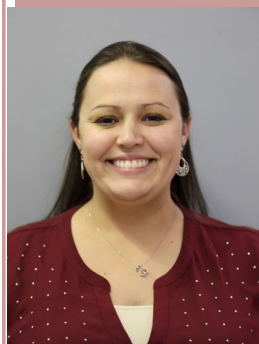


February, 2021

January—February

NEW AG & NATURAL RESOURCE AGENT



Howdy, my name is Stacie Villarreal and I am the new County Extension Agent-Agriculture & Natural Resources. I am extremely excited I had the opportunity to transfer from Waller County, where I was the ANR agent since October of 2015. I was born & raised outside San Antonio, TX and was involved in 4-H & FFA growing up. I showed and raised registered Limousin heifers, steers and other species to include pigs, lambs, and rabbits. I participated on judging teams to include livestock, dairy cattle, wool, food technology, and was on the National FFA Meats judging team. I also participated in speaking events and held several officer positions in both 4-H and FFA. After graduating high school, I attended Texas A&M University– Kingsville, in Kingsville, TX where I earned a Bachelors Degree in Range & Wildlife Management, emphasis Wildlife and a minor in Biology (2009) and a Masters Degree in Wildlife Science (2012). I encourage everyone to call or stop by the office if you have any questions or would like to meet me. I look forward to meeting everyone! I officially started on December 1, 2020.

Mark Your Calendar for Upcoming Events

January 25th– February 26th – Urban & Homeowners Soil Campaign *See Flyer for locations*

February 5th– Private Applicator Training – Austin County Extension Office

February 15th– Austin County Extension Office will be closed for Presidents Day

February 19th– New Landowner Series Starts – Washington County

March 19th– New Landowners Series – Fayette County

March 26th– Beef Cattle Management (3Hr CEU) – Four County Auction Barn 12:30pm

Private Applicator Trainings

If you plan on using a state limited use or state restricted use pesticide, such as Grazon P+D, 2 4- D, Weedmaster, etc., and need a license, the Texas AgriLife Extension Service will be sponsoring a Private Applicator Training and Testing throughout 2021 at the Austin County Extension office. Books and study materials for the course can be purchased from the Extension office ahead of time or the day of for \$40. A registration fee of \$10 will be charged for the training. The registration fee will include the training and additional study materials. The training will begin at 1 pm and conclude by 5pm. The Texas Department of Agriculture who oversees the testing and administration of Applicator Licensing has contracted with PSI Services to administer the exam for agriculture pesticide applicator licensing. Applicants will coordinate testing with PSI at one of their 22 locations around Texas. Details on the process, locations, cost, and other pertinent information will be provided at the training to help applicants complete the licensing process. *See Flyer for details*

Please note the following updates:

Grape Growers Field Day has been rescheduled, more information will be coming soon.

Small Farms & Vegetable Conference sponsored by the Horticulture Committee of Austin County held in February has been rescheduled to April 23rd.

Upcoming programs may be offered virtually and/or in-person.

We encourage anyone attending our programs to wear a mask.

MULIT-COUNTY NEW LANDOWNERS SEMINAR SERIES

The Multi-County New Landowner Education program is a series of eight informational meetings/seminars/field days designed to make new landowners in Austin, Colorado, Fayette & Washington Counties aware of what types of agricultural enterprises are best for their property. Participants in the program will hear from experts in certain fields of agriculture about the best management practices that they can implement on their own property. This innovative program assists new landowners in understanding the concepts of rural living. Participants in the program are given exposure to ideas on raising livestock and horses, plant identification, fence building, applying pesticides, soil testing, stock pond management, pond construction, fruit and nut production, and much more. The program also serves as a way for new residents of the four counties to network and meet new people in their communities, find out what can be done on their land, what operations can be profitable, and possibly what opportunities they have to serve the community. Program will be held on the third Friday's of the months of February, March, April, May, August, September, October and November. Each month's meeting will be held at different locations in each county. The meetings begin at 12:30 p.m., with registration and last until 5pm. For more information on the program, contact Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service of Austin County at (979) 865-2072, or visit our website at <https://washington.agrilife.org/ag/nlo/>

— Urban & Homeowner Soil Campaign Jan. 25-Feb 26th —

The Urban & Homeowner Soil Testing Campaign is underway in Austin County and will run January 25 – February 26. This campaign is made possible through the support of the Multi-County Ag Committee and in cooperation with the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Soil, Water, and Forage Testing Lab in College Station.

