TEXAS A&M GRILIFE EXTENSION

Austin County Ag Newsletter

April 2024

Texas Community Futures Forum



The Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service has a rich history of providing educational programs that address the most critical issues in Austin County. In order to ensure that programs being planned for the future are on target, we invite your participation in the Texas Community Futures Forum to be held on Thursday, May 2, 2024 at the Bellville United Methodist Church Activity Center, located at 234 S. Masonic Street, Bellville.

Your opinion is highly valued in our community, so we truly hope you can join us. Registration will begin at 5:30 p.m. and the Forum will begin promptly at 6:00 p.m. Light

refreshments will be available during registration. Our expectation is that the forum will conclude by 7:30 p.m., as we understand the value of your time.

Please RSVP by **Friday**, **April 26th** at 979-865-2072. You may also scan the QR code available here or visit <u>https://forms.gle/ZeqKqGzmsFh7KCRDA</u> to RSVP.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service office at 979-865-2072. Thank you very much for your involvement in this forum, and we look forward to seeing you on May 2nd!



Mark Your Calendars for Upcoming Events

- April 13th: Annual Plant Sale Levine Park Pavilion, Sealy, 9:00 a.m.
- April 16th: Lunch n Learn Series Hugelkultur (Composting) Austin County Courthouse, Bellville, 11:50 a.m.
- April 25th: Mill Creek Watershed Partnership Stakeholder Meeting Bleiblerville VFD, Bleiblerville, 5:30 p.m.
- May 2nd: Texas Community Futures Forum Bellville United Methodist Church Activity Center, Bellville, 5:30 p.m.
- May 3rd: Furs, Feathers, & Farming Invasive Species Immaculate Conception Church, Industry, 11:50 a.m.
- May 17th: Private Applicator Training Austin County Extension Office, Bellville, 1:00 p.m.
- May 21st: Lunch n Learn Series Snakes in the Garden Austin County Courthouse, Bellville, 11:50 a.m.
- May 27th: Austin County Extension Office CLOSED for Memorial Day
- June 6th: Austin County Livestock Association Meeting Cat Spring Ag Hall, Cat Spring
- June 8th: Home Grown Vegetable Contest & Program
- June 19th: Austin County Extension Office CLOSED for Juneteenth
- July 4th Austin County Extension Office CLOSED for Independence Day
- July 26th: Furs, Feathers, & Farming Grazing Immaculate Conception Church, Industry, 11:50 a.m.
- August 2nd: Private Applicator Training Austin County Extension Office, Bellville, 1:00 p.m.
- August 20th: Lunch n Learn Series Companion Plants Austin County Extension Office, Bellville, 11:50 a.m.
- August 23rd: Fall Horticulture Program American Legion Post #442, Sealy, 12:30 p.m.
- September 2nd: Austin County Extension Office CLOSED for Labor Day
- September 17th: Lunch n Learn Series Propagation Austin County Extension Office, Bellville, 11:50 a.m.
- October 4th-14th: Austin County Extension Office CLOSED for Austin County Fair-Our Staff will be at the Fair
- October 15th: Lunch n Learn Series Seed Library— Austin County Extension Office, Bellville, 11:50 a.m.
- November 1st: Private Applicator Training Austin County Extension Office, Bellville, 1:00 p.m.

BMGA- Kids' Kamp

The Bluebonnet Master Gardeners, in conjunction with the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension team, are pleased to announce our 7th year of holding Kids' Kamp in Austin, Colorado, Fayette, and Washington Counties. This kamp is designed to be educational and fun with the goal of igniting a passion in the youth of our area to the importance and enjoyment of gardening through unique experiences.

This year, the kids will (1) experience hands-on plant propagation; (2) be introduced to all kinds of herbs, including learning how herbs make our food tasty and delightful; (3) plant and take home their own herb garden, and (4) learn about some common garden visitors... purple martins, moles, gophers, armadillos, and snakes! Kampers will be able to see (and touch) some of these critters at kamp! As always, we'll have outdoor activity time, nourishing snacks, and lots of fun!

