

Atascosa Ag Newsletter

Courtesy of : Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Office Atascosa County

25 E 5th Street P.O. Box 379
Leming, TX 78050

Questions Call US! 830-569-0034
Check out our website at Atascosa.argilife.org

Our Staff:

Dale Rankin

County Extension Agent
Ag & Natural Resources

Druann Benavides

County Extension Agent
Family & Community Health

Ashlie Stayton

4-H Program Assistant

Teresa Mendieta

Assistant Extension Agent
Ag & Natural Resources

Monica Zepeda

Office Manager

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The members of the 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 opportunities throughout Texas A&M AgriLife. The Texas A&M University System, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the County Commissioners Courts of Texas Cooperating.

LET'S HELP OUR TEXAS FAMILY

Texas wildfire donations of hay, feed and fencing supplies are needed to support those impacted by the devastating Eastland Complex wildfires that have already burned more than 45,000 acres in Texas.

The Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service along with Red Chain Feeds, Texas Animal Health Commission, Texas Department of Agriculture and Texas Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association are coordinating through the combined efforts of agencies and industry partners.



The ongoing wildfires, fueled by dry, windy conditions, have covered 46,768 acres spanning Eastland County.

"These donations will go directly to those who need them as soon as possible," said Monty Dozier, Ph.D., AgriLife Extension director, Disaster Assessment Recovery, Bryan-College Station. "Texans are known for their generosity and deep values of Texas Agriculture during times of need. This is certainly a situation where our neighbors and friends are needing assistance after losing some if not all of their livelihoods."

Donations Locations and Contact information:

Primary Contact:

**Texas A&M AgriLife Extension
Service Donations Hotline
at 979-314-8200**

Secondary Contact:

**Gorman Milling Company Inc.
Fiber Plant
1200 East Townsend Gorman, Tx
Red Chain Feed Mill
Luke Fritts, 254-734-2252**

A relief fund has also been established through the STAR Fund disaster Assistance through the Texas Department of Agriculture. Payment is available via PayPal.

Source: AgriLife Today Hay, Feed and Fencing Supplies needed to Support Texas Wildfire victims.

PREVENTING ANOTHER DUST BOWL

Source: Cummins , M. (2022, March). Preventing Another Dust Bowl . The Cattleman, CVIII(10), 48–49.

When mentioning soil erosion some may began to imagine some of the dramatic photos from the Dust Bowl, where winds blew soil parched by drought and left unprotected by poor farming practices in Oklahoma, Texas, Kansas, Colorado, and New Mexico. However, erosion is not just a thing of the past Oklahoma Cooperative Extension says 50 Million ton of soil are washed away from the state's land each year, by water erosion. Which is now the major cause of soil loss in the state and other parts of the U.S.

What is it?

Soil erosion is the detachment and movement of soil particles from the point of origination through the action of water or wind. It is a naturally occurring process affecting all landforms, with geologic erosion creating natural wonders like the Grand Canyon over millions of years. Human activity can leave soil quite vulnerable to the power of nature, with each raindrop hitting exposed soil like a tiny bomb, splashing soil up to 3 feet in the air carrying it away in runoff water.

Why is it a Problem?

The displacement of healthy, productive soil reduces the area that can viably produce crops or grazeable plants. Simply, agricultural lands shrink. Soil erosion also damages the environment, as disturbed and misplaced soil and nutrients pollute air and water. Erosion takes an economic toll on farmers who lose fertilizer, soil organic matter and crop yields; on landowners who lose productivity and land value; on everyone when food production, water quality and more are impacted.

How can we help?

The good news is farmers and ranchers can reduce the risk of erosion by considering the soil when making management decisions. They can protect the soil from being moved by wind or water while also rebuilding the depth and health of topsoil by following the six soil health principles. In the context of a properly managed production system, according to understandingag.com, the six principles of soil health are. **1.** Know your context **2.** Cover the soil **3.** Minimize soil disturbance **4.** Practice plant diversity **5.** Maintain continuous living plants/roots **6.** Integrate livestock.

Success in Sight

Producers are already succeeding according to USDA's National resources inventory, soil erosion rates on US cropland decreased by 34% between 1982 and 2015 thanks to conservation practices . Regenerative ranching applies the principles of regenerative management on the nations grazing lands, addressing the more than 650 million acres of land impacting surface and ground water, food production, air and wildfire habitat.

GET YOUR LAWN SUMMER READY

With the summer fast approaching we all know we want to have a outstanding lawn so here is how to make yours the best with some management tips:

1. Mow properly, if you cut your grass too short you can cause stress which in turn discourages root growth and results in loss of soil moisture you want to remove no more than 1/3 of the grass blade each time.
2. Don't let the leaves pile up. This blocks the sunlight which in lawns can suppress the growth of your grass. On a side note if you don't want to rake up all those leaves you can mow them to create winter mulch for your lawn.
3. Water efficiently, a properly watered lawn is more resistant to pests and lawn problems. The main goal is to irrigate efficiently make sure to: water infrequently, yet thoroughly, water in the morning, before 10 a.m. wet the soil to a depth of 4-6 inches and allow it to dry before watering again.

