

Austin County Ag Newsletter

March 2024

Panhandle Wildfires

As many of you know the Texas Panhandle has experienced a great tragedy with the wildfires now ongoing for 2 weeks. Many people across the state have offered help and have stepped up to send supplies to the north. So you might be wondering what is currently being done and what you can do to help.

The Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service is working through our County Extension Agents in the affected areas and the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension <u>Disaster Assessment & Recovery Unit</u>, <u>DAR</u>, to help the residents of the Texas Panhandle who have sustained losses as a result of the wildfires beginning February 26, 2024.



Wildfire Relief for the Texas Panhandle is being coordinated through a combination of local and state resources. Our agency will continue to make regular updates to the list of local agricultural resources and contacts on the attached flier and also on the website: https://agrilifeextension.tamu.edu/2024-panhandle-wildfires/. If you would like to help in any way, please refer to this flyer for a list of items that are a current priority for the ranchers and families. The list is updated regularly, so the flier which is currently found in this newsletter may have changed. Monetary donations are also being accepted. Mailing addresses are provided on the flier as well. These are all reliable locations and sources, so you can feel confident those in need will receive your donations.

It is truly amazing to see the strength of Texas and this agency. If you would like to learn more, I encourage you to read this article found on AgriLife Today:

https://agrilifetoday.tamu.edu/2024/03/08/helping-hands-from-the-agrilife-extension-network/

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Mark Your Calendars for Upcoming Events

- March 19th: Lunch n Learn Series Mason Bees Austin County Courthouse, Bellville, 11:50a.m.
- March 22nd: Beef Cattle Seminar Four County Auction Center, Bellville, 12:30p.m. (3-CEUs)
- April 13th: Annual Plant Sale Levine Park Pavilion, Sealy, 9:00a.m.
- April 16th: Lunch n Learn Series Hugelkultur (Composting) Austin County Courthouse, Bellville, 11:50a.m.
- April 25th: Mill Creek Watershed Partnership Stakeholder Meeting Bleiblerville VFD, Bellville, 5:30p.m.
- May 2nd: Texas Community Futures Forum
- May 3rd: Furs, Feathers, & Farming Invasive Species Immaculate Conception Church, Industry, 11:50a.m
- May 17th: 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.
- June 6th: Austin County Livestock Association Meeting Cat Spring Ag Hall, Cat Spring
- July 26th: Furs, Feathers, & Farming Grazing Immaculate Conception Church, Industry, 11:50a.m.
- August 2nd: Private Applicator Training Austin County Extension Office, Bellville, 1:00p.m.
- August 20th: Lunch n Learn Series Companion Plants Austin County Extension Office, Bellville, 11:50a.m.
- September 17th: Lunch n Learn Series Propagation Austin County Extension Office, Bellville, 11:50a.m.
- October 15th: Lunch n Learn Series Seed Library—Austin County Extension Office, Bellville, 11:50a.m.

Name that Plant

Plant Identification Tips

Woolly croton is a native, annual forb. It is also commonly called woolly doveweed or woolly Texas goat weed. As the name suggests, it is wooly due to the numerous white or rusty brown star-shaped hairs on the

leaves and stems. The leaves are elongated, narrow, and have a short leaf stem, or petiole. The leaves are arranged alternately along the stem.

The small flowers are located at the top of the stem. It can bloom any time from May through December. It produces fuzzy fruits with three segments. The fruit capsules have lines or rows of fuzzy hairs on them. Each fruit capsule has three seeds enclosed inside.

Livestock & Wildlife Value

The seeds are a valuable food resource to dove, quail, and other seedeating birds. It is a larval host to Goatweed Leafwing butterflies. It is considered low grazing value.

It is poisonous to cattle and horses.

