

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service,  
Walker County

## Agricultural Education Events & News Update

(Mid-January Edition  
2014)



This newsletter is an effort to inform you of upcoming agricultural educational events and related activities in the Walker County area with upcoming preregistration requirements. There are also a couple of programs mentioned in this newsletter which while may be a little outside our immediate geographic area, include topics of interest to numerous landowners.

### In This Issue:

#### Educational Programs –

- ✓ **January 28<sup>th</sup> Class Meeting: Walker Co GROWN FRESH!** (at the WC AgriLife Extension office)
- ✓ **January 28<sup>th</sup> Bull Breeding Soundness Exam Workshop**
- ✓ **Ag Profitability! "A Plan for Success"** at the Montgomery Co AgriLife Extension office)
- ✓ **February 1<sup>st</sup> Walker Co Proud TREE SALE** (at the WC Storm Shelter)

#### Also of Note in this edition:

- **2014 Turfgrass Ecology & Management Short Course**
- **East Texas Pasture Management**
- **2014 Pecan Short Course**
- **2014 Vegetable & Fruit Improvement Center Conference**



<http://walker.agrilife.org/>

## Bull Breeding Soundness Exam Workshop

Event Date: 1/28/2013 Tuesday (4:00 PM)  
\*at SHSU Gibb's Ranch (Highway 75 N.  
Huntsville TX)

RSVP is required-seating is limited; contact the Walker Co Extension Office at (936) 435-2426, or the Madison Co Extension Office at (936) 348-2234.

### Topics for this workshop:

- Health Management prior to turnout.
- Breeding Soundness Exam (BSE), what is the cost vs. the return for a thorough and accurate examination?

If you depend on your cows having a calf each year to help pay for your cattle enterprise, you should be interested in attending this workshop! We will visually evaluate and collect bulls during this workshop. The TAMU Vet School will assist with showing how a complete breeding soundness exam is performed. There will be equipment on hand to allow participants to view actual samples collected during the workshop under the microscope with detailed instruction on often overlooked issues. Program speakers from Texas A&M AgriLife Extension, and Texas A&M Veterinary School, will discuss bull management items of great importance to any cow/calf producer.



## Ag Profitability!

"A Plan for Success"

Event Date: January 31, 2014 Friday

Registration begins at 8:00 am -**Program to Begin at 9:00 am**

\*at the Montgomery County Extension Office (9020 Airport Road) in Conroe, TX

### Program topics to include:

- Nuisance Ant Management Techniques - Dr. Paul Nester
- Forage Management Techniques - Dr. L. Redmon
- Sprayer Calibration & Labels - Dr. Matthew Matocha
- Honey Bees- Their Place in Agriculture - Mike Heimer
- Management Techniques for Wildlife - Dan Jones

Program Registration includes noon meal: \$50.00, Program includes five Hours of TDA CEU Credit. Contact the Montgomery County Extension Office at 936-539-7822 or <http://montgomery.agrilife.org> or [mheimer@tamu.edu](mailto:mheimer@tamu.edu) To reserve you seat.

## Tree Sale!

Event Date: February 1, 2014 Saturday (8:00 am to 12 Noon)

\*at the: Walker County Storm Shelter 455 Hwy 75 North, Huntsville, TX

If you need to replace or add trees to your valuable home landscape, this annual event is not to be missed! There will be 2,500 Hardwood and Softwood Trees (\$1.00 Donation per Tree). This event is sponsored by Walker County Proud Communities. Trees available for selection are donated by the Texas A&M Forest Service, and educational materials furnished by the Walker County Master Gardeners & City of Huntsville Solid Waste and Recycling

Additional items available include:

\$1.00 Bluebonnet Seeds

Wood Chips-\$1.00 per bag or 1 Bag Free with Each 5 Trees, & \$2.00 Pecan: Limit 5



### 2014 Walker County

"Grown Fresh!"

From LEAF-PRO to Dinner Tonight

The 2014 Walker County "Grown Fresh!" program series (**6 meetings over 3 months**) will showcase timely information on how to grow common home vegetable garden products with emphasis on proper environmental management and ultimate utilization of the produce in a nutritious addition to the family diet.

Selected vegetables which are suitable for production in Walker County will be discussed during the course of this educational effort. Featured vegetables will be discussed prior to optimum spring planting dates/time. This effort will allow program participants to plan for and work their gardens shortly prior to recommend planting time. Participants will learn how to produce and manage healthy, locally adapted food products which will encourage and support added self-sustainability options for their family. Production recommendations will utilize Texas A&M AgriLife Extension & Walker County LEAF-PRO information. Each featured vegetable product will include demonstration(s) on preservation, or fresh utilization in the daily family diet as appropriate. Nutritional information and utilization methods will be provided to program participants regarding the healthy benefits of the home produce based on the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension, Dinner Tonight program.

