

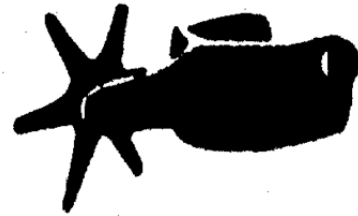
TEXAS A&M AGRI LIFE

Texas A&M
AgriLife Extension Service,
Walker County

Agricultural Education Events & News Update

(January Edition 2013)

Don't miss out on these educational programs!



Bull Selection & Breeding Soundness Workshop

SHSU Gibb's Ranch (Hwy 75 N. Huntsville, TX)

Tuesday January 15, 2013 (3:00 PM –7:00 PM)

Call in NOW to reserve your seat! The evening meal will be provided for participants by Pfizer Animal Health.

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. 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.

Topics for this workshop:

- Management prior to turnout
- Selection, Conformation & Structure
- Breeding Soundness Exam (BSE), what is the cost vs. the return for a thorough and accurate exam?

Program speakers from Texas A&M AgriLife Extension, Texas A&M, and Sam Houston State University will discuss bull management items of great importance to any cow/calf producer.

GUEST SPEAKERS:

- DR. STANLEY KELLEY, SHSU
- DR. TOM HAIRGROVE, TAMU
- DR. JASON CLEERE, TAMU
- TAMU VET SCHOOL

Program Fee: \$10.00 per person. Preregistration requested by 1/11/13 to Walker Co., Texas AgriLife Extension Service at (936) 435 2426. (Or) Madison Co, Texas AgriLife Extension Service at (936) 348-2234.

Fruit, Nuts & Citrus Workshop

Walker County Storm Shelter (455 Hwy 75 North,- in the HEARTS Veteran's Museum Complex)
Saturday, January 19, 2013 beginning at 8:00 AM.

This educational program is sponsored by the Walker County, Texas A&M Extension Service and the Walker County Master Gardeners.

If you have been considering adding fruit trees, nut producing trees or citrus to your home horticulture projects, then you will be interested in attending this workshop. Speakers for the event will be; Monte Nesbit, Extension Program Specialist, Bill Ree, Extension Program Specialist, and Bonney Kennedy, WCMG. A variety of useful subjects will be discussed to assist the home horticulturist in their efforts relating to fruit & nut production.

Topics for this educational presentation will include: varieties & selection of suitable species, water needs & management, sunlight requirements, soil fertility practices, pest ID & control options, and potential disease situations.

This educational workshop will provide guidance for the home fruit & nut enthusiast and assist you in preventing some of the common mistakes often encountered by the beginning horticulturist. In addition to the basic information, advanced concepts of fruit production, pecan pest control and options for citrus problem management will be addressed.

Cost for this program is \$10.00 per participant. 2 hours of TDA CEUs will be provided for licensed applicators. RSVP is requested; contact the Walker Co Extension Office at (936) 435-2426. Additional program information can be obtained from the Walker County Texas AgriLife Extension office at (936) 435-2426 or <http://walker-tx.tamu> under the events link or on Facebook at WalkerCo TxAgrilife.

AND IF YOU NEED CEU CREDIT!

Don't Forget – THIS FRIDAY is the:

Walker County Agricultural Pesticide Applicator Recertification Class

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service, Walker County and the Walker County Soil & Water Conservation District will be hosting our annual a 5.5 Hour continuing education class for Texas Department of Agriculture Pesticide Applicators. This C.E.U. recertification class will be held on **Friday, January 11, 2013** at the Walker County Storm Shelter, next to the H.E.A.R.T.S Veterans Museum on Highway 75 North in Huntsville. Cost for the program is \$30.00 without lunch or \$40.00 with lunch.

