

2021 East Region Pecan Show

The East Region pecan show for the 2021 crop year was judged on March 2nd at the TAMU HortTREC facility in Burleson County. One hundred one samples from fourteen counties were recorded as participants. Austin County exhibitors held their own and placed with one or more entries.

Those placing are as follows:

1st place Variety Seedlings- Luedeker Farms

1st Place Prilop- Industry Methodist

3rd Place Prilop- Lois Steele

1st Place Success- Steve Short

1st Place Natives- George & Betty Thiel

2nd Place Lightest Pecan- Luedeker Farms

Entries receiving 1st, 2nd and 3rd place will be entered into the state pecan show, to be held in conjunction with the Texas Pecan Growers Annual Conference in San Marcos on July 10, 2022.

Special thanks to the following volunteers and County Extension personnel who helped process this important pecan educational event: Robert Luedeker, Austin County, Willie Plocheck, Andrew Kutac, Warren Hammond, Bill Ree, Stephen Janak, Boone Holladay, and Stephen Brueggerhoff. Judges making awards this year were scientists with the USDA-ARS Pecan Breeding and Genetics Laboratory at College Station/Somerville, including Dr. Xinwang Wang, Dr. Warren Chatwin, and Mr. Keith Kubenka. The show was coordinated and managed by Dr. Monte Nesbitt, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension, College Station. Ribbons and plaques for the winners are sponsored by the Texas Pecan Growers Association.

BMGA PLANT SALE

The Bluebonnet Master Gardener Association hosts its Annual Plant Sale on April 9, 2022, from 8:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. or when they sell out. This year's plant sale will be held at the Sealy Historical Park, 211 East Main Street, Sealy.

A wide variety of plants will be available for purchase including roses, "Texas Superstar" plants, "Texas Native" plants, "Earth Kind" plants, succulents, butterfly friendly plants, ground covers, herbs, bushes, and a few surprises – something for everyone. There will also be rain barrels, a variety of planters and other garden items.

Proceeds from the sale help Bluebonnet Master Gardeners support the four counties (Austin, Colorado, Fayette, and Washington) with graduating high school senior scholarships each year, community gardens, FREE-to-the-public "Lunch & Learns", and other local activities.

Mark Your Calendars for Upcoming Events

- March 18th: Beef Cattle Seminar — Four County Austin Center, Industry, 12:30pm (3 CEU's)
- March 18th: New Landowners Series — Weed & Brush Control, Fayette County, 1:00pm (2 CEU's)
- March 19th: Backyard Gardening Workshop — Just Do It Now, Wharton, 9:00am or Virtually (See flier for details)
- April 9th: Bluebonnet Master Gardener Plant Sale — Sealy (See flier for details)
- April 19th: Lunch n Learn by Bluebonnet Master Gardeners — Austin County Extension Office, Bellville, 12:00pm
- May 6th: Private Applicator Training — Austin County Extension Office, Bellville, 1:00pm
- May 17th: Lunch n Learn by Bluebonnet Master Gardeners — Austin County Extension Office, Bellville, 12:00pm
- June 21st: Lunch n Learn by Bluebonnet Master Gardeners — Austin County Extension Office, Bellville, 12:00pm
- August 5th: Private Applicator Training — Austin County Extension Office, Bellville, 1:00pm
- November 3rd: Private Applicator Training — Austin County Extension Office, Bellville, 1:00pm

Multi-County New Landowners Series 2022

The Multi-County New Landowner Education program is a series of seven 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, May, August, September, October, and November. Each month's meeting will be held at different locations in each county. The meetings begin at 1:30 p.m., with registration and last until 5pm. 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.