Management

Woolly croton provides some benefits, but when it grows abundantly in a pasture, it may pose issues to grazing livestock. Chemically treat this plant in the spring when the plant is 4-6" in height. Individually treat plants with a 1% mix of 2,4-D or Surmount or a 0.63% mix of Grazon P+D. Broadcast treatment with Outlaw, Grazon Next HL, or Chaparral.





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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.

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Mill Creek Watershed Partnership Stakeholder Meeting

The Mill Creek Watershed Partnership organized in 2012, initially to address the elevated levels of *E. coli* bacteria in Mill Creek. It is a community driven program that focuses on education and outreach to reduce pollution in local bodies of water.

On April 25, we will be hosting a stakeholder meeting to hear your thoughts on future priorities in the watershed. A program update will be provided over dinner, then we will make time for discussing and answering important questions about the focus for the future. For this meeting to be effective, we need engaged participants who can bring their experience and expertise to the table. We would be honored if you were able to make the time to attend.

We will be meeting at the Bleiblerville VFD (3342 FM 2502 Rd, Bellville, TX) at 5:30p.m. on April 25. A free dinner will be served, and there will be a short time for networking before we begin the program. We do request that you RSVP by April 18 so we can finalize any catering details.

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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 for registration 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.

Master Gardener Lunch-N-Learn programs are FREE & 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 is encouraged.

Remaining series dates and topics are as follows:

- Tuesday, March 19th: Mason Bees by a local beekeeper, Tom Shaughnessy. He will cover more about what is needed to attract mason bees to your property and what they need.
- Tuesday, April 16th: Learn About Hugelkultur "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/.

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BEEF CATTLE 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 22, 2024 at Four County Auction Center located at 15900 TX HWY 159, Industry. Program registration will begin at 12:30p.m., with presentations from 1:00p.m. until 4:30p.m.

Information to be covered includes Reading the Landscape-Rangeland Management 101, Optimizing Your Profit on Your Herd by Controlling External Parasites and other methods, and Vulture Management. Presenters include Dr. Stacy Hines with Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service, Dr. Joe Pascal, and Stacie Villarreal. There will be 3 CEU hours awarded (1 IPM & 2 GEN) 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/.

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Private Applicator Training- Updated schedule

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 A&M AgriLife Extension Service of Austin County will be hosting several Private Applicator Training classes during 2024 at the Austin County Extension Office, 800 E Wendt St, Bellville. Books and study materials for the course may be purchased ahead of time at the Extension Office for \$50.00. A registration fee of \$10.00 will be charged for the training. The registration fee will include the training and additional study materials. Payments need to be made by check or cash (exact change please). The training will begin at 1p.m. and conclude about 5p.m., available on the following days:

- Friday, May 17, 2024 (updated)
- Friday, August 2, 2024
- Friday, November 1, 2024

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. Once applicants have completed the training and passed the exam with a score of 70 or above, they will be eligible to apply for the Private Applicator License, allowing for the purchase of all state limited use and restricted use pesticides used in agriculture.

Important: If an applicant has any questions about licensing or exam categories, please contact TDA at 800-835-5832 or 512-463-7622 or Texas Department of Agriculture – Agriculture Pesticide Program, P.O. Box 12847, Austin, TX 78711.

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Wildfire Relief for the Texas Panhandle

Thank you for your interest in helping the residents of the Texas Panhandle who sustained losses as a result of the wildfires beginning February 26, 2024. Following is contact information for donating hay, feed, fencing supplies or other livestock or ranch supplies.

