

Agriculture Newsletter

COLORADO COUNTY

SEPTEMBER 2023

A couple of weeks ago a local hay producer came to my office with a hay sample. After baling up a field of hay grazer and letting it sit for a few days the row of bales were opened to find that the centers of the bale had a dark coloration (see picture below). The sample smelled like fresh hay, but did not display a nice golden color in the center portion. There was no residue to suggest that the sample was molded, or charred like it had burned. This was perplexing so we sent a sample to the Soil, Water and Forage Testing Lab in College Station to more or less determine if it was safe to feed. Upon getting the results back we learned that this portion of the bale tested at 7% crude protein and nitrates were at 0.01% . Nitrate levels of less than 1.0% are considered safe to feed to cattle.

After visiting further with an AgriLife Forage Specialist it was discussed that the discoloration of the bale could be due to being baled at a higher moisture level even though no mold was present. Effectively it was determined that this hay would be safe to feed to cattle.

If you ever question the nutritive quality of your hay it can easily be tested by sending samples to the Soil Water and Forage Testing lab in College Station. This lab can give results that show crude protein (CP), total digestible nutrients (TDN), acid detergent fiber (ADF), and nitrates (N).

When we talk about components that make our forages toxic we want to focus on nitrates and prussic acid (also called hydrogen cyanide).

Nitrates do not volatilize out of our forages like prussic acid. If you want to test prussic acid on forages/hay all samples have to be sent to the ServiTech lab located in Amarillo. If you need forms/directions for sending samples to either lab you can contact our office and we can get them to you!



2
CEU
(2 GEN)

TEXAS A&M
AGRILIFE
EXTENSION

Horticulture Production

Fruit Trees, Pecans & Grapes

2023 Multi-County New Landowner Educational Series



September 15, 2023

Fayette Co. Fair Grounds

400 W. Fair Grounds
La Grange, TX 78945



Registration 1:00-1:30 pm
Program 1:30-5:00 pm
\$20/Person/Session

To register online visit:

<https://washington.agrilife.org/nlo>



Speakers
Monte Nesbitt
Fran Pontasch



For more information please contact:

Stacie Villarreal
Austin County
(979) 865-2072
Austin.AgriLife.org

Laramie Kettler
Colorado County
(979) 732-2082
Colorado.AgriLife.org

Scott Willey
Fayette County
(979) 968-5831
Fayette.AgriLife.org

Kara Matheney
Washington County
(979) 277-6212 ext. 2
Washington.AgriLife.org



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. Individuals with disabilities who require an auxiliary aid, service or accommodation in order to participate in this meeting are encouraged to contact the Austin County Extension Office at (979) 865-2072 prior to the meeting to determine how reasonable accommodations can be made.



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.

September 29, 2023

**Registration 1:00pm-
1:30pm**

Program 1:30-5:00pm

\$15/Person

\$20/Couple

**Immaculate Conception
German 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

TOPICS

1 CEU - General

Update on Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD)

Habitat Management

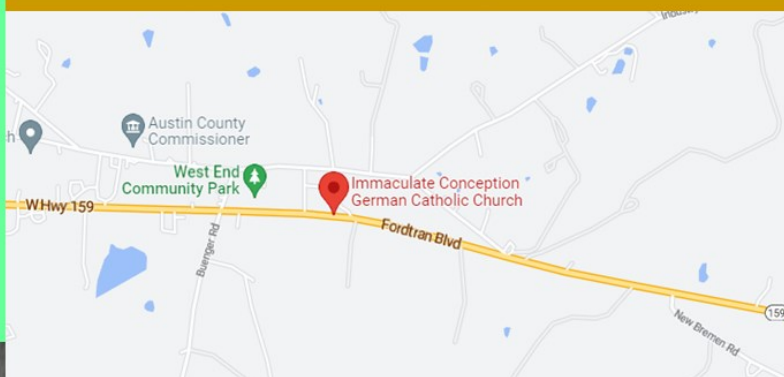
Supplemental Feeding

Doe Harvest

Aging Deer on the Hoof

Basics of Scoring a Buck

Aging Quiz



*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*

Owning Your Piece of Texas: Key Laws Texas Landowners Need to Know

Rosenberg Civic Center
3825 TX-36, Rosenberg, TX

SEPTEMBER 25
9:00 - 4:00

REGISTRATION
\$75.00

7 HRS CE'S FOR
REAL ESTATE AGENTS

Speakers Include: Tiffany Dowell Lashmet, Texas A&M
AgriLife Extension Ag Law Specialist

Dr. Blake Bennett, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension
District Economist

Luke Ellis, Marrs, Ellis & Hodge, LLP

Plateau Land & Wildlife Specialist

Program will address common issues facing
landowners including:

- Eminent domain
- Landowner liability
- Fence law
- Special use tax valuation
- and much more!