- **March 18th**– Weed & Brush Control – Plant Identification, Control Recommendations for Common Weeds and Brush
- **May 20th**– Pond Management – Construction, Aquatic Weed Control, and Stocking
- **August 19th**– Horticulture Production – Fruit Trees, Pecans, and Grapes for Landowners
- **September 16th**– Forage &/or Livestock Production – Options for Small Acreage Operations
- **October 21st**– Wildlife Management and Native Prairie Restoration
- **November 18th**– Bees and Trees for Homeowners

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/>

RENEWAL UPDATE FOR 2022 FOR APPLICATOR LICENSE HOLDERS

In response to the ongoing Covid 19 pandemic, the Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA) is extending this exemption of agriculture Continuing Education Unit (CEU) requirements. To address the CEU's and licensure requirements for Ag Pesticide applicators, the TDA will work with the ag pesticide applicators and CEU course providers of Texas during this critical time. Licensed applicators with expiring licenses or needing CEU's will be allowed to renew their license even if they have not met their CEU requirement for their current licensing period through December 31, 2022. Due to the uncertainty of the length and severity of the Covid 19 pandemic, many CEU events have been canceled. The TDA will work to insure all the state's pesticide applicators are able to acquire their licenses and required continuing education courses in a safe and effective manner during this time frame. Once CEU courses resume as normal, 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.

COMMERCIAL, NON-COMMERCIAL AND NON-COMMERCIAL POLITICAL APPLICATORS For licenses expiring in 2022 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 2022 licensing period. Commercial, non-commercial and non-commercial political pesticide applicators are required to obtain 5 CEUs per licensing period.

PRIVATE APPLICATORS For licenses expiring in 2022 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 CEUs per 5- year licensing period.

BMGA Spring Lunch-N-Learn Series Austin County

The Bluebonnet Master Gardeners of Austin County are pleased to present the 2022 “Lunch-N-Learn” series which will be hosted on the third Tuesday of each month, April-June and will continue in the Fall, current months are pending. The overall series will feature topics related to horticulture with homeowner and backyard gardeners in mind! Speakers are experts in their fields and practical gardeners with great tips and information for everyone.

Programs are held in-person at the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Office of Austin County located at 800 E. Wendt Street in Bellville. Program registration will begin at 11:50am with the program beginning at 12:00pm and concluding about 1:00pm. At the conclusion of each session, the speaker and our Austin County Master Gardeners will be available to help answer gardening questions.

All Master Gardener Lunch-N-Learn programs are FREE and OPEN to the public and you are welcome to bring your own lunch and drink. We will have a few refreshments available as well.

Our Spring Series dates and topics will be as follows:

- Tuesday, April 19, 2022;
 - Rainwater Harvesting by one of our very own Bluebonnet Master Gardeners, Al Prescott
- Tuesday, May 17, 2022;
 - Herbs, by Phoebe Lake owner of New Leaf Nursery
- Tuesday, June 21, 2022;
 - Preservation Tips of Herbs & Vegetables, by Dr. Jenna Anding, a Professor & Associate Department Head-Nutrition with Texas A&M AgriLife Extension

For more information regarding Bluebonnet Master Gardener Association, please visit <https://txmg.org/bluebonnet/>

BEEF CATTLE MANAGEMENT SEMINAR

The Beef & Forage Committee of Austin County in partnership with Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service of Austin County will be hosting a Beef Cattle Management Seminar on Friday, March 18, 2022, at Four County Auction Center located at 15900 TX HWY 159, Industry. Program registration will begin at 12:30pm, with the first presentation beginning at 1:00pm. The program will conclude by approximately 4:30pm.

Information to be covered includes: Prescribed Fire as a Pasture and Range Management Tool, Hay Grazing & Food Plot Conundrum (Soil Fertility), and Cattle Economics- The Benefits/Costs of Parasite Treatment. Presenters include Dr. Morgan Treadwell, Dr. David Anderson, and Dr. Tony Provin all with Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service. There will be 3 CEU hours awarded (3 General) at the program.

The program will cost \$30 per person. We ask that you please RSVP with the Austin County Extension office at 979-865-2072 or visit us online at <https://austin.agrilife.org/event-registrations/>.

Beef Cattle Management Seminar

3 CEU's

March 18, 2022

Registration: 12:30pm

Program: 1pm-4:30pm

\$30/person

Four County Auction Center

15900 TX HWY 159

Industry, TX 778944

Topics:

- Prescribed Fire as a Pasture & Range Management Tool
- Hay Grazing & Food Plot Conundrum
- Cattle Economics the Benefits-Costs of Parasite Treatment

Speakers:

Dr. Morgan Treadwell, Dr. David Anderson, and Dr. Tony Provin

RSVP by: March 16th

Please call Austin County Texas A&M AgriLife
Extension Service at 979-865-2072 to register
or at <https://austin.agrilife.org/event-registrations/>



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.

