

Agriculture Newsletter

COLORADO COUNTY

MARCH/APRIL 2024

SOUTH TEXAS AG SYMPOSIUM

The Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Office of Colorado County is pleased to announce an upcoming program offering. The 2024 South Texas Agriculture Symposium will be held on Tuesday, April 30th, 2024 from 8:00am – 2:30pm. The event is hosted by the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension South Texas Based Specialists. Colorado County will be a satellite host location for this virtual program.

The theme for this year's symposium is Practices to Increase Success in 2024. Topics covered include: Plant Diseases and Their Management, Weather-Related Challenges for Tree Management, Common Wildlife Diseases and Parasites, Basics of Wildlife Tax Valuation (1-D-1), Essentials to Every Rangeland Management Plan, The State of Warm Season Grasses, Sedge Management in Pastures and Hay Fields, Options to Expand your Cowherd, Digital Agriculture: Economic Implications.

The program will be held at the Weimar Civic Center located at 1754 IH-10, Weimar, Tx 78962. 1 General CEU will be offered for licensed pesticide applicators. Lunch will be served. The cost of attendance is \$20 per person. Please RSVP to the Colorado County Extension Office by April 26th, 2024.

Texas Climate Smart Initiative

The Texas Climate-Smart Initiative (TCSI) is currently accepting applications of interest for our incentive program that will be allocating nearly \$40 million to incentivize adoption of climate-smart practices, which also benefit soil health and sustainability, on working lands. We created a short video <https://youtu.be/WW-8XAvMaXw> and flyer (see attached) to summarize our program. But, I've highlighted some features below.

TCSI program highlights

Provides incentives to adopt climate-smart practices (e.g., no-till, cover cropping, forest management, manure management, etc.) to commodity producers

Incentive payments will be comparable or beat EQIP for our selected practices

Incentives cannot be duplicated on the same land at the same time for the same practice (but incentives can be added, for example if you receive federal EQIP for cover cropping, but not no-till, you could add no-till)

Incentives can be applied to practices that are already adopted

Application is expression of interest (climatesmart@tamu.edu) not enrollment. The management plan will be developed specifically for your land, and plan and incentive payment structure will be provided in the enrollment agreement.

No risk to apply

Land must be located in the state of Texas

Multi-commodity, multi-practice, and multi-year (3-4 year) contracts

Applicants can own or lease land

Enrollment starts in April until funds are allocated

Questions call (979-314-8095) or email climatesmart@ag.tamu.edu



2024 South Texas Agriculture Symposium

Tuesday, April 30, 2024 8:00 am-2:30 pm

Hosted by Texas A&M AgriLife Extension - South Texas Based Specialists

Practices to Increase Success in 2024

- Plant Diseases & Their Management
- Weather-Related Challenges for Tree Management
- Common Wildlife Diseases & Parasites
- Basics of Wildlife Tax Valuation (1-D-1)
- Essentials to Every Rangeland Management Plan
- The State of Warm-Season Grasses
- Sedge Management in Pastures & Hay Fields
- Options to Expand Your Cowherd
- Digital Agriculture: Economic Implications

Virtual Workshop

Hosted by
Texas A&M AgriLife Extension
Service Colorado County

Weimar Civic Center
1754 IH-10, Weimar, TX 78962

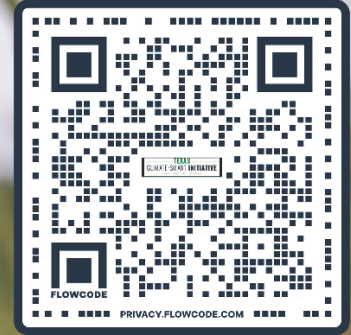
1 General Pesticide
Applicator
CEU!

RSVP by April 26th
To 979-732-2082
\$20 per person

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.

TEXAS CLIMATE-SMART INITIATIVE

CROPS · FORESTRY · LIVESTOCK



TCSI Website

CLIMATESMART.TAMU.EDU

A five-year pilot project led by Texas A&M AgriLife Research and funded by USDA NRCS. This groundbreaking initiative aims to foster climate-smart agriculture for all major Texas agricultural commodities and create market opportunities across the commodities.

