

AGRICULTURAL Program Update

Can you say something for everyone! There is a large number of educational programs planned for the Fall 2007 Season. Regardless of whether your interests are in Beef Cattle, Forages, Wildlife, Horticulture or Forestry, you will find an educational opportunity or two in this newsletter.

We have a busy schedule planned for September and October. Just check out the calendar below and see the program flyers inside the newsletter:

- September 24-**Hay Evaluation Samples Due** to WC Extension Office
- September 25-**Wildlife Management Issues** Program 7:00 PM, WC Extension Office
- October 2-**Calving Assistance** Workshop 7:00 PM, WC Extension Office
- October 11-**Fall Hay Evaluation & Strategic Fertilizer Planning** Program 6:30 PM, SHSU Gibbs Ranch
- October 16-Horticulture Workshop (**Landscaping With Shrubs**) 7:00 PM, WC Extension Office
- October 18-Horticulture Workshop (**Growing Fruit in Texas**) 7:00 PM, WC Extension Office
- October 19-**Cow Country Congress** at Windy Hill Ranch Madisonville 9:00 AM
- October 20-**Master Gardener Fall Plant Sale** 8:00 AM, WC Extension Office
- October 23-**Feral Swine Program** 7:00 PM, WC Extension Office
- October 26-**Texas Forest Institute** at the Lone Star Convention Center, Conroe 8:30 AM
- October 26 & 27 **Texas Forest Expo** at the Lone Star Convention Center, Conroe

Hay Sample entry forms are located in this newsletter. Get your sample collected and turned in. With the rain we had this summer, a lot of our hay was a little on the old side when cut or it got wet after being cut. Testing your hay is the only way you can know exactly what the feeding value of that product is.



When you find yourself in our area, stop by the office and visit the LEAF-PRO Demonstration Gardens maintained by the Walker County Master Gardeners. Located at Highway 75 North & Tam Road, Huntsville, TX.

**SPECIAL POINTS OF
INTEREST IN THIS
ISSUE.**

**Programs, Events,
&
Information**



TEXAS FOREST EXPO

LENDING A HAND TO YOU AND YOUR LAND

Lone Star Convention Center, Conroe Texas

Oct. 26, 2007 noon – 7 p.m.

Oct. 27, 2007 9 a.m. – 6 p.m.

Check it out online today! <http://texasforestexpo.tamu.edu>

Whether you live in a neighborhood or own a family forest, the Texas Forest **EXPO** will provide you with answers for protecting and managing your property...*your way*. Best of all its **free, fun for the entire family** and includes **activities for children**.

Presented by [Texas Forest Service](#), the **EXPO** brings together a broad range of natural resource professionals, non-profit organizations and outdoor companies that can help you meet all of your natural resource needs.

A vast array of activities, workshops and exhibits will give you the tools to address issues that you face when caring for your property. Just a few of the important issues you will learn about are how to:

- **protect your home and trees from wildfire**
- **generate alternate income from your property**
- **landscape to attract the wildlife you want while deterring those pesky critters you don't**
- **manage vegetation**
- **plan residences with Firewise and green principles**
- **control water quality and manage ponds**
- **keep your trees healthy**

More information, a full agenda and numerous sponsorship and exhibit opportunities are available at <http://texasforestexpo.tamu.edu>.

You may also contact us at texasforestexpo@tfs.tamu.edu or 936-273-2261.

Hosted by [Texas Forest Service](#) and [USDA Forest Service](#).

The work upon which this publication is based was funded in whole or in part through a grant awarded by the Southern Region, State and Private Forestry, U. S. Forest Service.

