

Austin County Ag News



Spring 2012

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Pecan Field Day

The annual Pecan Management Field Day will be taking place on Friday, April 13th, at the Hill Center in Sealy. The field day is sponsored by the Horticulture Committee of Austin County and is designed to assist pecan producers and anyone wanting to grow pecans for a hobby or a cash crop with management advice. The goal of the field day is to illustrate how to get a pecan tree to produce a better or higher quality product.

The featured speaker for this year will be Bill Ree, Extension Pecan Entomologist from College Station. Mr. Ree will be providing updates on the latest pecan pest management strategies, as well as the results of the latest pecan nut casebearer trapping information. The pecan nut casebearer is the number one insect pest of pecans in our area, and Mr. Ree and several pecan growers from around the Central Texas area have been monitoring traps to help assist growers with the most accurate spray timing to help control this pest. He will also provide information about basic management of pecans, such as spraying and fertility requirements.

Following Mr. Ree's presentation, members of the Horticulture Committee will instruct the participants in a hands-on four flap and inlay bark grafting demonstration for pecans. Pecan graftwood will also be available for sale at \$5.00 per bundle. There will be several different varieties for sale that will be suited for our area that would included Podsednik, Lipan, Nocona,

and Oconee. Registration will take place from 1:00 p.m. until 1:30 p.m., with the program to follow. Three CEU's will be given to all pesticide applicators. A \$10.00 fee will be charged at the door per person. Drinks and refreshments will be available. For more information on grafting, visit our website <http://austin-co.tamu.edu>. or contact the Extension Office at (979) 865-2072, for more information and to pre-register.

Spray Permits Still Required for Austin County

As a reminder to anyone that will be using state limited use or state restricted use herbicides in Austin County, a permit to apply these herbicides must be obtained through the Texas Department of Agriculture if you plan on spraying in certain portions of the county. The following areas of Austin County must acquire a permit as is specified in the Texas Agricultural code, chapter 75,

- I.)* Only the portion of Austin County lying east and south of the line beginning at the point where state highway 36 crosses the north county line, thence southerly along Highway 36 to FM 949; thence westwardly along FM 949 to the San Bernard River
- 2.)* Between March 15th and July 31st, in that portion of Austin County lying south of Interstate Highway 10, the following restrictions on the use of 2,4-D formulations shall apply:
 - (A.)* The application by aircraft is prohibited
 - (B.)* The use of all ester formulations by any method is prohibited

Permits may be obtained from the Texas AgriLife Extension Service of Austin County at (979) 865-2072, or visit our website at <http://austin-co.tamu.edu>. Forms can also be obtained by contacting the Texas Department of Agriculture Gulf Coast Regional Office in Houston at (713) 921-8200.

Multi-County New Landowners Educational Series Continues

The Multi County New Landowners Educational series continues into its fourth month of the 2012 program. The April program will focus on Stock Pond Management. The program will be held on **Friday, April 20th**, at the St John Lutheran Retreat Center in Bellville. The program will begin at 1:30 p.m. with registration at the site. Peter Wood, Extension Fisheries Specialist will be the featured speaker. Mr. Wood will cover several topics that would be of interest in new landowners and seasoned landowners alike, such as aquatic weed control, pond construction, stocking recommendations, management of shoreline and tank dam vegetation, and fertilization of farm ponds.

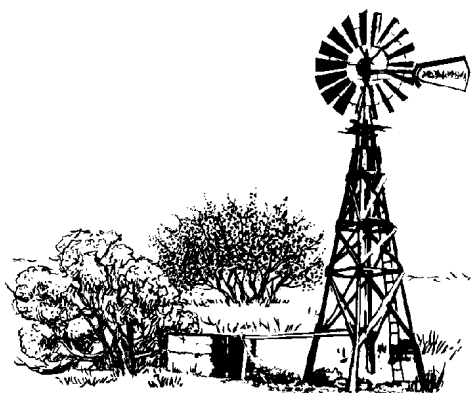
Registration for the program is \$10.00 per person. Your registration fee will include all of the handout materials and refreshments. Two (2) CEU's will be offered for all pesticide applicators as well.

Anyone wishing to have pond weeds identified is asked to bring their weeds freshly pulled and in a mason jar or zip lock bag.

May's program will focus on pasture management and forage production. This program is set for **Friday, May 18th**, at the John Howard Farm, near Kenney. The field day will include an overview of the value added hay production, information on irrigation to maximize production, and the how to's of adding value to your hay crop. The field day will begin at 1:30 p.m. with

registration at the farm, with the program and field tour to follow. The standard registration fee of \$10.00 applies for attending the program. Three (3) CEU's will be given to pesticide applicators and handouts will be provided.

