

Austin County Ag Newsletter

August 2021

MULTI-COUNTY NEW LANDOWNERS SEMINAR SERIES

The August meeting for the 2021 series will take place on Friday, August 20, 2021, at the Washington County Expo Sales Facility in Brenham! Beekeeping continues to be a hot topic, especially for medium to small acreage landowners. Before you jump in head-first and order the equipment and a hive of bees, come learn what to expect! We will hear from several area beekeepers on what it takes to raise honeybees in this area of Texas, some of the challenges they face, and what they've found to be good solutions. In addition to bees we will take a portion of the afternoon to talk trees! In Texas and especially in our part of Texas trees are a valuable commodity that landowners care about and strive to keep them healthy and vigorous. Come learn about tree biology, how to recognize common tree problems, and how to manage for tree health. We will "leaf" no question unanswered, discussing planting, pruning, watering, fertilizer, insect and disease control. Don't miss this wonderful opportunity! Two CEUs (1 General, 1 IPM) will be offered for all licensed pesticide applicators.

The meetings begin at 1:30 pm and will last between 4 and 5 hours depending on the topic. The cost for the program is \$20.00 per person. Continuing Education Units (CEU's) for pesticide applicators will be offered as they are applicable.

- 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

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 the website, https://washington.agrilife.org/ag/nlo/



Fall Horticulture Seminar - August 27th



The Horticulture Committee of Austin County and the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Office of Austin County will be hosting a Fall Horticulture Seminar on Friday, August 27, 2021 at the American Legion Hall located at 1630 Meyer St, Sealy. Program Registration will begin at 1:00 pm with the first presentation beginning at 1:30pm.

Information to be covered includes Planting Fall Vegetable, Fruit Tree Care and Maintenance, Citrus Tree Care and Maintenance, and lastly some tips on Prepping Plants for Freezes. Presenters include Robert "Skip" Richter, Dr. Tim Hartmann, and Dr. Monte Nesbit with Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service.

The program will cost \$20 per person, so please RSVP to the Austin County Extension office at 979-865-2072 or online at https://austin.agrilife.org/event-registrations/ to reserve your seat. See Flyer for details on Page 5.

Mark Your Calendars for Upcoming Events

- August 1-30: Collection of Hay Samples for Austin County Hay Show
- August 20th: New Landowners Series-Bees & Trees for Homeowners, Washington County Fairgrounds, 1:30 pm
- August 27th: Austin County Fall Horticulture Conference American Legion, Sealy, 1:00 pm
- August 27th: Texas Well Owners Network Water Well Screening and Educational Program (Mill Creek Watershed) Washington County Expo Sales Facility, Brenham, 12:30 pm
- September 17th: New Landowners Series- Fruit Trees, Pecans, Grapes The Vine, New Ulm 1:30 pm
- October 1st: Riparian & Stream Ecosystem Training Millheim Harmonie Verein Hall, Sealy more information to come
- October 8th: Fall Forage Program & Hay Show Austin County Fairgrounds, Bellville, 9:00 am
- October 8-17th: Austin County Fair Extension Office will be closed due to Agents & Staff working at the Fair
- October 22nd: 50th Annual South Central Texas Cow Calf Clinic Washington County Fairgrounds
- November 9th: Lone Star Healthy Stream Workshop Bleiblerville VFD, 12:30pm, 3 CEU
- November 22nd: Deadline to Submit Pecan Show Entries to the Austin County Extension Office at 9:00 am

TEXAS WELL OWNERS NETWORK WATER WELL SCREENING & EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM

Besides time, water is arguably one of the most valuable commodities our society has not been able to hone a sustainable regeneration process for. Thus, stewardship of water and management of private water wells is important as we continue to see an increase in urbanization of rural lands and instillation of more private water wells.

The Texas Well Owner Network, or TWON, program is designed for Texas residents who depend on private household wells for their water needs. The program was established to help well owners become familiar with Texas groundwater resources, septic system maintenance, well maintenance and construction, and water quality and treatment. The course allows them to learn more about how to improve and protect their water resources.

