

Walker County Agriculture News

Greetings from the Walker County, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension office!

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Educational Resources:

Pond Management & Ecology -Video:

This is one of the usual “Hot Topics” of interest in Walker County. TAMU Wildlife & Fisheries have several videos posted online on their YouTube channel under the Pond & Fish Management playlist. If you are interested in a little computer/online based education related to a very interesting topic you may want to set aside 30 minutes for this one with Dr. Michael Masser, Extension Fisheries Specialist (retired). <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Slr3vLwaLOM>

New Landowners Resources –Video:

Another “Hot Topic” of interest in Walker County. Blake Aldridge & Friends reviews an extensive variety of resources and other items of interest to new landowners.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G8YK430MZyw&index=4&list=PL10QCALWCnPRKGx8_b4A_De303iRL0eji

Upcoming Events:

20th Annual Trash Bash

Walker Co, Texas

March 7th (Saturday), 2015

8:00 AM to 12:00 PM / FREE Disposal

FOUR Locations:

*City of Huntsville Disposal & Recycling Facility, 590 1-45 North:

Bagged garbage, appliances, furniture, tires (no farm implement tires, concrete, bricks)

*Try 2 Recycle, 916 15th Street:

Aluminum/steel cans, metal appliances, cast iron, newspaper, office paper, cardboard

*Precinct 3 Barn, 2986 Hwy. 19 North:

Bagged garbage, appliances, furniture, 10 Tire Limit (no farm implement tires, concrete, bricks)

*Precinct 4 Barn, 9368 Hwy. 75 South:

Bagged garbage, appliances, furniture, 10 Tire Limit (no farm implement tires, concrete, bricks)

FREE trash bags provided by County Commissioners at Precinct 1, 2 & 3, call 936-436-4912; at Precinct 4 in New Waverly call 936-435-8055 * NO COMMERCIAL HAULERS *

The Annual Trash Bash Event Hosted by Walker County Proud Communities is: FUNDED BY TRINITY RIVER AUTHORITY, WALKER COUNTY AND CITY OF HUNTSVILLE

Spring Plant Sale

Walker County Master Gardeners

Walker Co Extension - Demonstration Gardens

102 Tam Road, Huntsville, TX 77320

March 14th (Saturday), 2015

8:00 AM – 2:00 PM

The 2015 Spring Plant Sale will feature: Tomatoes & Peppers, Herbs, Roses, Natives & Ornamentals, Spring Bulbs, Seeds, Shrubs & MORE! Proceeds from this sale support Walker Co Master Gardener

activities & educational outreach efforts back to our communities including annual scholarships for graduating seniors in Walker Co and horticulture students at SHSU.

Walker County Area Beekeepers Association members will have local honey for sale during the event as well!

Did you know? Activities funded by the annual Master Gardener Plant Sale reached 2,577 individuals through 51 formal educational presentations during 2014. Topics addressed in 2014 included: LEAF-PRO- Plant selection, Earth Kind Roses, Perennials & Natives, Recycling in the landscape, "Grown Fresh"-Vegetable Gardening, Irrigation, Proper Pesticide Use/Safety/IPM and numerous youth classes. The 2014 economic value of Walker Co Master Gardener's volunteer hours provided to support Extension education outreach in our county was \$151,665.66.

Ranch Management University

G. Rollie White Visitor's Center

7707 Raymond Stotzer Pkwy.

College Station, TX 77845

March 30th (Monday) – April 3rd (Friday)

Cost: \$500.00 per workshop attendee

The Ranch Management University is an intensive 5-day event targeting new or inexperienced ranchers and landowners and covers the fundamentals of soils and soil fertility, forage establishment, pasture management, and utilization by livestock. Basic livestock management practices such as castrating and vaccinating calves are demonstrated. Grazing management, stocking rate, and body condition scoring are also highlighted. Additionally, several wildlife management topics are covered for those interested in managing white-tailed deer, turkey, quail, feral hogs, and farm ponds.

