



September 2021

Walker County Agriculture Update

Greetings from the Walker
County, Texas A&M AgriLife
Extension office!

In the category of “history... will repeat itself”, the last time the following information was shared was an August 2009 newsletter. The information was actually a reprint from 1999. It is interesting to note our extremely wet 2021 summer has been replaced by a dry spell of varying degrees depending on your personal geography. During moisture cycles such as this in the past I remember trees showing a good deal of moisture stress. It may pay to watch your high value shade trees near your home for signs indicating the need to supplement water.

I remembered a useful informational set while talking to a new landowner concerned with how to manage trees across his property. The discussion turned to variables between high value landscape trees vs trees in general. Upshot of the conversation is trees require a lot of water and you may or may not find that volume affordable depending on circumstances. The following information provides a bit of simple math to refer to.

Watering Trees in Dry Weather

During periods of dry weather, we need to be aware of the needs of our landscape trees. These plants provide aesthetics and value to our property. Although trees are valuable assets to our property, watering decisions need to be made carefully for economic reasons. Most trees require 1-3 inches of rain per month to remain healthy. If you water during dry spells you need to know the equivalent rates.

- 1 inch of rain = 5 gallons of H₂O per square yard.
- 2 inches of rain = 10 gallons of H₂O per square yard.
- 3 inches of rain = 15 gallons of H₂O per square yard.

How does this affect your landscape? If a tree has a canopy area of roughly 10' x 10' this = 100 square feet which is 11.11 square yards. Keep in mind...**This is a small tree!**

To water ONE (10' x 10' canopy) tree

- 1 inch: 5 x 11.11 = 55.55 gallons
- 2 inches: 10 x 11.11 = 111.1 gallons
- 3 inches: 15 x 11.11 = 166.65 gallons

If you have a yard with a number of trees, it is not hard to see the potential impact to your water bill. Water conservation is a continuing concern for the future with great importance. You can make a difference with educated decisions regarding home water use. Contact the Walker County Texas AgriLife Extension Office for additional information.

2021 Fall Hay Evaluation – Hay Testing Submission Deadline

Tuesday, September 21 @ 5:00 PM

Texas AgriLife Extension office, Walker County

102 Tam Road, Suite B

Huntsville, TX 77320

Entry forms are attached within this newsletter or available via email from r-lepley@tamu.edu Be sure to type Hay Entry Request in the subject line. *Additional information available from Walker County, TX AgriLife Extension at (936) 435-2426.

Each participant providing hay samples will receive a printed result sheet for each hay sample entered. I will also provide written beef cattle feeding recommendations for each hay sample based on the testing results. Cost? Testing is FREE! No excuses - turn in your hay samples!

Featured Upcoming Events:

Fall Vegetable Gardening with the Walker Co Master Gardeners

Monday, August 30, 2021

10:30 AM until 12 Noon

Huntsville Public Library (1219 13th St, Huntsville, TX 77340)

Cost: FREE

This year's Fall Vegetable Gardening class is on the calendar!!! Our Walker County Master Gardeners eagerly look forward to teaching tips and tricks for successful home gardens. We try really hard to hold community spring and fall sessions in conjunction with the Huntsville Public Library. Join us at the library to learn all the neat things it takes to be the best vegetable gardener on the block! Topics will include preplant site preparation, vegetable species selection, planting dates, care and cultivation needs, composting variations, pest ID and probably a great recipe or two for all those fresh vegetables AND herbs... Join us at the Huntsville Library!

Walker County Fall Hay Evaluation

– MEAL Included!

Date: October 12, 2021.

