

TEXAS A&M AGRI LIFE

Texas A&M
AgriLife Extension Service,
Walker County

Visit us on Facebook at:
WalkerCo TxAgriLife

Or on the web at:
<http://walker.agrilife.org>



Agricultural Education Events & News

(*Extended April Edition V.2 2013*)

Don't miss out on these educational programs!

Starting an Urban Farm: SAHC Online Webinar

Event Date: Friday, April 12, 2013

Time 9:00 AM – 10:00 AM

Location: Online

Program website for more information & other programs can be accessed via the following link <http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/smallacreage/seminars/>

Sponsored by the Horticultural Science & Benz School of Floral Design

For additional information, contact Joe Masabni, Extension Vegetable Specialist at (979).845.8562 or jmasabni@ag.tamu.edu

Feral Hog Control & Distribution Assessment, (+) Educational Trainings & Technical Guidance

Feral hogs cause an estimated \$52 million of damage to agriculture annually in Texas and they are increasing in numbers across the state. They like to wallow in stream systems leading to sediment and bacteria entering our waterways.

To assess feral hog distribution and how landowners are managing to reduce hog, Texas AgriLife Extension has developed a statewide reporting system <http://feralhogreports.tamu.edu>. This system is an effective tool that tracks feral hog sightings and management efforts. Please share this new reporting tool with landowners and members of the public you interact with during your daily tasks.

There are two types of reporting on the website, one for landowners and another for the general public.

We would like landowners to join us in gathering information on their feral hog reduction efforts through our secured login system. Information provided by individuals will be kept private. This information



In This Issue: **Updated Info**

Local educational programs

April 11th Plant ID Workshop

April 27th Outstanding Tree Farm Tour

April 30th Lone Star Healthy Streams

May 23rd Pond & Aquatic Resource Management program

May 30th Feral Hog Workshop

Area/Regional educational programs

April 12th Online Webinar – Starting an Urban Farm

April 15-19th Ranch Management University

April 17th Texas commercial Egg Clinic

April 25-26 Aggie Processed Meat School

May 4th Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Horse Short Course

May 14-16th Beef 101

More Local Events

April 6, 2013 Annual Electronic Recycling Day

May-Walker Co Farmers Market Organizational Meeting

will be used as leverage to bring additional resources (grant dollars) in the fight against feral hogs. Last month, we introduced Mark Tyson, our new AgriLife Extension Associate who is working on the Feral Hog Project. Landowners can also provide Mark a written report, and he would be glad to enter the data for them. The public report allows members of the public to enter data on their feral hog observations while driving or conducting other activities.

Mark can offer assistance through landowner visits, providing recommendations on ways to control feral hogs, as well as giving presentations to groups such as members of the public or landowners educating them on methods of feral hog control. In addition, Mark is working on writing several publications that will provide valuable information on controlling damage caused by feral hogs.

Texas AgriLife Extension has also developed a wide range of information and publications concerning feral hogs which can be found at:

<http://plumcreek.tamu.edu/feral-hogs>

<http://feralhogs.tamu.edu/publications>

http://www.extension.org/feral_hogs

Please feel free to contact Mark if you need more information or have questions about feral hogs.

Mark Tyson, M.S.

Extension Associate

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service

(979) 845-4698

Mark.Tyson@ag.tamu.edu

These resources are provided through a Clean Water Act Section 319(h) nonpoint source grant from the Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

6th Annual Electronic Recycling Day

Event Date: April 6, 2013

At the 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 more information, please call Solid Waste & recycling Services at 936-294-5743.

Plant ID Workshop

Event Date: April 11, 2013

Huntsville, TX (contact the Extension Office 936 435-2426 for directions)

(1:00 PM -4:30 PM)

\$10.00 Registration Fee

Can you correctly name that plant you are looking at?

Landowners & Natural Resource Managers are invited to attend this Plant Identification Workshop. Wear comfortable shoes! We will be walking the pastures and tree lines as we ID native and introduced plants. Dr. Barron Rector, Extension Range Specialist, will guide us through the world we have around us. This Field Based Workshop will include CEU credits for TDA Pesticide Applicators.



