

## Mill Creek Watershed Partnership Meeting

A Mill Creek Watershed Partnership Meeting will be held Thursday, December 8<sup>th</sup> at the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Office (800 E Wendt St.) in Bellville, TX. The meeting is free to attend and open to the public. Refreshments/light dinner will be served. Those interested in attending are encouraged to pre-register at the following url: <https://austin.agrilife.org/event-registrations/>

The agenda will feature an informational lecture on the purpose, application, and potential value of bacterial source tracking to the Mill Creek Watershed. Also on the agenda for the meeting are updates on the watershed partnership project and a discussion on the formation of a volunteer program area committee to facilitate and support ancillary activities of the partnership. If you live within the Mill Creek Watershed please attend to learn more about the watershed and the bacterial source tracking that is being conducted. A map of the Mill Creek Watershed is located on page 9 of the newsletter.

The 2022 Texas Integrated Report for Clean Water Act listed 322 stream segments as impaired due to contamination with bacteria. Mill Creek is on this list of impaired streams. Bacterial source tracking (BST) is a tool that can evaluate the source of the bacteria in streams, be it from cattle/livestock, wild bird species, pet dogs, wild mammal species, etc. How it works, what its potential limitations are, how it might benefit the Mill Creek Partnership, and how the Partnership can pursue funding for BST in Mill Creek will all be part of the informational lecture and discussion for the evening.

*See Flier on Page 4*

## Wildlife Service Phone Number

*Message from Mike Bodenchuk, Director of Texas A&M AgriLife Wildlife Services*

For several years, USDA has maintained a nationwide toll-free number for the public to call for human-wildlife conflicts. The number actually rings in the State Office which is represented by the callers area code. That is, if your area code is a Texas area code, then it will ring in our State Office in San Antonio. This works fairly well, but people moving between states and keeping their home-state cell number has complicated this a bit. Nonetheless, we really haven't made much use of this technology and I'd like to reinvigorate the process to better serve Texans with wildlife conflicts. **The phone number is 866-4 USDA WS (866-487-3297).**

Recently, we changed the routing for that number so it will ring to a government cell phone and hired a technician with experience in providing technical assistance for resolving wildlife conflicts. We intend to use this service as a one-stop for helping people prevent and resolve the common wildlife conflicts. Of course, our existing landowner customers will continue to call their trappers. But for people looking for information on resolving meso-mammal or vulture conflicts, as well as those requiring assistance with MBTA permitting, this number will be a useful quick connection to the Texas Wildlife Service Program.

### Mark Your Calendars for Upcoming Events

- December 8th: Mill Creek Watershed Partnership Meeting — Austin County Extension Office, Bellville, 5:00 pm
- December 9th: 5 HR CEU Conference — Four County Auction Center, Industry, 12:30 pm (5 CEU's approved)
- **December 23rd-26th: Austin County Extension Office — CLOSED for CHRISTMAS**
- **December 30th: Austin County Extension Office — CLOSED for NEW YEAR'S EVE**
- January 13th: Field to Fork- Waterfowl — Washington County Expo Event Center, Brenham, 9:00 am
- February 3rd: Gulf Coast Grape Growers Field Day — Cat Spring Ag Hall, Cat Spring, 8:00 am
- February 10th: Private Applicator Training — Austin County Extension Office, Bellville, 1:00 pm
- February 24th: Small Farms & Vegetable Conf. — American Legion, Sealy, 8:30 am (5 CEUs pending TDA approval)
- April 21st: Field to Fork- Wild Hog— Fayette County Ag Building, La Grange, 9:00 am
- May 5th: Private Applicator Training — Austin County Extension Office, Bellville, 1:00 pm
- July 14th: Field to Fork- Fish— Weimar Civic Center, Weimar, 9:00 am
- August 4th: Private Applicator Training — Austin County Extension Office, Bellville, 1:00 pm
- October 20th: Field to Fork- White-tail— Methodist Activity Center, Bellville 9:00 am
- November 3rd: Private Applicator Training — Austin County Extension Office, Bellville, 1:00 pm

## 5 Hour CEU Conference

As a reminder to anyone with a TDA Private Applicator License, you need 15 Continuing Education Units (CEU) in order to re-certify every 5 years, 2 hours in Laws & Regulations and 2 hours in Integrated Pest Management, with 11 hours in the General Category. All TDA Commercial and Non-Commercial Applicator License holders need 5 CEUs every year to re-certify with 1 hour in Laws & Regulations, 1 hour in Integrated Pest Management, and 3 hours in the General Category.