Time: 6:30 PM (meal then program)

Location: Walker County Fair Grounds Committeeman's Room

Cost of meeting participation: \$10.00 per person

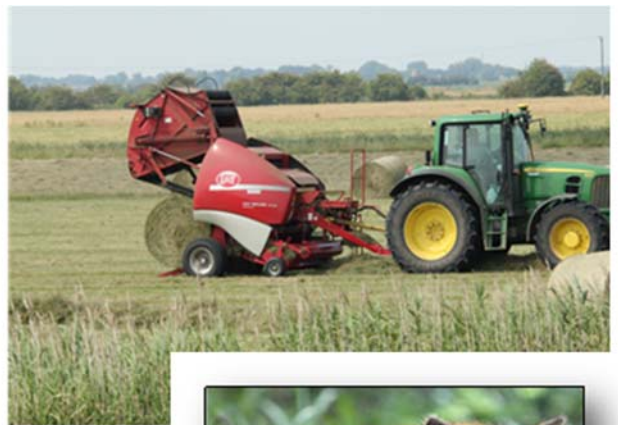
For additional information: (936) 435-2426

Registration: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/walker-county-fall-hay-evaluation-tickets-167889178051>

2 Hours TDA CEU credit to be available

Hay production during challenging years make hay testing even more important. This is YOUR chance to have hay tested at no cost! In addition to producing and evaluating quality hay, we will look at management of problem weeds. Dr. Bobby Lane will lead the hay quality discussion and talk about weed control in your hay fields following the wet 2021 late spring through summer season. Additionally, many of you may have heard (or even seen) some of the new and emerging options for feral hog control. To help explain what you need to know about these options, we will have Dr. Aaron Sumrall, CEA-AG/NR Matagorda County with us to showcase these very interesting new tools.

We are pleased to have Walker County Farm Bureau sponsor the hay testing costs again this year.



Meat Science, Food Safety & Benefits of Active Land Management

Tentative Dates: October 6, 13, 20, 2021

Walker County Program Series

If you place those listed topics together in close proximity, you may at some point find an educational program series on home processing of meat (possibly either livestock or wildlife), sausage making (homemade link sausage & boudin), smoking of meat (BBQ-how's pork belly burnt ends grab you?) and preservation by drying (Jerky) and then maybe even some home brewing (Yes, I'm serious) ... Sounds interesting? I thought so: Sign ME up!

We are working on this project for October – more as it develops! If you need more of a tease: Save the (late afternoons) tentative dates of October 6, 13 and 20th for some really fun education provided by your Walker County Texas AgriLife Extension office.

Area and/or Online Upcoming Events:

Weed Control in Forages: Fall Brush Control

Ongoing Forage SERIES (hosted by Brazoria and Galveston Counties)

August 31, 2021

Registration Link <http://tinyurl.com/y8eapnu6> **Registration is online only, - deadline is August 31.**

Cost: \$10.00 (+processing fee)

For additional information, contact: Reese Daily at reese.daily@agnet.tamu.edu.

1 Hour TDA CEU (general) credit available

Vanessa Corriher-Olson, Ph.D., Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service forage specialist, Overton, will give an overview of fall brush control options in coastal Texas hay and pastures. Cost is \$10 and one continuing Texas Department of Agriculture education unit in the general category will be offered to those who register. Attendees must be registered to receive a meeting link.

TU-MILE Sportsman's Association Banquet

September 11, 2021

Walker County Fairgrounds

6:00 PM

<https://www.tumilesportsmen.com/banquet-information>

This locally based organization has been an outstanding supporter of the 4-H & Youth Shooting Sports program and our outdoor education/wildlife activities. The TU-MILE Sportsman's Association continues to donate and support numerous 4-H programs in our area. Walker County is fortunate to be one of those counties. Additionally, the association annually provides five \$1,000.00 scholarships to graduating high school seniors. This year's banquet will include youth events, special raffles, gun giveaways and much more. Admission tickets are Kids 7 & under (free), Ages 8-18 (\$25), Adults (\$65), Couples (\$120). For more information, or to purchase tickets please contact Jody Crawford (936) 714-3499 or one of the great people listed on the banquet link above. Your banquet ticket provides you a membership in the association. Landowners interested in wildlife management are encouraged to participate in the association's seed Co-op (cost share) program for members.