Soil sample bags and submittal forms for the soil testing campaign are available at six locations including: Bellville - Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service-Austin County (800 E. Wendt St), Harrison's Farm Service, Linseisen's Feed & Supply Inc; Sealy - Steinhauer's; New Ulm - Dudensing Farm Service; and Industry – Lindemann's Store.

All soil samples, forms, and payment must be returned to the Austin County Extension office to receive the discounted pricing. Full payment by check payable to MCAF is due when the samples are submitted to the Extension Office. Extension Office will deliver your samples to the testing lab. Sample results will be returned to the County Extension Office and then distributed to submitters via email or regular mail.

This Soil Testing Campaign offers homeowners and gardeners the opportunity to have their soil tested to determine its current fertility and receive a recommendation to improve the fertility required to maintain and produce the best possible outcome for their garden, lawn, or landscape. This campaign is only intended for soil analysis on non-agricultural land; only samples from lawns, landscapes, and gardens will be accepted.

The cost for a routine analysis will be \$8.00 and a routine analysis with micronutrients will cost \$15.00.

In exchange for the reduced testing cost, some information regarding your management practices will be asked on the soil testing form. The information you will be asked to provide includes the last time the area was fertilized, a description of previously used fertilizers, and whether or not the soil has been sampled in the past.

If you have any questions concerning the Urban & Homeowner Soil Testing Campaign, please contact the Austin County Extension office at (979) 865-2072.

SPRAY PERMITS REQUIRED FOR A PORTION OF 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,

- 1.) Only portion of Austin County lying east & 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. Forms can also be obtained by contacting the Texas Department of Agriculture Gulf Coast Regional Office in Houston at (713) 921-8200.

Quad County Urban & Homeowner Soil Testing Campaign

January 25-February 26, 2021

This campaign is open to all homeowners for gardens and yards. Soil bags, campaign forms, and directions can be picked up at the Austin, Colorado, Fayette, and Washington County Extension Offices and select feed stores in each county.

All bags, forms, and payment must be received by February 26th

Please make checks payable to:
MCAF

Prices:

Routine Analysis: \$8

Routine + Micro-nutrients: \$15

Please contact your County Extension office for details on pick up and drop off of forms and samples



Austin County Location:

- Extension Office (800 E Wendt, Bellville)
- Harrison's Farm Service
- Linseisen's Feed & Supply Inc
- Steinhauser's
- Dudensing Farm Service
- Lindemann's Store

Other participating counties: Colorado, Fayette, and Washington

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension provides equal opportunities in its programs and employment to all persons, regardless of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, disability, age, genetic information, veteran status, sexual orientation, or gender identity. The Texas A&M University System, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the County Commissioners Courts of Texas Cooperating.

TEXAS A&M
AGRI LIFE
EXTENSION



Training-\$10

Books-\$40

(2 manuals)

**Please RSVP to
reserve your
spot, space is
limited.**

**Please mail
checks or bring
money by before
the Training.**

Checks payable:

**Extension
Program Council**

Nonrefundable

Texas A&M AgriLife
Extension Service

Austin County

800 Wendt St

Bellville, TX 77418

Phone: 979-865-2072

<http://austin.agrilife.org>

TEXAS A&M
AGRILIFE
EXTENSION

Private Applicators Licenses Training

When: Friday, February 5, 2021

Future dates are still pending

Training is from 1pm to 5pm

Check in/Registration starts 15 mins prior

Date & Time are subject to change

Where: Austin County Extension Office

800 Wendt St.

Bellville, TX 77418

The purpose of this training is to obtain a Private Applicator License from Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA). This license will enable the applicator to purchase and apply state limited use and federally restricted chemicals on his land or land he has control of for the purpose of production of agricultural commodities. All farm and ranch operators who do not have a Private Applicator's License to purchase "restricted use" pesticides (such as 2, 4-D, Grazon P+D, Tordon 22K, etc.) will need to attend this training.