Each person will receive a copy of Lashmet's handbook for
landowners: Owning Your Piece of Texas: Key Laws Texas
Landowners Need to Know

Register online: <https://tx.ag/opt23>

TEXAS A&M
AGRI LIFE
EXTENSION

Anyone needing specific accommodations to participate in this educational meeting should contact Tiffany at 806-677-5681 at least five days prior to the event so arrangements can be made. 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, gender identity, or any other classification protected by federal, state, or local law and will strive to achieve full and equal opportunity throughout Texas A&M AgriLife.



**SOUTHERN
EXTENSION
RISK
MANAGEMENT
EDUCATION**



BROKERS THAT BUILD LANDOWNER LEGACIES



PROUD MEMBER OF THE FARM CREDIT SYSTEM

Colorado County Lunch - N - Learn Series 2023

**Bring your lunch
and learn!**

**Light refreshments;
tea and snacks will be
provided.**

It's Free!

Registration:

11:50am - 12:05pm

Program:

12:05pm - 12:55pm

**No Pre-Registration
Required**

July 19th

**Propagating
Native
Milkweeds**

**305 Radio Lane
Columbus,
Texas 78934**

August 16th

**Water Management
in the
Landscape/Garden**

September 20th

**Texas Superstar
Plants/Native Plants
for Texas
Landscape**

November 15th

**Food Preservation
How to properly store
excess garden produce.**

October 18th

**Winter Gardening &
Winter Companion
Plants**

Questions?

**Texas A&M Agrilife
Extention Service of
Colorado County
(979) 732-2082**



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2
CEU
(GEN)



Wildlife Management & Native Grass Restoration

2023 Multi-County New Landowner Educational Series

October 20, 2023

Colorado County Fairgrounds

1146 Crossroads Blvd.
Columbus, TX 78934

Registration 1:00-1:30 pm

Program 1:30-5:00 pm

\$20/Person/Session

\$125/Person/Series - \$200/Couple/Series

To register online visit:

<https://washington.agrilife.org/nlo>

Topics to be covered:

Wildlife Valuation/Know your TPWD *Biologist*

Native Grass Transition Do's and Don'ts

Native Prairie Work – Local Efforts
and Resources



For more information please contact:

Stacie Villarreal
Austin County
(979) 865-2072
Austin.Agrilife.org

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Colorado County
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2023



12th Annual Texas Fruit Conference

October 18-20, 2023
Fredericksburg, Texas

TEXAS A&M
AGRILIFE
EXTENSION



The Texas Fruit Conference is a Texas A&M AgriLife Extension event aimed at educating new and experienced fruit growers through classroom instruction, experiential learning, and peer-to-peer networking.

Event 1: Intro to Fruit Growing Workshop: Considering an orchard for the first time? Never planted a fruit tree? We have you covered! Our Half-Day-workshop is designed to get you started on a path to long-term financial success.
When: Wednesday Morning, October 18th, Gillespie County AgriLife Extension Office, 38 Business CT, Fredericksburg, TX 78624. Program: *Site and resource evaluation for new fruit orchards*-Jim Kamas; *Fruit orchard establishment*-Larry Stein; *Budgeting time resources-what it takes to start and manage an orchard*-Jacy Lewis; *Disease & insect threats to successful fruit production*—Brianna Hoge; *Developing an orchard IPM philosophy*—Monte Nesbitt; *Deciding what to grow: major production & marketing considerations*—Tim Hart-

Event 2: Commercial Orchard Tour : Gain firsthand insight and experiences of Fredericksburg-area fruit growers in an educational group field trip.
When: Wednesday Afternoon, October 18th; Location(s) to be determined.

Event 3: Fruit Conference Main Program: Delve deeper into commercial or recreational fruit production in a 1 -Day educational program aimed at keeping Texas fruit growers abreast of sustainable practices, emerging issues, new crop opportunities, variety introductions, novel production approaches, marketing strategies, and integrated pest management. Texas Pesticide Licence CEU's will be offered.
When: Thursday, October 19th , 8:00 am to 4:30 pm, Gillespie County AgriLife Extension Office, 38 Business Ct., Fredericksburg, TX; Lunch Included.

Event 4: Taste of Texas Fruit Reception: Meet fellow fruit growers, Texas A&M AgriLife personnel, eat great fruit-centered food, and sample Texas wines.
When: Thursday, October 19th, 5:00-7:00 pm; Tatsch House, Lady Bird Park, Fredericksburg.

Event 5: Optional Intensive Workshop: Want to learn more? This year we are offering a "mini-intensive" training centered on one important commercial orchard topic—irrigation. Explore irrigation system design, delivery options, troubleshooting, and new technologies from AgriLife personnel and commercial irrigation companies that serve the fruit industry in Texas.
When: Friday, October 20th, 9:00 am-11:30 am; Viticulture and Fruit Laboratory, 259 Business Ct, Fredericksburg, TX.

For More Information: Contact Monte Nesbitt, (979) 862-1218;
Email: monte.nesbitt@ag.tamu.edu or the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Viticulture & Fruit Laboratory in Fredericksburg 830-990-4046.

Registration: <https://agriliferegister.tamu.edu/hort-ev-022>

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

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