

## 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 1:00 pm and conclude by 5:00 pm. 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.*

## IN NEED OF CEU HOURS?

If you are in need of CEU hours because your license is about to expire soon, you can visit [AgriLife Learn](#). There are several videos you can sign up to watch at home!

*With restrictions across the state on safeguards related to the pandemic, the Texas Department of Agriculture has extended the exemption of agriculture Continuing Education Unit (CEU) requirements. Here is some important information for license holders:*

- **COMMERCIAL, NON-COMMERCIAL AND NON-COMMERCIAL POLITICAL APPLICATORS:** For licenses expiring in 2021 ONLY: TDA will exempt commercial, non-commercial and non-commercial political applicators who have taken online or correspondence courses within the last year. The TDA Rule 7.24 (t) (2) does not allow for online or correspondence courses to be taken 2 years consecutively. In light of the unusual circumstances due to Covid 19 (coronavirus), the TDA will allow online or correspondence courses to be taken in consecutive years. This exemption will be for the current 2021 licensing period. *Commercial, Non-Commercial and Non-Commercial Political Applicators are required to obtain 5 CEUs per licensing period.*
- **PRIVATE APPLICATORS:** For licenses expiring in 2021 ONLY: The TDA will also exempt private applicators from the TDA Rule 7.24 (v) (5). This rule does not allow a private applicator to acquire more than 10 CEUs through correspondence courses. During this quarantine time frame, private applicators will be allowed to acquire ALL of their CEUs through correspondence courses (online). *Private Applicators are required to obtain 15 CEU hours per 5-year licensing period (2 – Laws & Regulations, 2 – Integrated Pest Management, 11 – General)*
- Once the restrictions have been lifted and courses are scheduled again, applicators will be required to obtain their required CEUs for their respective license classification for each licensing period. By allowing a CEU exemption, this will allow the applicators to maintain their ability to perform pesticide applications for pests, weeds, insects etc., without disrupting daily business functions. Applicators are encouraged to complete online courses even if online courses were completed the previous licensing period.

## Mark Your Calendar for Upcoming Events

- April 23rd: Small Farms & Vegetable Conference (5 Hr CEU) - American Legion Hall, Sealy, 8:30 am
- April 30th: Private Applicators Training, Austin County Extension Office, 12:45 pm
- May 7th: Gulf Coast Grape Growers Field Day - (3 Hr CEU), Cat Spring Agricultural Society Hall, 8:00 am
- May 7th: Burleson County Beef Tour- (2 Hr CEU), Scamardo Brangus, Caldwell, 8:00 am
- May 14th: Feathers, Furs, & Farming- Dove & Waterfowl - (1 Hr CEU), Weimar Civic Center, 1:00 pm
- May 21st: New Landowners Series- Forage & Livestock Production - (2 Hr CEU), Sandy Creek Ranch, New Ulm, 1:30 pm
- June 3rd: Austin County Livestock Association Annual Meeting (2 Hr CEU), Cat Springs Agricultural Society

## MULTI-COUNTY NEW LANDOWNERS SEMINAR SERIES

The Multi-County New Landowner Education program is a series of 8 informational meetings, seminars, and 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 a variety of fields in agriculture about best management practices that can be implemented 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, rainwater harvesting, turf management, 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 successful, and possibly what opportunities they have to serve the community.

The programs will be held on the **third Friday of the months of February through June and August through November**. Each month's meeting will be held at different locations in one of the four counties. The meetings begin at 1:30pm and will last between 4 and 5 hours depending on the topic and possible tour stops. The cost for the program series is \$125.00 per person, \$200.00 per couple for all eight meetings, \$20.00 per person per meeting. Continuing Education Units (CEU's) for pesticide applicators will be offered as they are applicable. A great selection of refreshments will be provided at each session. Participants who sign up for the **entire series** will receive a notebook at the beginning of the series to fill as we progress through the program with handouts and reference material that will be useful as they move forward with improvements on their property.

- **May 21st** – Forage & Livestock Production – Options for Small Acreage Operations
- **June 18th** – Pond Management
- **August 20th** – Bees and Trees for Homeowners
- **September 17th** – Horticulture Production – Fruit Trees, Pecans, and Grapes for Landowners
- **October 15th** – Wildlife Management and Native Prairie Restoration
- **November 19th** – Emerging Issues for Rural Landowners

### May Program – Forage & Livestock Production – Austin County, Sand Creek Ranch

The third meeting for the 2021 series will take place on **Friday, May 21, 2021** at the Sandy Creek Ranch located in New Ulm, Texas. For this session, preregistration is required. Only those who preregister will be sent the directions. The goal of this session is to help landowners who want to establish or recover their pasture and hay meadows along with fertility and weed control options. Then look at options for overseeding pastures with winter forages, learn about the process and benefits. Lastly, we will cover livestock production by learning some tips and tricks to help you have a more successful herd. Two CEU (2 Gen) will be available for licensed pesticide applicators. Don't miss this wonderful opportunity!

