



Texas AgriLife Extension Service,
Walker County

Agricultural Education Events & News Update

(Electronic Edition, Mid-January 2012)

This email newsletter is an effort to keep you informed of upcoming agricultural educational events and related activities in the Walker County area.

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- February 29th **Trinity Rivers Workshop** –Huntsville, TX

Additional Informational Topics –

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***Educational Programs (Upcoming):**

Turfgrass Ecology and Management Short Course The 8th Annual Turfgrass Ecology and Management Short Course will be held adjacent to the Texas A&M University Campus on January 23 - 27 2012. Over the past seven years the Turf Short Course trained 285 turf & landscape professionals. This turfgrass management continuing education program is designed to provide basic and practical information to new professional turfgrass managers, as well as to provide experienced turf managers the opportunity to review and update their knowledge. The registration deadline is January 9, 2012. The website can be accessed through the Texas AgriLife Extension Conference Services website using keywords or course date. Visit <https://agriliferegister.tamu.edu/> and use the keyword search for "turfgrass".

There you will find links to course information, course topics, on-line registration, speaker bios, lodging information, and a downloadable program brochure. Early registration is encouraged, as enrollment is limited to 60 participants. Pre-registration is required through the Texas AgriLife Extension Conference Services.

Individuals that manage grounds and sports turf for Independent School Districts, Community Colleges, Colleges, and Universities are just one group that could benefit from the course.

This educational event is a budgeted course and self supported program, registration fees (\$695 per person) pay for the fixed costs associated with program development, course administration and cost recovery.

Pineywoods Prescribed Fire Cooperative

January 26th, 2012 (9:00 AM – 4:00 PM)

Nacogdoches, TX.

Room 117 SFA Forestry Building

To assist landowners and managers in implementing prescribed burns on their property, TPWD is coordinating the organization of the Pineywoods Prescribed Fire Cooperative. This is envisioned as an organization of landowners working together to assist each other in conducting prescribed burns on their property safely and at a reasonable cost. Similar coops have been established and proven very popular in other regions of Texas, where local landowners have assisted each other to improve wildlife habitat, pasture quality, and reduce fire fuel loads. TPWD's role is to provide limited technical guidance, assist the coop with securing grant funding, and making training and equipment available to participants. TPWD now has a "burn trailer" in the region for loan to participants at a reasonable cost, which includes various sizes of sprayers, hose, drip torches, radios, and hand tools.

A training/informational meeting will be held in Nacogdoches later this month. Texas Parks & Wildlife has assembled experts in the field of prescribed fire to cover all aspects that a landowner will need to get started on a burn program. The second day of this meeting will consist of a demonstration burn (weather permitting) just outside of Nacogdoches where you can see how to do it and look at, and handle fire equipment. Also covered at the meeting will be information on a new cost assistance program available to coop members to further reduce prescribed burn costs.

If you have any questions about this meeting or the coop in general, please contact Dan Jones, TPWD Biologist at (936) 294-4937 (or via email at dan.jones@tpwd.state.tx.us) or TPWD Forest Stewardship Biologist Rusty Wood (936/462-1111).

Problems with: Drought Damage? /Dead Trees? /Weak Shrubs?

2 Workshop Series:

#1 -Saturday February 4, 2012

#2 -Saturday February 11, 2012

(9:30 AM to 2:45 PM each day) If your home landscape is in need of some Rehabilitation following last year's dry weather now is the time to address the situation and develop a plan for the future. **Workshop Fee:** \$15.00 per person per workshop (or) \$20.00 per person for Both Workshops -Both Workshops Include LUNCH. These programs are being sponsored by the Walker County Master Gardeners.

Workshop #1 (Saturday, February 4, 2012)

Walker County Storm Shelter 455 SH 75N, Huntsville

Planned Topics: Tree loss -is the tree live or dead, recommendations



for removal, replanting, location selection, species selection, fertilization, planting, watering, pruning, Fire Wise recommendations, shrub selection, maintenance & requirements, location & planting, species suitability, native vs. introduced species.

Workshop #2 (Saturday February 11, 2012)

Walker County Extension Office, SH 75N & Tam Road
Planned Topics: EarthKind Rose selections & recommendations, management & planting, fertilization & watering requirements, pest control benefits, home irrigation systems, recommended ornamentals (including TX Superstars) & Texas EarthKind recommendations.