Kamp runs for 3 days (Tuesday -Thursday) from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon on these dates:

- Washington County June 4th to 6th (Washington Co. Expo Event Center)
- Colorado County June 11th to 13th (Weimer Civic Center)
- Fayette County June 18th to 20th Fayette Co. Extension Ag. Building)
- Austin County June 25th 27th (Immaculate Conception Catholic Church Parish Hall)

The cost is \$35 (plus processing fee) per child. Kids ranging from 10-13 years of age will be eligible to register for these 3-day kamps but space is very limited, so register early! Kids Kamp is staffed by experienced educators, volunteer Bluebonnet Master Gardeners and Interns.

Registration forms can be completed online at https://txmg.org/bluebonnet/kidskamp/

See Flier on page 9

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 12

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 5:30 p.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.

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 for registration at 11:50 a.m. with the program beginning promptly at 12:00 p.m. and concluding by 12:55 p.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, 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/.

See Flier on page 5

FEATHERS, FURS, AND FARMING-MAY 3RD

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 Friday, May 3, 2024. The focus of this program will center around Invasive Species. Issues covered will include Feral Hog Control methods, Update on the Kupat Hog Bait, Fire Ant & Leaf Cutter Ant Control, and Invasive Plants. Three TDA CEUs (2 IPM, 1 General) will be offered for TDA Pesticide Applicators.

The event will be held at the Immaculate Conception Catholic Church located at 15994 TX-159, Industry, Texas 78944. Registration will be from 1:00 - 1:30 p.m. with the program beginning at 1:30 p.m. and concluding at 5 p.m. Cost of attendance is \$15 per person or \$20 per couple.

See Flier on Page 7

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, Bell-ville. 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 1 p.m. and conclude about 5 p.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.

See Flier on Page 8





BLUEBONNET MASTER GARDENER ANNUAL PLANT SALE SATURDAY, APRIL 13TH

SALE STARTS AT 9 AM - ENDS AT 5 PM OR SOLD OUT

- KIDS CORNER ACTIVITIES
 MASON BEE HIVE, PLANTING SEEDS, AND MICROGREENS
- MASON BEE HIVE, PLANTING SEEDS, AND MICROGREENS
- GARDENING TOOLS AND MAGIC WORM CASTINGS FOR SALE
- DEMONSTRATIONS
- NATIVE PLANTS AND TEXAS SUPERSTARS
- FRUIT TREES, BLACKBERRIES, BLUEBERRIES, POLLINATOR FRIENDLY PLANTS, CACTUS, SUCCULENT FAIRY POTS, HERBS, TOMATOES, MILKWEEDS, ROSES, EVERGREENS, ANNUALS, LOTS OF COLOR FOR SPRING, AND SO MUCH MORE!



PROCEEDS GO TO SUPPORT THE 4 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.

LEVINE PARK PAVILION, 406 MAIN STREET, SEALY, TX

FOR 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 SAN SSISTANCE. 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 AKA M AGRILIFE.



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

January 16th

Firewise Landscaping

Carol Daniels, Bluebonnet Master Gardener

February 20th

Herbs

Bob Haeuser, Bluebonnet Master, Gardener,

April 16th

Hugelkultur "Hill Culture" Composting

Mary Karish , Waller County Master Gardener

March 19th

Mason Bees

Tom Shaughnessy Local Beekeeper

May 21st

Snakes in the Garden

Jon McLeod, TPWD Wildlife Biologist



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

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



MILL CREEK WATERSHED PARTNERSHIP STAKEHOLDER MEETING

Free Dinner and Breakout Sessions!

APRIL 25TH 5:30 - 8:30PM

BLEIBLERVILLE 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. <u>Please pre-register</u> by calling 979-321-5921 or emailing millcreek@tamu.edu <u>before April 18</u>

TEXAS STATE Soil & Water CONSERVATION BOARD

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.



MILL CREEK WATERSHED PARTNERSHIP



A series of educational events designed to help all landowners diversify their operations and save more money and time by becoming better stewards of the land.