Anyone needing hours should mark Friday, December 9, 2022, on their calendar. The Beef & Forage Committee of Austin County will be hosting a 5 Hour CEU Conference at Four County Auction Center located at 15900 TX-159 in Industry. Registration will take place at 12:30 p.m., with the program starting at 1:00 p.m. The registration fee is \$50.00. We encourage you to pre-register for the program, but walk-ins are welcome. Please call the Austin County Extension Office at 979-865-2072 or visit online at <https://austin.agrilife.org/event-registrations/>. Refreshments will be served during the conference as well as a meal at the conclusion of the program.

The Program topics will include Picolinic Acid Chemistry Training (PACT) from Dr. Megan Clayton, Pesticide Laws and Regulations Update from Gregory Baker, Improving Herbicide Application from Dr. Mark Matocha, Management of Pastures During & Following Drought from Dr. Larry Redmon, and Gopher & Mole Control Methods from B.R. Koehler and Joe Jimenez. There will be 5 CEU hours awarded, TDA approval for 2 L&R, 1 IPM, and 2 General units.

*See Flier on Page 5*

## Renewal update for 2022 Applicator License holders

In response to the ongoing Covid 19 pandemic, the Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA) is extending the 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, the applicators 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. However, 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.

## AUSTIN COUNTY HOG BOUNTY

Austin County Commissioners Court is offering a bounty on feral hogs. Participants will be awarded \$5 per feral hog harvested in Austin County, with biological evidence provided of harvest in the form of a pair of feral hog ears. Each pair must be placed in an individually sealed bag and dropped off at 1 of the 3 drop off locations. Three local feed stores in the county- Steinhauer's in Sealy, Linseisen's Feed & Supply in Bellville, and Lindemann Store in Industry, will serve as the drop off locations.

A limit of 20 pairs per household per month is allowed. All feral hogs must be harvested in Austin County & signed paperwork must be filled out completely to collect money.

*See Flier on Page 6*



## New Bluebonnet Master Gardener Project

Over the past couple of months, we have been working on clearing the shrubs which were in front of the County Annex building on Wendt St. A full cement sidewalk was added and planter boxes have been placed along the sidewalk. The larger planter boxes and urns have Texas SuperStar plants, currently being labeled. These Texas SuperStars are plants that can tolerate our Texas weather, and are easy to propagate and easy to care for. These are some great examples of plants you could plant for your own landscaping. The small planter boxes will be for our Austin County 4-Hers to use as practice for Miniscapes. Next time you stop by Bellville, make a trip by the office to see the wonderful plants and happy pollinators that have come by.

A Special Thanks to Commissioner Rinn and his crew for their help in removing the shrubs and getting the dirt work completed for the project.



## AUSTIN COUNTY PECAN SHOW 2022 RESULTS

The Austin County Pecan Show, which is a free contest for any resident who has a pecan tree, was judged on Thursday, December 1st at the Austin County Extension office in Bellville, with Stephen Brueggerhoff as the judge. An educational program was held in conjunction with the awards presentation to educate attendees on Growing Pecans at Home and Pecan Varieties. The event was hosted by the Austin County Horticulture Committee & Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service of Austin County. Five of the pecans will move on to the East Regional Pecan Show in January.

The results are as follows:

1st Place Choctaw – Linda Villarreal

2nd Place Choctaw – Roland Villarreal

1st Place Desirable – Scott Blezinger

2nd Place Desirable – Pat Blezinger

3rd Place Desirable – Industry United Methodist Church

**Native Champion** – Luedeker Farms (JV Favorite)

**Native Reserve Champion** – Annie Wittner

1st Place Natives – Luedeker Farms (JV Favorite)

2nd Place Natives – Annie Wittner

3rd Place Natives – Luedeker Farms (Becca)

1st Place Past State Champion – Luedeker Farms (2010 Champ)



## TEXAS A&M AGRI LIFE EXTENSION

### Mill Creek Watershed Partnership

#### Partnership Meeting and Bacterial Source Tracking Informational Lecture

Join us for the Mill Creek Watershed Partnership update and a lecture on bacterial source tracking from Texas A&M University Professor of Soil Microbiology Dr. Terry Gentry. Dr. Gentry works to identify microbial pathogens in the environment from animal, human, and natural sources. Mill Creek has been determined to exceed the allowable concentrations of *E. coli* bacteria. Bacterial source tracking can help identify the sources of the *E. coli* in Mill Creek.

