

# TEXAS A&M AGRI LIFE

Texas A&M  
AgriLife Extension Service,  
Walker County

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## Agricultural Education Events & News Update

(February Edition 2013)

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

### Conservation Planning for Water Quality Management (2.5 hrs. CEUs)

Event Date: 2/8/2013 Friday  
(1:00 PM – 5:00 PM)

**\*At the Walker County Storm Shelter (455 Highway 75 N. Huntsville TX)**

RSVP will be required: Contact Blake Alldredge at (979) 845-0916 for more information or register online at <http://nrt.tamu.edu/schedule>

Trinity Waters and the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service will hold a second round of water and land management workshop series related to the Trinity River basin. In this second round of workshops, participants will learn in greater detail how different land uses and ownership fragmentation can affect the water resources of the basin, as well as landowner profitability and wildlife habitat. In addition, various tools and strategies will be presented to show landowners the multiple options they have for enhancing land management on their property.

One such management tool is the Trinity River Information Management System, or TRIMS, mapping tool. This tool provides soil, elevation, and hydrology data, plus provides the ability to measure acreage and lengths so landowners may quickly obtain information needed to manage their land. Representatives from the Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board will explain how developing a water quality management plan can benefit agricultural productivity on private lands. In addition, Dr. Don Renchie of AgriLife Extension will present on the Texas Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit as it relates to pesticide applicators complying with the Clean Water Act.

At the end of the workshop, landowners will have a greater understanding of the basic principles for managing land for water, which will improve agricultural production by reducing erosion and increasing water infiltration and water-holding capacity in the soil.

#### **Do You Need A TX Department of Agriculture Pesticide Applicator License?**

We will be holding a class and testing session on February 22, 2013. You must RSVP/pick up study material prior to the class. Cost is \$60.00 for the class session & study materials. Following successful Extension training and then TDA testing the license fee payable to TDA is \$60.00. Contact the Walker County Extension Office at (936) 435-2426.

*In This Issue:*

#### **Local educational programs**

February 8<sup>th</sup> Conservation  
Planning for Water Quality  
Management

February 21<sup>st</sup> Farmers Share  
Breakfast

February 22<sup>nd</sup> TDA Private  
Applicator Training & Testing

April 11<sup>th</sup> Plant ID Workshop

#### **Area/Regional educational programs**

February 2, 2013 Gulf Coast  
Grape Growers Field Day

February 9, 2013 Organic  
Horticulture Benefits Alliance:  
OHBA Summit 2013

February 16, 2013 Captured  
Rainwater-Your Liquid Gold

February 22, 2013 East Texas  
Pasture Management Program

#### **More Local Events**

February 2, 2013 Walker County  
Proud Tree Sale

March 2, 2013 Annual Trash  
Bash

April 6, 2013 Annual Electronic  
Recycling Day

## Farmer's Share Breakfast

Event Date: February 21, 2013  
(7:30 AM – 8:30 AM)  
At the Walker County Extension Office



In observation of Texas Food Connection Week, the Walker County Farm Bureau will provide a "Farmer's Share" Breakfast for any member of the community who would like to attend.

We are all familiar with the cost of food which we provide for our families; however, we may not all realize how little of that cost is actually received by the farmer who produced the food.

Each participant at this breakfast will only pay the "farmer's share" of the meal which is currently identified as 15.8 cents of the retail food dollar cost. Come out and join us on February 21<sup>st</sup> for the Farmer's Share and enjoy the benefits of our bountiful US agricultural production



### 2<sup>nd</sup> Posting: Information that beef producers need to know about:

#### **Texas Animal Health Commission Announces Details of New Cattle Traceability Rule**

AUSTIN – A requirement for adult cattle in Texas to have an approved form of permanent identification in place at change of ownership will go into effect January 1, 2013 according to the Texas Animal Health Commission (TAHC). The Commission amended its rules in June of this year to enhance the effective traceability of beef cattle movements in Texas, which is the cornerstone of disease control activities. Implementation of the changes was delayed by the Commission to ensure cattle producers understand the requirements and can prepare for the changes.

