-One Time with Houston's Gardening Guru: Randy Lemmon, KTRH Garden Line

Thursday, September 5 6:00 PM social, 6:30 PM program
Rosenberg Convention Center, 3825 Texas 36 South, Rosenberg, TX, USA

Randy Lemmon discusses *Why Does It Seem That Organics Haven't Taken Hold in this Market?* And then opens the floor to all your gardening questions. His latest book will be available for purchase and signing.

The Texas Master Naturalists are sponsored by Texas Parks and Wildlife Department and Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service. For additional information call 281-633-7033 or email mmcdowell@ag.tamu.edu

Free and Open to the Public

Conducted by Coastal Prairie Chapter – Texas Master Naturalists

Website: <https://txmn.org/coastal/>

FACEBOOK <https://www.facebook.com/TXMNCoastal/>

Continued from pg. 1



Femal horse flies, Tabanus americanus, can be a stubborn, aggressive blood feeder. Reports of the pest have been especially high. (Texas A&M AgriLife Extension photo by Dr. Bart Drees

two counties for a study. So, they do work. We just don't have enough data yet to say how effective they are." Swiger noted another concern about higher-than-normal horse fly numbers – anthrax. The species are known vectors of the disease, but the extent of their role in spreading the disease is unknown. [https://](https://tinyurl.com/yxwbugn9)

tinyurl.com/yxwbugn9

Horseflies have a maximum range similar to most flies – five to 10 miles – though most fly populations remain relatively close to the breeding ground where they emerged, she said. "We don't expect horse flies to spread the disease outside the affected area. It's just something worth noting because there have been so many cases of anthrax this year," she said. "We can't confirm that it's related to the above-average horse fly populations, but it's certainly possible and something we want to learn more about."

TEXAS A&M
AGRILIFE
EXTENSION

NEW & SMALL
LANDOWNERS SERIES

Livestock & Forage

August 22, 2019

Program 6:00-8:00 pm
\$15/person for single
class

CEU's will
be offered

Meal Included with
Program

The session will focus on
livestock and forage, forage
management and stocking
rates.

Location:

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

Speaker will include Larry
Redmon, PhD with Texas
AgriLife Extension Service

For More Information
Please Contact:

Grimes County Extension
Office
936.873.3907
Waller County Extension
Office
979.826.7651

RSVP by:
August 21st

Sponsored by:



Multi-County New & Small Landowners Series

Waller & Grimes Counties

- Sessions held every 3rd Thursday from 6-8pm
- \$50 per person or \$75 per couple for entire series OR \$15 a session
- Meal is included
- Advanced Registration Required
- Register by February 15th

TEXAS A&M
AGRILIFE
EXTENSION

For more information or to register, please contact:

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Waller County
979-826-7651
stacie.villarreal@ag.tamu.edu

Allen Homann
Grimes County
936-873-3907
allen.homann@ag.tamu.edu



- February 21 **Meet your local resources**
Hosted in Waller Co.
- March 21 **Pond Management**
Hosted in Grimes Co.
- April 25 **Bee's & Pest Insects**
Hosted in Waller Co.
- May 23 **Viticulture**
Hosted in Grimes Co.
- August 22 **Livestock & Forage**
Hosted in Waller Co.
- September 26 **Private Applicator Information**
Hosted in Grimes Co.

CEU's offered

Meal
Sponsored by:





Waller County Master Gardeners

2019 Tree Sale

Order: August 15 - September 30



Order deadline: September 30. Pre-order sales ONLY

Varieties & sizes subject to vendor availability

Order online at website: txmg.org/wallermg

Or visit Waller County Extension Office to place order:
Monday- Friday 9AM- noon August 15- September 30. (excludes holidays)
Payment due with order. (PayPal, credit card, cash, or check)

View order form & tree variety info @ website

Also on Facebook page: Waller County Master Gardeners

Pickup: Saturday October 26th 9am –1pm

Location: Waller County Fairgrounds
22000 Fairground Road, Hempstead, TX, 77445

New varieties offered

Burr Oak	Redbud
Chinese Pistache	Red Maple

Favorite standards

Apples	Avocados
Blueberries	Olives
Figs	Grapes
Lemons	Limes
Oranges	Grapefruits
Peaches	Blackberries
Plums	Persimmons
Pecans	

All Sales FINAL

TEXAS A&M
AGRILIFE
EXTENSION

Waller County Master Gardeners

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service Waller County Office
846 6th Street, Hempstead, TX.

