

Austin County Ag Newsletter

December 2023

5 HR CEU Recertification Conference

As a reminder to anyone with a TDA Private Applicator License, you need 15 Continuing Education Units (CEUs) 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 8, 2023, 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 11942 HWY 159 in Industry. Registration will take place at 12:30p.m., with the program starting at 1:00p.m. The registration fee is \$50.00. We encourage you to pre-register for the program, so we have enough program materials, 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/. A meal will be served at the conclusion of the program as well as other refreshments during the program.

The Program topics will include Pesticide Laws and Regulations Update from Dr. Don Renchie, Cattle Market Update from Dr. David Anderson, Management of Pastures and Looking at Forage Samples from Dr. Joe Pascal, Pond Management and Controlling Weeds Around Your Pond from Brittany Chesser, and External & Internal Parasite Control in Cattle from Doug Pierce. The 5 CEUs awarded have TDA approval for 1 L&R, 1 IPM, and 3 General units.

See Flier on page 5

Mark Your Calendars for Upcoming Events

- December 8th: 5-Hour CEU Conference Four County Auction Center, Industry, 1:00p.m. (5 CEUs, APPROVED)
- December 15th: Feathers, Furs, & Farming Tax Valuation Weimar Community Center, Weimar, 1:00p.m. (2 CEUs)
- December 25th-26th: Austin County Extension Office CLOSED for Christmas
- December 29th: Austin County Extension Office CLOSED for New Year's Eve
- January 1st: Austin County Extension Office CLOSED for New Year's Day
- January 10th: Bluebonnet Master Gardener Training Starts Washington County Expo Brenham, 9:00a.m.
- January 15th: Austin County Extension Office CLOSED for Martin Luther King Jr. Day
- January 16th: Lunch n Learn Series FireWise Austin County Courthouse, Bellville, 11:50a.m.
- January 26th: Private Applicator Training Austin County Extension Office, Bellville, 1:00p.m.
- February 2nd: Gulf Coast Grape Growers Field Day Cat Spring Ag Hall, Cat Spring, 8:00a.m.
- February 19th: Austin County Extension Office CLOSED for Presidents' Day
- February 20th: Lunch n Learn Series Herbs Austin County Courthouse, Bellville, 11:50a.m.
- February 23rd: Small Farms & Vegetable Conf. American Legion, Sealy, 8:30a.m. (5 CEUs pending TDA approval)
- March 19th: Lunch n Learn Series Mason Bees Austin County Courthouse, Bellville, 11:50a.m.
- April 16th: Lunch n Learn Series Hugelkultur (Composting) Austin County Courthouse, Bellville, 11:50a.m.
- May 10th: Private Applicator Training Austin County Extension Office, Bellville, 1:00p.m.
- May 21st: Lunch n Learn Series Snakes in the Garden Austin County Courthouse, Bellville, 11:50a.m.
- August 2nd: Private Applicator Training Austin County Extension Office, Bellville, 1:00p.m.

Agriculture & Timber Sales Tax Exemption Expiration Update

All Ag/Timber numbers currently held will expire on December 31, 2023. You must renew your number to continue to claim an exemption on qualifying agriculture and timber purchases made after that date. The Comptroller's Office mailed out renewal letters during the month of August 2023 to the mailing address on file. You may renew your Ag/Timber number at any time between now and December 31.

Ag/Timber Numbers must be renewed every four years, regardless of when the number was first issued. Renewed and new Ag/Timber Numbers expire December 31, 2023.

You must enter the expiration date on the exemption certificate you give to retailers on your qualifying purchases. If you already have an exemption certificate on file that includes your Ag/Timber Number, you can add the expiration date to the exemption certificate and initial it for the retailer's records.

For more information please contact the Texas Comptroller's Office online at https://comptroller.texas.gov/taxes/ag-timber/ or by phone at 1-800-252-5555.

AUSTIN COUNTY HOG BOUNTY

The Austin County Feral Hog Bounty is still going on! The Bounty program is offered with the support of the Austin County Commissioners Court. 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 - Steinhauser'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 completed when dropping off the ears to collect the bounty.

See Flier on Page 10

2024 BLUEBONNET MASTER GARDENER INTERN CLASS

The Bluebonnet Master Gardener Association (BMGA) announces that registration is open for its 2024 Master Gardener Certification Training Class to be held in Brenham. The class is open to participants from Austin, Colorado, Fayette, and Washington Counties, and will provide 50+ hours of gardening education from experts in various fields of horticulture.