Ranch Management University

Event Date: April 15-19, 2013
Location: G. Rollie White Visitor's Center
7707 Raymond Stotzer Pkwy., College Station
FEE: \$500

The Ranch Management University is an intensive 5-day event that targets new or inexperienced ranchers and landowners and covers the fundamentals of soils and soil fertility, forage establishment, pasture management, utilization by livestock, and wildlife management. Basic livestock management practices such as castrating, and vaccinating calves are demonstrated. Grazing management, stocking rate, and body condition scoring are also highlighted. Horse and small ruminant management presentations are also conducted.



Additionally, several wildlife management topics are covered for those interested in managing white-tailed deer, turkey, 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, calibrating sprayers, and sampling hay. Various forage species, including bermudagrass and other introduced forages, native forages, small grains, annual ryegrass, and clovers are studied by workshop attendees. Additional demonstrations include 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 more information, please contact Larry Redmon (l-redmon@tamu.edu or 979-845-4826). For questions about registration or payment, please contact Extension Conference Services (agriliferegister@tamu.edu or 979-845-2604).

Refund Policy

If a cancellation becomes necessary, please send notification to agriliferegister@tamu.edu. Cancellations received no later than April 5, 2013 will receive a refund, minus a \$150 administrative fee.

Texas Commercial Egg Clinic

Event Date: April 17, 2013 - 10 a.m.-3 p.m
Location: Brazos Center
3232 Briarcrest, Bryan
FEE \$60
\$20 - State/Federal Agency Employee

The Texas Commercial Egg Clinic is an educational seminar designed for those engaged in the commercial production, marketing or distribution of eggs, or for those individuals or companies who provide products and services to the commercial egg industry. Registration fee includes refreshments, breaks and a catered lunch.

For more information about this clinic, please contact Craig Coufal (ccoufal@poultry.tamu.edu or 979-845-4319. For questions about payment or registration, please contact Extension Conference Services (agriliferegister@tamu.edu or 979-845-2604).

Refund Policy

If a cancellation becomes necessary, please send notification to agriliferegister@tamu.edu. Cancellations received no later than April 15, 2013 will receive a refund, minus a \$10 administrative fee.

Aggie Processed Meat School

Event Date: April 25-26, 2013
Location: Texas A&M University
College Station, Texas
FEE: \$285 - through April 5
\$350 after

This school will engage participants in important aspects of making sausage and cured meat products. You will learn the how's and why's of the process from raw materials and ingredients to the finished product. Each participant will learn the science and art of making processed meat products.

For more information about the camp, please contact Dan Hale (dhale@tamu.edu or 979-587-9245). For more information about registration or payment, please contact Extension Conference Services (agriliferegister@tamu.edu or 979-845-2604).

Refund Policy

If a cancellation becomes necessary, please send notification to agriliferegister@tamu.edu. Cancellations received no later than April 22, 2013 will receive a refund, minus a \$75 administrative fee.

Tree Farm Tour to be held in Walker County

Event Date: Saturday, April 27th
Time: 9:00 AM – 1:30 PM
Location: W.D. McAdams Co (Huntsville, TX)

The Texas Forest Service would like to invite everyone to the 2013 Outstanding Tree Farm Tour sponsored by the Texas Forestry Association and the American Tree Farm System. This year the tour will feature Walker County's own W.D. McAdams Co. The tour will be on Saturday April 27th from 9 am to 1:30 pm 11.5 miles north of Huntsville on SH-75 (2905 Hwy 75 North Huntsville, Texas). The event is FREE and lunch is provided.



The tour will feature presentations by professional foresters and natural resource professionals addressing drought & fire recovery, site preparation and replanting through the Natural Resource Conservation Service programs, prescribed burning and timber economics. Additional information is on the attached flyer.

Please RSVP by April 17th, by calling the Texas Forestry Association at 1-866-TXTREES or 936-632-8733.

Lone Star Healthy Streams Workshop

Event Date: April 30, 2013
Walker County Extension Office
RSVP requested 936-435-2426
(6:30 PM -8:30 PM)
\$10.00 Registration Fee

Water quality is a continuing item of concern for everybody living in Texas. This workshop to be held in Huntsville on April 30th will help introduce agricultural landowners to the means and methods of protecting our valuable water resources. Additional information written by Kathryn Boutwell: According to Dr. Larry Redmon, leader of the LSHS program, livestock producers can more easily make wise choices for reducing pollution originating on their operations if they know the benefits of clean water to agricultural operations, the current laws and policies on water quality, the ways that bacteria can enter water, and the range of solutions that are available for them to reduce water quality problems. The LSHS program is designed to educate landowners on these topics.