If you are interested in obtaining a Private Applicator license, please contact the Austin County office at (979) 865-2072 to RSVP and to purchase the manuals. You can also RSVP on

<https://austin.agrilife.org/event-registrations/>

Introduction Ag/Wildlife Valuations

TEXAS A&M
AGRILIFE
EXTENSION

2021 Multi-County New Landowner Educational Series



**February 19,
2021**



**Washington County Expo
Sales Facility**

1305 East Blue Bell Road
Brenham, Texas 77833

Registration 12:30-1:00 pm

Program 1:00-5:00 pm

\$20/Person/Session

\$125/Person/Series - \$200/Couple/Series



To register online visit:

<https://washington.agrilife.org/nlo>

Topics to be covered:
**Overview of Program Series
Local Resources
County Appraisal Districts**



Plans are in place to offer the program as a face-to-face program but please know we will be evaluating the ongoing pandemic and if necessary, we will transition the program to an online delivery to keep everyone's health and safety at the forefront of our plans.

**For More
Information
Please Contact:**

Stacie Villarreal

Austin County
(979)865-2072
Austin.Agrilife.org

Laramie Kettler

Colorado County
(979) 732-2082
Colorado.Agrilife.org

Scott Willey

Fayette County
(979) 968-5831
Fayette.Agrilife.org

Kara Matheney

Washington County
(979) 277-6212
Washington.Agrilife.org



1 CEU
(1 Gen)

The members of Texas A&M AgriLife will provide equal opportunities in programs and activities, education, and employment to all persons regardless of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, age, disability, genetic information, veteran status, sexual orientation, or gender identity and will strive to achieve full and equal employment opportunity throughout Texas A&M AgriLife. The Texas A&M University System, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the County Commissioners Courts of Texas Cooperating. Individuals with disabilities who require an auxiliary aid, service or accommodation in order to participate in this meeting are encouraged to contact the County Extension Office at (979) 277-6212 prior to the meeting to determine how reasonable accommodations can be made.

Beef Cattle Management Seminar

3 CEU's

March 26, 2021

Registration: 12:30pm

Program: 1pm-4:30pm

\$20/person

Four County Auction Center

15900 TX HWY 159

Industry, TX 778944

Topics:

- Utilization of Drones for Pasture Management
- Importance of Soil Fertility in Growing Forages
- Improving marketable of cattle with parasite control and herd health management

Speaker:

Dr. Megan Clayton, Dr. Joe Paschal, and Dr. Tony Provin

RSVP by: March 24th

Please call Austin County Texas A&M AgriLife Extension

Service at 979-865-2072 to register

or visit our website at <http://austin.agrilife.org>

Individuals with disabilities who require an auxiliary aid, service or accommodation in order to participate in this activity are encouraged to contact the Extension Office in Austin County at least eight days prior to the program for assistance.

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Training-\$10

Books-\$40
(2 manuals)

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Nonrefundable

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TEXAS A&M
AGRI LIFE
EXTENSION

Private Applicators Licenses Training

When: Friday, April 30, 2021

Friday, July 30, 2021

Friday, November 30, 2021

Training is from 1pm to 5pm

Check in/Registration starts 15 mins prior

Date & Time are subject to change

Where: Austin County Extension Office

800 Wendt St.

Bellville, TX 77418

The purpose of this training is to obtain a Private Applicator License from Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA). This license will enable the applicator to purchase and apply state limited use and federally restricted chemicals on his land or land he has control of for the purpose of production of agricultural commodities. All farm and ranch operators who do not have a Private Applicator's License to purchase "restricted use" pesticides (such as 2, 4-D, Grazon P+D, Tordon 22K, etc.) will need to attend this training.

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Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Stacie M. Villarreal

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service

County Extension Agent- Agriculture & Natural Resource-Austin County

1 East Main, Bellville, TX 77418 (*Mailing Address*)

800 E Wendt St, Bellville, TX 77418 (*Physical Address*)

Phone: 979-865-2072

stacie.villarreal@ag.tamu.edu

Austin.agrilife.org

Educational programs of the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service are open to all people without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, disability, genetic information, or veteran status. The Texas A&M University System, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the County Commissioners Courts of Texas Cooperating. Individuals with disabilities who require an auxiliary aid, service or accommodation in order to participate in this meeting are encouraged to contact the County Extension Office at (979) 865-2072 ten (10) days prior to the meeting to determine how reasonable accommodations can be made.