The amended rule permanently cancels the brucellosis test requirement for adult cattle at change of ownership, which was unofficially suspended in the summer of 2011. Although testing of adult cattle is no longer required with the rule change, all sexually intact cattle, parturient or post parturient, or 18 months of age and older changing ownership must still be officially identified with Commission approved permanent identification. This change primarily affects beef cattle, as dairy cattle in Texas have had an even more stringent identification requirement in place since 2008.

Before August of 2011, official identification devices such as eartags were applied automatically at the time a brucellosis test was performed. The inadvertent loss of the identification devices applied to cattle when brucellosis testing stopped has threatened TAHC's ability to effectively trace cattle as part of any ongoing disease investigation.

The TAHC routinely performs cattle health investigations where the identification and location of exposed/infected animals is critical to success. For example, 30 Brucellosis reactors, over 300 Bovine Trichomoniasis affected bulls and 22 bovine tuberculosis cases have been investigated by the TAHC to date in 2012. The new traceability rule will help preserve the TAHC's ability to identify and trace animal movements quickly and effectively, no matter which disease is involved.

A complete list of acceptable identification devices/methods may be found at [www.tahc.state.tx.us](http://www.tahc.state.tx.us) but the most commonly used devices include USDA metal tags, brucellosis calfhood vaccination tags, US origin 840 series Radio Frequency Identification tags (RFID), and breed registration tattoos or firebrands. Producers are encouraged to contact their veterinarian or TAHC to determine which method of tagging will be best for their operation.

Free USDA metal tags, and a limited number of free applicator pliers (dependent on available funding) will be provided by the TAHC to producers wishing to use them. The tags and/or pliers may be obtained by contacting local TAHC field staff and USDA APHIS Veterinary Services representatives. The TAHC is developing tag distribution partnerships with interested veterinary practitioners and Texas A&M AgriLife Extension offices. **The Walker County, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Office does have TAHC approved tags available at no charge. We also have a limited number of tag applicators available for short duration loan.** Partner contact information will be published as it becomes available. Producers may locate the closest tag distributor online at [www.tahc.state.tx.us](http://www.tahc.state.tx.us).

## Other Local & Area Educational Programs:

### Walker County Proud Tree Sale

February 2, 2013

(8:00 AM – Noon)

Walker County Storm Shelter

If you need trees for your home or property this is one of the best deals going! The Texas Forest Service has provided 2,500 trees for this event. Donations \$1.00 per tree accepted. Pecans are \$2.00 per tree, Wood Chips \$1.00 per bag or 1 bag free with each 5 trees. Proceeds benefit the Walker County Proud Communities organization. Walker County Master Gardeners will be on hand to assist with providing you information on selection and care of your new trees.

### Gulf Coast Grape Grower Field Day

Event Date: February 8th 2013

(8:30 AM – 5:00 PM)

Location: Cat Spring Agricultural Hall. 13035 Hall Rd., Cat Spring, TX 78933

8:30 – 9:00 Registration (\$30.00 per person fee at the door)

- Grape Acreage Survey: Texas Gulf Coast Region, Fritz Westover – Texas A&M AgriLife Extension
- Research Update: Pierce's Disease Program Updates, Jim Kamas & Adam Elrod – Texas A&M AgriLife Extension
- New Pierce's Disease Tolerant Grape Varieties with Potential, Andrew Labay – Texas A&M AgriLife Extension
- Vertical Canopy Division of Favorite Winegrapes: 4 Years of Data, Fritz Westover – Texas A&M AgriLife Extension
- Texas Wine & Grape Growers Association Update, Jon Bowden & Bobby Cox
- Common Missteps of New Grape Growers, George Ray McEachern
- Virus-tested Pierce's Disease Resistant Hybrids; Results/Disease Trials, Mark Black – Texas A&M AgriLife Research
- Weather Outlook for 2013, Jeffrey Lindner - Harris County Flood Control District
- Vineyard Demonstrations 2012: What have we learned? Fritz Westover – Texas A&M AgriLife Extension
- Wine Reception & Visit with Sponsor Booths