For more information, please contact the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Office in Austin County (979-865-2072), Colorado County (979-732-2082), Fayette County (979-968-5831), or Washington County (979-277-6212). Registration materials and more information can also be found on our website, <https://washington.agrilife.org/ag/nlo/>



## IDENTIFYING THE STRENGTHS AND NEEDS OF TEXAS COMMUNITIES

TexasSpeaks is being conducted in Austin County and across the State of Texas to allow the citizens of Texas to provide their input on the assets and issues in their communities. The local branch of the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service has a rich history of providing educational programs that address the most critical issues in the county and invites your participation in the TexasSpeaks process.

The Extension Service highly values the opinions shared through the TexasSpeaks community assessment. The expectation is that the assessment will take about 10 minutes.

The Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service is a statewide network of professional educators, trained volunteers, and county offices. It reaches into every Texas county to address local priority needs and to extend the latest research to the people of Texas. Some of the major efforts are in mitigating drought impacts; conserving water use in homes, landscapes, and production agriculture; improving emergency management; enhancing food security; and protecting human health through education about diet, exercise, and disease prevention and management.

You can provide your input by going to the following: [tx.ag/texasspeaks](https://tx.ag/texasspeaks) or by scanning the QR code. For the code, open your camera on your smart phone and hold over the QR code, the website should pop up. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the Austin County Extension office at (979-865-2072) or email us at [austin-tx@tamu.edu](mailto:austin-tx@tamu.edu). Thank you very much for your involvement in this process!



# HOMEOWNER MAINTENANCE OF AEROBIC TREATMENT SYSTEMS

The Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service is adding [“Homeowner Maintenance of Aerobic Treatment Systems”](#) to its extensive list of AgriLife Online Courses. The online course will be available to Texans in counties where it has been approved starting April 1.

An aerobic septic system or aerobic treatment unit, ATU, uses oxygen to break down both dissolved and solid constituents contained in domestic wastewater into gases, cell mass and non-degradable material, explained Anish Jantrania, AgriLife Extension specialist with the agency’s On-Site Sewage Facilities, OSSF, unit.

“In this online course, we will be discussing information that is important to the homeowner for performing proper operation, maintenance and monitoring service of an onsite wastewater treatment system,” Jantrania said. “We will also discuss the routine reporting requirements for keeping your ATU and spray system in compliance with Texas regulations at the state and local level.”

## Course contingent on state, local regulations

Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, or TCEQ, regulations for an onsite sewage facility specify that at the end of an initial two-year service policy period, homeowners will either commit to maintain their ATU system personally or obtain a service contract from a licensed service provider. In counties that allow homeowners to maintain their ATU systems and have approved this course for education, successful course completion will allow users to maintain their own ATU or spray system.

“You need to contact your local regulatory authority or authorized agent to determine if you would be allowed to maintain your own system,” Jantrania said. He said the [TCEQ website](#) can provide information on authorized agents throughout the state or it can be found through the [Contacts section of the OSSF website](#).

## Course cost, content, and completion

The cost for the online course is \$150 and participants have 30 days from sign-up to complete it. Jantrania said upon course completion, participants will be able to:

- Understand the basic operation and maintenance activities for an aerobic treatment unit.
- Have the knowledge needed to communicate with professional system maintenance providers.
- Make better decisions regarding upkeep and maintenance of onsite wastewater treatment system.
- Be better informed consumers in the onsite wastewater treatment industry
- Have the knowledge needed to develop a professional relationship with maintenance providers.

The course will be presented in five chapters and approximate times for completion of each chapter will be provided. Chapter topics will address different aspect of the aerobic treatment system, including avoiding illnesses and accidents, understanding how the system works, the ATU as part of the family and general system operation and maintenance and reporting tasks.

Finishing a homework assignment that could take one to four days will also be required for course completion, Jantrania said.

“If your locality allows you to perform your own operation, maintenance and reporting activities instead of having a service contract and if they have approved this course for education, then upon successful completion of this program you will receive a signed certificate from your local AgriLife Extension county office.

He said to receive a certificate, participants must successfully complete all course chapters, pass a final quiz with a grade of 100 and submit their completed homework assignment online within 30 days from the day to start the course.

“Once you get your signed certificate, you will then be able to present it to your local regulator and sign up for maintaining your own ATU and spray system,” he said.