Registration for the Friday recertification program will begin at 8:15 AM and the event will conclude around 3:30 PM. A variety of agricultural topics and speakers are included in this annual educational program. Topics scheduled for the 2013 Pesticide Recertification event include items of interest for all landowners in the Walker County area. Specific educational items to be discussed during the day include the following topics and speakers. Our first presentation will be Plant Pathology: Control of Diseases & Insect Vectors for Production

Agriculture presented by Dr. Kevin Ong, Associate Professor and Extension Specialist- Entomology/Plant Pathology. Invasive Ant Species in Texas will be discussed and explored by Dr. Paul Nester, Extension Program Specialist. Herbicide Selection & Control Options for Range & Pasture Lands will be reviewed by Dr. Paul Baumann, Professor and Extension Weed Specialist. Participants will receive a Pesticide Laws & Regulations Update with additional information on Pesticide Safety Issues by Dr. Don Renchie, Extension Program Leader for Agricultural & Environmental Safety. The program will conclude with the completion of program evaluations, and the C.E.U. certificate distribution at approximately 3:30 PM.

Participants will be eligible to receive 1.0 hours Laws & Regulations credit, 2.0 hours Integrated Pest Management credit, and 2.5 hours General credit. Class participants are requested to R.S.V.P. for the program **NOW** to (936) 291-1901 ext 109 to the Walker County Soil & Water Conservation District office. Additional program information can be obtained from the Walker County Texas AgriLife Extension office at (936) 435-2426 or <http://walker-tx.tamu> under the events link or on Facebook at WalkerCo TxAgrilife.

Additional information that our beef producers need to know about:

Texas Animal Health Commission Announces Details of New Cattle Traceability Rule

AUSTIN – A requirement for adult cattle in Texas to have an approved form of permanent identification in place at change of ownership will go into effect January 1, 2013 according to the Texas Animal Health Commission (TAHC). The Commission amended its rules in June of this year to enhance the effective traceability of beef cattle movements in Texas, which is the cornerstone of disease control activities. Implementation of the changes was delayed by the Commission to ensure cattle producers understand the requirements and can prepare for the changes.

The amended rule permanently cancels the brucellosis test requirement for adult cattle at change of ownership, which was unofficially suspended in the summer of 2011. Although testing of adult cattle is no longer required with the rule change, all sexually intact cattle, parturient or post parturient, or 18 months of age and older changing ownership must still be officially identified with Commission approved permanent identification. This change primarily affects beef cattle, as dairy cattle in Texas have had an even more stringent identification requirement in place since 2008.

Before August of 2011, official identification devices such as eartags were applied automatically at the time a brucellosis test was performed. The inadvertent loss of the identification devices applied to cattle when brucellosis testing stopped has threatened TAHC's ability to effectively trace cattle as part of any ongoing disease investigation.

The TAHC routinely performs cattle health investigations where the identification and location of exposed/infected animals is critical to success. For example, 30 Brucellosis reactors, over 300 Bovine Trichomoniasis affected bulls and 22 bovine tuberculosis cases have been investigated by the TAHC to date in 2012. The new traceability rule will help preserve the TAHC's ability to

identify and trace animal movements quickly and effectively, no matter which disease is involved.

A complete list of acceptable identification devices/methods may be found at www.tahc.state.tx.us but the most commonly used devices include USDA metal tags, brucellosis calfhood vaccination tags, US origin 840 series Radio Frequency Identification tags (RFID), and breed registration tattoos or firebrands. Producers are encouraged to contact their veterinarian or TAHC to determine which method of tagging will be best for their operation.

Free USDA metal tags, and a limited number of free applicator pliers (dependent on available funding) will be provided by the TAHC to producers wishing to use them. The tags and/or pliers may be obtained by contacting local TAHC field staff and USDA APHIS Veterinary Services representatives. The TAHC is developing tag distribution partnerships with interested veterinary practitioners and Texas A&M AgriLife Extension offices. **The Walker County, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Office does have TAHC approved tags available at no charge. We also have a limited number of tag applicators available for short duration loan.** Partner contact information will be published as it becomes available. Producers may locate the closest tag distributor online at www.tahc.state.tx.us.