Phone: 979-826-7651

Email: wallermgardener2013@gmail.com

Website: txmg.org/wallermg

Do You Need a Pesticide License?
Choose the Exam Prep Class that fits your need!

Preparation for the TDA Commercial/Non-Commercial Pesticide Applicator License General Standards & Category Exams

Category 1. Landscape Maint.

- Municipal and Parks Employees
- Golf Course Grounds Keepers
- Landscapers and Landscape Pest Management Professionals
- Turf Management Professionals
- Commercial Sod Producers

Category 2. Vegetation Mgmt.

- Rights of way
- Drainage Districts Employees
- Road/Bridge Departments Staff
- Highway Departments Personnel
- Railroad Workers
- Pipeline/oilfield vegetation control

August 20, 2019

8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Washington Co. Fairgrounds Sales Facility

1305 E Blue Bell Rd, Brenham, TX

\$170 - one category, \$190 - two categories
includes 3 manuals worth \$90

This course will prepare you for both exams required by TDA for the landscape maintenance or veg. mgmt. licenses.

For information or to register...
(979) 845-1099

Extension programs serve people of all ages regardless of socioeconomic level, race, color, sex, religion, disability or national origin. The Texas A&M University System, U.S. Department of Agriculture and the County Commissioners Courts of Texas cooperating.



If you are applying Weed and Feed products for hire or part of your job, you must have a pesticide license



TEXAS A&M
AGRILIFE
EXTENSION

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**

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>

When: Rescheduled Tuesday, August 13, 2019
Thursday, November 7, 2019

Trainings are from 1pm to 5pm

Check in/Registration starts 30 mins before

You may bring your lunch with you

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.

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Produce Safety Alliance Grower Training

Growers interested in learning about the Food Safety Modernization Act, specifically the Produce Safety Rule are strongly encouraged to attend the PSA Grower training course. This course is one way to satisfy the FSMA Produce Safety Rule requirement outlined in § 112.22(c) that requires 'At least one supervisor or responsible party for your farm must have successfully completed food safety training at least equivalent to that received under standardized curriculum recognized as adequate by the Food and Drug Administration.' This course also provides information on Good Agricultural Practices (GAPs) and minimum standards for safe production and harvesting of fresh fruits and vegetables.

Wednesday, August 21st, 2019

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service

1225 Pearl St. Beaumont, TX 77701

8:30 am to 5:00 pm – Program w/Lunch

Cost: \$40 – Includes materials, certificate & lunch

To register follow this link and fill in the correct information.

Register online at

<https://agriliferegister.tamu.edu/productListingDetails/2888>

Register by phone: (903)834-6191

**FREE
TRAINING
OPPORTUNITY**



Farm Produce Safety for Military Veterans

AUGUST 23, 2019 9:30 A.M. - 3:00 P.M.

**Fort Bend County AgriLife Extension Office
1402 Band Road Ste. 100 Rosenberg, TX 77471**



**College of Family and
Consumer Sciences
UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA**

TXAGRABILITY.TAMU.EDU/FOOD-SAFETY

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CONTINUE YOUR SERVICE TO OUR NATION

BY PROVIDING HIGH QUALITY FOOD TO YOUR COMMUNITY

Join us for a 1-day hands-on training to learn the rules, regulations, and safe practices for produce. These regulations can be overwhelming to find, learn, and put into practice. This training will break them down and teach producers how to manage produce safety into their operation.