## COURSE INFORMATION

An aerobic septic system, or aerobic treatment unit (ATU), uses oxygen to breakdown both dissolved and solid constituents into gases, cell mass, and non-degradable material contained in wastewater. This online course will teach you how to properly maintain and operate your ATU.

### Topics

- Understand the basic operation and maintenance activities for an ATU
- Be a better consumer in the onsite wastewater treatment industry
- Have the knowledge needed to understand and communicate with maintenance providers

### Course Details

**Cost:** \$150

**Duration:** 30 days from sign-up date

To register, go to [tx.ag/EnrollAerobicTreatment](https://tx.ag/EnrollAerobicTreatment) and click 'Enroll Now'.

Available to Texans in approved counties starting April 1.

Visit [tx.ag/HomeAerobicTreatmentSystems](https://tx.ag/HomeAerobicTreatmentSystems) for more information.

### Contact

Dr. Anish Jantrania  
[Anish.jantrania@ag.tamu.edu](mailto:Anish.jantrania@ag.tamu.edu)





# Private Applicator Licenses Trainings for 2021

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\**

Trainings will be conducted at

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service of  
Austin County located at 800 E Wendt St.,  
Bellville, TX 77418

## *Prices:*

*Training-\$10*

*Books-\$40*

*(2 manuals)*

**Checks payable to:  
Extension Program  
Council (EPC)**

***Nonrefundable***

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

***Phone: 979-865-2072***

***<http://austin.agrilife.org>***

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 Training, please contact the Austin County Extension office at (979) 865-2072 to RSVP and to purchase the manuals. You can also RSVP on <https://austin.agrilife.org/event-registrations/>

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



# 29<sup>th</sup> Annual Gulf Coast Grape Grower Field Day

Cat Spring Agricultural Society Hall

13035 Hall Road

Cat Spring, TX

**Friday May 7, 2021**

8:00-3:30pm

*In-person or virtual*



## AGENDA

- 8-8:55 **New & Prospective Winegrower Session**  
*In Ed. Bldg. - Fran Pontasch*
- 9:00 **WELCOME**
- 9:05-9:45 **What Happens to a Pruning Wound?**  
Dr. David Appel, Texas A&M AgriLife
- 9:45-10:20 **Optimizing Wine Quality in the Vineyard**  
Dr Andreea Botezatu, Texas A&M AgriLife
- 10:30-11:15 **Fertilizing Damaged Vines**  
Dr. Justin Scheiner, Texas A&M AgriLife
- 11:15-12:00 **Potential Impact from Viruses**  
Dr. Femi Alabi, Sheila McBride
- 1:30 – 2:30 **IPM – Traditional & Biological Pesticides**  
Jim Kamas, Texas A&M AgriLife
- 2:40-3:30 **Gulf Coast Status & Predictions**  
Panel Discussion

TEXAS A&M  
**AGRI LIFE**  
**EXTENSION**

Registration fee includes lunch  
\$35 – GWCA members or virtual  
\$40 – non-members of GCWA

For more information

**Sponsors & Vendors -**  
pauldarst@darstranchvineyards.  
com

**In Person attendance -**  
gulfcoastwinegrowers@gmail.com

**Virtual attendance -**  
paradoxhouse@gmail.com

**Educational Content -**  
fmpontasch@tamu.edu

# BURLESON COUNTY BEEF TOUR

## SCAMARDO BRANGUS

FM 50 & CR 219

Caldwell, TX

May 7th, 2021

Registration - 8am

Program - 9am-2pm

**2 CEU's**

Price Discovery on Feeder & Live Cattle

Benefits of Embryo Transfer

Grazing System Management and Weed Control

Integrated Pest Management Options for External Parasite Control &  
Herd Health Management: Why give vaccinations?

## Equipment Display and Trade Show

*Registration and BBQ lunch sponsored by Brazos Bottom Crop Care,  
Capital Farm Credit, Citizens State Bank, Bluebonnet Electric and Area  
Businesses*



*Please RSVP by April 31 for Meal Count*

*For more information please call: Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service  
Burleson County  
(979) 567-2308*

"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 Americans with Disabilities - Individuals with disabilities who require an auxiliary aid, service, or accommodations in order to participate in any Extension activities are encouraged to contact the County Extension Office at (979) 567-2308 on or before April 30th to determine how reasonable accommodations can be made.



TEXAS A&M  
AGRI LIFE  
EXTENSION



TEXAS  
PARKS &  
WILDLIFE

This Month:  
**ALL ABOUT**  
Dove/Waterfowl

# FEATHERS, FURS, AND FARMING

A series of educational events designed to help all landowners diversify their operations and save more money and time by becoming better stewards of the land.