**2
CEU
(2 GEN)**

TEXAS A&M
AGRILIFE
EXTENSION

Weed & Brush Control

2022 Multi-County New Landowner Educational Series

March 18, 2022

Fayette Co. Fair Grounds

400 W. Fair Grounds
La Grange, TX 78945

Registration 1:00-1:30 pm

Program 1:30-5:00 pm

\$20/Person/Session

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

To register online visit:

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

If you have a weed you would like identified bring a FRESH sample with you; include leaves, flowers, stem if possible.



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 ext. 2
Washington.Agrilife.org



TEXAS *Casual*
COTTAGES

By **PARTNERS** IN BUILDING

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 Austin County Extension Office at (979) 865-2072 prior to the meeting to determine how reasonable accommodations can be made.



BACKYARD GARDENING WORKSHOP

*JUST DO IT NOW • 1619 Martin Luther King Blvd,
Wharton, TX 77488*

ATTEND IN-PERSON OR VIRTUALLY

03.19.22

SATURDAY
9AM – 12PM

(Sign-In @ 8:30)

FREE ADMISSION
& LUNCH WILL BE
PROVIDED

REGISTER
HERE

FOR ADDITIONAL INFO: BRAXTON MITCHELL, Wharton/Austin County
Extension Agent (979)532-3310 • bjmitchell@pvamu.edu

The Cooperative Extension Program does not discriminate against anyone regardless of their race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity (including gender expression), sexual orientation, disability, age, marital status, family/parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs, reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity, in any program or activity. Persons who require communication in a language other than English or with a disability who require alternative means of communication of program information (braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) or should contact Ms. Belinda Lewis at 936-261-3585 in advance.



PRAIRIE VIEW
A&M UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE
AND HUMAN SCIENCES



Cooperative Extension Program

Agriculture and Natural
Resources



Bluebonnet Master Gardeners' Annual Plant Sale Saturday, April 9th

9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

**At "The Spring Fest"
Sealy Historical Park
211 East Main Street
Sealy, Texas**

**TEXAS A&M
AGRI LIFE
EXTENSION**

<https://txmg.org/bluebonnet/>



2022 AUSTIN COUNTY LUNCH N LEARN SERIES

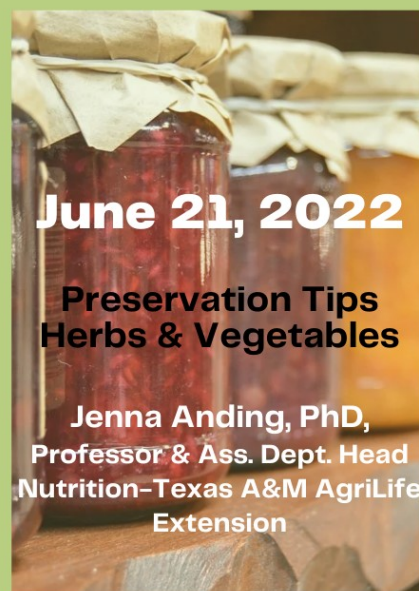
BLUEBONNET MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION

FREE to the Public

Austin County AgriLife Office
800 E Wendt St.
Bellville, TX 77418

Bring your own lunch
Light Refreshments provided

Registration: 11:50am - 12pm
Program: 12pm - 1pm



QUESTIONS PLEASE CALL:
TEXAS A&M AGRILIFE
EXTENSION SERVICE OF AUSTIN
COUNTY AT 979-865-2072

TEXAS A&M
AGRILIFE
EXTENSION

Registration is not required but is
encouraged. To register call the
office 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.

2022 Schedule

3rd Friday of the Month

All Programs Begin with:

Registration: 1:00-1:30PM

Educational Program: 1:30-5:00PM

Great Door Prizes at Each Program

February 18 Austin County	Introduction Ag/Wildlife Valuations
March 18 Fayette County	Weed & Brush Control
April 15 Good Friday	NO CLASS
May 20 Washington County	Pond Management
August 19 Austin County	Fruit Trees, Pecans, Grapes for Small Acreage
September 16 Colorado County	Forage Production Livestock Production
October 21 Fayette County	Wildlife Management Native Grass Restoration
November 18 Washington County	Bees and Trees for Homeowners

Maps and Directions

Provided prior to each monthly meeting

Visit our New Landowner Website for additional information or to preregister for the series.