- Registration is FREE
- Open to military veterans
- Receive a complimentary tool kit (digital food thermometer included)
- Learn about Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) and the Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA)
- Participate in a mock farmers market booth inspection
- Network with other veterans
- Lunch is included



Register by August 16 at:
txagrability.tamu.edu/food-safety

Owning Your Piece of Texas: Agricultural Laws Texas Landowners Need to Know

TEXAS A&M
AGRILIFE
EXTENSION



August 26, 2019 Cat Spring Ag Hall

Registration: 8:30am
Program: 9:00am-3:00pm

Can you afford not to attend?

These **FREE** half-day programs are designed to educate landowners about the legal issues they may face. All participants will receive a copy of the “Owning Your Piece of Texas” Handbook, outlining some of these important laws for landowners to be made aware. This information will be useful for any landowner, regardless of length of ownership, and other professionals who work with new landowners, such as realtors, county appraisal districts, and lenders. Lunch will be sponsored by AgWorkers Insurance.

Topics Include:

- Water Rights
- Landowner Liability
- Eminent Domain
- Special Use Tax Valuation
- Fence Law
- And more...

Additional funding has been provided by



SOUTHERN
EXTENSION
RISK MANAGEMENT
EDUCATION



Cat Spring Ag Hall
13035 Hall Rd.
Cat Spring, TX 78933

The program is **FREE** but
registration is **REQUIRED**

Please visit:
[washington.agrilife.org/
aglaw](http://washington.agrilife.org/aglaw)
to register online,
or contact your local
County Extension Office for
more information.



Washington County

Kara Matheny
(979) 277-6212

kjmatheny@ag.tamu.edu

Fayette County

Scott Willey
(979) 968-5831

sawilley@ag.tamu.edu

Colorado County

Laramie Naumann
(979) 732-2082

Laramie.Naumann@ag.tamu.edu

Austin County

Haylee Wolford
(979) 865-2072

Haylee.Wolford@ag.tamu.edu

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Preserving Family Heritage

Estate and Legal Planning Seminar

TEXAS A&M
AGRI LIFE
EXTENSION

Hosted by:
Fayette & Washington
County Extension

August 27, 2019

Two Programs, Two Locations, One Day

Fayette County AgriLife Extension Office

255 Svoboda Lane, La Grange, Texas 78945

Registration: 8:00am

Program: 8:30am-12:00pm

Lunch: 12:00pm

Washington County Fairgrounds Sales Facility

1305 East Blue Bell Road, Brenham, Texas 77833

Registration & Lunch: 12:00pm

Program: 1:00pm-4:30pm



Pre-Registration (By August 20th): \$30.00/person

Onsite Registration: \$40.00/person

To preregister and pay online please visit:

<https://washington.agrilife.org/estateplanning/>

Program Topics:

- Overview of Estate and Transition Planning
- Business Entities and Trusts
- Understanding Probate & Alternatives

For more information and to RSVP please contact your local County Extension Office:

Scott Willey

Fayette County Extension Office

979.968.5831 sawilley@ag.tamu.edu

Kara Matheney

Washington County Extension Office

979.277.6212 kjmatheney@ag.tamu.edu

Visit your local County Extension Office to preregister and submit payment in person. Please make checks payable to EPC Fund

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Victoria, Texas

TEXAS A&M
AGRILIFE
EXTENSION

Ranchers Leasing Workshop

\$50 per Person
\$80 per Couple

Over 800 Texans have participated in these programs over the past three years, 100% would recommend it to a friend!



August 28, 2019

9am - 1pm

Victoria County 4-H Activity Center

259 Bachelor Drive
Victoria, TX 77904

Lunch
Provided By



- ★ Focused specifically on grazing, hunting, and livestock leases.
- ★ Half-day seminar, participants will be able to ask questions, interact with attorneys and economists.
- ★ All participants receive their own copy of the Ranchers' Agricultural Leasing Handbook, which contains checklists and sample lease language.