Approximately one-half the workshop involves lectures and discussion, with the remainder consisting of the field demonstrations of various how to methods of soil sampling, planting, calibrating sprayers, and inoculating legume seed. Various forage species, including bermudagrass, small grains, annual ryegrass, and clovers are studied by workshop attendees. Additional demonstrations covers deer necropsy, hog trap management, and pond fisheries management.

Plenty of time is allowed for interaction with Texas A&M University faculty with expertise and experience in all management facets of the soil-plant-animal interface and wildlife management.

For Additional information, contact Dr. Larry Redmon, Soil & Crop Sciences (979) 845-4826, or email at l-redmon@tamu.edu Online Registration and detailed agenda available online at: <https://agriferegister.tamu.edu/index.cfm/productDetails/productid/1696/>

Household Hazardous Waste Event

City of Huntsville Solid Waste-Recycling Services

April 11th (Saturday), 2015

9:00 AM to 12:00 Noon

City of Huntsville Disposal & Recycling Facility 590 I-45 North

Acceptable Items:

Aerosols

Batteries-Alkaline

Corrosives

Flammables

Fluorescent bulbs

Oxidizers

Paint-Latex and Oil

Poisons-Solids and Liquids

Propane

Reactives

For Information, please call Solid Waste & Recycling Services at (936) 294-5743. Funding for this event is provided by the H-GAC and the TCEQ through a Solid Waste Management Grant.

Electronic Recycling Day

City of Huntsville Solid Waste-Recycling Services

April 11th (Saturday), 2015

9:00 AM to 12:00 Noon

City of Huntsville Disposal & Recycling Facility 590 I-45 North

Acceptable Items:

Laptops/Notebooks

Printers / Scanners

Copiers / Projectors

Plasma Screens / LCD/ LED Screens

Computer Accessories

Telecommunication /Networking Equipment

Stereos, radios

Cell Phones / Pagers / Cameras

PDA / Palm Pilots

Rechargeable Batteries

Vehicle Batteries

For additional information, please call Solid Waste & Recycling Services at 936-294-5743

Environmental Quality Incentive Program

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is currently excepting Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) applications for 2015 funding in Walker County.

This program provides Technical and financial assistance with a number of different conservation practices to address any resource concerns you may have with your Ranching operation, such as, **Grass Planting, Cross-fencing, water systems (Livestock Pipeline or pond), Brush Management and** your Forestry operations, such as **Site prep., Tree Planting,** just to name a few.

Contact Floyd Nauls, District Conservationist for Walker County @ (936) 291-1901 EXT. 3 or @ 2 Financial Plaza Ste #735 Huntsville, TX 77340 for more program information.

Grassfed Beef Production Conference

Rosenthal Meats Center/TX A&M University Campus

488 Olsen Blvd, College Station, TX 77843

May 28th (Thursday) & May 29th (Friday), 2015

Final details on cost and registration for this increasingly popular conference have not been released at the time of this newsletter posting; however, additional information can be obtained from Dr. Rick Machen, Extension Livestock Specialist, (830) 278-9151, or by email at r-machen@tamu.edu

9:00 A View of the US Beef Industry from 30,000 feet -Dr. Jason Cleere, Texas A&M Agrilife Extension Service

10:00 Growing Forages for Grassfed Beef -Dr. Monte Rouquette, Texas A&M Agrilife Research
Moderator – Dr. Rick Machen

1:00 Defining Natural, Grassfed and Organic Production Systems -Dr. Rick Machen, Texas A&M Agrilife Extension Service

2:00 Cattle Best Suited for Grassfed Beef -Dr. Joe Paschal, Texas A&M Agrilife Extension Service

3:00 Nutrient Needs of Growing & Fattening Cattle -Dr. Jason Banta, Texas A&M Agrilife Extension Service

4:00 Preventative Herd Health Management -Dr. Glenn Rogers DVM, Grassy Ridge Consulting