**Trinity River Basin Workshop
February 29, 2012
Walker County Storm Shelter**

*Due to the potential landowner benefit, we are still attempting to hold this informational program. We are looking at a ½ day Workshop which will introduce landowners to the capabilities of this mapping and decision making system. This workshop is being planned in order to conduct hands-on training with the Trinity River Information Management System. For more information on workshops, go to the “Events” page on the Trinity Waters website, <http://trinitywaters.org>.

Informational Topics:

Texas Pesticide Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permit (TPDES) –READ THIS ONE!

*This information was shared during our Pesticide Recertification CEU program on Friday, January 13, 2012. How this affects the “average” pesticide applicator: If you apply pesticides “**to, over, or near waters of the US**” you need to be familiar and up to date on this permit situation and have the appropriate Self Certification Form on file along with your pesticide records. You are required to keep these application records for 3 years. Please read carefully & see the links below to determine your Status/Permitting/NOI (Notice of Intent) Compliance needs.

Information provided by: Dr. Don Renchie

Many of you have heard about a new Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) requirement/regulation relating to pesticide applications to, over, or near water. The regulation is the result of federal court decisions which place pesticide applications and use under not only the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA), but also under the Clean Water Act (CWA).

TCEQ and other state environmental protection agencies nationwide (including Puerto Rico, Guam and Samoa) had until October 31, 2011 to develop or adopt a Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (PDES) permit. TCEQ worked with stakeholders and EPA to develop an acceptable permit for Texans from all pesticide user communities (agriculture, structural pest management, governmental/political subdivisions, and consumer/homeowner..) to comply with without much financial burden.

There are **five sites of pesticide application to aquatic environments** which have thresholds requiring operators to file a “Notice of Intent” (NOI) with TCEQ ten days prior to the application. A NOI is good for 1 year.

Operators are defined by TCEQ as individuals responsible for the site where pesticides will be applied. They can be an applicator (commercial or noncommercial), an entity (city or county), or an organization (homeowners association...) or an individual (farmer, rancher, or homeowner...).

1. Applications made to control “*Mosquitoes and Other Flying Insect Pests*” where the treatment area is greater than 6,400 contiguous acres and containing waters of the U.S. will require the “Operator” to submit a NOI ten days prior to the application.

2 a. Applications made to control “*Aquatic Weeds and Algae*” **In Water** where the treatment area exceeds 100 contiguous surface acres will require the operator to submit a NOI ten days prior to the application.

2b. Applications made to control “*Aquatic Weeds and Algae*” **At Water’s Edge** where the treatment area exceeds 200 contiguous linear miles will need to file a NOI ten days prior to the application.

3a. Applications made to control “*Aquatic Nuisance Animals*” (undesirable fish, lamprey eels...) **In Water** where the treatment area exceeds 100 contiguous surface acres will need to file a NOI ten days prior to the application.

3b. Applications made to control “*Aquatic Nuisance Animals*” **At Water’s Edge** where the treatment area exceeds 200 contiguous linear miles will need to file a NOI ten days prior to the application.

4. Applications made **Over Forest Canopies** for “*Forest Canopy Pest Control*” where the treatment area exceeds 6,400 contiguous acres and containing waters of the U.S. will need to file a NOI ten days prior to the application.

5. Applications made for “*Area Wide*” pest control where the treatment area exceeds 6,400 contiguous acres and containing waters of the U.S. will need to file a NOI ten days prior to the application.

There are three levels of compliance, each based on application site and access, type of entity making the pesticide application, and the size or distance of the application to, over, or near waters of the U.S.

Level I has two subcategories (**Level IA and Level IB**). The operator must insure applicators have TDA licenses for the application of restricted use or statelimited-use pesticides and regulated herbicides. In addition, **Level IA** operators (applicators) must submit a written or electronic **NOI** along with the appropriate fee(s) ten days before they commence any applications in a “**Pest Management Area (PMA)**”. Annually they must file certain information for all pesticide applications to, over, or near waters of the U.S. with TCEQ.

Level IB operators (applicators) do not pay “**NOI**” fees, but they must submit a “**Self Certification Letter**” to the nearest TCEQ Regional Office ten days before they commence any applications to, over, or near waters of the U.S. If they use restricted use or state-limited use pesticides, the applicator must be licensed with TDA. No annual reports are required. However, if an adverse incident occurs, the applicator must report the event to TCEQ withing 24 hours.

Level II and **Level III** are not subcategorized and have no financial or reporting implications for any affected operators (applicators). If restricted use or state-limited-use pesticides or regulated herbicides are applied, the applicator must have the appropriate TDA license. If an adverse incident occurs, the applicator must report the event to TCEQ within 24 hours.