For more information: Fritz Westover [fawestover@ag.tamu.edu](mailto:fawestover@ag.tamu.edu)

## HAVE YOU RETURNED YOUR 2012 CENSUS OF AGRICULTURE?

EVERY FIVE YEARS THE CENSUS OF AGRICULTURE IS CONDUCTED TO DOCUMENT THE NUMBER OF US FARMS/RANCHES AND THE PEOPLE WHO OPERATE THEM. THE CENSUS LOOKS AT LAND USE, TENURE, OPERATOR CHARACTERISTICS, PRODUCTION PRACTICES & ECONOMIC INFORMATION.

## Organic Horticulture Benefits Alliance: OHBA Summit 2013

February 9, 2013

(7:30am-4:45pm)

United Way Building, 50 Waugh Dr. Houston, TX 77007

Premier Annual Organic Education Conference: OHBA Summit is an educational conference for elite horticulture professionals. Designed so you can create the perfect program for you, and leave the Summit with solutions to better and grow your business. We have chosen five of the most respected and influential educators in our field to present proven results along with break-out Round Table Discussions to provide interactive, solution-based exchanges in a smaller setting. Only 250 seats available RSVP: OHBASUMMIT.ORG (registration fee OHBA Member \$100.00, Non Member \$150.00)

### Captured Rainwater—Your Liquid Gold!

*Have you ever wanted to capture rainwater for use in your home and landscape?*

Event Date: February 16, 2013

(9:30 AM -2:30 PM)

Brazos Center, 3232 Briarcrest Drive, Bryan, Texas 77802

It's a valuable natural resource - every inch of rain is like liquid gold. Texas A&M AgriLife Extension's Brazos County Master Gardeners are hosting a water conservation seminar featuring rainwater harvesting. Billy Kniffen, water resource specialist with the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service, will lead this informative seminar. Learn how to capture, store and use rainwater in your home and landscape. Kniffen will address topics relating to this effective water conservation tool, including:

- Water stewardship
- Stormwater management
- Reducing water demand
- Passive collections (rain gardens, etc.)
- Simple and complex water harvesting systems

After serving as a county Extension agent for 25 years, Kniffen is currently vice-president and education coordinator for the American Rainwater Catchment Systems Association (ARCSA). He is co-author of their manual - Rainwater Harvesting: System Planning - used in the ARCSA Accredited Professional course. He and his wife live in Menard, Texas, in a home solely dependent on rainwater. As part of the program, Kniffen will also have a fully-operational system demonstration. This seminar also offers informational exhibits for lawns, vegetable gardening, water delivery systems and the City of College Station Water Resource division. Master Gardeners will be on hand to answer gardening questions. **Pre-Register to attend:** \$45 per person - includes handouts, snacks & sandwich lunch buffet **Registration :** Preferred by February 11, 2013.

**Forms:** Information and registration form is available at the website: [www.brazosmg.com](http://www.brazosmg.com).

**Mail registration to:** Brazos County Master Gardeners, 2619 Highway 21 West, Bryan, TX 77803

For additional information call the Brazos County office of AgriLife Extension at: 979-823-0129. Or email: [brazosmg@brazosmg.com](mailto:brazosmg@brazosmg.com)

### East Texas Pasture Management Program

Event Date: February 22, 2013

(12:30 PM-6:00 PM)

Texas AgriLife Research & Extension Center, Overton TX

Cost is \$25.00 from Extension Conference Services or \$30.00 on site

Have you had questions about what the most effective and economical options for controlling weeds and forage insects are? Ever wonder about the different spray tip nozzles available and which ones might be right for your situation? This program will answer these questions and many more and provide you with valuable information, practical suggestions, and the knowledge needed to select economical and effective herbicide and insecticide products. A herbicide price comparison CD will be provided to help you make more economical choices when it comes to selecting a herbicide.