Online Credit Card Payment Option for Series Pre-Registration

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

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.



What is it?

The Multi-County New Landowner Program is a series of meetings, seminars, and field days designed to provide information and resources related to agriculture, natural resources, wildlife, and land stewardship for new landowners in Austin, Colorado, Fayette, and Washington counties. Participants in the program will hear from Extension experts in various fields about best management practices they can implement on their own property.

What does the program cost?

If attending **all sessions**

\$125.00 per person or \$200.00 per couple

\$15.00 savings per person for entire series

or \$80.00 savings per couple for entire series

If attending **select sessions**

\$20.00 per person for each session

Payable at the door or in advance.

What do you receive with your full enrollment?

- ♦ 24+ hours of instruction, training from experts
- ♦ Notebook **FULL** of publications and resources
- ♦ Opportunity for one-on-one discussion with experts, County Extension Agents, and others
- ♦ Opportunity to visit local farms/ranches
- ♦ Opportunity to network with other landowners
- ♦ Get your agriculture and natural resource questions answered and dispel internet myths

What is AgriLife?

Extension is a public agency based within the land grant university, Texas A&M University.

We have agents in each Texas county that act as an Extension of the University knowledge and research. We provide research-based information to help Texans better their lives.

What do we do?

We provide programs, tools, and resources - on a local and statewide level - that teach people how to improve agriculture and food protection, advance health practices, protect the environment, strengthen our communities, and enrich youth.



MARCH 30, 2022 | 10 - 11:30 AM CST
 FREE webinar with great door prizes!

WHAT'S THAT? PLANT ID FOR EVERYONE!

- Major Clumping: How to look smart with common characteristics
- Perennial vs. Annual Forbs: How to know the difference
- The Family Breakdown: Taking an unknown plant down to family
- Genus *Paspalum* in Texas
- Using Seek and iNaturalist for Plant ID

To Register (Virtual Event): <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/6N7YVCB>

For more information:

Megan.Clayton@ag.tamu.edu, Tim.Siegmund@tpwd.texas.gov, Charles.Kneuper@usda.gov



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SPRAY PERMITS REQUIRED FOR A PORTION OF AUSTIN COUNTY

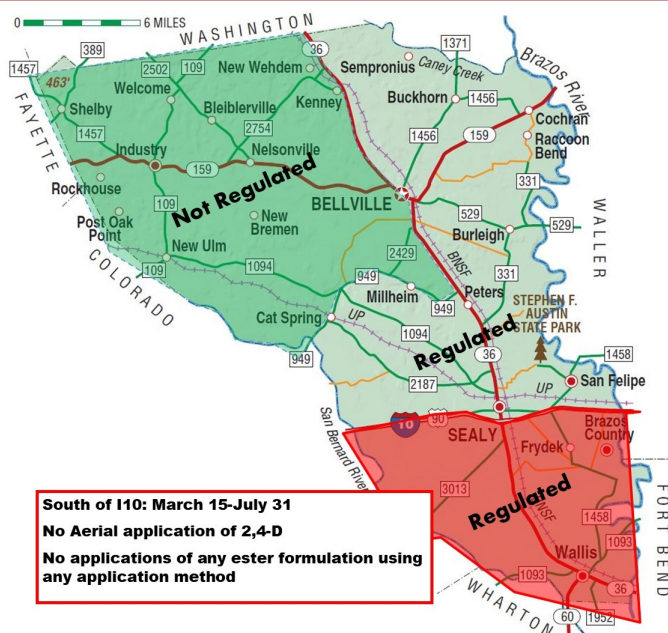
As a reminder to anyone that will be using state limited use or state restricted use herbicides in Austin County, a permit to apply these herbicides must be obtained through the Texas Department of Agriculture if you plan on spraying in certain portions of the county. The following areas of Austin County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