Beef Cattle Management & Herd Health Overview

With TAMU Department of Animal Science Specialists

Date: September 30, 2021

Time: 6:30 PM to 8:30 PM

**Location: TAMU Beef Center _ O.D. Butler Jr Animal Science Complex
(7707 Raymond Stotzer Pkwy, College Station, TX 77845)**

Cost: \$\$10.00 per person (BBQ dinner will be provided)

RSVP by Sept 22 or for additional information contact: Call: 979/823-0129

or Email: Janice.Anderson@ag.tamu.edu



Program Topics:

- TAMU Beef Center herd overview and direction
- Future educational opportunities with the TAMU Beef Center herds
- Use of reproductive management for beef herds
- Red Angus and Beefmaster cattle on display

10th Annual Texas Fruit Conference

Saturday, October 11th & 12th,

Civic/Convention Center, 375 S. Castell Ave, New Braunfels, TX

- Intro to Fruit Growing Workshop (½ day, 1 lunch, & fruit receptions): \$55.00
- Main Conference (1.5 days, 2 lunches, & fruit receptions): \$90.00 /person
- Workshop & Conference Package (2 days, 2 lunches, & fruit reception): \$125.00

Registration and website: [Texas Fruit Growers Blog - Fruit & Nut Resources](http://texasfruitgrowersblog.com) [Fruit & Nut Resources \(tamu.edu\)](http://fruitandnutresources.tamu.edu)

I have said it before: “Could you ask for a better “get away” location with the excuse of learning something?” This educational program includes numerous presenters. Topics encompass fruit production, marketing, disease and insect management, new crops, new varieties, grower experiences and an ‘ask the experts’ panel discussion. *Complete Conference Program Now Available*; just follow the link above for all the good information and details.

Conference topics this year include:

- Orchard site selection
- Crop & Variety selection
- Water, Fertilizer & Weeds: Surviving your first year
- Developing a Pesticide Philosophy and IPM Program
- Economic Considerations
- Time Considerations
- Worker Protection Safety Standards
- Selling Texas Fruit in Farmers Markets
- Climate Constraints on Fruit in Texas
- The New Fruit Frontier: Alternatives and Possibilities for Texas
- Peach Breeding Program Updates
- Figs: Past, Present, Future
- Sustainable Fruit Growing
- Growing Fruit Organically
- IPM in Fruit Growing



Keep this date ON YOUR CALENDAR:

2021 Cow Country Congress

October 19, 2018.

Polk County, TX

Planning is ongoing for the 2021 Cow Country Congress – Save the Date!!! More information as it becomes available. Cow Country Congress is an annual eight county area educational program designed to support the needs of beef cattle producers. We will feed you a GREAT LUNCH while you are there! Save the date to join the AgriLife agents from Polk, Trinity, Walker, Houston, Madison, Leon, Freestone, and Anderson for this longstanding educational event.

Additional Items and Information of Note:

It is Brand Registration Time Once Again

Information courtesy of Dr. Joe Paschal, Extension Livestock Specialist

Brand registration in Texas is required every 10 years. Brands (the actual brand and location), ear marks, and tattoos (if any are used for ownership) must be registered at the county clerk's office of each county in which a producer owns and runs livestock. Texas does not have a statewide brand registry database as do many western states, those are maintained by the county clerks in each county. Every 10 years, the state requires that brands be reregistered in the county or counties in which a livestock or beef cattle producer operates. All marks, brands, and tattoos that are currently registered with the county clerk indicate ownership (not individual identification) will expire after August 30, 2021. The renewal period runs from August 31, 2021, until February 28, 2022. Once registered (or reregistered) the brand, mar or tattoo will be good until August 30, 2031. Even if a brand or mark was recently registered, it must be registered again.

Any previously recorded marks, brands, or tattoos which have not been reregistered by February 28, 2022, will be considered unclaimed and eligible for registration by a new owner. Some counties have online registration, most require the owner to send in the renewal form (attached). In Texas, the Texas and Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association works with the Texas county clerks to provide a brand

BUZZ OFF!