Through their partnership, TWRI, AgriLife Research and AgriLife Extension have successfully completed the first stage of the LSHS program and have begun the second.

Stage I: Stage I focused on evaluating best management practices (BMPs) designed to reduce bacterial contamination of water bodies, said Dr. Kevin Wagner, TWRI's associate director. This research, led by Wagner, was carried out at both private ranches and established research centers such as the U.S. Department of Agriculture's field site in Riesel, the Texas A&M University Department of Animal Science's Beef Cattle Systems Center near College Station, and the Welder Wildlife Refuge in Sinton.

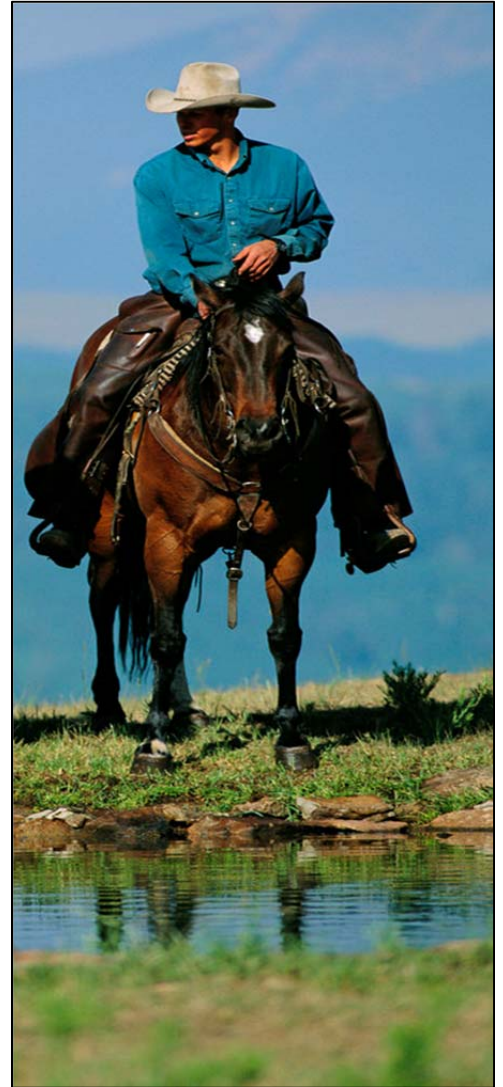
"At these ranches and research centers, both traditional and novel, or innovative, BMPs were implemented and their effectiveness evaluated so that the most successful techniques could be identified," Wagner said. "This study provided us with a good idea of which management techniques worked to reduce bacteria levels and which didn't.

"We highly recommend rotational grazing," Wagner said. The method requires moving livestock from one area to another over time. This prevents fecal material from accumulating in creek pastures during rainy seasons and ending up in streams.

"Results showed that when alternative off-stream water was provided, the amount of time cattle spent in the creek was reduced 43 percent," Wagner said.

Alternate water sources allow animals to drink at facilities away from a stream, reducing the amount of feces that enter the stream.

He said that while Stage I is technically over, research will continue to explore new BMP techniques that will benefit both streams and landowners.



Stage II: Based on information gathered in Stage I, groups of research scientists, resource conservation agencies and producers collaborated to compile the LSHS manuals, which include BMPs identified in Stage I.

“Stage II focuses on education,” said Jennifer Peterson, LSHS statewide coordinator. “For each bacterial contributor, we created a manual and a presentation outlining BMPs that are operation- specific.”

The program published manuals for poultry, beef cattle, feral hogs, horses and dairy cattle. Each manual has been endorsed by natural resource agencies and industry associations. For example, the dairy cattle program has been endorsed by the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) and the Texas Association of Dairymen. The manuals are available both online and in hard copy.

“The management practices identified in the Lone Star Healthy Streams manuals are generally practices that can both reduce nonpoint source contributions to lakes and streams and improve an operation’s bottom line,” said Jay Bragg, associate director of commodity and regulatory activities at the Texas Farm Bureau.