The Austin & Washington County Extension Offices are pleased to present the Texas Well Owner Network training on *Friday, August 27, 2021* in Brenham. The "Well Educated" training, which is free and open to the public, will welcome participants at 12:30pm with the program beginning promptly at 1:00pm at the Washington County Expo Sales Facility, 1305 E. Blue Bell Road in Brenham.

Anyone is welcome to attend, including those who do not wish to have samples evaluated but anyone planning to submit samples must attend the course to receive the analysis results. Pre-registration for the program is required by August 25, 2021, and may be completed online by visiting: http://washington.agrilife.org/TWON

Well Water Sample Instructions

Participants who are interested in having their well water evaluated may submit a sample in advance of the training and will receive sample results at the program. Water samples will be screened for nitrates, total dissolved solids, and bacteria.

Well owners who would like to have their well water sampled may pick up a sample packet, which will contain instruction, a link to a sample collection video, and two water collection containers, from the Austin County Extension Office located at 800 E Wendt St. in Bellville. Water samples and the \$10.00 fee must be delivered to the Austin County Extension Office on Thursday, August 26, 2021, between the hours of 8:00am and 1:30pm to be analyzed. No samples will be accepted on Friday, August 27, 2021.

For additional information please feel free to contact the Austin County Extension Office at 979-865-2072 or Washington County Extension Office at (979) 277-6212 or visit our website at http://washington.agrilife.org/

This training is one of several being conducted statewide through the Texas Well Owner Network project. The core content of this program is the same as other trainings, but the information is tailored to local water quality issues and aquifers. More than a million private water wells in Texas provide water to citizens in rural areas and increasingly to those living on small acreages at the growing rural-urban interface. Private well owners are independently responsible for monitoring the quality of their wells.

Funding for the Texas Well Owner Network is through a Clean Water Act nonpoint source grant provided by the Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. The project is managed by the Texas Water Resources Institute, part of Texas A&M AgriLife Research, AgriLife Extension and the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences at Texas A&M University. See Flyer details on page 6.

HAY & FORAGE PRODUCERS NEEDED FOR HAY SHOW

The Beef &Forage Committee of Austin County is encouraging beef cattle producers to turn in a sample of their hay for analysis. Hay samples may be turned in at the Austin County Extension Office (located at 800 E. Wendt St), Harrison Farm Service and Linseisen's Feed & Supply Inc in Bellville, Steinhauser's in Sealy, Dudensing Farm Service in New Ulm, and Lindemann Store in Industry from August 1-August 31, 2021. The analysis will be done by the Texas A&M Forage testing lab and results will be available during the Annual Fall Forage Seminar at the Austin County Fairgrounds on October 8th or mailed directly to the producer. Each location will have entry forms, directions for collecting a sample, and boxes provided for samples available. In addition, the analysis is offered free of charge to anyone growing or feeding hay. More details regarding the Fall Forage Seminar on October 8th are to be announced.

Analysis will give producers very useful information about the quality of the hay they are feeding to their livestock, and the test will help them determine what additional level of supplement that they may need during the winter. The test will show the crude protein level, the level of total digestible, and acid detergent fiber (ratio of leaf to stem). The testing campaign and Hay Show is open to any hay producer from Austin or surrounding counties.

Producers may submit as many samples as they wish for analysis in each of the following categories: Coastal Bermudagrass, Other Bermudagrasses (e.g., Common Bermuda, Tifton 85, Jiggs, Alicia), Other Perennial Warm-Season Grasses (e.g. Eastern Gammagrass, Bluestem, Johnsongrass), Annual Warm Season Grasses (e.g. Rice Straw, Hay Grazer, Sudan Crosses), Cool Season Grasses (e.g. Wheat, Oats, Rye), Legume-Grass Mix (Rye/Clover) and Legumes (Clover, Peanut, Cowpea). There is no entry fee charged, however the deadline for entering the show is Tuesday, August 31, 2021. Please refer to the Austin County Hay Show Guidelines which are available online at http://austin.agrilife.org and at each of the drop off locations. See Flyer details on page 3, & page 8 for the program.

