

Agriculture Newsletter

COLORADO COUNTY

OCTOBER 2021

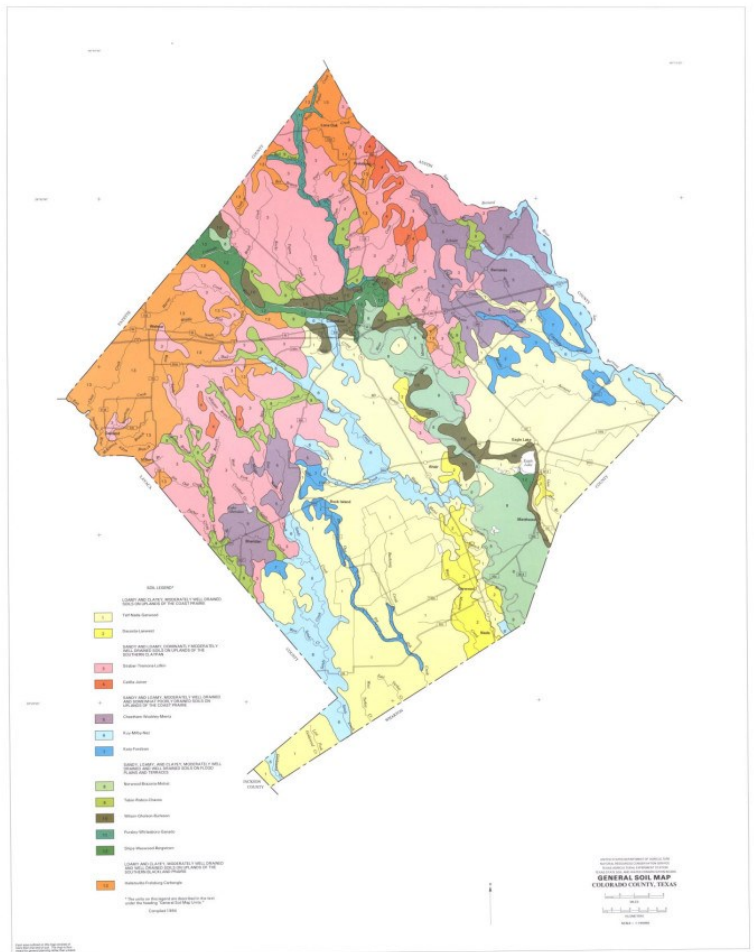
The Importance of Soil Health

No matter what part of the county you own land in, one thing you have in common with every other land owner here is you have soil. The Soil Science Society of America defines soil as the, “unconsolidated mineral or organic material on the immediate surface of the Earth that serves as a natural medium for the growth of land plants.” Whether you grow row crops, fruit trees, forages for grazing animals, lawns, large scale gardens, turf for golf courses, or maintain native grass prairies, soil health is something that should be important to you as you annually maintain and steward your property. Just like our bodies need nutrients to fuel us, our soil needs to be equipped with the proper nutrients to grow the crop, forage, or lawn species that we desire. But before we can address issues in our soil health it's important to know the nutrient composition of the soil that we currently have. This is where soil testing comes in.

I know there are many of you reading this, that have taken soil samples before. For those of you who haven't, I would highly encourage your participation in this practice at least once every three years. Soil sampling is a tool that is an easy and effective way to estimate the amounts of soil nutrients available to plants. When we think about soil sampling, we should be looking for 4 things; soil pH, the levels of nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium in the soil profile. Knowing our soil pH is important because soils that are acidic (pH less than 6) can limit nutrient availability for what we are growing. This of course is dependent on what plants we are growing. In a pasture setting we would prefer to apply lime to an acidic soil to raise the pH for our forages, whereas if we are growing blueberries they prefer acidic soils. After assessing pH we need to look at the levels of N-P-K (nitrogen-phosphorus-potassium) in our soils. Utilizing soil testing can tell us what the levels are so that we can fertilize accordingly. This prevents us from overapplying nutrients to the soil, which can cause issues for what we are growing, and negatively impact soil health.

