

# WALKER COUNTY *FORESTRY NEWS*

## Timber Management 101- planned for Walker County **May 27th**

**2 Hours of TDA  
CEU Credit  
will be available  
+ Meal**

Both landowners and persons considering land ownership who are interested in expanding their knowledge will find this workshop an exceptional opportunity. Managers of forestland property will learn how and when to implement recommended forestry practices, and tools commonly utilized in the Texas timber industry. Landowners who participate in this program will increase their understanding of how they may manage forest land to meet their objectives. The course will introduce you to stewardship considerations, best management practices for protecting the environment, show you how to plan to meet your objectives, and acquaints you with the services and assistance available for managing forest land.

Featured program speaker will be Dr. Eric Taylor, Associate Professor & Extension Forestry Specialist. Also be sure to visit with the members of the Walker County Timber Growers Association at the event!

The workshop will meet on **Friday, May 27, 2011**. The session will begin at 1:00 pm and will last until around 5:30 pm. An early

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### Special points of interest:

- Timber 101 Workshop, May 27
- Technology to Reduce Drought Impact for Farmers

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.

# VISIT US ONLINE!

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the WALKER COUNTY EXTENSION WEB SITE at  
**<http://walker-tx.tamu.edu>**  
Also on Facebook at WalkerCo TxAgrilife  
Explore the possibilities and endless amounts of  
electronic information available to you...

*See the  
important  
note on the  
back panel of  
this  
newsletter  
regarding your  
current  
subscription  
status!*

### Online Drought Management Resources:

<http://texashelp.tamu.edu/>

Look at Droughts under the Disaster Information tab.



*“Soil water holding capacity varies with texture.”*



*(Continued from page 1)*

evening meal will be provided as part of the class. Registration for the workshop is \$10.00 per person and RSVP is required prior to May 25 to reserve seating.

### **Planned Topics for the workshop:**

1. Introduction to Forest Management, Forestry Terms and Concepts  
Timber Management Calendar Progression
2. Forestry As An Investment  
Trends & Possible Future Additions to the Industry
3. Managing for Pine (Natural Regeneration & Plantation Planting)  
Site Preparation  
Reforestation Pests  
Seedling Care & Selection  
Planting Methods
4. Managing for Hardwoods  
Current Price Update & Future Trend?
5. Timber Marketing, Security and Harvesting
6. Forestry Services and Programs for the Landowner

Contact the Walker County Texas AgriLife Extension Office (936) 435-2426 for more information. We look forward to having you at the workshop!

*The excerpted information below was written for agricultural producers with emphasis on row crop farmers; however, there is some really good information which may be adapted for utilization by timber growers.*

### ***Technologies to reduce the impact of drought on agriculture***

Excerpted from: *Opportunities for Drought Mitigation in Texas Agriculture* by Travis Miller

#### **• More effectively utilize available precipitation**

Much of Texas rainfall comes in high intensity events associated with thunderstorms and tropical weather systems. In soils with relatively low infiltration rates, these storms result in a large amount of runoff, and due to the short duration of the rainfall, may do little to fill water storage capacity deep in the soil profile. Any effective way to increase the recharge in the high-intensity, short duration rainfall events must include a means to slow the rate of water runoff, thereby increasing the length of exposure to the soil surface, giving more time for infiltration. This can be accomplished by several methods. No-till, or high residue farming offers a relatively low cost method for accomplishing this by covering the surface of the land with plant residue, which slows the impact of rain drops on the soil surface, and gives more resistance to water, tending to diffuse runoff and to reduce the tendency for channelized flow. This accomplishes the goal of increasing the amount of