For more information about the East Texas Pasture Management program, please contact Michelle Sensing (903-834-6191 or [amsensing@ag.tamu.edu](mailto:amsensing@ag.tamu.edu)). For questions about registration or payment, please contact Extension Conference Services (979-845-2604 or [agrilliferegister@tamu.edu](mailto:agrilliferegister@tamu.edu)).

## Walker County Proud Communities: Free 18<sup>th</sup> Annual TRASH BASH

Event Date: Saturday, March 2, 2013  
(7:30 AM –Noon)

Volunteer to Clean Up YOUR Roadsides & Neighborhoods:

Funded by Trinity River Authority, Walker County and the City of Huntsville. Free trash bags provided by County Commissioners at Precinct 1, 2, & 3, call 436-4912; at precinct 4 in New Waverly call 435-8055 \*No Commercial Haulers\*

Where to Go & What is Accepted:

City of Huntsville Disposal & Recycling Facility 590 I-45 North: Bagged garbage, appliances, furniture, tires (no farm implement tires, concrete, bricks)

Try 2 Recycle 916 15<sup>th</sup> Street: Aluminum/steel cans, metal appliances, cast iron, newspaper, office paper, cardboards.

Precinct 3 Barn 2986 Hwy. 19 North: Bagged garbage, appliances, furniture, tires (no farm implement tires, concrete, bricks).

Precinct 4 Barn 9368 Hwy 75 South: Bagged garbage, appliances, furniture, tires (no farm implement tires, concrete, bricks).

## 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Electronic Recycling Day

Event Date: April 6, 2013

At the City of Huntsville Disposal-Recycling Facility 590 I-45 North

Acceptable Items: Laptops/Notebooks, Printers/Scanners, Copiers, Projectors, Plasma Screens/LCD/LED Screens, Computer Accessories, Telecommunication/Networking Equipment, Stereos, Radios, Cell Phones/Pagers/Cameras, PDA/Palm Pilots, Rechargeable Batteries, Vehicle Batteries.

For more information, please call Solid Waste & recycling Services at 936-294-5743.

## Plant ID Workshop

Event Date: April 11, 2013

Huntsville, TX (contact the Extension Office 936 435-2426 for directions)

(1:00 PM -4:30 PM)

Can you correctly name that plant you are looking at? Landowners & Natural Resource Managers are invited to attend this Plant Identification Workshop. Wear comfortable shoes! We will be walking the pastures and tree lines as we ID native and introduced plants. Dr. Barron Rector, Extension Range Specialist, will guide us through the world we have around us. This Field Based Workshop will include CEU credits for TDA Pesticide Applicators. Location to be announced. Registration for this workshop is \$10.00 per person.



## Upcoming Webinars

Join online from (Noon – 1:00 PM) at <http://naturalresourcewebinars.tamu.edu/event-category/texas-range-webinar-series/>

Event Dates –

February 7, 2013, 2013: **Grazing Management** with Jason Hohlt

March 7, 2013: **Pastora: Sandburs and Beyond** with Dr. Vanessa Corriher

April 4, 2013: **Getting Ready to Treat Mesquite** with Dr. Megan Clayton

May 2, 2013: **How Herbicides Work-Modes of Action, Soil Activity, Half Life & Storage** with Dr. Paul Baumann

June 6, 2013: **Importance of Plant Identification** with Dr. Barron Rector

Texas Range Webinar Series

*Presented by the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service*

*Ecosystem Science and Management Unit*

The Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service, Ecosystem Science and Management Extension Unit are conducting lunch-based webinars every month throughout 2013. The Texas Range Webinar Series will present a webinar every first Thursday of the month. The Ecosystem Science and Management Extension Unit is partnering with the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences at Texas A&M University. Information on Forestry and Natural Resource webinars will be available on our website.

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

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The logo for Texas A&M AgriLife. It features the words "TEXAS A&M" in a dark red, serif font above the word "AGRILIFE" in a larger, grey, serif font. The "A" in "AGRILIFE" is significantly larger and overlaps the "T" in "TEXAS".

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 A&M AgriLife Extension Service is implied.

*Reggie Lepley*

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