TEXAS A&M
AGRI LIFE
EXTENSION

4 WAYS TO PREVENT MOSQUITO BITES



Drain or dump out all standing water around your home

Clean clogged gutters

Empty bird baths and flower pot drain dishes weekly

Store buckets, toys, and wheelbarrows so they do not hold water



Avoid disease-spreading mosquitoes, which can be active at any time, day or night

They can bite anytime that the temperature rises above 55°F



Outdoors, wear long pants and long-sleeve shirts

Choose fabrics with a tight weave instead of knits or other loosely woven materials



Use mosquito repellent containing one of these ingredients when you're outdoors:

- DEET
- IR3535
- Picaridin
- Oil of lemon eucalyptus (paramenthane-3, 8-diol)

Sonja L. Swiger, Extension Medical/Veterinary Entomologist
Mike Merchant, Extension Urban Entomologist
The Texas A&M University System

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registration site and they have excellent website to answer questions about brand registration, design, and use <http://www.tscrabrand.com/>

Brands are very useful to determine proof of ownership in case of theft or in case of a natural disaster where livestock might be lost or commingled. It is against the law to use a brand or earmark that is not registered. Selection of a brand site needs to include consideration of size of the brand and potential damage to the hide. Lower hips and shoulders are better sites than high on the hip and shoulder, never brand over the back or ribs. Both fire and freeze brands are acceptable, freeze brands should be used on red or black coat-colored cattle. For more information on branding or identifying your livestock, contact your local Texas A&M AgriLife County Extension Agent. For further information on renewing your brand or marks, contact your County Clerk: Walker Co (936) 436-4922.

More good information “Revisited”

I led into this newsletter with a reprint from 2009. In that same issue I noted the following article – and I am seeing red tinged ponds in random places as I drive through our county... so... If this information interests you enough to read, please read the entire section as there is a second reason the surface of our ponds can turn red during this time of year.

The following information was originally published in the 2008 Summer Ohio Pond Newsletter developed by:
*Bill Lynch –Program Specialist
Aquatic Ecosystem Management
The Ohio State University
School of Environment & Natural Resources*

Why is My Pond Red?

Every summer, many pond owners notice their pond takes on a reddish hue to it when hot, calm days occur in succession. They typically describe it as a red slick that gets easily blown to one side with a gentle breeze. Then about the time they get worried about it, the reddish slick suddenly disappears. So, what the heck is going on?

Virtually all the reddish ponds I've visited contain dense populations of *Euglena*. *Euglena* are microscopic protozoan that have both animal characteristics as well as plant characteristics. The plant characteristic most apparent are chloroplasts, which contain chlorophyll. This allows the *Euglena* to produce its own food internally—a rarity in the animal world. *Euglena* also have a large eyespot which becomes very red in color when exposed to excessive ultraviolet radiation. The red pigment is produced to protect the eyespot from the radiation.

The reddish slick in a pond occurs for two reasons and both must be present to create the reddish color. First, there must be lots of *Euglena* in the pond. They flourish in a nutrient rich environment, so a nutrient poor pond will have fewer *Euglena*, and will not typically experience a reddish *Euglena* bloom.

Second, pond and weather conditions must be such that ultra-violet radiation entering the water is high. Weather-wise, this means an extended sunny period with little or no wind and very warm water temperatures. A flat pond surface allows light to enter more readily. Also, the water needs to be on the clear side to facilitate the penetration of light and radiation that makes the *Euglena* unhappy and produce more red pigment. In conclusion, red *Euglena* blooms are more likely during periods with high water temperatures, lots of sun, and little wind and in ponds with clearer water.

So, what to do? There is very little a pond owner can do to eliminate the reddish bloom. Our typical recommendation is to wait out the bloom, as an abrupt change in weather and/or water clarity can allow the *Euglena* to reduce the amount of red pigment in their eyespot. *Euglena* do not pose a threat to aquatic life or people swimming in the pond. One activity a pond owner can do is to reduce outside inputs of nutrients to limit the population of *Euglena*. This activity also helps to reduce abundances of nuisance algae and aquatic plants, which most pond owners prefer not to have an abundance of.