***Interested in joining
the Walker County
Farmers Market?***



*Contact the Walker
County Texas AgriLife
Extension Office at
(936) 435-2426.
The organizational
meeting for 2013 will
be held in early May.*

The manuals include information about Texas water quality and sources of financial assistance for BMP implementation. Although not the focus of the LSHS program, the BMPs listed in the manuals will allow livestock owners and landowners to further protect Texas waterways from runoff that contains sediments, nutrients and pesticides. Examples of BMPs found in the manuals include rotational grazing and provisions for alternate water supplies for livestock.

“Our next step is a statewide educational program that educates livestock producers and landowners about these best management practices,” Peterson said.

“We recently finished writing and publishing our curriculum and have also developed an online course for the program,” she said. “We are in the process of scheduling programs around the state.” In the coming months, programs will be made available to landowners in areas that have identified the source of bacterial impairment in their watershed. AgriLife Extension will conduct programs for landowners on BMP implementation.

“The agricultural community can choose to regulate itself through stewardship and conservation practices rather than have the solutions determined by those who may not understand the industry,” Redmon said. “It is important for landowners to become involved and make a difference in protecting our state’s most vital resource.”

The LSHS program has received support on the importance of education and BMP implementation not only from scientists, but also from farmers and landowners. “Local demonstration projects may be the most effective way to demonstrate the benefits of these management practices,” Bragg said.

"I think some good information came from the Lone Star Healthy Streams project—given they wrote a prescription for the entire state and the state is so diverse," Scrivner said.

Additional program partners include the Independent Cattleman's Association of Texas, Texas and Southwest Cattle Raisers Association, Texas Wildlife Association, Texas Association of Dairymen, Texas Horse, Texas Poultry Federation, Texas Pork Producers Association and Texas Parks and Wildlife Department.

2013 Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Horse Short Course

Event Date: May 4, 2013

Check-in: 8 a.m.-9 a.m.

Course: 9 a.m.-12 noon

Location: Texas A&M Equestrian Center at Freeman Arena

7802 Turkey Creek Rd., College Station (FM 2818 & Turkey Creek Rd.)

FEE: Students/4-H Members: \$25 (through April 15), \$30

Others: \$40 (through April 15), \$50

Sponsors: \$250 (includes booth space, space to display signs, 2 reps)



Include presentations on horse nutrition, hoof care and health benefits of equestrian activities. This year's conference also features AQHA World Champion Horse Trainer, Mozaun McKibbon, Whitesboro, Texas, who will present live horse training demonstrations on "Building a Foundation for the Versatile Stock Horse". TAMU Annual Horse Sale also will be held on May 4 at 1 p.m.

For more information on exact schedule or other programs, go to <http://animalscience.tamu.edu> or contact Dennis Sigler (dsigler@tamu.edu or 979-862-3595). For questions about registration or payment, please contact Extension Conference Services (agriliferegister@tamu.edu or 979-845-2604).

Refund Policy

If a cancellation becomes necessary, please send notification to agriliferegister@tamu.edu. Cancellations received no later than April 15, 2013 will receive a refund, minus a \$10 administrative fee.

Beef 101

Event Date: May 14-16, 2013

Location: Texas A&M University, College Station

FEE: \$550

Through input from all segments of the meat/food industries, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension and Texas A&M University Meat Science faculty have developed targeted programs for retailers, food service distributors, restaurateurs, the meat industry and association/information representatives designed to transfer technology, or provide educational assistance where needed.

Beef 101 is a three-day intensive hands-on program designed for anyone who has an interest in expanding their knowledge of the total beef industry. This is the foremost educational experience for basic information about the beef industry provided anywhere in the U.S. The workshop, which has been conducted for the past 24 years in the Texas A&M University Department of Animal Science facilities is currently offered three times yearly.



A maximum of 40 participants per session are accepted to allow for maximum hands-on participation and interaction with faculty, staff and graduate student instructors. The Beef 101 workshop begins with evaluation of beef cattle to learn about how cattle are raised, fed and handled. Participants also estimate cattle parameters that will later be measured on the beef. The animals are harvested with participants having the opportunity to observe the transformation from cattle to beef. Later, participants learn about the procedures for beef carcass grading and the various premium programs now being applied to many carcasses.