All this to say, soil testing is a valuable tool. While we are only in October, next month in November we will run our annual soil testing campaign for pastures and hayfields. If you've had a pasture or hayfield for awhile, or just recently acquired a property with pastures and hayfields I would encourage you to take the opportunity to submit a soil test to learn a little more about your soil health!

As a fun fact, the picture that I have here to the right is a General Soil Map for Colorado County. I have a larger one hanging in the office that my visitors always like to take a look at. I believe it was put out by USDA in the mid 1990s. Enjoy!



Brand Registration:

In accordance with Article 144.044 of the Agriculture Code, all brands must be re-registered every 10 years. New brands can be registered at any time. The marks and brands that have been previously recorded will expire on August 30, 2021. The owner of the brand will have from August 31, 2021 until February 28, 2022 to renew their mark or brand. Any person who does not re-register their brand during this 6-month period, forfeits legal right to that brand. The brand will become "void" on March 1, 2022, and will be available for use on a "first come" basis.

Renewals can be filed with the Colorado County Clerks Office, Monday through Friday from 8:00 AM -12:00 PM and 1:00 PM – 5:00 PM, at 318 Spring Street, Suite 103, Columbus, Texas 78934. The recording fee will be \$26.00 per mark and/or brand per each location.

Please call the County Clerk's Office 979-732-2155 if you have any questions.

Thank you.

Kimberly Menke, County Clerk
Colorado County, Texas

Beef Quality Assurance Tips

Dr. Jason P. Banta, Extension Beef Cattle Specialist, Overton

Cancer eye is a term used to describe various tumors that can grow on the eyeball, top or bottom eyelid, or the 3rd eyelid (a membrane located in the corner of the eye towards the nose). Animals with a lack of pigment in the top or bottom eyelid (commonly seen in animals with a white face) or in the eyeball itself are at much greater risk of developing cancer eye. Selecting animals with increased pigment in the top and bottom eyelids is helpful in reducing rates of cancer eye; this pigment is present at birth and is a heritable trait.

Texas Master Naturalist Training - Registration Now Open!

The Gideon Lincecum Chapter of the Texas Master Naturalists is pleased to offer is TMN training class for 2022. Our training classes begin January 22nd, with sessions being generally held on Saturdays. Class size will be limited to 20 so apply now. Please note that payment of fees secures your place in class. Please visit our Training website at <https://txmn.org/glc/becoming-a-master-naturalist/glc-master-naturalist-training-application/>.

The mission of the Texas Master Naturalist Program is to develop a corps of well-informed volunteers to provide education, outreach, and service dedicated to the beneficial management of natural resources and natural areas within their communities for the State of Texas. Our Chapter includes Lee, Washington, Austin, Fayette, and Colorado Counties.

To learn more about the Texas Master Naturalist program and the Gideon Lincecum Chapter, please visit our website at <https://txmn.org/glc/>. If you have additional questions, please email Ken English at glct-mnmkt@gmail.com.

Mark Your Calendar

Our office will be closed on Monday, October 11th in observance of Columbus Day.



UNWANTED AGRICULTURAL SURPLUS PESTICIDES?

DISPOSE OF THEM PROPERLY AT NO COST AND STAY IN YOUR VEHICLE

Henderson County Regional Fair Park • 3356 Texas 31 • Athens, TX 75752

ACCEPTED ITEMS INCLUDE:

- Outdated, discontinued or unwanted agricultural pesticides
- Insecticides
- Herbicides
- Fungicides
- Rodenticides
- Nematicides
- Growth Regulators
- Empty, Triple-Rinsed Plastic Pesticide Containers (55 gal. max)
- Empty or Partial Metal Drums

PESTICIDES MUST BE KEPT IN ORIGINAL CONTAINERS, EVEN IF THE LABEL IS NOT PRESENT.