**May 14, 2021**

**1:00-5:00 PM**

**\$20/Person**

**Weimar Civic Center**

1754 IH-10  
Weimar, TX 78962

**Laramie Kettler**

979-732-2082  
Colorado County

**Stacie Villarreal**

979-865-2072  
Austin County

**Mark Lange**

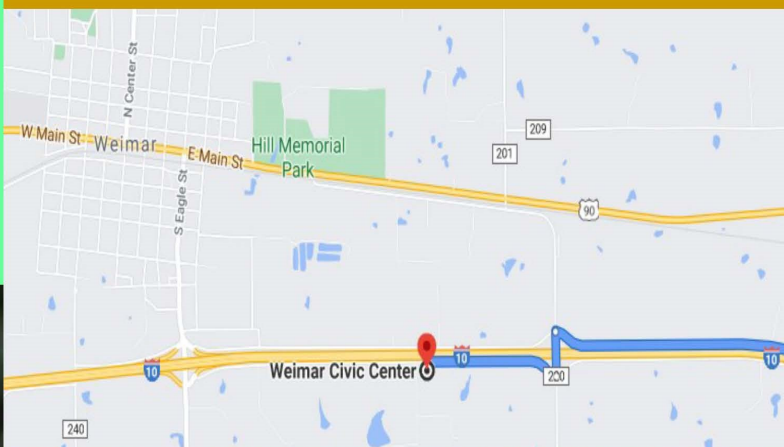
979-732-3458  
Austin/Colorado County

**1 CEU - General**

**Dove: Ecology, History, and Hunting**

**Wetland and Waterfowl Management**

**Food Plots for Bird Hunters**



*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*

# Forage & Livestock Production

## 2021 Multi-County New Landowner Educational Series

**May 21, 2021**

**Sandy Creek Ranch  
New Ulm, Texas**

*Must be preregistered for event.  
Directions will be sent to  
registered attendees.*

Registration 1:00-1:30 pm  
Program 1:30-5:00 pm  
\$20 / person

To register online visit:

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

*Topics to be covered:*

- Establishment and Recovery of Pasture and Hay Meadows
- Overseeding with Winter Forages
- Tips & Tricks for Livestock

**2 CEUs**  
(2 General)

**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



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.

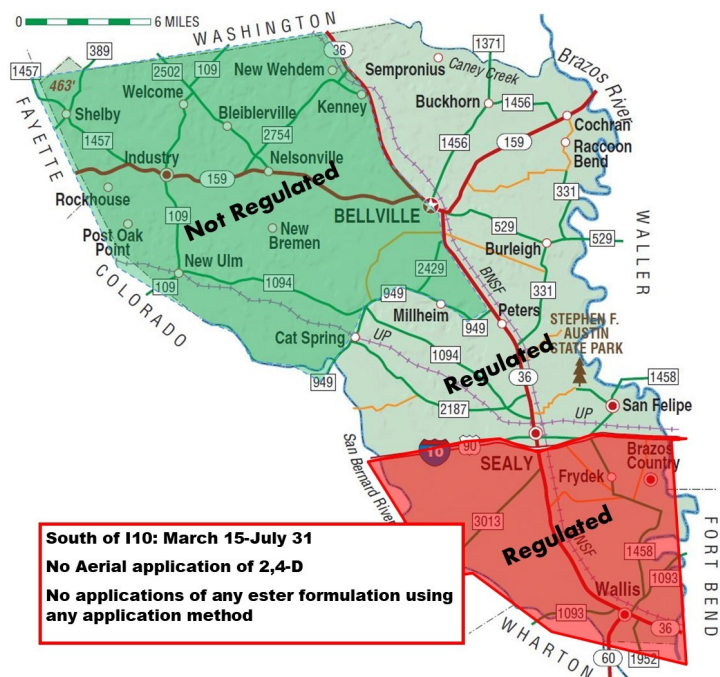


# SPRAY PERMITS REQUIRED FOR A PORTION OF AUSTIN COUNTY

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 that 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 is regulated by the Act, Subchapter G and regulations adopted thereunder.
- 2) Between March 15 and July 31, 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.



REGISTERING FOR A COUNTY PROGRAM?

[CLICK HERE](#)

## Please note the following updates:

- Grape Growers Field Day has been rescheduled for May, more information will becoming soon.
- Upcoming programs may be offered virtually and/or in-person.
- We encourage anyone attending our programs in person to wear a mask.

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](mailto:stacie.villarreal@ag.tamu.edu)

[Austin.agrilife.org](http://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.