



April/May 2022

Walker County Agriculture Update

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

Date changes...Updates...& New event postings:

Writing newsletters and planning events always seem to have their own unique challenges. Catching a really bad date during a calendar planning session months before is one of those “*oh-NO*” moments when it is later discovered.

We had to shuffle a few event dates and even a topic to keep this train on the tracks. Hopefully you will find these educational events compatible with your personal calendar.

Our **Walker County Master Gardeners Interns** completed their final class in the 2022 Training Rotation TODAY! I want to congratulate all the 2022 Interns for sticking with us through their 15 class sessions which began in January. We all look forward to their graduation event in June! **Good Job!**

Event Update (Slight Subject Modification Change):

Rainwater Harvesting: Planning Your System

May 3, 2022 (Tuesday)

1:00 PM to 4:00 PM

Walker County AgriLife Extension Service (102 Tam Road, Huntsville, TX 77320)

Cost: FREE!!

Registration online at: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/rainwater-harvesting-planning-your-system-tickets-324314000907>

Event presented by Bluebonnet Groundwater Conservation District (&) Texas Water Resources Institute of Texas A&M AgriLife Extension

Join us to learn how to develop a rainwater harvesting system that meets your individual needs. Topics during this class will help you estimate your need based on intended utilization and storage method. You will learn about pressure and flow requirements and if a pump will be needed. plus, how to select the proper type. Information to be provided will assist in selecting the correct size pipes and other required equipment. Additional recommendations to help you conserve your water will be provided. This Rainwater Harvesting: Planning Your System educational event is sponsored by Bluebonnet Groundwater Conservation District in conjunction with Texas Water Resources Institute of Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service. The program speaker will be Specialist David Smith, out of the Texas A&M Dept. of Soil and Crop Sciences. This program is free to attend, with refreshments and all materials provided.



BLUEBONNET
Groundwater Conservation District

Event Date/Change:

Walker County Plant Identification Field Day Workshop

May 5, 2022 (Thursday)

Sam Houston State University- Gibbs Ranch (Hwy 75 N, Huntsville TX, 77320)

4:00 PM to 7:00 PM

\$10.00 per participant

CEUs: 3 Hours General per approval

Registration online at: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/walker-county-plant-identification-field-day-workshop-tickets-307113483697>

This event is scheduled to encourage landowners with in-town jobs and absentee landowners' participation-Take Friday afternoon off and come out for this "Hands-On/Feet-in-The Field" training. This field-based activity will examine numerous common plants (desirable AND otherwise) found in the Walker County area. Join us for this walk through the pastures & wood lines of East Texas with Dr. Barron Rector. Learn common names and useful knowledge about plants YOU see each time YOU interact with YOUR land. Participants will learn to "see" and understand many plants important to East Texas agriculture and land conservation. Participants with a specific curiosity about something growing on their land are encouraged to bring a quality & complete sample for expert review.

Event Update (Date Change):

Rainwater Harvesting 101

June 1, 2022 (Wednesday)

1:00 PM to 4:00 PM

Walker County AgriLife Extension Service (102 Tam Road, Huntsville, TX 77320)

Cost: FREE!!

Registration online at: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/rainwater-harvesting-101-tickets-307174094987>

Event presented by Bluebonnet Groundwater Conservation District (&) Texas Water Resources Institute of Texas A&M AgriLife Extension

Join us to learn the basics of rainwater harvesting! Field experts will provide you with the information and hands-on experience needed to design and implement a rainwater collection system of your own.

Attendees will learn the basics of Rainwater Harvesting including a brief overview of how to design a system, components of a collection system, different applications for use, calculating storage needs, benefits of rainwater for use as an alternative water source, and conservation tips to make every drop count.

Rainwater Harvesting 101 is sponsored by Bluebonnet Groundwater Conservation District in conjunction with Texas Water Resources Institute of Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service. The program speaker will be Specialist John Smith, out of the Texas A&M Dept. of Soil and Crop Sciences. This program is free to attend, with refreshments and all materials provided.



BLUEBONNET
Groundwater Conservation District

Featured Upcoming Events:

2021 Walker County Farmers Market Organizational Meeting

Date: May 11, 2022 (Wednesday)

Time: 6:00 PM

Location: TX A&M AgriLife Extension office, Walker County (102 Tam Rd, Huntsville, TX)

Cost of meeting participation: FREE!

Registration: NONE

Producers and those interested in participating with the 2021 WC Farmers Market are encouraged to join us for this meeting where we will discuss selection of "Opening Day" and other related items. Currently, membership in the WCFM Association is a \$5.00 annual fee. We encourage those who grow local produce and make agriculturally based products (including related crafts) for market to participate in this Association which has been active in Walker County since the early/mid 1960's. The Walker County Farmers Market is commonly held in the parking lot of West Hill Mall beside Highway 30.