Unknown pesticides will be sampled and identified on site.

Pesticide dealers and commercial businesses are not allowed to participate. For questions or additional information contact the Henderson County Extension Office at (903) 675-6132, the Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA) Dallas Regional office at (214) 631-0265, or TDA Austin Headquarters at (512) 463-7622.

MATERIALS NOT ACCEPTED:

- Explosive ordinances and ammunition
- Petroleum-Based Products
- Paints
- Medical Wastes
- Radioactive Substances
- Household Pesticides, Chemicals, and Waste
- Tires
- Fertilizers, Propane or Butane Cylinders
- Chlorinated Hydrocarbons
- Fumigant Canisters
- Used motor oil and other automobile fluids
- Auto Batteries
- Empty Totes
- Methyl-Bromide Cylinders
- Dioxins (2,4-5T, Silvex, TCDD, etc.)

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

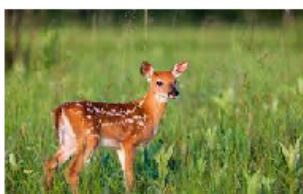
TEXAS A&M
AGRI LIFE
EXTENSION



TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
COMMISSIONER SID MILLER

CleanEarth●

USA g
RECYCLING
USAGRECYCLING.COM



This Month:
**ALL ABOUT
Deer**

FEATHERS, FURS, AND FARMING

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.

October 29, 2021

1:00-5:00 PM

\$20/Person

American Legion

1630 Meyer St.
Sealy, TX 77434

Laramie Kettler

979-732-2082
Colorado County

Stacie Villarreal

979-865-2072
Austin County

Mark Lange

979-732-3458
Austin/Colorado County

Jon McLeod

832-595-8999
Austin/Ft. Bend County

2 CEUs - General

Habitat Management

Harvest Strategies

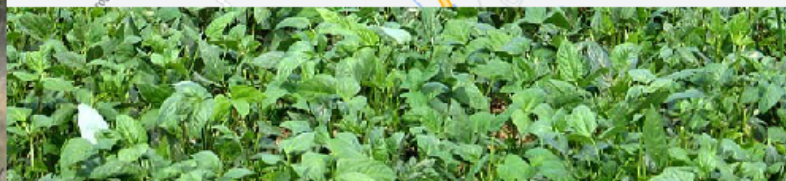
Realistic Expectations on Small Acreage

Chronic Wasting Disease

Jaw Aging Quiz



© RODNEY JOHNSON



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 2022 Training Class

**Training Classes every Thursday
January 13th - April 21st***

**2 classes will be held on Wednesday*
(Feb. 16 & Apr. 6)*

Graduation on Tuesday, April 26th during the BMGA meeting

8:30am -12:30pm

**Austin County Extension Office
800 E Wendt St., Bellville**

\$175 per person: includes over 50 hours of gardening education!

The Master Gardener program 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, landscape design, vegetable gardening, and much more. Upon completion of at least 50 hours of class time to receive the title of "Master Gardener", trainees are required to complete 50 hours of volunteer service in their local community.

For more information on the Master Gardeners program, contact the Extension office at 979-865-8072 or visit the Bluebonnet Master Gardener Website at <https://txmg.org/bluebonnet/apply>

Course Outline

- Welcome, Master Gardeners
- Soil Characteristics
- Soil Improvement
- Plant Development
- Plant Propagation
- Water
- Irrigation
- Earth-Kind Landscaping
- Freeze Preparation
- Plant Pathology
- Insects
- Integrated Pest Management
- Viticulture
- Ornamentals Plants
- Lawns/weeds
- Vegetables & Herbs
- Berries
- Pecans
- Landscape Design
- Field Trip



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.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Laramie Kettler

County Extension Agent—Ag/Natural Resources—Colorado County

laramie.kettler@ag.tamu.edu

979-732-2082

colorado.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) 732-2082 ten (10) days prior to the meeting to determine how reasonable accommodations can be made.