All operators (applicators), including homeowners must keep records of all applications of pesticides to, over, or near waters of the U.S. regardless of threshold limitations for three years.

Links to referenced or relevant items discussed above:

Pesticides General Permit Requirement Matrix (1 page):

<http://agrifeweb.tamu.edu/aes/files/2010/05/TPDES-Annual-Threshold-Chart1.pdf>

Self Certification Form for Level 1B under the TPDES General Permit TXG870000 (4 pages):

<http://www.tceq.texas.gov/assets/public/permitting/forms/20604.pdf>

Notice of Intent (NOI) for Point Source Discharge of Pesticides to Waters of the U.S. under TPDES General Permit TXG870000 (23 pages):

<http://www.tceq.texas.gov/assets/public/permitting/forms/20601.pdf>

Texas Pesticide Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permit (TPDES) General Permit TXG870000 (43 pages):

<http://www.tceq.texas.gov/assets/public/permitting/wastewater/general/txg870000.pdf>

Hay Availability:

Livestock owners needing hay can access the Texas Department of Agriculture's Hay Hotline for a listing of available hay resources. The information is available online & will allow you to generate a list based on origin/location, forage species, or quality (cattle/horse). There is a phone number contact for those who don't have web access to contact the program. We also have a few other contacts available at the Extension Office.

Hay Hotline Toll-free number:

1-877-429-1998

<http://gotexan.org/hayhotlinehome.aspx>

***NEW Information for 2012:**

(You need to READ THIS if you purchase items supporting an agricultural enterprise!)

Texas Agricultural & Timber Exemption Number Online Application

http://www.window.state.tx.us/taxinfo/agriculture/get_ready_texas.html

When is the Number Needed?

Beginning Jan. 1, 2012, a person claiming an exemption from sales tax on the purchase of certain items used in the production of agricultural and timber products is required to have a Texas Agriculture and Timber Exemption Registration Number (Ag/Timber Number).

Apply Online

The online application has two parts. The first is to register through "MyCPA", which creates a secure online identification for you. Once registered, "MyCPA" will take you directly to the application, which should take about 10 minutes to complete. You will receive an ag/timber number on completion – no signature is required.

What You Need Before You Begin:

- In addition to basic information about your operation, such as **business name, description** and **address**, you will need your **Social Security number** (for internal use only). Businesses registered with the Texas Secretary of State (SOS) will need to provide the **file number** as well.

Activities that DO NOT qualify and are not eligible for a registration number

- home gardening;
- horse racing, boarding or training;
- trail rides and zoos;
- florists or similar retailers who maintain plants prior to sale;
- wildlife management and conservation;
- hunting and fishing operations, including aerial hunting;
- predator control and/or wildlife/livestock;
- censuses or surveys;
- commercial fishing; and
- companion animal (pet) breeding and kennels.

Who DOES qualify for a registration number?

A person, including a non-Texas resident, engaged in the production of agricultural or timber products for sale in the regular course of business is eligible for a registration number. This number can be used to claim an exemption from Texas sales tax on the purchase of qualifying items. Included for eligibility for registration numbers are persons in these groups:

- farmers and ranchers who raise agricultural products to sell to others;
- persons engaged in aquaculture and apiculture; (i.e. commercial fish farms or bee keepers);
- custom harvesters;
- persons engaged in agricultural aircraft operations, as defined by 14 C.F.R. Section 137.3 (crop dusting);
- commercial nurseries engaged in fostering growth of plants for sale (i.e., growing stock from seed or cuttings, replanting seedlings in larger containers); and,
- timber producers, including contract lumberjacks.

Brand Registration (Time IS Running OUT):**Information provided by the Walker County Clerk's Office**

Beginning Aug. 31, 2011 anyone with a registered Brand will have until February 29, 2012 to renew their registration. On March 1, 2012, all Brands that have not been renewed will become "Open Brands" for the general public in accordance with the Agriculture Code.

All Brands, whether old or new, must be re-registered in the county or counties where you operate. If you don't re-register your Brand during the specified time period, then it is up for grabs by anyone who may want it. The recording fee will be \$11.00 or \$16.00 per Brand plus \$5 for each additional location.

The Brand application is available online at <http://www.co.walker.tx.us> , go to the County Clerk homepage and on the left side click on "Marks and Brands Registration."