SUPPLY POINTS FOR LIVESTOCK FEED AND RANCH SUPPLIES

(Please call for supply point hours of operation prior to delivering supplies)

East Location

Clyde Carruth Pavilion 301 Bull Barn Drive Pampa, TX 79065 Contact: **Marcus Preuninger** Office: 806.669.8033

North Location

Canadian AH&N Ranch Supply 100 Hackberry Trail Canadian, TX 79014 Contact: **Andy Holloway** Office: 806,323,9114

West Location

Hutchinson Animal Supply Pt. 407 Industrial Blvd Borger, TX 79007 Contact: **Hanna Conner** Office: 806.878.4026 Thank you to those who are willing and able to donate the following items:

Hay | Feed | Cow Feed Fence Supplies Wildlife Feed | Salt Block

General questions about AGRICULTURE needs & supply deliveries - please call 806.354.5800 (8a-5p)

WILDFIRE RELIEF DONATION ASSISTANCE

Hemphill County

For All General Donations

(excluding Agriculture)
AgriLife Extension - Hemphill Co.
10965 Exhibition Center Road
Canadian, Texas 79014
Ph: 806-323-9114

Hemphill County

For people who lost their home http://fbccanadian.org/firehelp

Hemphill County Agriculture Wildfire Relief, P.O. Box 300 Canadian, Texas 79014

Hemphill County

To support ranchers in the county and surrounding areas, you can mail donations to:
Canadian Volunteer Fire Department
PO Box 300, Canadian, Texas 79014
Reference the check to state
"Rancher Wildlife Relief Fund"

Hutchinson County

Hutchinson relief fund: Hutchinson County United Way fund at the Amarillo National Bank

https://www.hutchinsoncountyunitedway.org/donate

Gray County

Mail to: City of Pampa, Attn: Finance PO Box 2499, Pampa, Texas 79066

First Bank Southwest, Ph: 806.665.2341 Reference: City of Pampa for Smokehouse Creek Fire

Roberts County

Donations to help the people of Roberts County recover from the Smokehouse Creek Fire can be delivered to any BOC Bank location (Miami, Shamrock, McLean or Amarillo) or be mailed to: BOC Bank, P.O. Box 8, Miami, Texas 79059

Donors who wish to specifically help farmers and ranchers restore their agricultural operations should make checks payable to: **Unmet Needs Agriculture**. All other donations should be made payable to: **Unmet Needs General**Through a partnership with the Miami Ministerial Alliance, a 501(c)3, all donations are tax-deductible.

Carson County

Monetary donations to **Carson County Relief Fund** at any Happy State Bank Branch location. Or mail to: Happy State Bank, Panhandle Branch PO Box 990, Panhandle, TX 79068

Potter County Agriculture

Checks made payable to: **Potter Ag.**Can be mailed or delivered to:
Texas A&M AgriLife Extension
Attn: Potter Ag.
3301 SE 10th Building 1, Amarillo, TX 79104

TDA Star Fund | https://texasagriculture.gov/Home/Production-Agriculture/Disaster-Assistance/STAR-Fund



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://ALISTINAGDILIFF.OPG



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 OF A CHIEVE TO ACHIEVE FULL AND EQUAL EMPLOYMENT TO A CHIEVE TO ACHIEVE FULL AND EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OF TOWN A CHIEVE TO ACHIEVE TO ACHI

TEXAS A&M GRILIFE EXTENSION

Beef Cattle Management 3 CEU's Seminar

(2-GEN & 1-IPM

March 22, 2024

Registration: 12:30pm

Program: 1pm-4:30pm

\$30/person

Four County Auction Center 11942 TX HWY 159 W Bellville, TX 77418

Topics:

- Reading the Landscape: Rangeland Management 101
- Optimizing your Profit on your Herd by Controlling External Parasites & Other Methods
- Vulture Management

Speakers:

Dr. Stacy Hines, Dr. Joe Paschal, and Stacie Villarreal

RSVP by: March 19th
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.





SAVE THE DATE

BLUEBONNET MASTER GARDENER ANNUAL PLANT SALE

PROCEEDS GO TOWARDS 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.