Homemade Huntsville ("Hands On" Workshops)

Texas A&M AgriLife, Walker County

Remaining Events April through November 2022

Workshops will be held at the Walker Co Storm Shelter

Registration Fee includes ALL supplies, refreshments, and take-home items: \$30.00 per person for any one session (or) 3 or more sessions (for) \$25.00 per person.

Registration Link: [April 2022 Food Preservation Workshops- REGISTER TODAY! \(mailchi.mp\)](#)

Walker County, Family & Consumer Health Agent, Meredith Cryer has a scheduled educational series active and "on the front burner" with eight additional upcoming workshops scheduled April through November in our [Homemade Huntsville](#) series. These events are posted under the preceding link providing specific subjects, dates, times, registration, and other information. Be sure to scroll down the page to **Homemade Huntsville** (*the Preserving the Harvest sessions at the top of page are SOLD OUT*).

- May 5 – Salsas
- June 2 - Pickles & Relish
- July 7 – Fermentation
- August 4 – Pressure Cooking
- September 1 – Breads
- October 6 – Pies & Fillings
- November 17 – Holiday Treats

Area and/or Online Upcoming Events:

Lady Landowner Program Series

Date: April 28, through May 26, 2022, online with final session on site June 6th.

Time: 5:30 PM CST log in with (event presentations 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM)

Location: Online (Hosted by Texas A&M AgriLife Extension, Cass County)

Registration: online at [AgriLife Register: Lady Landowner Program Series \(tamu.edu\)](#)

Cost: \$15.00 online with final on-site event \$25.00 per participant

CEUs: 1 Hour at the final on-site event

For additional information contact: Jessica Rymel jessica.rymel@ag.tamu.edu

Join Cass County AgriLife for a program designed to empower female landowners. Registration includes the 5 digital programs. Programs will start at 6 pm and end by 8 pm.

Session 1 April 28 - Legalities of Landownership

Session 2 May 5 - Land Use and Landowner Resources

Session 3 May 12 - Beef Cattle for Beginners and Sheep and Goat Management

Session 4 May 19 - Backyard Chickens and So You Think You Want Horses

Session 5 May 26 - Bee Keeping 101 and Managing Home Orchards and Gardens

Session 6 (on-site) \$25.00 per person June 4 -Tractor Maintenance, Hooking up Implements, Hooking up Trailers, Trailer Tire Maintenance, Backing Trailers, Spray Rig Maintenance & Calibration.

Fish Management Strategies for Ponds

Date: May 17, 2022

Time: 6:00 PM to 7:00 PM CST

Location: Online (Hosted by Texas A&M AgriLife Extension, Fisheries Management)

Registration: online at <https://agriliferegister.tamu.edu/productListingDetails/3483>

Cost: \$35.00

For additional information contact: Brittany Chesser brittany.chesser@tamu.edu

Join us for a how-to educational program on fish management strategies for ponds and lakes as we cover the pond food chain, what it takes to grow abundant or large fish, fertilization programs, fish feeds and feeding fish, sampling the fish population, many common problems that can be found within a fish population, and how to determine if your pond is suffering from stunted fish. We will also cover the maximum fish production, trophy bass, trophy bluegill/sunfish, trophy catfish, and black crappie management strategies that can be employed in your pond or lake. Finally, we will conclude with the types of structure and fish attractors that can be added to a lake to improve fishing.

Houston County 2022 Landowners Program Series

Date: Several (see below)

Time: 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM CST

Location: Houston County (Crockett)

Registration: online at <https://tamuagrilifeextension.wufoo.com/forms/2022-landowner-program-series/>

Cost: \$45.00 per person / \$65.00 per couple (+ \$10.00 late fee after May 27)

Lunch will be own you own. Each class will require a minimum of 10 registrants to be held.

For additional information contact: Jo Smith jo.smith@agnet.tamu.edu (or) 936-544-7502

June 3, Forage Seminar. Topics include Weed ID, Soil Analysis, Soil Fertility, Hay Baling and Storage Spraying vs. Mowing, Sprayer calibration.

July 1, Beef Seminar. Topics include "Beef 101", Beef Quality Assurance, Herd Health Program, Bull Selection, Breeding Soundness Exam, and Marketing. *This session will include a trip to East Texas Livestock for hands on experience.*

August 5, General Seminar. Topics include Food Plots for Wildlife; Pond Management, Aquatic Weed ID, Pond Water Testing, Hog Control, Property Tax Valuations/Exemptions as it relates to Agriculture, Natural Resource Conservation Service Programs.

September 9, 5 Hour Pesticide CEU Recertification & Pesticide License Training Class (Cost & Registration is separate)

October 28, Cow Country Congress (Cost & Registration is separate)

Garden Checklist for May:

You may notice some similarities from last months list but that is normal for the spring season.

- Prune spring-flowering shrubs soon after flowering. Keep the natural shape of the plant in mind as you prune and avoid excessive cutting except where necessary to control size.