TEXAS A&M CGRILIFE

2021 Austin County 3 Hay Show 4 Fall Forage Seminar

Hay Sample entry forms & boxes are available at:

- Austin County Extension Office, Harrison Farm Service, and Linseisen's Feed & Supply Inc in Bellville
- Steinhauser's in Sealy
- Dudensing Farm Service in New Ulm
- Lindemann Store in Industry

Hay Samples collected August 1st-31st

Results available at the Fall Forage Seminar

Fall Forage Seminar

Austin County Fairgrounds

Friday, October 8, 2021

Registration: 8:30am - 9:00am

Program: 9:00am - 12:00pm

Cost: \$20 per person (lunch included)

Please RSVP by October 1st

For more information please visit the Austin County Extension Office website: austin.agrilife.org or contact the office, 979-865-2072

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.



Bees & Trees for Homeowners

2021 Multi-County New Landowner Educational Series



Washington County Expo Sales Facility

1305 East Blue Bell Road Brenham, Texas 77833

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:

Bee Keeping Basics
 Trees for Texas Landowners

2 CEUs (1 IPM; 1 Gen)

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





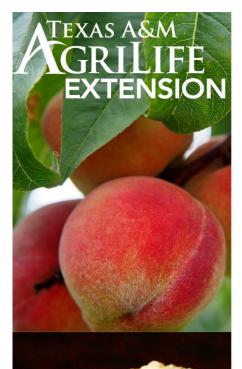








Somerville



Fall Horticulture Seminar

August 27, 2021

American Legion Hall 1630 Meyer St., Sealy, TX 77474

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



- Planting Fall Vegetables
- Fruit Tree Care and Maintenance
- Citrus Tree Care and Maintenance
- Prepping Plants for Freezes

Speakers:

- Robert "Skip" Richter, CEA Brazos County
- Tim Hartmann, PhD, Extension Program Specialist
- Monte Nesbitt, PhD, Extension Program Specialist

RSVP by: August 25, 2021
Please call Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service
of Austin County 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.

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.



AUGUST 27, 2021

Registration: 12:30 pm Program: 1:00 pm

> Washington County Expo Sales Facility 1305 East Blue Bell Road Brenham, Texas 77833

BRING YOUR WELL WATER SAMPLES!

\$10.00 per sample

Particpants must pick-up samples containers with insturctions at the Austin County Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Office begnning August 9, 2021. (800 E Wendt St. in Bellville)

Well owners must bring water samples and \$10.00 fee to the Austin County Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Office on Thursday, August 26, from 8am-1:30pm.

No samples will be accepted on Friday, August 27, 2021 at the program.

TEXAS WELL OWNER NETWORK PROGRAM

The Texas Well Owner Network (TWON) program is a educational training for Texas residents who depend on household wells for their water needs. TWON is for private well owners who want to become familiar with groundwater resources, septic system maintenance, well maintenance, water quality and water treatment. Private well owners are independently responsible for monitoring the quality of their wells. Essentially, they are the operators of their own water system and are responsible for ensuring that their water is safe.

Pre-register for the workshop by 8/25/2021 at http://washington.agrilife.org/TWON or call 979-277-6212 ext. 2



The members of Texas A&M Agniture 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 vertican status, sexual orientation, or gender identity and will strive to activities and equal employment opportunity throughout Texas A&M Agniture. The Texas A&M University Systems, U.S. Department of Agniculture, and the County Commissioners Courts of Texas Cooperating, Individuals with disabilities who require an activities and accommodation in order to participate in this meeting are encouraged to contact the County Extension Office at 1979 127-16212 points of the texas A&M agniture, can be made.