Private Applicator Class Developing_____

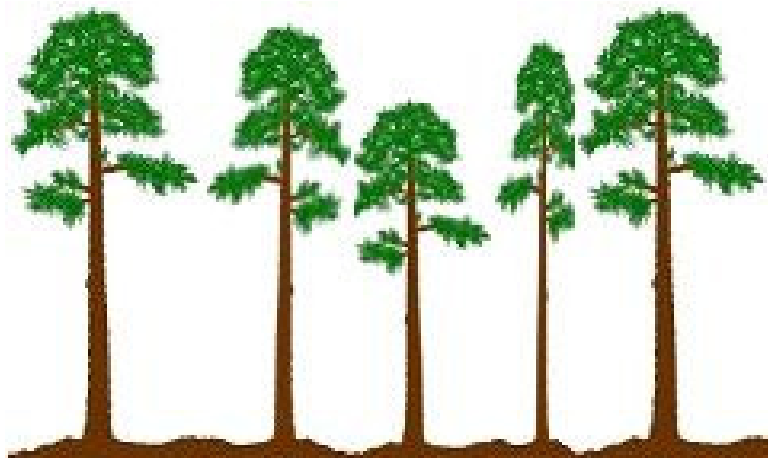
If you are in need of a Texas Department of Agriculture Private Pesticide Applicator License, contact the Walker County Extension Office to be included in the next class. We will schedule the class for this Fall as soon as there are enough participants. Cost of this class is \$30.00. Following the class and successful TDA testing requirements being met, the Private Applicator License fee is \$60.00. Each Private Applicator License is good for five years.

***Recertification requirements for Applicator License holders are 15 CEU Credits with 2 Hours Laws & Regulations & 2 Hours Integrated Pest Management every 5 years.**

Walker County Beekeepers Association

If you are interested in participating in the Walker County Area Beekeepers Association or learning more about keeping bees, you are encouraged to contact Chuck Johnson. Chuck can be reached by phone at 936-291-0943 for more information.

The Beekeepers group meets at the Walker County Extension office on the last Thursday of the month at 7:00 PM.



Madison County – 2007 Host for

Cow Country Congress

Windy Hill Ranch Madisonville, Texas

Friday -October 19th, 2007

8:30 AM -9:00 AM Registration

Registration Fee: \$15.00 per person

R.S.V.P. is required for Meal Planning prior to October 16th.

Contact Your Local County Extension Office.

Program Topics include:

Utilization of Forage Testing—Buying on quality & tonnage

Monte Rouquette, Professor Forage Physiology - Overton, Texas

Supplementing Cattle on Sorry Hay!

Jason Banta, Assistant Professor & Extension Beef Cattle Specialist - Overton, Texas

Site Tours & Talks -Crossbreeding Systems

-Working Pen Facilities

-Winter Pasture Establishment Methods & Options

Beef Cattle Quality Evaluation - Purchasing Bulls & Replacement Heifers

Jason Cleere, Assistant Professor & Extension Beef Cattle Specialist - College Station, Texas

Country of Origin & Market Outlook Update

David Anderson, Associate Professor & Extension Economist - College Station, Texas

Internal & External Parasite Control Options

Tom Craig, DVM, Texas Veterinary Medical School - College Station, Texas

**Ribeye Steak
Lunch!**

**2 Hours TDA
C.E.U. CREDIT**

*This program is supported by the Extension
Beef & Forage Committees from Walker, Madison, Houston, Trinity, Leon,
Freestone and Anderson Counties.*

**Visit With
Commercial Vendors from a
Variety of Ag Support Industries**

Calving Assistance Workshop

**Tuesday
October 2nd, 2007
7:00 PM**

Walker County Extension Office
102 Tam Road
Huntsville, Texas

- ♦ **LEARN TO RECOGNIZE
CALVING PROBLEMS**
- ♦ **LEARN TO DETERMINE WHEN
YOUR ANIMAL NEEDS ASSISTANCE**
- ♦ **DISCUSSION & DEMONSTRATION
ON PROPER METHODS AND TECHNIQUES**
- ♦ **METHODS FOR PREVENTION OF CALVING
PROBLEMS**

Additional topics:

- Selection of calving assistance tools
- Management of the cow & calf afterward



**Program Speaker:
Dr. Buddy Faries, D.V.M.,
Extension Professor and
Veterinary Specialist**

**Program will be
held at the
Walker County
Extension Office
102 Tam Road
Huntsville, TX
*approximately two miles
north of the
Pilot Truck Stop on
Highway 75 N***

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.