Brand applications and renewals can be filed with the Walker County Clerk's Office Monday through Thursday 8:00 am to 5:00 pm and on Friday 8:00 am to 4:45 pm. The office is closed for lunch from 12:00 noon to 1:00 pm. The County Clerk's office is located at the Walker County Courthouse, Suite 201, on the 2nd floor. For more information please call 936-436-4976.

Walker County Proud Tree Sale: scheduled for Saturday, February 4th at the Walker County Storm Shelter. A wide variety of trees will be available. Look for more information as plans progress!

2012 Wildlife for Lunch Webinar Series

<https://texas-wildlife.webex.com> to log on to the live webinars.

For more information contact:
Courtney Brittain
Texas Wildlife Association
Education Program Coordinator
2800 NE Loop 410, Ste. 105
San Antonio, TX 78218
(210) 826-2904 ext. 122
cbrittain@texas-wildlife.org

January 19 -Prescribed Burning for Wildlife, Dale Rollins

February 16 -Feral Hogs, Billy Higginbotham

March 15 -Pond Management, Michael Masser

April 19 -Riparian Management 201, Sky Lewey

May 17 -Integrating Cattle and Wildlife on Small Acreage, Larry Pierce

June 21 -Ranch Photography for Fun and Profit, John Martin

July 19 -West Texas Wildlife Management, Louis Harveson

August 16 -Rainwater Harvesting, Billy Kniffen

September 20 -Deer Nutritional Requirements and Implications for Management, Dave Hewitt

October 18 -Native Prairie Restoration, Forrest Smith

November 15 -Endangered Species Management, Brian Hays

December 20 -Forestry Management for Wildlife, Chris Comer

Income tax relief for weather-related sales of livestock

(Information provided by Sonja L. Swiger, PhD, Assist. Prof. & Ext. Entomologist)

This article written by OSU extension talks about an IRS election to assist in deferring taxes for large number of cattle being sold this past year due to the drought. The article is written for Oklahoma but surely is true for Texas as well. <http://osufacts.okstate.edu/docushare/dsweb/Get/Document-3188/AGEC-788web11.pdf>

It is suggested that anyone that sold livestock because of unfavorable weather conditions take this article to their tax preparer.

How to make the Election The election to defer the payment of tax on the gain by purchasing replacement livestock is made by not reporting the deferred gain on the tax return and by attaching a statement to the tax return showing all the details of the involuntary conversion, including:

Evidence of drought, amount of gain realized, number of livestock sold and number of livestock that would normally be sold.

Texas cattle producers consider feeding whole cotton plants

(Information provided by Sonja L. Swiger, PhD, Assist. Prof. & Ext. Entomologist)

(FYI: I had heard a little about this but had no follow up until now –there has been a lot of interest in feeding “non-traditional” feedstuffs this fall to say the least) Texas beef producers are exploring the use of whole cotton plants as a protein source for cattle due to extreme drought conditions.

A Texas AgriLife Research nutritionist and a Texas AgriLife Extension forage specialist in College Station were both asked to test the nutrition value of cotton plant samples. The preliminary results were quite interesting.

“Although a non-traditional feedstuff for cattle, the presence of the cotton seed with its high fat content and cellulose (lint) provides for a fairly high quality feedstuff,” said Dr. Tyron Wickersham. “The fat content is quite a bit higher than would normally be fed to beef cattle and some scouring may occur, but the animals do well with the cotton diet.”

Wickersham suggests the cotton could be used as a source of supplemental energy.

Meanwhile, Dr. Gaylon Morgan, AgriLife Extension state cotton specialist, notes most cotton defoliation or desiccation products prohibit grazing or feeding to livestock for at least 30 – 45 days. So be sure to read the product label for minimal restrictions.



Drought Resources Available Online

The Drought of 2011 has been devastating ecologically and economically to Texas, Oklahoma, and parts of other surrounding states. The Texas AgriLife Extension Service estimates that in Texas alone, agricultural drought losses have reached a record \$5.2 billion.

In response to this crisis, drought resources have been made available online to help folks know how to best manage their land, water, livestock, wildlife, and plant resources. Tips on how to manage your lawn and home water use are also available. Below are links to some of these various websites.

Texas Water Resources Institute -

[2011 Drought Resources](#)

**Texas Parks and Wildlife Dept -
[Drought Survival Kit](#)**

**Texas AgriLife Extension Service -
[Drought Information and Resources](#)**

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 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 Texas AgriLife Extension Service is implied.

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