Anyone interested in attending either or both of these programs is asked to contact the Extension Office and let us know you're coming. For information, contact the Extension Office at (979) 865-2072, or email us at austin-tx@tamu.edu.



Multi County Fruit Tree Seminar

Do you have a fruit tree, and have questions on how to get it to produce fruit? Here is your chance answer those questions and to learn what is needed to know to have a successful and enjoyable experience on Friday, May 11th, at Winedale Historical Complex at the Dolph Briscoe Center for American History in Winedale.

Dr. Larry Stein, Extension Horticulture Specialist, will be the main speaker, and will cover a wide range of topics, including varieties, selection, budding, grafting and planting demonstrations. The agenda will also include some visual demonstrations of these practices in Winedale's orchard.

This program is a multi-county effort that includes Austin, Colorado, Fayette, and Washington counties. Refreshments and handouts will be provided. Registration is from 1-1:30 pm and the program will run from 1:30 to approximately 5 pm. A registration fee of \$15.00 will be charged at the door to help defer the cost of refreshments and materials. To register, contact the Extension Office at (979) 865-2072, or visit our website at <http://austin-co.tamu.edu>.

Winedale Historical Complex is a division of the Dolph Briscoe Center for American History, the University of Texas at Austin. Winedale is located at 3738 FM 2714, 4 miles from Round Top, Texas. Take FM 1457 to FM 2714. More information about Winedale and directions are on the Web site: <http://www.winedale.org>.



Dr Larry Stein demonstrates how to prune fruit trees.

Grape Growers Committee to host Small Scale Wine Makers Symposium

There seems to be a great deal of interest in wines and wine making these days. Go to any grocery or package store and you will find wine making kits available to the general public where anyone can put together their own bottle of wine. Each year at the Austin County Fair Wine Competition, secret wine making recipes are put on display, as local amateur wine makers put their best bottle of Mustang grape or fruit wines on display. There is also a growing interest in establishing small scale commercial wineries in the state of Texas. This business venture seems to have added a much needed boost in tourism to our state's economy and it has helped to spur increased interest in growing wine grapes.

Have you ever wanted to learn how to make your own wine? The Grape Growers Committee of Austin County will be sponsoring a Small Scale Wine Makers Symposium on Saturday, May 5th, 2012, at the Cat Spring Ag Society Hall in Cat Spring. You will have the opportunity to hear from local wine makers as well as commercial winery owners about how to make your own wine from traditional wine grapes such as Blanc Du Bois and Black Spanish/Lenoir and from the native Mustang grape and various fruit wines. The program will cover Wine Making 101, Equipment, Sanitation and TABC regulations. There will also be a section on going from a home winery to a commercial operation. The day will wrap up with a wine social, where area wine makers will have samples available and may even share a secret or two about how they make their wine special and unique.

The program is scheduled to begin with registration from 8:30-9:00 a.m. with the program beginning at 9:00 a.m. and lasting until 4:00 p.m. A registration fee of \$20.00 per person will be charged at the door. The registration fee will include all of the handouts, break refreshments and a catered meal at lunch. Anyone interested in attending this program is asked to contact the Texas AgriLife Extension Service Office of Austin County at (979) 865-2072, or email us at austin-co@tamu.edu , and register.

Wildflower Photo Contest

Did you take any wildflower photos this year? If you answered yes, then please consider submitting your photos via email or drop it off at our office for our Wildflower Photo Contest, sponsored by the Horticulture Committee of Austin County. Winners from the contest will be selected and announced at the Wildflower Symposium in October in Industry. Contact the Extension Office for more information.

Upcoming Events

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| April | 6 | - | Good Friday Holiday, Office Closed |
| | 10 | - | Master Gardener Training |
| | 13 | - | Beef and Forage Committee Meeting
Pecan Grafting Field Day - Hill Center, 3 CEU's |
| | 17 | - | Master Gardener Training |
| | 18 | - | Leadership Advisory Board Meeting |
| | 20 | - | Multi County New Landowners Educational Series, "Stock Ponds", St John's Lutheran Retreat Center, Bellville - 3 CEU's |
| | 22 | - | 4-H Livestock Project Group Fundraiser Drive Thru Dinner |
| | 24 | - | Master Gardener Training |
| | 28 | - | Austin County Fair Steer and Heifer Tag In |
| May | 5 | - | Wine Makers Symposium, Cat Spring |
| | 9 | - | Horticulture Committee Meeting |
| | 11 | - | Multi County Fruit Tree Seminar, Winedale - 3 CEU's |
| | 18 | - | Multi County New Landowner Educational Series, "Pasture Management & Forage Production", John Howard Farm - 3 CEU's |
| | 24 | - | Master Gardener Board of Directors Meeting |
| | 28 | - | Memorial Day Holiday, Office Closed |

Sincerely,



Philip Shackelford
County Extension Agent - AG/NR
Austin County