Swine Health Issues Concern Producers and Regulators

Adapted from Texas Animal Health Commission News Release

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Wildlife Services in Texas submitted samples from nearly 700 wild swine from August 2003 through May 2007. Test results showed that more than 20 percent, or 142 of 697 pigs had pseudorabies, a highly contagious viral disease that can cause mild flu-like signs in sows and boars, or kill piglets. About 10 percent, or 66 of 676 of the feral hogs were positive for swine brucellosis, a bacterial infection that can cause sows to abort. Swine brucellosis also may be transmitted from infected pigs to handlers.

The USDA, in its Program Standards for Pseudorabies Eradication, has classified swine based on how well their housing protects against wild hogs. "Commercial" swine, says the USDA, have the greatest protection and are maintained under high levels of biosecurity.

"Transitional" swine live in pens or on farms where it is conceivable that feral swine could burrow under, climb over, or go through fencing to commingle with the domestic pigs. Captured feral swine also can be included in the "transitional" swine herd. The USDA's third classification is for "feral" swine--pigs running free.

Since 2004, all "commercial" swine herds in the U.S. have been officially free of pseudorabies. USDA regulations allow commercial and transitional swine to move interstate without pseudorabies test requirements. While individual states may establish their entry requirements, these must meet, and may exceed, the USDA's Code of Federal Regulation (CFR) standards.

The USDA has not applied the three classifications of pigs in the national swine brucellosis eradication program. Texas is the only state not officially swine brucellosis-free.

To protect against potential disease introduction, the Texas Animal Health Commission (TAHC) requires incoming breeding swine six months and older to be test-negative for swine brucellosis within 30 days prior to entry. The animals also must be vaccinated within the previous 30 days with a *Leptospirosis*

vaccine containing the Canicola, Hardjo, Icterohaemorrhagiae, Grippotyphosa, and Pomona strains.

The USDA also stipulates that swine moved across any state lines be identified with ear notches, an ear tag or a number tattoo, and travel with a certificate of veterinary inspection issued within the previous 30 days. The swine must not have been fed waste food or been exposed to hog cholera or pseudorabies, or vaccinated for pseudorabies.

The TAHC allows feral swine to be imported from other states, directly to slaughter, provided the pigs are transported in sealed trucks and accompanied by a VS 1-27 permit (a USDA document that can be issued by a USDA or state animal health official).

Swine Health Problems in Texas

In a recent meeting with the Swine Health Committee of the Texas Pork Producer's Association, TAHC veterinarians recapped Texas statistics from January 2003 through May 2007. Forty "transitional" swine operations had been quarantined at one time or another, due to pseudorabies or swine brucellosis infection. Of the 40 operations, both diseases were detected in nine herds, and two had repeated infection.

A dozen of the 40 operations had definite contact with feral swine, while 14 were reported to have had "possible" contact. The remaining herd owners said there was no contact with feral swine. However, the TAHC said feral swine can transmit disease to domestic pigs. When these diseased or exposed domestic swine are moved, they start the disease cycle again. This is referred to as "feral-related" infection.

In the report to the Swine Health Committee, the TAHC "zeroed in" on infection for 2006 and 2007, reviewing with the committee the testing and epidemiology conducted to confirm the source and/or spread of infection. In 2006, 13 Texas "transitional" herds were found to have pseudorabies. In 2007, six infected herds have been found, as of late July. Fifteen Texas "transitional" herds had swine brucellosis in 2006, with one detected so far in 2007.

(Continued on page 13)

WILDLIFE

Management for LANDOWNERS

Walker County
Texas Cooperative
Extension Office
Hwy 75 N & Tam Road

September 25, 2007
7:00 PM



TDA Pesticide
CEU's will be
available for
TDA Licensed
Applicators!

