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**Ag. News**

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**Beekeeping 101**

Interested in keeping honey bees, then this course may BEE just what you need. Many people today inquire at my office about raising honey bees as an Ag. Exemption or are interested in bees to help with pollination of vegetables, fruits and crops. Some people even want "Show Me the Honey", thinking they will make money. This course will introduce you to modern beekeeping, native bees and habitat, along with the economics of raising honey bees.

Beekeeping 101 will be held on Thursday, August 24<sup>th</sup>, 2017 at the Woman's Building located at the Wise County Fair Grounds beginning at 10:00 a.m. and should conclude with questions around noon. The cost of the program will be \$10.

We are pleased to have Donavan Johns, local beekeeper to start the program off about getting started in the beekeeping business on how to set up hives and how to purchase bees. Dr. Sonja Swiger, Assistant Professor and Extension Entomologist, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service will discuss native bees and proper habitat needed to raise bees and increase populations. Dr. Jason Johnson, Associate Professor and Extension Economist-Management, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service will discuss the economics of establishing and managing hives. For landowners who are interested in using beekeeping as an agriculture use for tax exemption, Dr. Johnson will discuss the guidelines for such use in Wise County.

Beekeeper or not is the question for many. If you are interested in bees and their production this meeting should be of interest to you. For more information or to register, please contact the Wise County Extension office at 206 S. State Street at 940-627-3341.