May 3, 2024

Registration 1:00pm-1:30pm Program 1:30-5:00pm

\$15/Person \$20/Couple

Immaculate Conception Catholic Church

15994 TX-159 Industry, TX 78944

Laramie Kettler 979-732-2082 Colorado County

Stacie Villarreal 979-865-2072 Austin County

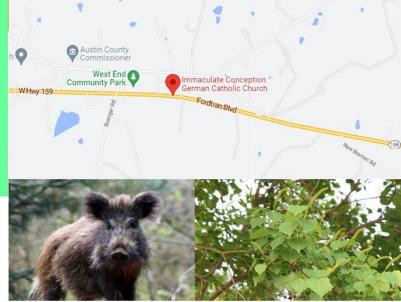
Mark Lange 979-732-3458 Colorado County

Jon McLeod 832-595-8999 Austin/Ft. Bend County **Invasive Species Control TOPICS** <u>3CEU - IPM</u> **Feral Hog Control**

Update on Kaput

Fire Ant & Leaf Cutter Ant Control

Invasive Plants



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.

Private Applicator Licenses Irainings 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, 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* 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. $\Lambda TEXAS A\&M$

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.

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aster Bardener Association Agriller extension	Topics Include: Plant Propagation	-Herros Garden Visitors Coantiere To Register	To Register and Pay Online visit: None of the field of the fiel
ner Associat	Austin County June 25 th - 27 th	Austin County Agril.ife Extension Immaculate Conception Catholic Church Parish Hall 15994 HWY 159 West Industry. Texas 78944 Registration Deadline: &/18/2024	Open to kids ages 10 - 13 / 10 - 13 / 10 - 13 / hctiv
ister Garder	Fayette County Austin Count June 18 th - 20 th June 25 th - 2	Fayette County AgriLife Extension Fayette Co. Extension Ag Building 255 Svoboda Lane La Grange. Texas 78945 Registration Deadline: 6/11/2024	8:00 a.m. b 12:00 p.m. 12:00 p.m.
Bluebonnet Ma	2024 Colorado County June 11 th - 13 th	Colorado County Agril.ife Extension Weimar Civic Center 1754 IH-10 Weimar. Texes 78962 Registration Deadline: 6/4/2024	To Register and Pay Online visit: https://txmg.org/bluebonnet/Kidskamp/ e information contact your local County Extension Agent: ounty Stacie Villarreal 979-865-2072 County Laramie Kettler 979-968-5831 County Kara Matheney 979-968-5831 fton County Kara Matheney 979-277-6212 ext. 2
TEXAS MASTER S GARDENER IEXAS AM AGUILE EXTENSION BURGOTHE	Space is limited! Washington County June 4 th - 6 th	Weshington County Agril.ife Extension Washington Co. Expo Event Center 1305 E. Blue Bell Rd. Brenham. Texes 77833 Registration Deadline: 5/28/2024	To Register and Pay Online visit: https://txmg.org/bluebonnet/Kidskamp/ For more information contact your local County Extension Agent: Austin County Stacie Villarreal 979-885-2072 Colorado County Laramie Kettler 979-732-2082 Fayette County Kara Matheney 979-777-6212 ext. 2 Discrete County Kara Matheney 979-277-6212 ext. 2





Austin County Livestock Association Annual Meeting

June 6, 2024

Cat Spring Agricultural Hall 13035 Hall Rd., Cat Spring, TX 78933

CEU Registration: 1-1:30pm CEU Program: 1:30-5pm \$25/personincludes Meal & Membership Dues

CEU Speakers & Topics: (3 CEU's)

• Pesticide Laws & Regulations, (1 L&R) Cammie Johnson, TDA Inspector

• Feral Hog Control, (1 IPM) Jay Long, Project Coordinator with Texas A&M Natural Resources Institute

• Drift Minimization/Control, (1 General) Bryce Macdonald, Range & Pasture Specialist with Corteva

Meeting Registration: 5:30-6:30pm Meal: 6:30pm Followed by Annual Meeting & Speaker

General Pasture Management, Bryce Macdonald, Range & Pasture Specialist with Corteva



Harmony on the Range INTEGRATING GRAZING AND

WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT

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 VILDLIFE MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION



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



Drop Off Locations:

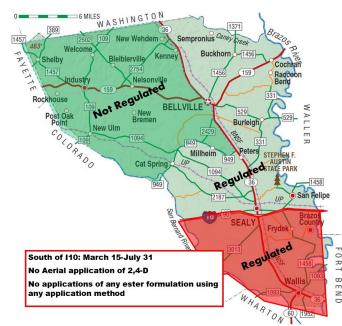
- Steinhauser's (Sealy location ONLY)
- Linseisen's Feed & Supply (Bellville)
- Lindemann Store (Industry)

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,

 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?

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.