Registration Required

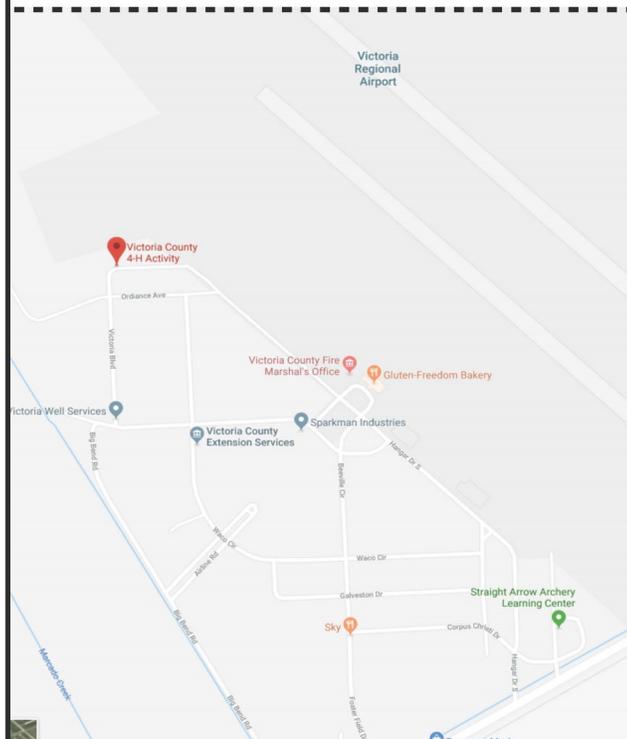
Register online @

<https://agriliferegister.tamu.edu/>

Ranchers

For more information contact
**Dr. Greg Kaase at 979-458-3348 or
Tiffany Lashmet at 806-677-5681**

Anyone needing specific accommodations to participate in this educational meeting should contact Tiffany at 806-677-5681 at least five days prior to the event so arrangements can be made. 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.



Fall Pesticide (CEU) Recertification Training

Thursday, August 29, 2019

8:00 am – 9:00 am, registration

9:00 am -3:30 pm, lectures; catered lunch provided

Location: Metropolitan Multi-Service Center

1475 West Gray Houston, Tx 77019

Program Agenda (lunch included)

- ◆ Turfgrass Disease Management
- ◆ Pesticide Laws & Regulations
- ◆ Safety, Its Good Business
- ◆ Identification of key roadside vegetation species
- ◆ Beneficial Insects in the Landscape

TDA Pesticide CEUs - 5

(*pending TDA approval)

Program Registration

\$60.00

Register online:

www.eventbrite.com and search for
“Pesticide CEU” in “Houston”
or call 713-274-0950 and select
option 5

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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

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8TH ANNUAL
SEABOURNE NATURE FEST

November 2, 2019, Saturday 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.
Seabourne Creek Nature Park
3831 Highway 36 South, Rosenberg, TX 77471

Petting Zoo
Bee Keepers
Food Trucks
Nature Talks
Face Painting
Prairie Hayrides
Children's Crafts
Native Plant Sale
Guided Park Tours
Edible Plant Display
Alligators & Snakes
Butterflies & Caterpillars
And Much More...



Free
admission!
Rain or shine!

Photo: Greg Lavaty

Hosted by: Texas Master Naturalist™, Coastal Prairie Chapter
www.coastalprairie.org info@coastalprairie.org 832-225-6936



**TEXAS A&M
AGRI LIFE
EXTENSION**

**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**

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Vacant
County Extension Agent
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Russell Ford
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Russell.ford@ag.tamu.edu

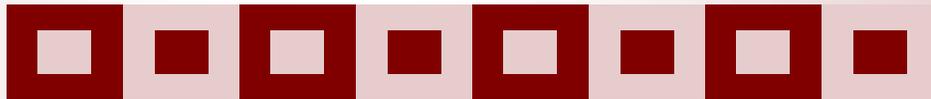
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Office Manager
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Cindy McCorkle
Assistant Office Manager
Cindy.mccorkle@ag.tamu.edu

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



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.

**TEXAS A&M
AGRI LIFE
EXTENSION**

Sponsored by the Waller County Beef & Forage Committee
Signs are available at Waller County Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Office
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