PROGRAM
SPONSORED BY:
**THE EXTENSION LIVESTOCK &
PASTURE COMMITTEE OF
WALKER COUNTY**

Thinking About Improving The Value of Your Land For Wildlife?

- ♦ **WILDLIFE UTILIZATION OF AGRICULTURAL LAND**
- ♦ **ANIMAL NEEDS VS. AVAILABLE HABITAT**
- ♦ **FOOD SOURCE REQUIREMENTS BY SPECIES**
- ♦ **MANAGEMENT TOOLS & PRACTICES AVAILABLE TO LANDOWNERS**
- ♦ **METHODS FOR DETERMINING CARRYING CAPACITIES**
- ♦ **ADAPTING AGGRESSIVE MANAGEMENT –WILL IT FIT YOU?**



Guest Speaker
Dr. Jim Cathey
Extension Wildlife
Specialist

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.



8:30 a.m. – 4:40 p.m.

Register online today! <http://texasforestexpo.tamu.edu>

The Texas Forest EXPO professional development series for community leaders, natural resource professionals, emergency responders and public workers offers solutions to the increasingly complex challenges associated with living, working and growing in the urban-rural interface. The series offers two distinct training opportunities:

1. Emerging issues in the urban-rural interface

Community leaders, urban and rural planners, developers and emergency management and response personnel will learn:

- **Planning with Firewise & green principles**
- **Community Wildfire Protection Plans**
- **Community wildfire risk assessment methodology**
- **Improving community ISO ratings**

All-hazard approach to community forest management

2. Tree care and grounds maintenance

Public works and parks departments, grounds and maintenance crews, arborists and general tree care specialists will receive training and information in:

- **How to plant a tree**
- **Basic tree physiology**
- **Common tree problems**
- **Herbicide use**
- **Pruning and tree health**
- **Chainsaw/chipper/power line OSHA safety course**
- **Green space wildfire mitigation methods**

On-site demonstrations

\$50 Institute fee includes:

- One-day workshop
- Lunch

Course materials

Continuing Education Credits (CEU) offered

Interactive EXPO available during breaks and following sessions

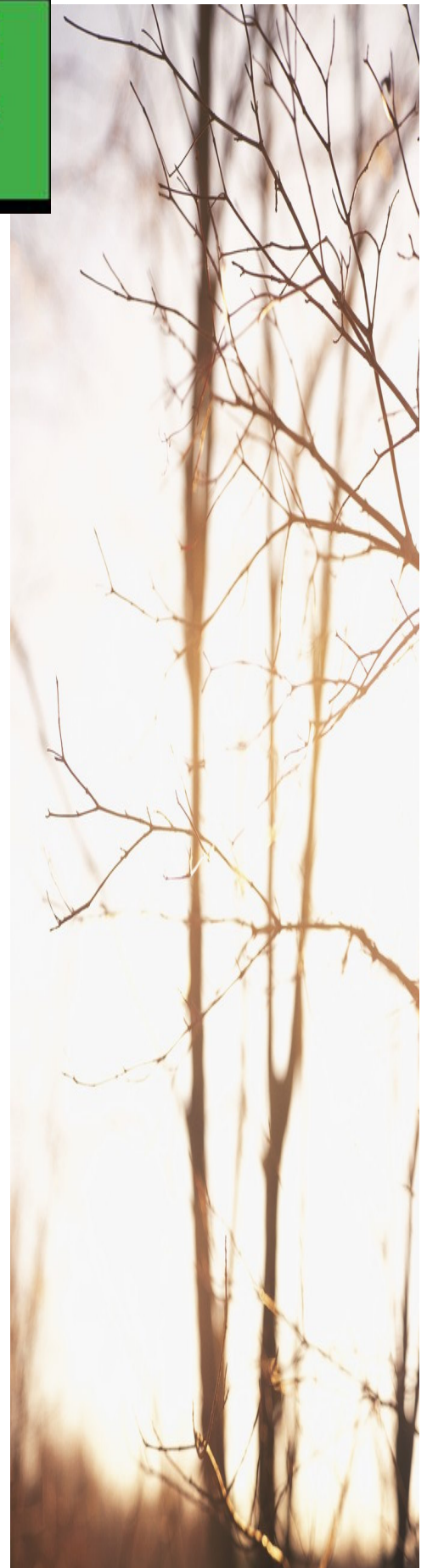
Register online today!