**Class Schedule: (6:00 PM) at the Walker Co AgriLife Extension Office.**

**January 28<sup>th</sup>** - Parsley, Radish, Turnip, Bok Choy, Irish Potato, + Irrigation Methods, with Pressure Cooking Demonstration, Home Canned Stew/Soup Mix Demonstration

**February 11<sup>th</sup>** - Mustard, Beets +Pest Management, with Hot Water Bath Canning

**February 25<sup>th</sup>** - Corn, Beans, Tomatoes, with Corn Grilling, No Guilt Guacamole, Salsa Demonstration

**March 4<sup>th</sup> or 11 (TBD)** - Cucumber, Eggplants, Peppers, Pumpkin, Squash, with Vegetable Pickling, Squash Recipe(s) Demonstration

**March 25<sup>th</sup>** - Muskmelon, Cantaloupe, Watermelon, Okra, with Pickling Cont., Watermelon Vinaigrette Recipe Demonstration

The 2014 Walker County “Grown Fresh!” program series will be offered for participation with a onetime \$50.00 per couple fee, or \$25.00 per person to include the entire 6 meeting series or an onsite (with pre-notification) \$20.00 per person/per educational program fee. **Reservations can be made by contacting the Walker Co AgriLife Extension office at (936) 435-2426.**

**Other Educational Opportunities:**

**2014 Turfgrass Ecology & Management Short Course**

**January 27- January 31 in College Station, TX**

The Turfgrass Ecology and Management Short Course is an intensive 5-day educational opportunity for anyone interested in the fundamentals of turfgrass physiology and management. It is designed for professional turfgrass managers as well as anyone else in the green industry with a desire to learn the basics of how to properly manage turfgrasses with respect to growth, fertility, pest control, water use, water quality, etc. Attendees will be exposed to the fundamentals of proper turfgrass selection, growth and maintenance as

well as the latest up-to-date information from a diverse collection of Texas A&M University faculty.

Specific Topics Include:

- Introductory Turfgrass Physiology
- Turfgrass Species: Identification, Selection, and Establishment
- Turfgrass Management: Mowing, Fertility, and other Cultural Practices
- Turfgrass Water Use and Proper Irrigation Practices
- Soil Physical and Chemical Properties
- Water Quality: Analysis, Interpretation, and Implementation
- Pesticide Labeling and Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA) Regulations
- Turfgrass Pest Management: ID and Control of Weeds, Diseases, and Insects
- Spreader and Sprayer Calibration: Classroom and Hands-on Exercises

Registration for this event (received 12/7-1/24) is \$495.00 per person. Online registration is available at:

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

**East Texas Pasture Management**

**February 21, 2014 in Overton, TX**

- Save money by understanding active ingredients, residual control and herbicide cost
- Test your knowledge with a hands on weed identification
- Grasshopper and fall armyworm control
- Spray adjuvants and additives
- Chemicals and hormones: They are everywhere!

Registration for this event (9/16-2/20) is \$25.00, or \$30.00 onsite. Online registration is available at:

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

**2014 Texas Pecan Short Course**

**January 27- January 31 in College Station, TX**

The Texas Pecan Short Course is an educational program designed to provide new growers exposure to all aspects of commercial pecan growing. It is a great basic training for people

considering the pecan business. The program is held five consecutive days last week in January each year on the TAMU main campus in College Station. The fee to attend is \$150; \$50 for spouses. A tour of the Bush Presidential library, the USDA Pecan Breeding Program, and the Texas A&M Research/Teaching pecan orchards are included in the week's activities.

Online Registration:

<http://events.tamu.edu/EmsRegics/TexasPecanShortCourse2014>

## **2014 Vegetable & Fruit Improvement Center Conference** February 25<sup>th</sup> in College Station, TX

The 2014 Conference of the Vegetable & Fruit Improvement Center will address future challenges of increasing the consumption of healthy vegetables and fruits. This conference will provide useful information from leaders in research, industries and government entities pertaining to research efforts to increase health promoting compounds in fruits and vegetables. The audience will gain information in a format that reaches a wide range of interests. The conference will consist of presentations, open dialogue and round table discussions.

The 20th Anniversary dinner will be held at Christopher's World Grille beginning with a social at 6:30 p.m. followed by dinner. This will be a great opportunity to meet the Center's collaborating scientists as well as reconnect with former students and colleagues.

The conference is open to the public with a paid registration. Registration ends on February 15 with very limited on-site registrations. For up to date information on the conference agenda please visit the VFIC website, <http://vfic.tamu.edu/>

Registration for the Vegetable & Fruit Improvement Center event is \$80.00 per conference attendee through 2/02/14, \$110.00 afterward, or \$135.00 onsite (discounts are available for students or Master Gardeners).



If you have questions or would like more information regarding Extension Educational Programs, call us at (936) 435-2426.

Provisions from the American Disability Act will be considered when planning educational programs and activities. Please notify the Walker County Extension Office if you plan on attending an Extension Educational program and need specialized services. Notification of at least two weeks in advance is needed, so that we may have ample time to acquire resources needed to meet your needs. 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. The information given herein is for educational purposes only. Reference to commercial products or trade names is made with the understanding that no discrimination is intended and no endorsement by Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service is implied.

*Reggie Lepley*

Reggie Lepley,  
County Extension Agent – Agriculture &  
Natural Resources  
Walker County  
(936) 435-2426