

News From Your County Agent
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Thanks to all of you for reading my column this week. It is nice to have folks drop by the office and discuss landscape issues, predator control, insect pest and other concerns because it gives me great ideas for my weekly tip of the week, answer their questions and in turn perhaps help other readers. This is the final week of March-2017 and we zoom into April, where has this year gone? National weather service experts predict some stormy events over the next 7 days so let's hope that we can get the rain but exclude damaging winds and possible hail, but those are the risk we face every southwest Texas spring.

Private Water Well Screening Set for April 18th

Zavala, Dimmit, Frio, Atascosa, and McMullen County offices of the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension will be hosting a water well screening on April 18th at the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service office in Dimmit county located at 539 Industrial Boulevard, in Carrizo Springs, Texas, the Zavala County Extension Service office located at 221 N 1st Ave in Crystal City, in Frio County at 400 S. Pecan Street, Pearsall, Texas, Atascosa County Office located at 25 E. 5th Street Leming, TX, and in McMullen county at the county courthouse located at the intersection of Texas 72 & 16 in Tilden, Texas. This event will give area residents the opportunity to have their well water screened for common contaminants, including fecal coliform bacteria, nitrates, high salinity and presence of hydrocarbons. The cost is \$15 per sample and samples must be turned in by 10a.m. on April 18, 2017 at the respective county Extension Service offices. Results will be available on April 20th at your Local County Extension Office.

“Private water wells should be tested annually,” said John W. Smith, AgriLife Extension Program Specialist. “It is very important that only sampling bags from the Dimmit, Frio, Atascosa, McMullen or Zavala County AgriLife Extension office be used and all instructions for proper sampling are followed to ensure accurate results.” Smith said for area residents to have their well water tested, they need to pick up a sample bag and sampling instructions from the **Dimmit County AgriLife Extension office** (call 830-876-4216 for more information), **Frio County AgriLife Extension office (830-334-0099)**, or **Zavala County AgriLife Extension office** (830-374-2883). **McMullen County AgriLife Extension office (361-274-3323)** or **Atascosa County AgriLife Extension office (830-596-8997)**(SEE THIS WEEKS TIP OF THE WEEK-COLLECTING A GOOD WATER SAMPLE)

The presence of fecal coliform bacteria in water indicates that waste from humans or warm-blooded animals may have contaminated the water. Water contaminated with fecal coliform bacteria is more likely to also have pathogens present that can cause diarrhea, cramps, nausea or other symptoms. “Water with nitrates at levels of 10 parts per million is considered unsafe for human consumption,” Smith said. “Nitrate levels above 10 parts per million can disrupt the ability of blood to carry oxygen throughout the body, resulting in a condition called methemoglobinemia. Infants less than 6 months of age and young livestock are most susceptible.”

Salinity as measured by total dissolved solids will also be determined for each sample. Water with high levels may leave deposits and have a salty taste, and using water with high levels for irrigation may damage soil or plants. Smith said it is extremely important for those submitting samples to be at the meeting to receive results, learn corrective measures for identified problems and to improve understanding of private well management.

For more information, please contact your local County Extension Office. To learn more about the programs offered through the network or to find additional publications and resources, please visit <http://twon.tamu.edu>.

Support for the Texas Well Owner Network program is provided through Clean Water Act nonpoint source funding from the Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Carnivore Management Program Set For Thursday March 30th

The Texas A&M Agrilife Research and Extension Center at Uvalde, located at 1619 Garner Field Road, Uvalde will be the site for an important Carnivore Management Program. This valuable program for producers will be held on Thursday March 30, 2017 beginning at 6:00 p.m. Producers with a pesticide applicators license that attend this event will receive 2 continuing education units (CEU's). There will be a \$20.00 registration fee to attend this event which will include dinner. If you plan to attend you are asked to RSVP by March 27, 2017 to Samantha Korzekwa at 830-278-6661.

Marcel Valdez, Zavala County Extension Agent, Dr. Maureen G. Frank, Assistant Professor & Extension Wildlife Specialist, and Samantha Korzekwa, Uvalde County Extension Agent have lined up two highly qualified speakers for this event. Mike Bodenchueck with the U.S.D.A. Wildlife Service and Dr. John Tomeček with Texas A&M AgriLife Extension will discuss options and techniques to reduce damage by carnivorous predators such as coyotes, foxes, bobcats and mountain lions.

According to the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) predators killed 23,000 adult sheep and 48,000 lambs in the State, valued at \$2,254,000 and \$3,120,000, respectively. For more information about this event contact Dr. Maureen Frank, Assistant Professor & Extension Wildlife Specialist-Uvalde at 830-278-9151 ext. 280, Samantha Korzekwa-Uvalde County Extension Agent at 830-278-6661 or Marcel Valdez, Zavala County Extension Agent at 830-374-2883. I hope to see some of you on Thursday in Uvalde.

Tip of The Week: Collecting a Good Water Sample For Screening

The accurate results of any testing or screening is to get good samples. In preparation for next month's private water well owners water screening events here are a few tips that you should follow when collecting and submitting your water samples for screening.

Get Your Sampling Bags:

- .Obtain a water sampling bag from your local Extension Office.
- .Using a permanent marker such as a "Sharpie," write your name, address, and telephone number on the sampling bag (do this before you collect the sample).

Collecting the Sample:

- .Use a faucet as close to the well as possible for making the collection. If an inside faucet is used, remove the aerator on the end of the faucet before making the collection.
- .Rinse and dry the exterior of the faucet to prevent exterior contamination of your water sample. If possible, wipe off with a Clorox-type towelette or paper towel wetted with a light bleach solution to kill any bacteria present on the faucet. Allow the solution to dry before sampling.
- .Turn on the water full force and let it run at full force for two minutes.
- .Reduce the water flow to a small stream.
- .Tear off the perforated strip above the yellow twist ties from the top of the bag. Grasp the small white tabs on the side of the water-sampling bag and pull the bag open (be careful not to touch the inside of the bag with your fingers).
- .Holding the bag by one of the yellow twist ties, fill the sampling bag three-fourths full and then twirl the bag top over bottom to close it. Some water may leak out, but don't worry. Tie the twist ties together.

Submitting the Samples:

1. Place bag in a 20 or 32oz. styro-foam or similar-sized plastic cup and deliver the sample to the designated drop-off point which will be your Extension Service Office in your County.
2. Bring payment of \$15.00 per sample as follows:

The samples can be submitted on the following day at the following location(s):

<u>Date</u>	<u>Times</u>	<u>Location</u>
4/18/2017	7:00 am – 8:00 am	La Pryor-Valero Convenience Store (Highway 57)
4/18/2017	8:00 am – 9:00 am	Crystal City-Zavala County AgriLife Extension Service Office 221 North First Avenue-Crystal City, TX

Please Note: Samples should be delivered the day they are collected to ensure accurate results!!
Have a great week-M.V.

March 27-31, 2017.