More information, a full agenda, online registration, and numerous sponsorship and exhibit opportunities are available at <http://texasforestexpo.tamu.edu>.

You may also contact us at texasforestexpo@tfs.tamu.edu or 936-273-2261.

Hosted by [Texas Forest Service](#) and [USDA Forest Service](#).

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FERAL Swine!

Walker County
Texas Cooperative
Extension Office
Hwy 75 N & Tam Road

October 23, 2007
7:00 PM

→ Got Hogs?
→ Want to Get Rid of
Some Hogs?

Is Swine Biology Working
Against You?
Characteristics of Feral Swine
Damage Issues—Economics
Disease Potential
Legal Issues You Should Know
About
Control Options -
Update on Ongoing Research
Hunting
Trapping Methods &
Equipment
Potential Exclusion
Methods

Guest Speaker
Larry Hysmith
Extension Associate
—Conservation



**2 Hours of TDA Pesticide CEU's will be available
for TDA Licensed Applicators!**
(1 Hour Laws & Regs & 1 Hour IPM)

PROGRAM
SPONSORED BY:
**THE EXTENSION LIVESTOCK &
PASTURE COMMITTEE OF
WALKER COUNTY**

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.

HAY EVALUATION Submission Form

– COMPLETE ALL INFORMATION & SECURELY ATTACH TO YOUR HAY SAMPLE:

(Sample DEADLINE: September 24th, 2007)

Please attach the following information securely to your hay sample. The 1st sample entry per class is FREE, sponsored by the Walker County Farm Bureau, additional samples per class are \$5.00 each. Samples may be turned in at the Walker County Extension Office on TAM Road.

CLASS OF HAY ENTERED:

PRODUCER GROWN _____

PURCHASED _____

IMPROVED BERMUDA _____

COMMON BERMUDA _____

BAHIA _____

SORGHUM _____

LEGUME _____

LEGUME GRASS MIX _____

RYEGRASS _____

MIXED GRASSES _____

Questions about your entry? Call: 435-2426

NAME _____

PHONE _____

ADDRESS _____

ONLY ONE SAMPLE PER FORM

Samples Must Consist Of:
TWO BLOCKS From Square Bales OR
ONE FULL CLEAN FEED SACK from
Round Bales. NO PLASTIC BAGS!



Wildlife & Fish Management Calendar

For Texas and the Southeast
A Landowner's Guide

This full color calendar contains information on what to do and when to do it for critical management tasks.

- Improve fishing ponds
- Encourage mourning doves with habitat
- Improve antler quality of bucks
- Control feral hogs
- Age deer in the field or by tooth wear
- Manage for ducks
- Select supplemental forages

Order your copy from:
Texas Cooperative Extension Bookstore
<http://tcebookstore.org>
888-900-2577 (toll-free)
\$7.95 + tax & shipping

October 20, 2007

**Master Fall
Gardener
Plant Sale**

Mark Your Calendar!!

Saturday, October 20

8:00 AM—2:00 PM

At the Walker County Extension Center Green House

Plants for Sale:

- Bulbs
- Trees
- Vegetables
- Much More...
- Huge Garage Sale

Plus LEAF-PRO Educational Demonstrations on:

- Composting
- Chipping & Shredding
- Recycling



*Come by and see the
LEAF-PRO educational
facilities!!*



HAY QUALITY TESTING 2007

Activity Format for 2007:

- ♦ This event will be held as a Forage Quality Testing Campaign
- ♦ A selection of non-identified samples will be displayed for educational comparison

Hay Samples due:
To the Extension
Office by
September 24, 2007
entry form enclosed in
Extension Newsletter

RSVP
by 10/9/07 to
(936) 435-2426
Hamburger Supper
\$3.00 per person

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.