This is a unique opportunity for individuals who are interested in horticulture and serving their community. Master Gardeners are trained in all facets of horticulture such as plant & soil science, entomology, plant pathology, fruit and vegetable gardening, and much more. Upon completion of their training, Master Gardeners are required to give at least 50 hours of volunteer service time in their local community to receive the title of "Master Gardener".

The 2024 BMGA training class will be held every Wednesday, January 10 to April 24, 2024, from 8:30a.m. to 12:30p.m., at the Washington County Expo Event Center, 1305 East Blue Bell Road, Brenham, TX 77833. Field trip days may run to 3:30p.m. The registration fee is \$200 per person, which includes the Master Gardener Handbook compiled by the Texas Master Gardener Association in conjunction with Texas A&M AgriLife horticulture specialists. Applications are available online at https://txmg.org/bluebonnet/ or at local county AgriLife Extension Offices. Class size is limited, so to ensure a spot in the 2024 BMGA Training Class, application and payment must be submitted online or delivered to the Washington County AgriLife Extension Office as soon as possible.

Plan to attend the Master Gardener Open House and Lunch N Learn program on January 3, 2024, at the Washington County Expo Event Center. The Open House begins at 10:00a.m. The topic "Roses 101" presented by staff from the Antique Rose Emporium will follow at noon.

Contact the Washington County Extension Office at (979) 277-6212, your local AgriLife Extension Office or visit the Bluebonnet Master Gardener website at https://txmg.org/bluebonnet/ for more information about the Master Gardener program.

The Bluebonnet Master Gardener Association is a multi-county program designed to provide in-depth gardening education and volunteer opportunities in its four-county area.

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AUSTIN COUNTY PECAN SHOW 2023

The Austin County Pecan Show for the 2023 crop Variety Seedling year was judged on Thursday, November 30th at the Austin County Extension Office in Bellville. Dr. Philip Shackelford judged twenty-eight entries. Pecans were judged on weight before and after shelling, on the color of the pecan meat, on the absence of insect defects, and on how easily they shell out. This is a free contest for any resident who has a pecan tree, whether it's in your yard, your pasture, or an orchard.

The educational program held in conjunction with the 1st Place - Florian Pawlak awards presentation educated attendees on growing pecan trees and on storage of pecans once you have them off the trees. This Annual Pecan Show is hosted by the Austin County Horticulture Committee & Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service of Austin County. The results are as follows:

Classic & New Varieties

Champion - Pete Berkenhoff (Variety Seedling)

Reserve Champion - Clint Rinn (Success)

1st Place - Industry Unite Methodist Church

Melrose

1st Place - Florian Pawlak

Other Varieties

1st Place - Fayette Public Library (Fayette)

2nd Place - The Wehrungs

Prilop

1st Place - Lois Steele

2nd Place - Industry Unite Methodist Church

Stuart

1st Place - Freddie Englebrecht

2nd Place - Kyle Duncan

Success

1st Place - Clint Rinn

2nd Place - Industry Unite Methodist Church

3rd Place - Henry Schmidt

1st Place - Pete Berkenhoff

2nd Place - J.L. Spiess

Commercial Varieties

Champion - Ronnie Kuciemba (Forkert)

Reserve Champion - Florian Pawlak- (Cheyenne)

Cheyenne

Desirable

1st Place - Ronnie Kuciemba

2nd Place - Industry Unite Methodist Church

Forker

1st Place - Ronnie Kuciemba

2nd Place - Florian Pawlak

Kiowa

1st Place - Ronnie Kuciemba

Mohawk

1st Place - Mike Blezinger

Nacono

1st Place - Luedeker Farms

Natives

Native Champion - Luedeker Farms

Native Reserve Champion - Becca Wittner

1st Place - Luedeker Farms

2nd Place - Becca Wittner

3rd Place - Luedeker Farms (Mud Tank)

4th Place - The Wehrungs

5th Place - Kyle Duncan

Past State Champion

1st Place - Lois Steele (2009 Champ)

2nd Place - Annie Wittner (2023 Champ)

Twenty-one of the pecans will move on to the East Re-

gional Pecan Show in January.