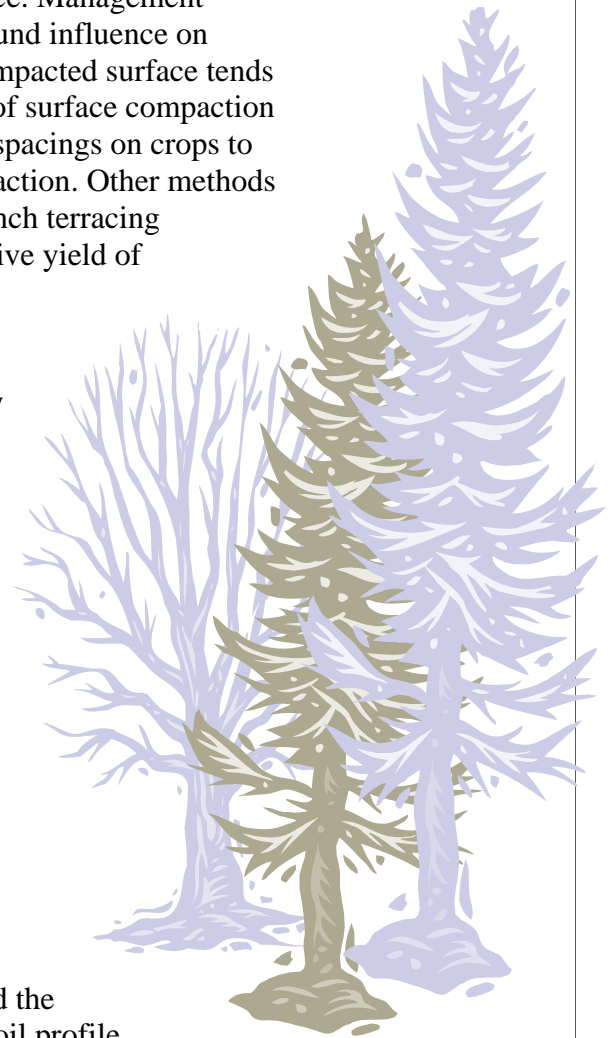
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infiltration by increasing exposure time of water to the soil surface. Management practices which reduce surface soil compaction can have a profound influence on infiltration rates and the condition of the soil surface. A hard, compacted surface tends to shed water and reduce infiltration. One of the primary causes of surface compaction is the force of raindrops. Heavy surface residue and narrow row spacings on crops to cause a rapid canopy cover are helpful in reducing surface compaction. Other methods to increase infiltration include land shaping such as terracing, bench terracing and land leveling. Several technologies exist to enhance the relative yield of precipitation events. These include devices such as any of the various designs of furrow dikers and land pitters, which shape many uniformly spaced reservoirs to catch precipitation near the site on which it falls. These devices create mini- reservoirs safely that hold water until it infiltrates into the soil, reducing runoff and resulting in nearly even distribution of stored water in a field. This practice not only increases stored soil moisture, but also significantly reduces the potential for erosion. Most of these systems do not work well in a no-till or minimum tillage production system. Another water harvesting technique used in vegetable production is the use of plastic mulches, which catch rainwater and deliver it to furrows established before the mulch was applied. These mulches can save many acre-inches of irrigation water traditionally used to wet the planting bed during establishment of the crop.

Soil water holding capacity varies with texture. Sands hold very little crop available water, usually around 1.0- to 1.2 inches per foot of soil, while soil with a clay loam texture may hold 1.5- to 2.0 inches of plant available water per foot. Plant available water for the crop is a function of water holding capacity of the soil and the effective rooting depth. It is the reservoir of water stored in the soil profile that allows Texas farmers to regularly make crops despite the unpredictable and erratic rainfall we receive. While coarse textured (sandy) soils have less water holding capacity per foot of soil, the effective rooting zone may be deeper than in heavier soils because larger pore space in coarse textured soils carries more oxygen to favor deeper rooting. In heavy soils subjected to prolonged wet periods, crops form shallow root systems and are unable to effectively utilize deep stored moisture. To utilize the water stored deep in the subsoil, farmers must take care to prevent the development of or detect and eliminate compacted “plowpans” which limit deep rooting and favorable gaseous exchange in the soil.

Probes and penetrometers are convenient tools to detect plowpans. For example if a probe can be easily pushed 2.5 feet in a clay loam soil before it is stopped by dryer, harder soil, a farmer could estimate that 4- to 5 inches of plant available water might be available, using this information to better plan cropping choices. Research has also indicated that nutrition of the crop, and in particular phosphorus (P), and nitrogen (N) fertility status are important for developing deep root systems capable of efficiently extracting water from the lower soil profile. In soils prone to drought, check soils for P stratification. If P is short below the top 2- to 3 inches of the surface soil, deep, banded P will improve water use efficiency in many crops.



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**Timber/Forestry  
Livestock & Pasture  
Horticulture**

You are requested to contact the Walker County Extension Office at (936) 435-2426 to be added to the NEW MAILING LIST.

- We now have an EMAIL option!
- Old addresses & names are being dropped after this mailing!

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 the Cooperative Extension Service is implied.

**We hope you enjoy this issue of Walker County Forestry News. If you have questions or would like more information call us at (936) 435-2426.**

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Sincerely,

**Reggie Lepley  
County Extension Agent – Agriculture  
Walker County  
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