Hay Testing Costs Sponsored by:
Walker County Farm Bureau

Thursday
OCTOBER 11, 2007
6:30 PM
At the
SHSU Gibbs Ranch
(Hwy 75 North)

Educational Program Topics:

**Strategic Plans For Soil
Fertility
{&}
Understanding Soil
Fertility Costs**

*Forage testing is an
annual educational activity
developed by Texas
Cooperative Extension and
the Walker County
Extension Livestock &
Pasture Committee.*

Guest Speaker:

**Mark
McFarland,
Extension Soil
Fertility
Specialist**





LEAF-PRO Horticulture Workshop Series

Program will be
held at the
Walker County
Extension Office
102 Tam Road
Huntsville, TX
*approximately two miles
north of the
Pilot Truck Stop on
Highway 75 N*

Landscaping With Shrubs: Introduced & Native Species

Tuesday—October 16th, 2007
7:00 P.M.

Program Topics:

- ✿ Selecting Shrubs for Specific Locations
- ✿ Soil, Nutrient, Water, & Lighting Needs
- ✿ Plant Texture, Color & Growth Habit
- ✿ Utilizing Native Shrub Species
- ✿ Utilizing Introduced Species



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Guest Speaker:
Rhonda Hanks,
Walker County
Master Gardener



**Meeting Sponsored
by the
Walker County Master
Gardener Association.**

For more information &
to reserve a seat,
please call 936-435-2426

**1 Hour CEU Credit for
TDA Pesticide Applicators**



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The Texas A&M University System, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the County Commissioners Courts of Texas Cooperating.

Program will be
held at the
Walker County
Extension Office
102 Tam Road
Huntsville, TX
*approximately two miles
north of the
Pilot Truck Stop on
Highway 75 N*

LEAF-PRO Horticulture Workshop Series

Growing Fruit in Texas

with information on problem solving, and
pest control options for the home fruit
garden.

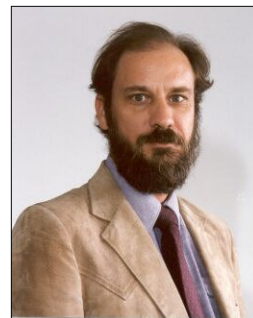
Thursday—October 18th, 2007
7:00 P.M. until 8:30 P.M.

Program Topics:

- ◆ Commonly Grown Texas
Fruit Tree & Small Berry
Varieties
- ◆ Choosing Plants for Your
Location/Recommended
Varieties
- ◆ Site Selection/Plant Needs
- ◆ Tips on Successful
Production
- ◆ Insect & Disease Issues

Peaches
Plums
Apples
Figs
Pears
Blackberries
Blueberries

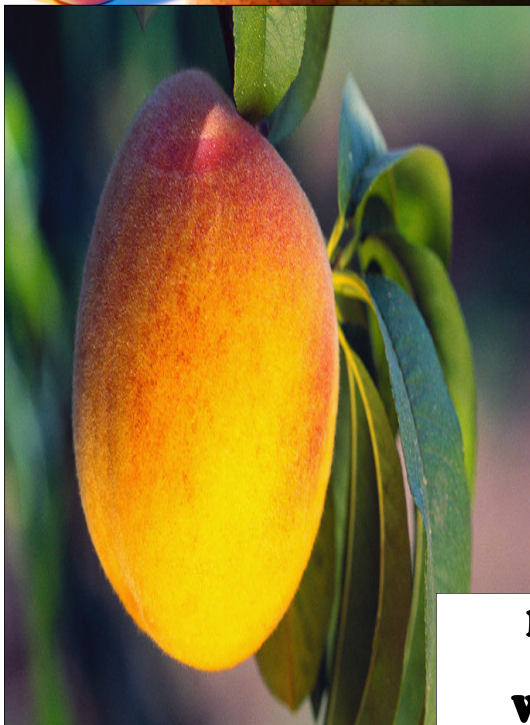
Guest Speaker:
Jim Kamas,
Extension
Horticulturist
Gillespie County
TCE,
Fredericksburg,
Texas



**Meeting Sponsored
by the
Walker County Master
Gardener Association.**

For more information &
to reserve a seat,
please call 936-435-2426

**1 Hour CEU Credit for
TDA Pesticide Applicators**



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The Texas A&M University System, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the County Commissioners Courts of Texas Cooperating.