December 8th 5 PM—7:30 PM

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

Pre-Register at:

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

Funding for this effort is provided through a Clean Water Act§319(h) Nonpoint Source Grant administered by the Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

TEXAS STATE  
**Soil & Water**  
CONSERVATION BOARD



# Austin County 5 Hr CEU Conference

5 CEU's  
TDA approved  
(2- L&R, 1- IPM,  
1 General)

## Friday, December 9, 2022

**Registration: 12:30pm**

**Program: 1pm-6:30pm**

**\$50 per person**

**Four County Auction Center**

**15900 TX HWY 159**

**Industry, TX 78944**

*Dinner is provided after program*

### Topics:

- Picolinic Acid Chemistry Training (PACT)
- Pesticide Laws & Regulations Update
- Improving Herbicide Application
- Management of Pastures During & Following Drought
- Gopher & Mole Control Methods

### Speakers:

Dr. Megan Clayton, Gregory Baker, Dr. Mark Matocha,  
Dr. Larry Redmon, B.R. Koehler & Joe Jimenez

**RSVP by: December 6th**

**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>**

**Scan to Register**



**TEXAS A&M  
AGRI LIFE  
EXTENSION**

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.





# Austin County Feral Hog Bounty Program

*Sponsored by: Austin County Commissioners Court*

## Austin County Bounty Program:

Subject to fund availability, participants will be awarded \$5 per feral hog harvested in Austin County. Biological evidence **MUST** be provided of harvest in form of a pair of feral hog ears. Each pair must be placed in an individually sealed bag and dropped off to 1 of the 3 drop off locations.



*Only 20 pairs  
per household  
per month*

**\$5/pair  
of ears**

## Drop Off Locations:

- ***Steinhauser's (Sealy location ONLY)***
- ***Linseisen's Feed & Supply (Bellville)***
- ***Lindemann Store (Industry)***

*Feral hogs can be harvested until funds are depleted. All feral hog **MUST** be harvested in Austin County.*





Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service and  
Texas Parks and Wildlife Department  
presents

# FIELD TO FORK

a four-part series on how to harvest, process, and  
prepare your wild game for the table

## WATERFOWL

**January 13, 2023**

Washington County  
Washington County Expo  
Event Center  
Brenham, TX  
9am to 12pm

## FISH

**July 14, 2023**

Colorado County  
Weimar Civic Center  
Weimar, TX  
9am to 12pm



## WILD HOG

**April 21, 2023**

Fayette County  
Fayette County Ag Building  
La Grange, TX  
9am to 12pm

## WHITE-TAILED

**October 20, 2023**

Austin County  
Methodist Activity Center  
Bellville, TX  
9am to 12pm

Each session will include processing demonstrations, food  
demonstrations and tastings, door prizes and more!

## REGISTRATION

\$40 per session

\$120 for the series

Registration Deadline

Monday before each session

## SERIES MASTER OF CEREMONY

Mr. Larry Weishuhn

Wildlife Biologist, Outdoor Writer



Register today by going to  
<https://forms.office.com/r/4ZxxYwgmV5>  
or by calling the Fayette  
County Extension Office  
(979) 968 - 5831



Extension programs of Texas AgriLife Extension Service are open to all people without regard to race, color, sex, religion, national origin, age, disability, genetic information, veteran status, sexual orientation, gender identity or any other classification protected by federal, state or local law 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



# Private Applicator Licenses Trainings for 2023



Friday, February 10, 2023

Friday, May 5, 2023

Friday, August 4, 2023

Friday, November 3, 2023

*Training is from 1pm to 5pm*

*Check in/Registration starts 15 mins prior*

*\*Date & Time are subject to change\**

## *Prices:*

*Training-\$10*

*Books-\$50*

*(2 manuals)*

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

***Nonrefundable***

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

<http://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.

Training 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 and need a different date, please contact the Austin County Extension office at (979) 865-2072 to purchase the manuals.

TEXAS A&M  
**AGRI LIFE**  
EXTENSION



## Map of Mill Creek Boundary Line



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](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.