Other Local & Area Educational Programs to be aware of:

Greener Pastures! “A Road Map to Success”

Friday, January 18, 2013

Program to Begin at 9:00 am, Registration begins at 8:00 am

At the Montgomery County Extension Office 9020 Airport Road in Conroe

Program topics to include:

Weed Control Techniques and Strategies

Sprayer Calibration

Building a Soil Fertility Program

Insect Pest Management Techniques

Wildlife Management Techniques

Program Registration includes noon meal: Early - \$50.00, after January 14 \$60.00

Five Hours of TDA CEU Credit. Contact the Montgomery County Extension Office a 936-539-7822 or www.montgomery-tx.tamu.edu to reserve you seat.

Conservation Planning for Water Quality Management (2.5 hrs. CEUs)

Event Date: 2/8/1013 Friday

(1:00 PM – 5:00 PM)

***At the Walker County Storm Shelter (455 Highway 75 N. Huntsville TX)**

RSVP will be required: Contact Blake Alldredge at (979) 845-0916 for more information or register online at <http://nrt.tamu.edu/schedule>

Trinity Waters and the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service will hold a second round of water and land management workshop series related to the Trinity River basin. In this second round of workshops, participants will learn in greater detail how different land uses and ownership fragmentation can affect the water resources of the basin, as well as landowner profitability and wildlife habitat. In addition, various tools and strategies will be presented to show landowners the multiple options they have for enhancing land management on their property.

One such management tool is the Trinity River Information Management System, or TRIMS, mapping tool. This tool provides soil, elevation, and hydrology data, plus provides the ability to measure acreage and lengths so landowners may quickly obtain information needed to manage their land. Representatives from the Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board will explain how developing a water quality management plan can benefit agricultural productivity on private lands. In addition, Dr. Don Renchie of AgriLife Extension will present on the Texas Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit as it relates to pesticide applicators complying with the Clean Water Act.

At the end of the workshop, landowners will have a greater understanding of the basic principles for managing land for water, which will improve agricultural production by reducing erosion and increasing water infiltration and water-holding capacity in the soil.

Captured Rainwater—Your Liquid Gold!

Have you ever wanted to capture rainwater for use in your home and landscape?

It's a valuable natural resource - every inch of rain is like liquid gold. Texas A&M AgriLife Extension's Brazos County Master Gardeners are hosting a water conservation seminar featuring rainwater harvesting. The program will be held on Saturday, February 16, 2013, 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at the Brazos Center, 3232 Briarcrest Drive, Bryan, Texas 77802. Billy Kniffen, water resource specialist with the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service, will lead this informative seminar. Learn how to capture, store and use rainwater in your home and landscape. Kniffen will address topics relating to this effective water conservation tool, including:

- Water stewardship
- Stormwater management
- Reducing water demand
- Passive collections (rain gardens, etc.)
- Simple and complex water harvesting systems

After serving as a county Extension agent for 25 years, Kniffen is currently vice-president and education coordinator for the American Rainwater Catchment Systems Association (ARCSA). He is co-author of their manual - Rainwater Harvesting: System Planning - used in the ARCSA Accredited Professional course. He and his wife live in Menard, Texas, in a home solely dependent on rainwater. As part of the program, Kniffen will also have a fully-operational system demonstration. This seminar also offers informational exhibits for lawns, vegetable gardening, water delivery systems and the City of College Station Water Resource division. Master Gardeners will be on hand to answer gardening questions. **Pre-Register to attend:** \$45 per person - includes handouts, snacks & sandwich lunch buffet **Registration :** Preferred by February 11, 2013.

Forms: Information and registration form is available at the website: www.brazosmg.com.

Mail registration to: Brazos County Master Gardeners, 2619 Highway 21 West, Bryan, TX 77803

For additional information call the Brazos County office of AgriLife Extension at: 979-823-0129.

Or email: brazosmg@brazosmg.com



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

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