Also troubling is the transmission of swine brucellosis to cattle, which has occurred at least 17 times since January 2006. Swine brucellosis in cattle is not of concern in the cattle brucellosis program, because swine brucellosis is not transmitted from cow to cow. However, it will cause infected cattle to test positive on brucellosis tests at the livestock market and at the laboratory. While laboratory confirmation is underway, the cattle herd must be held and tested, creating an inconvenience for the rancher and plenty of concern for the TAHC. If the infection is identified as swine brucellosis, the herd is released, and it's back to business as usual.

Pseudorabies or swine brucellosis can be detected through "first-point" or livestock marketing testing, required by the TAHC for sows and boars changing hands. In 2006, blood samples were collected from more than 4,000 swine at the market, and forwarded to the State-Federal Laboratory for testing. The change of ownership testing for breeding swine six months of age or older also applies to private treaty sales.

Testing of sows and boars slaughtered in Texas accounted for another 2,156 tests. Feeder pigs are not test-eligible, although they are moved frequently among small herds, and can play a role in disease transmission, reported the TAHC.

When infection is detected, the TAHC tests the swine in the herd of origin. If infection is confirmed, the herd owner is encouraged to have the swine depopulated. Federal indemnity funds, at market value, are available to pay the owner for domestic swine, but not for feral hogs. Prior to restocking, the owner's pens and facilities must be disinfected, to prevent the reintroduction of disease.

Conclusions: Helping Herds Avoid Disease

During the most recent legislative session, the TAHC was provided authority to regulate feral swine for animal health issues. For several years, the TAHC has approved the placement of the 75 or so TAHC-permitted feral swine holding pens and has allowed the captured wild hogs to go only to slaughter. Furthermore, rules have been in place requiring the testing of feral swine captured for transport locations other than slaughter, such as a hunting preserve.

To address feral swine health issues, the TAHC will establish a working group with the swine, hunting, and trapping industries to formulate more practical, effective, and enforceable regulations that protect swine production, while also benefiting the hunting industry.

Other measures to protect swine health?

1. Keep feral swine OUT.
2. Improve traceability of domestic swine to help animal health officials conduct thorough and complete epidemiological investigations.
3. Ensure that swine entering your herd have tested negative for pseudorabies and swine brucellosis.
4. Keep new additions separate from the rest of the herd for at least 30 days.
5. Don't borrow boars, unless they have been tested.
6. Consider enrolling in the pseudorabies or swine brucellosis certification programs. About 70 Texas herds currently are enrolled and have herds tested on a routine basis. It's a good marketing tool, particularly if you sell swine interstate.
7. If you have sudden widespread illness or unusual death losses in your herd, or see blisters or sores on your swine, immediately call your private veterinary practitioner and/or the TAHC at 800-550-8242.



Help Support

- ◆ Educational Programs for Landowners
- ◆ Youth Scholarships
- ◆ Legislative Awareness

Join the Walker Co. Timber Growers & Landowners Association

\$10.00 Annual

Association Membership.

Call the Texas Forest
Service at (936) 295 – 5688
for additional information.

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 the Cooperative Extension Service is implied.

**We hope you enjoy this issue of Walker County
Livestock & Pasture News. If you have questions or
would like more information call us at
(936) 435-2426.**



**Walker County Extension Office:
102 Tam Road Suite B, Huntsville Texas 77320
<http://walker-tx.tamu.edu>**

Sincerely,

**Reggie Lepley
County Extension Agent – Agriculture**

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage Paid
Huntsville, Texas
Permit #240

Texas Cooperative Extension
102 Tam Road Suite B
Huntsville, Texas 77320