The consistently most highly rated activity associated with Beef 101 is conducted on the second day of the workshop. Participants are given a unique opportunity to team up in small numbers with an instructor to cut an entire side of beef into component parts. Beef anatomy, beef cut identification and component part yields and values are discussed at length during and after the day-long laboratory activity.

To round out the beef continuum from beef cattle to beef cuts to the plate, a thorough discussion of beef palatability, including sampling various cuts will demonstrate how various cuts, grades and technologies may affect the eating experience of beef consumers.

Participants in former Beef 101 classes include representatives from state beef councils, national or international beef and meat associations, major communication/advertising groups, many food companies (foodservice, retail, distributors, packers), chefs, sales representatives, governmental agencies and personnel from a number of foreign countries.

For more information about the workshop, please contact Davey Griffin (979-845-3935 or dgriff@tamu.edu). For questions about registration or payment, please contact Extension Conference Services (979-845-2604 or agriliferegister@tamu.edu).

Refund Policy

If cancellation becomes necessary, please send notification to agriliferegister@tamu.edu. Cancellations 30 days prior to the beginning of the indicated Beef 101 Workshop will be refunded \$450.00. Cancellations prior to 14 days in advance will receive a \$350 refund. No refund if cancellation is received less than 14 days in advance. All transfers will be charged an additional \$75 fee. Texas A&M AgriLife Extension reserves the right to cancel this workshop if less than 20 registrants are submitted.

Pond & Aquatic Resources Management Program

Event Date May 23, 2013

Walker County AgriLife Extension Office (Huntsville, TX)

6:30 PM

\$10.00 Registration Fee

What kind of shape are your farm impoundments in? The past two summers have been hard on most ponds and lakes in East Texas. Although a number have refilled during 2012, there are still quite a few that are in need of a little extra help and restocking. If you are in this situation, here is a chance to receive valuable recommendations and tips for getting your farm impoundments productive once again. Pond & Lake owners will be able to utilize information from this educational program to revitalize their impoundments.

Topics to be covered by Peter Woods, Extension Fisheries Specialist include:

- Restocking
- Structure
- Pond infrastructure
- Minimization of aquatic weed growth, ID of weeds, and control options

CEU's (1 IPM, 1 General) will be provided for TDA Pesticide Applicators; additional program information is available from the Walker County, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service at (936) 435-2426.



Feral Hog Workshop..

Event Date: May 30, 2013

Walker Co Texas AgriLife Office (Huntsville, TX)

6:30 PM

\$10.00 Registration Fee

Pest, Resource, Destructive, Tasty- just a few words that describe people's feelings toward feral hogs. In addition to the damage created in pastures, hay fields and even yards, there is growing concern about possible contamination to our streams and riparian systems.

There is news on the horizon for additional control options for feral hogs. In addition to research on new controls, research has been conducted to determine more effective methods of trapping these animals. If you are having problems enticing hogs into your old box style traps, you would benefit to learn about the newer recommendations for managing trapping systems.

This workshop will help bring you up to date on some of the items going on in the world of feral hogs. Landowners and resource managers will benefit from participation in this educational program.

Upcoming Webinars

Join online from (Noon – 1:00 PM) at <http://naturalresourcewebinars.tamu.edu/event-category/texas-range-webinar-series/>

Event Dates –

April 4, 2013: **Getting Ready to Treat Mesquite** with Dr. Megan Clayton

May 2, 2013: **How Herbicides Work-Modes of Action, Soil Activity, Half Life & Storage** with Dr. Paul Baumann

June 6, 2013: **Importance of Plant Identification** with Dr. Barron Rector

Texas Range Webinar Series

Presented by the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service

Ecosystem Science and Management Unit

The Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service, Ecosystem Science and Management Extension Unit are conducting lunch-based webinars every month throughout 2013. The Texas Range Webinar Series will present a webinar every first Thursday of the month. The Ecosystem Science and Management Extension Unit is partnering with the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences at Texas A&M University. Information on Forestry and Natural Resource webinars will be available on our website.

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

Visit us on Facebook at:
WalkerCo TxAgriLife
Or on the web at:
<http://walker.agrilife.org>

The logo for Texas A&M AgriLife. "TEXAS A&M" is written in a dark red, serif font. Below it, "AGRILIFE" is written in a large, grey, serif font. The "A" in "AGRILIFE" is significantly larger and overlaps the "T" in "TEXAS A&M".

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 three to five days 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