SATURDAY, APRIL 13TH

LEVINE PARK PAVILION 406 MAIN STREET, SEALY SALE STARTS AT 9AM ENDS AT 5PM OR SOLD OUT

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
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 ORIGINATIONS SEXUAL ORIENTATION OF CENDER IDENTITY AND WILL STRIVE TO ACHIEVE FULL AND EQUAL
INFORMATION, VETERAN STATUS, SEXUAL ORIENTATION OR CENDER IDENTITY AND WALL STRIVE TO ACHIEVE FULL AND EQUAL







MILL CREEK WATERSHED PARTNERSHIP

STAKEHOLDER MEETING

Free Dinner and Breakout Sessions!

APRIL 25TH

5:30 - 8:30PM

BLIEBLERVILLE VFD 3342 FM 2502 RD. BELLVILLE, TX 77418

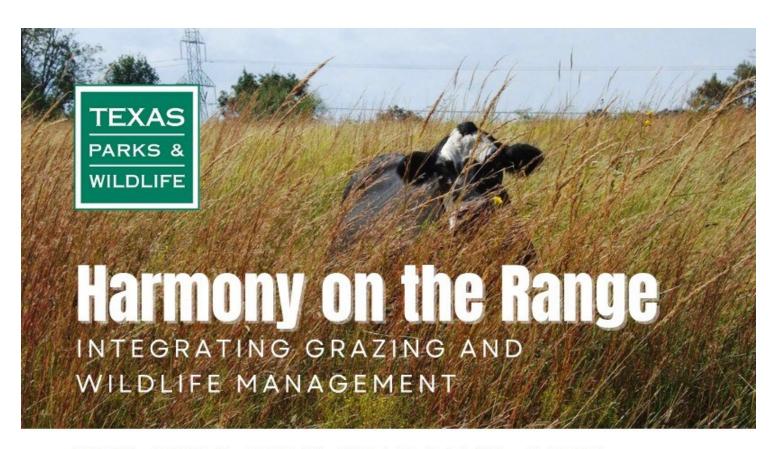
What to expect:

- Project Updates: A quick presentation while dinner is served.
- Breakout Groups: Discuss key topics that matter most to you.
- **Decision Making:** Your valuable insights will help drive the direction of our program priorities.

This is your chance to make a difference and ensure your voice is heard. Please pre-register by calling 979-321-5921 or emailing millcreek@tamu.edu before April 18







WHEN: FRIDAY, JUNE 21, 2024 @ 9:00AM - 4:30PM

WHERE: LONG ACRES RANCH, 2335 RICHMOND PKWY,

RICHMOND, TX 77469

COST: \$20(CHECK OR CASH UPON ARRIVAL)
PLEASE RSVP BY EMAILING JON MCLEOD AT
JON.MCLEOD@TPWD.TEXAS.GOV OR FOLLOW QR CODE

LUNCH WILL BE PROVIDED

PRESENTATION TOPICS WILL INCLUDE:

- . SUSTAINABLE GRAZING FOR WILDLIFE AND CATTLE
- . GAME BIRD MANAGEMENT ON WORKING LANDS
- · PREDATOR CONTROL
- . PATCH BURNING AND GRAZING
- . DEER MANAGEMENT ON WORKING LANDS
- COST-SHARE PROGRAMS FOR CATTLE AND WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT

IN COLLABORATION WITH









SPECIAL THANKS TO AUSTIN COUNTY WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION



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/

part to Registrations/

Friday, May 17th
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

Training will be conducted at

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service of

Austin County located at

800 E Wendt St., Bellville, TX 77418

You may bring your own refreshments

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

Drop Off Locations:

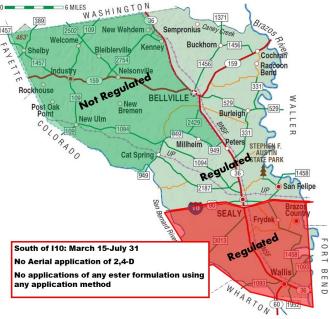
- Steinhauser's (Sealy location ONLY)
- Linseisen's Feed & Supply (Bellville)
- Lindemann Store (Industry)

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

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.