PARTICIPATION BENEFITS

- Ability to choose from multiple climate-smart practices
- One-time application for 3+ years of enrollment
- Ability to participate in multiple projects as long as there is no other federal incentive for the same practice on the same land at the same time.
- Support from the TCSI team from start to finish
- Incentives priced at or above EQIP

PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

- Working land must be located in the state of Texas
- Participants must have a Farm Service Agency (FSA) farm number
- Practices must not already be receiving federal incentives
- Participants must be willing to allow TCSI to collect soil and assess GHG emissions



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
- 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

Sheep and Goat Ranching 101 Online Course

This online course provides an educational foundation for farmers and ranchers to get started in the sheep and goat industry. The course is composed of 12 short-instructional videos that individuals can watch at their discretion.

Purchase the [Sheep and Goat Ranching 101 Online Course](#) through AgriLife Learn.

Toxic Plant Watch - Oleander

As the temperatures warm up and we start working in our yards cleaning flower beds one problem we may face is looking for a place to dispose of yard clippings. While it may seem like a small decision, it can have a big impact if toxic plants are involved. One such plant is common Oleander, *Nerium oleander*.

Oleander is an introduced, evergreen, ornamental shrub that can reach 15—25 feet tall with colorful, showy and odorless flowers. It is commonly used in Texas yards, but it packs a toxic punch to all animal species including livestock and pets. Oleandrin, a cardiac glycoside, is the most prominent toxin in this plant. As little as 0.005% of an animal's body weight of dry leaves can be lethal.

The green leaves are bitter and seldom eaten. The problem is wilting clippings and dead leaves that remain toxic, but are very palatable. If livestock or pets consume this plant cardiac failure occurs with signs of poisoning showing within 4 hours. Symptoms of oleander poisoning include: sudden death, colic, weakness, salivation, very fast or very slow heart rate. The best way to prevent livestock or pet poisoning is to not plant this plant. If you allow someone to deposit yard clippings on your property, be sure to ask what type of plant material will be deposited to make sure no toxic plants will be available for your livestock to consume.



Colorado County Lunch and Learn Series - Gardening and Horticulture

Colorado County members of the Bluebonnet Master Gardener Association are pleased to announce the upcoming Colorado County Lunch-N-Learn Series in Winter/Spring 2024 focused on gardening and horticulture!

Programs will be held on the 3rd Wednesday of each month at the Colorado County Services Facility located at 305 Radio Lane in Columbus. Registration will open at 11:50 am with the program starting promptly at 12:05 pm and ending by 12:55pm. Attendees are asked to bring their own lunch. Light refreshments including coffee, tea and snacks will be provided. No preregistration is required for this free program.

Upcoming Program Topics Include:

April 17th – Pollinators

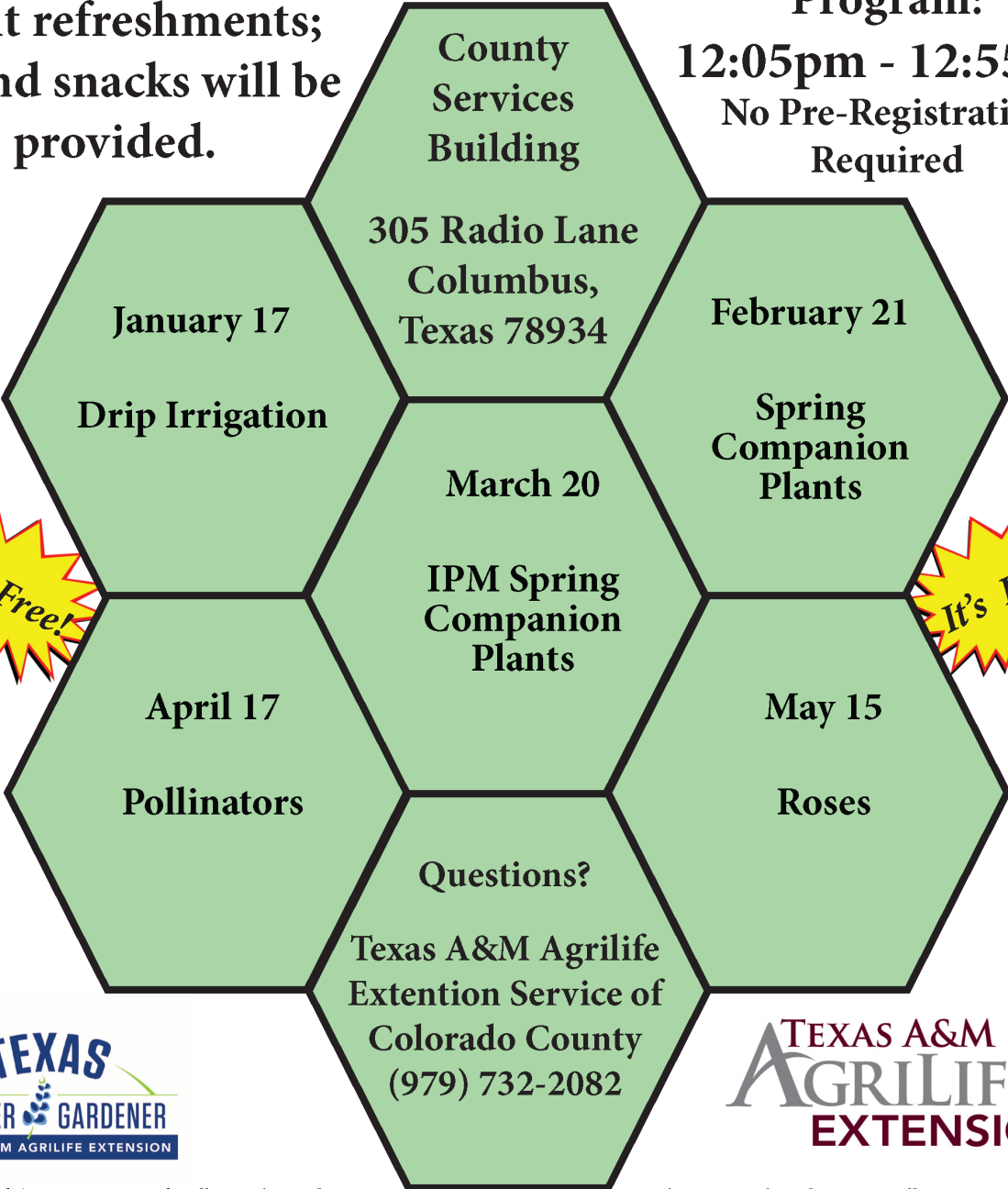
May 15th – Roses

Colorado County Lunch - N - Learn Series 2024

**Bring your lunch
and learn!**
**Light refreshments;
tea and snacks will be
provided.**



**Registration:
11:50am - 12:05pm**
**Program:
12:05pm - 12:55pm**
**No Pre-Registration
Required**



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 County Extension Office at (979) 732-2082 prior to the meeting to determine how reasonable accommodations can be made.

It's okay to ask for help.

AgriStress
HELPLINESM
for Texas

 **833.897.2474**
call or text



AgriStress Helpline for Texas [833-897-2474](tel:833-897-2474)

- The [AgriStress Helpline](#)SM is a free and confidential crisis and support line that you can call or text 24/7, and interpretation services are provided in 160 languages.
- The helpline is answered by trained professionals who can offer support and/or help you find mental health resources in your area.
- Utilizes a “care navigation” process that: triages for safety with crisis intervention and response; directs callers to appropriate resources for their situation.
- Both the AgriStress Helpline and 988 offer the same quality of suicide crisis services – but our crisis specialists have extra training to know the culture, values, stressors, and lived experiences of agriculture, forestry, and fishing workers. In addition, crisis specialists have access to a state specific curated database of agricultural and health resources

Texas Ag Law Blog

This blog is an outreach project of the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service. The goal of this blog is to keep you up to date on various legal issues impacting Texas agriculture. It is specifically focused on water law, oil and gas law, leasing, property rights, right to farm statutes, and landowner liability. It provides a variety of information from current news stories, to recent legal opinions, to the basics of various legal topics. There are also published materials that can be accessed, and a podcast you can listen to while in the car, or working on the farm in the tractor.

To access the **Texas Ag Law Blog** go to <https://agriflife.org/texasaglaw/home/> .

To access the **Ag Law in the Field** podcast go to <https://aglaw.libsyn.com/> .

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.