

News From Your County Agent
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Zavala County

Greetings to all of you and thank you so much for reading this week. I hope all of you that were fortunate enough to have the day off on Monday in observance of Labor Day also had an exciting opening week of college football and dove season. This weekend will be opening week for professional football so with this set I can safely say we are definitely into fall but that will not become official until about 17 days or so. So in between shooting some birds, watching some college football, planting your fall garden and watching the NFL I hope you have time to do some mowing because most landscapes continue to flourish thanks to recent rains and good subsoil moisture.

County Lamb and Goat Validation Scheduled For Next Week

I want to take this opportunity to remind all parents that might have a youngster that is planning to show a goat or a lamb project this year about the upcoming validation process this week. The county validation for these animals will take place on September 17, 2016 beginning at 8:00 a.m. at the ZAE show barn in Crystal City. In the past lamb and goat validation took place in the middle of October but that has changed and has been moved to September. This validation is for county lamb and goats only since state validation for lambs and goats does not take place until October as per state rules.

Also those families that had made plans to go to the Medina county Fair on Saturday September 17 will have the opportunity to validated their county lamb and goat projects on Wednesday September 14 from 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Those exhibitors who may have a conflict with another school activity on the 17th may also bring their animals to this special validation on Wednesday September 14th. This validation will also be held at the ZAE barn in Crystal City. Remember that the ZAE will charge a \$20.00 validation fee per exhibitor and \$5.00 for each animal tagged on these dates. . For more information regarding the state sheep and goat validation process contact the Zavala County office of the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service at 830-374-2883.

4-H Shooting and Archery Sports Coaches Certification Opportunity

The next District 12 4-H Shooting Sports Coach's Certification training has been scheduled for September 24-25, 2016 at the Hidalgo County office of Texas A&M AgriLife Extension (410 N. 13th Ave, Edinburg, Tx) and at Coyote Arms Shooting Center. This event is open to any/all registered and screened 4-H volunteers (age 21 and older) wishing to become certified to lead a shooting sports program in one of the following four disciplines: Rifle, Pistol, Shotgun, or Archery.

There are three additional opportunities to a full certification for attending this training with specific registration fees for each. However, there are limitations for each. The specific alternatives to a full certification and applicable fees are as follows:

Coach's Assistant (Adult) – Adults age 18-20 will be candidates for a Coach's Assistant certification (\$150 registration fee). This will transition into a Certified Coach when they reach 21 years of age with no additional training requirements. Coach's Assistant (Youth) – Youth age 14-18 who must be accompanied by a previously certified coach (\$150 registration fee), this option must include the following participant as well.

Previously Certified Coach(Adult)- adult age 21 and older must register and pay \$75.00 and attend the certification with the registered youth interested in the "Coach's Assistant (Youth)" option. The previously certified coach will not receive any type of certification for their attendance. Fees are to cover program cost.

Volunteers can only receive certification in one discipline per workshop. Registration for this event is currently open on 4-H Connect and will closed next week on September 15th (call for late registration). Please keep in mind that while this is being hosted in and by District 12, it is open statewide. The registration fee of **\$150** includes program costs, some meals, and materials. No specific lodging arrangements have been made but there are plenty of options within a few minutes of the Extension office.

The training will begin early on Saturday, September 24th and conclude late afternoon on Sunday, September 25th. Anyone wishing to receive certification must attend the entire workshop (beginning to end) and successfully complete the written examination in order to be considered for certification. Online you can find a flyer that can be used to market this to your 4-H families. It has been posted on the District 12 4-H website. In addition, a direct email will be sent to all youth/adults in District 12 that have selected "Shooting Sports" as a project in the 2015-2016 program year. County 4-H Coordinators will receive a copy of the notice to 4-H families.

Tip of the Week: Becoming A Master Bee Keeper

Earlier this year I was contacted by some folks interested in becoming a master bee keeper in Texas. It is always good to know that some folks are interested in this important industry despite the unfortunate instances in which bees have attacked individuals and in some cases caused the death of people. Even with these instances the number of deaths in the United States caused by bee attacks is still tremendously lower than those deaths caused by automobile accidents.

The Texas Master Beekeeper Program (TMBP) is an educational program designed to increase the knowledge and skill level of participating beekeepers. The program is a five-year (minimum) beekeeper training and certification program provided by the Texas Apiary Inspection Service in association with the Texas Beekeepers Association, Texas A&M Honey Bee Lab and the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service.

The Texas Master Beekeeper Program (TMBP) is modeled after the well-established University of Florida's Master Beekeeper Program. By using this model TMBP is able to provide the beekeepers of Texas with a well-designed program that both increases the knowledge base of the beekeeper but also helps to educate the general public about beekeeping. This is done through public service credits; a requirement in this program. It is the goal of the Texas Apiary Inspection Service that by providing this program we can increase the overall health of the apiary industry. The TMBP will accomplish this goal by producing highly knowledgeable beekeepers that can help lead the industry and act as honey bee ambassadors to the general public.

The 2016 fall exam registration form is now available for the fourth round of apprentice testing and second round of advanced level testing," says Texas Master Bee Keeping Board member Mary Reed. Late in 2014 a group of bee keepers including AgriLife Extension and Research professionals plus apiary inspectors began the process of creating a Texas Master Beekeepers Certification

program, similar to Master Gardeners and Master Naturalists. The first offering of the testing was held in March 2015 with 68 students earning the apprentice title. The five year certification is built on training, experience and testing, scoring a 70 percent or higher on both a written and practical examinations.

If you have been a bee keeper for at least one year one year and are interested in participating in this exam, you must submit your online registration by October 27th. The apprentice level class is limited to 45 participants, but there is no set limit for the advanced level slots. The exam will be held at the Bell County Expo Center in Belton, Texas on Thursday November 3, 2016. The cost for the exam is \$50.00 and must be paid prior to the exam with a check or money order submitted to the Texas A&M AgriLife Research, Department of Entomology, Texas Apiary Inspection Service-2475 TAMU, College Station, Texas 77843-2475.

Please bring your own suit, hive tool, smoker, lighter, and any other beekeeping equipment you normally use when manipulating a hive. Pine needles will be provided as smoker fuel, but if you are more comfortable using a different material, go ahead and bring that along as well. All sections of the exam will be completed by noon. For more information contact Mary Reed at 979.845.9713 or by email at mary.reed@tamu.edu. Thank you and have a great week. M.V.

September 5-9, 2016.

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