Horticulture Production

2021 Multi-County New Landowner Educational Series



September 17, 2021

The Vine - Tasting Room 25200 Bernard Road

25200 Bernard Road New Ulm, Texas 78950

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:
Introduction to Fruit and Pecan
Production

· Starting a Vineyard

2 *CEUs* (2 Gen)

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













Somerville



2021 Austin County Fall Forage Seminar & Hay Show

Sponsored by: The Austin County Beef & Forage Committee

Austin County Fairgrounds

Friday, October 8, 2021

Registration: 8:30am - 9:00am

Program: 9:00am - 12:00pm

Cost: \$20 per person (lunch included)

Topics/Speaker's

- Recalibration of Spray Equipment- Mark Matocha, PhD
- Pasture Management for Soil Health- Megan Clayton, PhD
- How to Judge your Hay Samples & Read your Results-Bobby Lane, PhD

2 CEU's provided to those with a pesticide applicator license (2 General)

Hay Show sample results available at the Fall Forage Seminar

Please RSVP by October 1st

For more information please visit the Austin County Extension Office website: austin.agrilife.org or contact the office, 979-865-2072

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Department of Agriculture, and the County Commissioners Courts of Texas Cooperating.





The goal of the Lone Star Healthy Streams (LSHS) program is the protection of Texas waterways from bacterial contamination originating from livestock operations and feral hogs that may pose a serious health risk to Texas citizens.

November 9th, 2021

12:30pm Registration

1:00pm-5:00pm

Bleiblerville VFD 3912 FM 2505 RD Bellville, TX 77418

** 3 General CEUs available **

This free workshop will focus on the Mill Creek Watershed, basic watershed function, water quality, and specific best management practices that can be implemented to help minimize bacterial contamination originating from beef cattle, horses, and feral hogs.

*Funding for this project is provided through a Clean Water Act Section 319 Nonpoint Source Grant from the Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board and the U.S Environmental Protection Agency."

Soil & Water

HORSES

FERAL HOGS



BEEF (

AGRILIFE EXTENSION

Austin County Pecan Show

Sponsored by: The Horticulture Committee of Austin County

Entry Deadline: Monday, November 22, 2021, 9am

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

Guidelines:

- Entries must be delivered to the Extension Office during normal business hours (8am-12pm & 1pm-5pm) beginning Monday, November 15th to Friday, November, 19th
- All entries must be submitted by 9am on Monday, November 22nd.
 No Late Entries Accepted!
- Each entry should have 50 uncracked pecans of the same variety
- Each entry MUST be in a brown paper bag labeled with entrant's name and entry form
 - Entry forms can be picked up at the Extension office or printed off the website (austin.agrilife.org)
- Entries are limited to one entry of each named variety per person
- Pecans must be from 2021 Crop
- No entry fee

All entries become property of the Austin County Horticulture Committee

Results will be available at the Pecan Program on 12/2/21

For more information please visit the Austin County Extension Office website: austin.agrilife.org or contact the office, 979-865-2072

Private Applicator Licenses Trainings for 2021



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 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

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.





The **South Central Texas Cow-Calf Clinic Scholarship** Committee is pleased to present the 3rd Annual SCTCCC Scholarship Drawing benefiting graduating seniors in the nine county area.

This year's drawing boasts over \$30,000 worth of prizes spread out over 15 opportunities to win.

Only 500 tickets will be sold for the drawing which will take place live at the 50th Annual South Central Texas Cow-Calf Clinic on Friday, October 22, 2021 at the Washington County Expo in Brenham. In the inaugural year the proceeds from the drawing supported ten young people as they each continued their education at colleges across Texas.

To purchase your ticket:

- 1. Visit a local County Extension Office in **Austin**, Brazos, Burleson, Colorado, Fayette, Grimes, Lee, Waller, or Washington county.
- 2. Contact any member of a participating county's Beef and Forage Committee.
- 3. Visit the 2021 SCTCCC Scholarship Drawing website and purchase your ticket online today!



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 Resources - 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.