

# TEXAS A&M AGRI LIFE

Texas A&M  
AgriLife Extension Service,  
Walker County

## Agricultural Education Events & News

(July Edition 2013)

Summer is officially here! I know that everyone in Walker County is thankful for the rain and the opportunity to harvest hay, grow our gardens, and keep refilling ponds.

With the cooler weather this spring we have had issues with germination problems in many **vegetable gardens** which were frustrating for a number of people. This also has set back some of our garden plants production timing, to the point where we have experienced later harvests from many of our vegetables.

Now is a great time to start planning for your fall gardens as you finish harvesting the spring crop or start harvesting our middle of the summer crops (egg plant/southern peas/okra/sweet potatoes/melons). We have a Vegetable Planting Chart for Walker County posted on our [Walker County Texas A&M AgriLife Extension](#) web page (look under the publications section –[Horticulture](#) link). Each vegetable crop listed also contains a link to the related gardening information for homeowners.

Now that hot weather has found us, our ponds and specifically some stocked ponds seem to have increased issues with **oxygen depletion** problems. Be very careful with any weed control activities in your ponds which are currently stocked with fish. Low oxygen levels, hot water, rain storms/slight cool fronts, and weed control can create a “perfect storm” situation where you can lose fish quickly. If you are needing to treat a pond or lake for weeds, make sure that you only treat a 1/5<sup>th</sup> to an 1/8<sup>th</sup> of the pond at a time with the proper rate of product – then wait a couple of weeks and then treat the next portion of the pond. This help prevent you from killing too much plant material at a time (which ties up available oxygen as it dies and then decomposes) thus contributing to reduced oxygen levels. Additional information can be found at the [Dissolved Oxygen](#) page on <http://aquaplant.tamu.edu>

**Insects** –It seems that we have a widespread population of aphids at this time, If you are seeing mold growing on the leaves of your shade trees and ornamentals (crepe myrtles are notorious for this), look closely on the tree for small soft bodied insects such as the photo to the right. These insects come in a wide variety of colors so don't let that bother you. Control can be as simple as a high pressure water blast, horticultural soaps, or just letting the predatory insects have a picnic. If the problem is severe enough to justify chemical control there is an extensive list of products recommended for use in the Extension publication [Aphids in Texas Landscapes](#) (B-6047) posted on the Extension Bookstore.

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Or on the web at:

<http://walker.agrilife.org>



*In This Issue:*

### Local educational programs

July 16<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup> Welding  
Fabrication Class for Ag  
Producers

### Area/Regional educational programs

July 11<sup>th</sup> Oil & Gas 101 for Land  
& Mineral Owners –Madisonville,  
TX

August 5<sup>th</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup> Texas A&M Beef  
Cattle Short Course –College  
Station, TX

### More Local Events

Walker Co Farmers Market  
at the West Hill Mall parking  
lot on Wednesdays & Saturdays  
(8:00 AM until sell-out)



**Aphids: Facts:** Aphids are generally less than 1/8 inch in length with only a few that is larger. Aphids are soft-bodied, with rounded or elongate bodies, long legs and long antennae. The distinguishing feature is a pair of extensions on the abdomen called cornicles. Adult aphids may be winged or wingless. Aphids can be almost any color including: green, reddish, yellow, or black. Some aphids produce a waxy secretion that covers their body making them appear woolly and white

## Don't miss out on these educational programs!

### Welding Fabrication Class for Ag Producers:

Event Date: July 16<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup>, 2013  
(2 Day Class: Tuesday & Thursday)  
Time: 6:00 PM start each day  
Location: New Waverly High School  
Agriculture Science Shop



Due to popular demand we are offering this class once again! It has been a number of years since the last "How To" series of classes such as this. This two day program will be held at the New Waverly High School Ag Science Shop off of Hwy 75. The registration fee for participants is \$30.00. Participants will need to attend with suitable clothing and shoes (heavy cotton & closed toe leather footwear) and safety glasses. Other safety items will be provided. We are limited on numbers (first 24 only)-so call in and make your reservation quickly.