Feathers, Furs, and Farming – Wildlife Tax Valuation

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Services in Austin and Colorado Counties are partnering with Texas Parks and Wildlife to host a Feathers, Furs, and Farming program on December 15, 2023. The focus of this program will center around Wildlife Tax Valuation. Topics covered will include Proposition 11, Wildlife Tax Valuation, Controlling Unwanted Brush, and Predator Control. Two general CEUs will be offered for TDA Pesticide Applicators.

Event will be held at the Weimar Civic Center located at 1754 IH-10, Weimar, TX 78962. Registration will be from 1:00 - 1:30p.m. with the program beginning at 1:30p.m. and concluding at 5p.m. Cost of attendance is \$15 per person or \$20 per couple.

If you have any questions, please call the Austin County Extension Office at 979-865-2072, the Colorado County Extension Office at 979-732-2082, TPWD Wildlife Biologist for Colorado County at 979-732-3458, or TPWD Wildlife Biologist for Austin County at 832-595-8999.

See Flier on Page 6

2024 LUNCH N LEARNS

The Bluebonnet Master Gardeners of Austin County are pleased to present the 2024 "Lunch-N-Learn" series which will be hosted on the third Tuesday of each month from January through May. Overall, the series will feature topics related to horticulture with homeowners and backyard gardeners in mind! The speakers are experts in their fields and practical gardeners with great tips and information for everyone.

Programs will be held at the Austin County Courthouse, in the Basement Meeting Room located at 1 E. Main Street in Bellville. Doors will open with program registration will begin at 11:50a.m. with the program beginning promptly at 12:00p.m. and concluding by 12:55p.m. At the end 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. Registration is not required but encouraged.

Our Series dates and topics will be as follows:

- Tuesday, January 16th: Firewise Landscaping by one of our own Bluebonnet Master Gardeners, Carol Daniels
- Tuesday, February 20th: Learn More About Herbs by one of our own Bluebonnet Master Gardeners, Bob Haeuser
- Tuesday, March 19th: Mason Bees by a local beekeeper, Tom Shaughnessy
- Tuesday, April 16th: Learn About Hugelkulture "Hill Culture" Composting by Mary Karish, Waller County Master Gardener
- Tuesday, May 21st: Snakes in the Garden: Good vs Bad by Jon McLeod, Wildlife Biologist for Austin & Fort Bend Counties Texas Parks and Wildlife Department

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

See Flier on page 8

Austin County Pecan Show Results 2023 Commercial Varieties Champion- Ronnie Kuciemba (Forkert) Reserve Champion- Florian Pawlak- (Cheyenne) Classic & New Varieties Chevenne Champion- Pete Berkenhoff (Variety Seedling) 1st Place- Florian Pawlak Reserve Champion- Clint Rinn (Success) Desirable Mahan 1st Place - Ronnie Kuciemba 1st Place- Industry Unite Methodist Church 2nd Place- Industry Unite Methodist Church Melrose Forker 1st Place- Florian Pawlak 1st Place- Ronnie Kuciemba Other Varieties 2nd Place-Florian Pawlak 1st Place- Fayette Public Library (Fayette) Kiowa 2nd Place- The Wehrungs 1st Place- Ronnie Kuciemba Prilop Mohawk 1st Place-Lois Steele 1st Place - Mike Blezinger 2nd Place- Industry Unite Methodist Church Nacono 1st Place- Luedeker Farms 1st Place- Freddie Englebrecht Native Champion - Luedeker Farms 2nd Place- Kyle Duncan Native Reserve Champion - Becca Wittner Success Native 1st Place- Clint Rinn 1st Place-Luedeker Farms 2nd Place- Industry Unite Methodist Church 2nd Place - Becca Wittner 3rd Place- Henry Schmidt 3rd Place- Luedeker Farms (Mud Tank) **Variety Seedling** 4th Place- The Wehrungs 1st Place-Pete Berkenhoff 5th Place- Kyle Duncan 2nd Place- J.L. Spiess Past State Champion 1st Place-Lois Steele (2009 Champ) 2nd Place- Annie Wittner (2023 Champ)

Austin County 5 Hr CEU Conference

5 CEU'S TDA approved (1- L&R, 1- IPM, 3 General)

Friday, December 8, 2023

Registration: 12:30pm

Program: 1pm-6:30pm

\$50 per person

Four County Auction Center

11942 HWY 159

Industry, TX 78944

Dinner & refreshments are provided

Topics:

- Pesticide Laws & Regulations Update
- Marketing Update
- · Value of your Forage
- Pond Management- Weed Control
- External and Internal Parasites in Cattle

Speakers:

Dr. Don Renchie, Dr. David Anderson, Dr. Joe Pascal, Brittany Chesser, and Doug Pierce

RSVP by: December 5th
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.