- Roses have high fertilizer requirements. For most soils, use a complete fertilizer for the first application just as new growth starts, then use ammonium sulfate, or other high nitrogen source, every 4 to 6 weeks, usually just as the new growth cycle starts following a flowering cycle. For organic sources use cottonseed, rotted manures, or alfalfa meal.
- Continue to spray rose varieties susceptible to black spot, using a spray recommended for fungus control every 7 to 10 days. Many of the Old Garden Roses and some of the newer ones, especially the 'KnockOut' series, have considerable resistance to black spot.
- Climbing hybrid tea roses may be pruned as soon as they complete flowering.
- Removing spent flowers, trimming back excessive growth, and applying fertilizer to an established annual bed can do wonders towards rejuvenating and extending the life of the planting.
- As soon as azaleas have finished flowering, apply an acid type fertilizer at the rate recommended. Don't over fertilize, as azalea roots are near the surface and damage can occur. Water thoroughly after fertilizing.
- Seeds of amaranthus, celosia, cosmos, marigold, portulaca, zinnia and other warm-season annuals can be sown directly in the beds where they are to grow. Keep seeded areas moist until seeds germinate. Thin out as soon as they are large enough to transplant. Surplus plants can be transplanted to other areas.
- It will soon be time for bagworms to attack junipers and other narrow-leafed evergreens. Control measures, such as Sevin dust or spray, should be applied while the insects and the bags are about one-half inch in length.
- When caterpillars attack live oak trees en masse, it is very alarming, but usually nothing can be done. A healthy live oak will usually regrow its leaves and resume normal activities.
- For instant color, purchase started annual plants. Select short, compact plants. Any flowers or flower buds should be pinched to give plants an opportunity to become established.
- Check new tender growth for aphids. A few can be tolerated, but large numbers should be controlled. Always follow label instructions on approved pesticides for control. Washing them off with a strong spray of water may be all that is necessary for adequate control.
- Many flower or vegetable seeds left over after planting the garden can be saved for the next season by closing the packets with tape or paper clips and storing in a sealed glass jar in your refrigerator.
- Start weeding early in the flower garden. Early competition with small plants can delay flowering. A mulch will discourage weed growth and make those that do come through easier to pull.
- Soil purchased for use in beds, low areas, and containers should be examined closely. Often, nut grass and other weeds, nematodes, and soil-borne disease are brought into the yard through contaminated soil sources.
- Watch newspaper and other publicity for information regarding wildflower trails, and open garden days. Plan to take a trip to enjoy beautiful gardens and trails that are abundant in many areas of Texas.

Additional Items and Information of Note:

High fertilizer prices and grazing pasture management

Excerpted from AgriLife Today (March 24, 2022)

Monte Rouquette, Ph.D., forage physiologist, and Gerald Smith, Ph.D., clover breeder, both in the Texas A&M [College of Agriculture and Life Sciences Department of Soil and Crop Sciences](#), said the rules for managing pastures and livestock systems are changing with increasing fertilizer and fuel costs.

As forage-cattle producers move into the next paradigm of input costs, the secrets for success are closely tied to “using forages that produce and animals that perform,” Rouquette said. “This mandates that every aspect of the forage-cattle operation must be critically evaluated.”

For many operators who choose to eliminate most, if not all, fertilizers, the long-term experimentation at Texas A&M AgriLife Research-Overton suggests nutrient cycling under grazing is a valuable asset for forage production in pastures. And some grass species composition changes will occur once nitrogen fertilizer is removed for prolonged durations.

Rouquette said some of the checklist management strategies that counter increased fertilizer, fuel and feed prices include the following:

- Create a pasture management plan that is firm but flexible.
- Implement a fertilization strategy via a soils test and need.
- In many situations, the most cost-effective fertilizer strategy is to apply one or two nitrogen applications at 50 to 60 pounds per acre per application. However, soil levels of potassium and pH are linked to the sustainability of hybrid Bermuda grasses.
- Add legumes to the pasture system after conducting soil test and assessing soil pH.
- Use broiler litter as a nutrient source.
- Increase efficiency of forage utilization with timely stocking and/or electric fencing for additional pastures.
- Make hay from pastures at any time practical and eliminate exclusive hay meadows.
- Purchase hay based on nutrient analyses and weight.
- Make strategic, timely herbicide applications.
- Maintain accurate, up-to-date cattle records for culling options.
- Reduce stocking rate.
- Enhance weaning percent, weaning weight and/or weight at the time of sales.
- Alter weaning schedule; retain ownership options.
- Critically assess supplementation strategies, product cost and supplement based on extra gain conversion.
- Market cattle proactively.

For more details including pros and cons of various management options, view Rouquette’s and Smith’s [“Long-term cow-calf performance on over-seeded bermudagrass pastures at different stocking and fertility regimens: 2022 Fertilizer prices and cost of gain.”](#)

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



Reggie Lepley

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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.

Educational programs of the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service are open to all people without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, disability, genetic information, or veteran status. The Texas A&M University System, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the County Commissioners Courts of Texas Cooperating