



Texas AgriLife Extension Service,
Walker County

Agricultural Education Events & News Update

(Electronic Edition, February 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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Make Sure You READ THIS ONE! ↑**
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***Educational Programs (Upcoming):**

Landscape Drought Damage and Rehabilitation Workshops

(Final workshop upcoming)

Event Date: 2/11/12

All of us with yards, trees & any kind of landscape planting most likely had some to a lot of damage from our drought situation this past year. The Texas Forest Service recently released an estimate that Texas lost 500 million trees to drought in 2011. The dry

weather was severe enough that many home landscape plantings have been extremely damaged as well. At this time we have had the first of the two workshops in this program series; however, you still have a chance to participate in the second workshop. Our second workshop will be Saturday, February 11th, 2012 at the Walker County Extension Office. The educational program will start at 9:30 AM. Topics included in this workshop are:

- Landscape Management; soils, site selection, bed preparation, maintenance, mulching, pruning, bugs & Integrated Pest Management.
- Home irrigation methods & recommendations.
- EarthKind Rose selections & recommendations
- Texas Superstars & Companion Planting



The workshop will conclude with an optional tour of the Walker Co Master Gardener Demonstration Gardens where many of the program recommendations can be viewed by workshop participants. Cost for this program is \$15.00 per participant (includes a provided lunch & refreshments). CEU's for TDA Pesticide Applicators will be available if requested. This workshop series is being sponsored by the Walker Co Master Gardeners, and Texas AgriLife Extension Service, Walker County.

Expo 2012

Event Date: 2/18/12

This pesticide recertification program will be held at Coufal-Prater Country Store in Navasota, Tx (3 CEU's Offered)

8:30 - Registration Begins

9:00 - "Laws and Regulations" CEU

10:00 - "Forages: Drought Recovery" CEU

11:00 - "Managing Ponds During and After the Drought" CEU

12:00 - Lunch will be served

Contact the Grimes County Extension Office at (936) 873- 3912 for additional information.

Forage Field Day (Late Winter-Early Spring Production)

Event Date: 2/22/12

With the lack of rain during 2011, our pastures have had a difficult time providing forage for the grazing animals we



were trying to maintain. One benefit of reduced grass coverage for ranchers with previously established legumes such as clovers, is that the clover seed could take advantage of bare soil or thin grass cover to emerge earlier in the cool season. Couple that with warm days (and especially warmer than typical nights), plus a little available moisture, and you get strong early production of our traditional cool season forages.

For the past 20+ years the Walker Co Extension Livestock & Pasture Committee has encouraged producers to consider utilizing cool season legumes and grasses in their pasture system. We would like to invite everybody to come out to the pasture and SEE what we have been talking about.

On Wednesday, February 22, 2012, we will be touring Robert Bruner's A Bar pasture located on Walker Loop off FM 1791. The tour will be held from 2:00 PM until 5:00 pm. ***(No Rain Out: In case of rain, we will meet at the West Sandy School House (FM 1791 & FM 3179, otherwise meet at the pasture).***

We will have several speakers on hand to discuss the tour topics:

- Tour of producing forage pastures (Prine Ryegrass, Oats, Ball Clover, White Clover)
- Management of cool season grasses & legumes
- Grazing & utilization strategies
- Weed control issues & economics
- Pasture Outlook for 2012
- Beef herd health concerns for the coming year
- Beef production outlook for 2012

Guest speakers for this tour include:

- Dr. Bobby Lane, SHSU
- Dr. Tom Hairgrove, TAMU
- Dr. Jason Cleere, TAMU.

Preregistration is requested by 2/21/12 to the Texas AgriLife Extension Service, Walker Co at (936) 435-2426. Additional directions will be available when the registration is called in. Cost for this tour is \$10.00 per participant. CEU's for TDA Pesticide Applicators will be available.

Free landowner workshop to focus on online mapping tool training

Event Date: 2/29/2012

Conservation planning in the Trinity River Basin has received a considerable boost as the Texas A&M Institute of Renewable Natural Resources (IRNR) recently released a newly updated online mapping tool, the Trinity River Information Management System (TRIMS).

Trinity Waters is hosting a workshop on February 29 to allow landowners the opportunity to gain hands-on experience with TRIMS and interact with the developers themselves as they guide them through the program. This program will be beneficial for any landowner who wishes to accomplish a number of tasks, such as:

- Access conservation planning data (soils, USGS stream gauge, elevation, vegetation) in preparation for restoring native grasslands, wetlands, and bottomland hardwood forests
- View recent high resolution aerial photographs
- Measurement of areas and lengths (i.e. pasture acreage, fencelines, roads, etc.)
- Produce printable maps

Time and location are as follows:

February 29

Walker County Storm Shelter (455 SH 75 N, Huntsville, TX)

In order to attend you must pre-register! Contact Blake Alldredge at balldredge@tamu.edu to secure one of the 20 spots available. The workshops will begin at 8 am everyday with check-in, coffee and donuts, and presentations will commence at 8:30 am and end at noon.

*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 the workshop, go to the “Events” page on the Trinity Waters website, <http://trinitywaters.org>.

Informational Topics:

Pond & lake restocking

Behind every cloud.. There were not many clouds last year, so a lot of landowners cleaned out and rebuilt their ponds & lakes. The hot topic of the week (following our Jan and early Feb rains) seems to be pond & lake restocking questions.

Restocking recommendations:

Ponds less than 1 surface acre A) Catfish (Channel/Blue Cat) to be unfed-stock 100 catfish & 100 fathead minnows per surface acre. B) Catfish (Channel/Blue Cat) to be fed daily-stock up to 1000 catfish per surface acre.

Ponds greater than 1 surface acre –if they stay muddy use the previous (Channel/Blue Cat) recommendations per surface acre.

For clear ponds greater than 1 surface acre: Largemouth Bass: stock 20 (6"-8"), or 50 fingerling (1"-3") fish per surface acre along with forage fish stocking for Largemouth Bass: 15 adult (3"+) bluegills & 15 adult (3"+) redear sunfish per surface acre, (OR) Stock 250 fingerling (1"-3") bluegills AND 250 fingerling (1"-3") redear sunfish per surface acre.

OPTIONAL: 200 threadfin shad per surface acre

OPTIONAL: 500 Golden shiners per surface acre

OPTIONAL: 500 Fathead minnows per surface acre if fingerling (1"-3") bass are selected for stocking.

More on feeding poor quality hay

Information provided by Joe Paschal, Extension Beef Cattle Specialist

We have used rice hay, right-of-way hay, corn and milo stubble hay (lots of dirt and waste), vacant lot and huisache covered pasture hay, sugarcane bagasse and now we are using sugarcane leaf strippings. None of it has been very good but some of it will fill a cow and cows are going to be pretty valuable when it begins to rain. The most recent addition to the hay (sugarcane leaf strippings) is pretty low in CP, about 3-4% (cows need 8-12% depending on their status) and is pretty low in energy (35-45% TDN) about 10-20 points off what they need. If this product is being used (or someone asks about it) it will take about 5-6 lbs of range cubes (maybe more) to meet their protein requirements (or 3-4 lbs of Mix 30 and most molasses products or 2.5-3 lbs of cottonseed meal). None of these poor quality hays, even if supplemented, will allow much (if any) weight gain but it will help slow the weight gain loss and perhaps buy a little time.

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 within 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/tgx870000.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.

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

February 16 -Feral Hogs, Billy Higginbotham

March15 -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.

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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