Clint Wilson, New Waverly –AST will provide instruction on proper methods and techniques of welding metal for farm use applications. This instructional program will teach the novice welder proper safety and application of welding techniques for on farm use. Those of you who are experienced may find this a great opportunity as a refresher course to polish some skills and learn new techniques.

Additional program information is available from the Walker County, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service at (936) 435-2426. **RSVP and preregistration is required.**

### Oil & Gas 101 for Land & Mineral Owners

Event Date: July 11<sup>th</sup>, 2013 (Thursday)  
Time: 6:00 PM – 9:00 PM  
Location: Madison County Fairgrounds, Madisonville, TX

This is a 3 Hour Program for Land and Mineral Owners. Program Cost - \$10 Dollars

With Recent Leasing and Drilling Activity in the Madison County Area many landowners are in need of information covering a variety of topics. Items such as; royalty, bonus, lease terms and clauses (what to ask for and why) will be discussed. Specific items to be addressed include:

- Understanding your Oil and Gas Lease
- Lease Clauses & Lessor's Rights
- New Developments in Oil and Gas Law
- How to Protect your Mineral Rights:
- Stay informed- (Oil and Gas Information and Where to Get it)
- Know the Value of your Lease
- Know the Operators Duties Under Your Lease:
- Duty to Develop and Protect Against Drainage
- Lease Termination-(How to know when it happens)
- Limitations Issues- (Before it's Too Late)
- Royalty Payment Issues
- (How to Read Your Check Stub)
- Surface Damage Issues
- (Dealing With Drill Sites and Pipelines in Your Backyard)
- Update on the Future of Natural Gas Prices

The presentation will be provided by Phillip Baldwin Jr. Attorney at Law, Marshall, Texas. If you would like additional information, or to preregister for the class, please contact the Madison County, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension office at (936) 348-2234.

## **Texas A&M Beef Cattle Short Course**

Event Date: August 5<sup>th</sup> -7<sup>th</sup> , 2013  
(3 Days: Monday-Wednesday)  
Location: Texas A&M University

The 59th Texas A&M Beef Cattle Short Course is scheduled Aug. 5-7 at Texas A&M University in College Station.

Weather outlook and a cattle market outlook are two of the featured topics to be discussed during the general session scheduled Aug. 5.

“A lot of producers want to know how long this current market cycle will last and how to go about herd expansion strategies in the future,” said Dr. Jason Cleere, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service beef cattle specialist in College Station and conference coordinator. “The long-term outlook is one of the many topics that will be featured in the 22 different cattleman’s college sessions at the short course.”

The short course has become one of the largest and most comprehensive beef cattle educational programs in the U.S., Cleere noted.

The cattleman’s college portion provides participants with an opportunity to choose workshops based on their level of production experience and the needs of their ranch, Cleere said.

“These concurrent workshops will feature information on introductory cattle production, retiring to ranching, management practices in the areas of forage, nutrition and reproduction, record keeping, genetics, purebred cattle, landowner issues and much more,” he said.

In addition to classroom instruction, participants can attend one of the popular demonstrations on the morning of Aug. 7.

“There will be demonstrations on fence building, chute-side calf working, cattle behavior, penning and Brush Busters,” Cleere said. “These provide an opportunity for ranchers to see beef cattle production practices put to use.

“The goal of the short course each year is to provide the most cutting-edge information that is needed by beef cattle producers. We think we have information for everyone to take home and apply to their operations.”

Participants can receive a Texas Department of Agriculture private pesticide applicator’s license during the short course and can earn at least seven pesticide continuing education units if they are already licensed, Cleere added.

An industry trade show will be held during the event, featuring more than 110 agricultural businesses and service exhibits.

Registration is \$160 per person and includes educational materials, a copy of the 600-page Beef Cattle Short Course proceedings, trade show admittance, admission to the prime rib dinner, lunches, breakfasts and daily refreshments.

Registration information and a tentative schedule can be found on the short course website at <http://beef.tamu.edu>.

Producers can also register by contacting Cleere’s office at 979-845-6931.

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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 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