5:30 A Grassfed Prime Rib Dinner / Louis Pearce Pavilion

Dr. Davey Griffin , Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service

Low-Stress Handling Cattle for Wholesome Beef

Dr. Bruce Carpenter, Texas A&M Agrilife Extension

Friday, May 29 / Rosenthal Meats Center

Moderator – Dr. Ron Gill, Assoc. Dept. Head, Animal Science

8:00 Fabrication – from Carcass to Retail Cuts -Drs. Davey Griffin and Dan Hale, Tx A&M AgriLife Extension Service

11:00 Pre-Harvest Production System and Beef's Nutrient Content

Moderator – Dr. Rick Machen

1:00 Production & Marketing Grassfed Beef (Producer Panel)

Dr. Glenn Rogers, Grassy Ridge Natural Beef, Aledo, TX

Pati Jacobs, Bastrop Cattle Company, Bastrop, TX

Charlie Bradbury, JBS Grassfed Beef, Huntsville, TX

4:30 Adjourn

Additional items of interest for our Walker County area landowners:

Timber Management Plans/Meeting Requirements for Tax Appraisal Valuations

This topic has been an item of discussion and landowner need for some time now. I am pleased to announce that The Texas A&M Forest Service (Montgomery, Harris, Waller & Walker, Grimes Counties)

has received authorization to provide training to landowners which will assist the landowner in writing your forest management goals (plan) for your property.

Landowners can contact the TFS office in the district which their property is located for detailed information. There are several 3 hour workshops scheduled to instruct landowners on this process of developing your own forest management plan. Landowners will need to schedule a site visit (on the property) with TFS prior to attending the 3 hour workshop.

Montgomery, Harris or Waller Counties, contact
Conroe District Office (936) 273-2261

Walker or Grimes Counties, contact
Huntsville District Office (936) 295-5688

Generation Next

If you have considered how you may assist bringing your next generation of landowners into the family agri-business or land holdings, you may be very interested in sending your children or grandchildren (target audience ages 18-35) to the Generation Next educational programs. All ages are welcome to attend. (*program flyer attached*)

Join Texas A&M AgriLife Extension for a 2-Day Agricultural Business Start-Up School

- Gain ideas about operations you can add to an existing ranch
- Learn options for setting up grazing & wildlife leases
- Discuss business types, tax info, & insurance needs
- Exposure to all the latest land management tools & techniques

Locations & Dates:

- San Angelo: March 5th-6th
- Stephenville: March 12th-13th
- Corpus Christi: April 9th-10th

Each course Includes: 2 Days of Expert Instruction, a Resource Notebook & File Drive, 5 included meals, and participants earn a Generation Next School Completion Certificate. Registration Fee: \$100 (\$25 discount for students) *Limited to the first 50 people per location* To Register:
<https://agriliferegister.tamu.edu/ESSM> Or call 979-845-2604

TRACE MINERAL SUPPLEMENTATION FOR BEEF COWS (Reprinted from *Beef Cattle Browsing* –TAMU February 2015)

A herd “in a production environment where forage and grazing was well managed but free-choice mineral supplementation was historically not practiced” was used in a research study. One-half of a herd of spring-calving cows was either injected or not injected on April 15 at the rate of 0.5 ml/100 lb body weight with a product containing the following:

- 60 mg/ml zinc
- 15 mg/ml copper
- 10 mg/ml manganese
- 5 mg/ml selenium

There was no difference in body weight at any time during the year-long study. Body Condition Score of injected cows tended to be higher when calves were worked, but not at weaning, calving, or re-breeding. Pregnancy rate, post-calving interval, and time from exposure to bull and subsequent breeding did not differ. NOTE: While trace mineral supplementation did not affect reproduction in this study, results could be different under different forage and management. As with all nutritional supplementation, optimum implementation should be tied to animal requirements and dietary composition.

(2014 Southern Section ASAS Meeting, Abstract 20; Univ. of Arkansas)

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