More information on Euglena from Texas A&M AgriLife Extension: <https://aquaplant.tamu.edu/plant-identification/alphabetical-index/euglena/>

FYI: It is VERY possible your red colored pond isn't what was described above (option #2):

Just so you know, there is another reason you may be seeing a reddish color on top of your pond. If you look closely and it seems there is a tiny fern floating on the surface, you have Mosquito Fern (Azolla). Here is a link with the information you need to know about Mosquito Fern: <https://aquaplant.tamu.edu/plant-identification/alphabetical-index/mosquito-fern/>

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



Reggie Lepley

Reggie Lepley,
County Extension Agent – Agriculture & Natural Resources
Walker County
(936) 435-2426
r-lepley@tamu.edu

2021 Walker Co Fall Hay Evaluation Entry Form

**COMPLETE ALL INFORMATION & SECURELY
ATTACH THIS FORM TO YOUR HAY SAMPLE:**

(Sample entry DEADLINE: September 21, 2021)

Please attach the following information securely to your hay sample. Limit of TWO samples per person.
Samples may be turned in at the Walker County Extension Office on TAM Road. Hay sample may be producer
grown or purchased. All samples must be processed through a mechanical hay baler.
Questions about your entry? Call: (936) 435-2426

CLASS OF HAY ENTERED:

- ☐ Yes, I GREW this hay myself
It was from Cutting: ☐ 1st ☐ 2nd ☐ 3rd _____ other
- Fertilizer formulation applied: _____
 - Fertilizer Rate (lbs.) applied per Acre: _____
- ☐ Yes, I PURCHASED this hay
Origin if known: _____

Type of hay entered (check **ONE box** per entry):

- ☐ IMPROVED BERMUDA
- ☐ COMMON BERMUDA
- ☐ BAHIA
- ☐ SORGHUM
- ☐ LEGUME
- ☐ LEGUME GRASS MIX
- ☐ RYEGRASS
- ☐ MIXED GRASSES

NAME _____

Sample ID: _____

PHONE _____

ADDRESS _____

EMAIL _____

ONLY ONE SAMPLE PER FORM

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

MARK AND BRAND APPLICATION

THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF THIS APPLICATION IS AUGUST 31, 2021 TO AUGUST 30, 2031
Renewal of this Brand/Mark must be filed during the period August 31, 2021, to February 28, 2022
This form is to be used to record a single brand or mark for one or more locations on an animal.

Please print or type information (* Required information):

The undersigned hereby makes application for the registration and recording of the following mark(s) and/or brand(s) by the County Clerk of * _____ County, Texas:


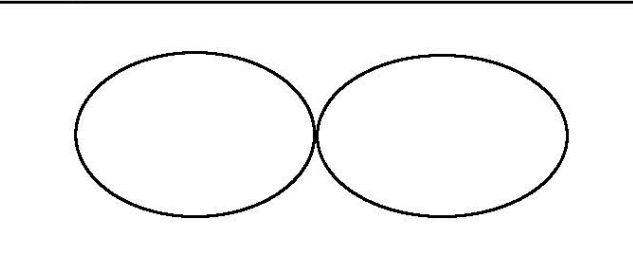
* New: ☐ Renewal: ☐ Release: ☐ Transfer: ☐

Contact Information:

* Owner/Agent: _____
Ranch/Business Name: _____
* Address: _____
* City: _____ * State: _____ * Zip: _____
Phone: _____ Email: _____

Brand/Mark Information:

* Specie: Cattle: ☐ Horse: ☐ Other: _____ Ear Marks Only: ☐
Volume/Book: _____ Page: _____ Cert#: _____

BRAND		MARK	
Draw the Brand	Right Ear	Left Ear	
			

* Brand Location on Animal: ☐ Left ☐ Right ☐ All Locations ☐ Shoulder ☐ Side/Rib ☐ Flank ☐ Hip/Loin ☐ Thigh ☐ Jaw/Face/Nose ☐ Tail/Back Electronic Chip#: _____
Tattoos: _____

* Brand Description: _____

* Signature of Applicant: _____
(Owner/Agent) _____ *Date: _____

By: _____ Deputy, _____ County Clerk
(Deputy's Name) (County Clerk's Name)

Pursuant to Texas Agriculture Code 144.041, a copy of this application shall be forwarded to Texas and Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association.

Email: brands@tscra.org
Fax: 817-887-4402
Mail: PO Box 101988, Fort Worth, TX 76185
Phone: 800-242-7820

County Seal