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.









This Month:
ALL ABOUT
Wildlife Tax
Valuation

FEATHERS, FURS, AND FARMING

December 15, 2023

Registration 1:00pm-1:30pm

Program 1:30-5:00pm

\$15/Person \$20/Couple

Weimar Civic Center

1754 IH-10 Weimar, TX 78962

Laramie Kettler 979-732-2082

Stacie Villarreal 979-865-2072 Austin County

Mark Lange 979-732-3458 Colorado County

Jon McLeod 832-595-8999 Austin/Ft. Bend County

TOPICS

Prop 11

Wildlife Tax Valuation

Controlling Unwanted Brush

Predator Control

2 General CEU's for TDA Private Applicators





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





Bluebonnet Master Gardener Association 2024 Training Class

Course Outline

- Welcome, Interns
- Earth-Kind
- Landscaping
- **Plant**
- Development
- **Plant Propagation**
- **Soil Characteristics**
- **Soil Improvements**
- **Ornamental Plants**
- **Lawn Care**
- Vegetables and Herbs
- Fruit Trees, Berries & **Pecans**
- **Landscape Design**
- **Integrated Pest**
- Management
- **Diseases**
- Insects
- Weeds

Training Classes each Wednesday January 10th - April 24th

Final Evaluation Tuesday April 23rd

8:30 AM -12:30 PM Field Trip classes are 8:30 to 3:00 PM

Washington County Expo Event Center 1305 East Blue Bell Road

Brenham, Texas 77833

\$200/Person includes 50+ hours of gardening education!

The Master Gardener program is a unique opportunity for individuals interested in horticulture and in serving their community. Upon completion of 50 hours of class time, trainees must complete 50 hours of volunteer service in their local community to receive the title of "Master Gardener"

For more information on the Master Gardener program, contact the Extension office at (979) 277-6212 or visit the Bluebonnet Master Gardener Website at: https://txmg.org/bluebonnet

> Washington County Open House - Expo Event Center Wednesday, January 3, 2024 10:00 AM - 11:30 PM

Followed by: Lunch N Learn Program at 12:00 noon



Scan QR Code







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



2024 AUSTIN COUNTY

LUNCH N LEARN SERIES-SPRING

HOSTED BY: BLUEBONNET MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION

AUSTIN COUNTY COURTHOUSE (BASEMENT MEETING ROOM) 1 E MAIN ST. BELLVILLE. TX 77418 FREE/OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

TEXAS A&M

EXTENSION

BRING YOUR OWN LUNCH LIGHT REFRESHMENTS PROVIDED

REGISTRATION: 11:50AM - 12PM PROGRAM: 12PM -12:55PM



REGISTRATION IS NOT REQUIRED BUT
IS ENCOURAGED. TO REGISTER CALL
THE OFFICE OR VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT
HTTP://AUSTIN AGRILIEF ORG



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

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 THROUGHOLT TEXAS ASM AGRILIFE

Private Applicator Licenses Trainings for 2024



Prices: Training-\$10 Books-\$50

(2 manuals)

Cash or Check only!
Please bring exact change
Checks payable to:
Extension Program Council
(EPC)

Nonrefundable

Please RSVP to reserve your spot, space is limited

http://austin.agrilife.org/eventregistrations/



Friday, January 26th
Friday, May 10th
Friday, August 2nd
Friday, November 1st

Training is from 1pm to 5pm Check in/Registration starts 15 mins prior, Please do not arrive more than 15 mins before the class.

> *Date & Time are subject to change* You may bring your own refreshments

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.

ATEXAS A&M

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.



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



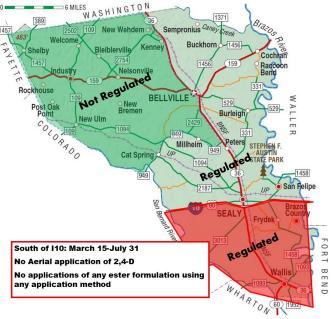
- Steinhauser's (Sealy location ONLY)
- Linseisen's Feed & Supply (Bellville)
- Lindemann Store (Industry)

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

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.



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.