Fertilizing and cutting height recommendations differ from each species. For example: St. Augustine 2 to 4 lbs. N per 1,000 ft²/year. Single application rates should range from 0.5-1 lbs. of N/1,000 ft² applied during summer growing season. Mower height, 2.5-3.5 inches. Bermudagrass 0.5 to 1 lb N/1,000ft²/month during summer growing season: 2 to 6 total lbs. N/1,000ft² per year. Single application rates should range from 0.5 to 1 lb of N/1,000 ft². Mower height. 1-2 inches. Below you will find some common problems and solutions for your lawns.

COMMON LAWN PROBLEMS

Take all Patch (Fungal Disease)

- Appears as a yellowing of the grass and darkening of the roots.
- Causes rotting in the roots to a point the grass can be pulled up easily.
- Most commonly affects Bermuda, St. Augustine, and Zoysia
- Can spread mostly during the Fall, Winter and Spring. When there is a abundance of moisture.



Prevention and Solution

- Maintain good drainage
- avoid over fertilization
- raise the mowing height to reduce stress
- avoid broadleaf herbicides and urea-based fertilizers.

Drought Stress (Lawn Stress)

- Your grass appears to look blue-green or silverish and the blade becomes curly
- The undersoil is dry
- The tolerance level depends on the type of grass
 - St. Augustine : is drought tolerant in shade only
 - Bermuda & Zoysia: drought tolerant
 - Buffalo: Very drought tolerant



Prevention and Solution

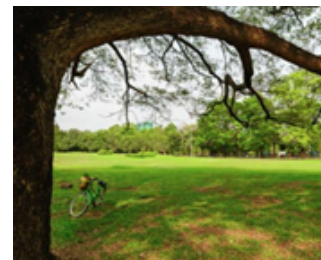
- Choose drought tolerant grass
- irrigate efficiently

Shade Stress (Lawn Stress)

- Grass begins to thin and disappear causing bare patches
- Buffalo & Bermuda do not grow well in shaded areas are most susceptible to shade stress

Prevention and Solution

- Choose type wisely such that if you will be in a shaded area choose a shade tolerant grass (such as St. Augustine or Zoysia)
- Try and thin out tree branches to create some light
- Raise your mower to allow more grass blade to capture sunlight



Weeds

- There are two types Grassy and Broadleaf
- Grassy have jointed, hollow stems. Their leaf blades have veins parallel to the margins and are longer than they are wide. The roots are fibrous and multi-branching, and their flowers are usually inconspicuous
- Broadleaf often have showy flowers. Their leaves have network of veins at diverse angles. Their stems are often pithy, and they usually have a taproot.

Prevention and Solution

- Keep your grass healthy will help them outcompete weeds
- Do not let them flower or go to seed
- Do not bring soil with seeds to your yard
- Use drip irrigation to help better apply water where needed.

BODY CONDITION SCORING

What is Body Condition Scoring (BCS), it is a tool used to describe the relative fatness of beef cattle. The scale runs from a score of 1 to 9, with 1 being a emaciated body condition and 9 being extreme fatness.

1) **Emaciated** — Physically weak, bone structure of shoulder, ribs, back, hooks and pins are sharp to the touch and easily visible.

No evidence of fat deposits or muscling (figure 1)

2) **Very Thin** — Appears emaciated but not weak. No evidence of fat deposition, some bone structure still easily seen.

3) **Thin** — Very little fat cover over the shoulder, loin, and rump, has slight evidence of fat deposition. Backbone is still highly visible

4) **Borderline** — Foreribs are slightly noticeable and the 12th and 13th ribs are easily visible.

5) **Moderate** — Slight evidence of fat deposition in the brisket, muscle expression in the shoulder loin rump and hindquarters (figure 2)

6) **Good** — Smother appearance throughout. Ribs are fully covered and not noticeable to the eye.

7) **Fleshy** — Brisket is full, topline is starting to have square appearance. Abundant fat cover on either side of tail head.

8) **Obese** — Neck appears short and thick has a square and blocky appearance over topline.

9) **Very Obese** — rarely seen not easy to identify bone structures appears short neck with distended brisket. (figure 3)

When do you need to condition score your cattle? You should score your cattle during key times in their cycle such as

- Weaning - to help adjust and create a proper feeding plan. The ideal score should be 5-6
- 90 Days Before Calving - to help put on some condition before they calve the ideal score should be 5-6 or 6-7 for a first-calf heifer because she may have a harder time keeping enough condition be rebred.
- Calving - to ensure that they will have good energy requirements for lactation. the ideal score is 5-7 with the optimum target of 6-7
- Lastly Breeding - to ensure that you have proper breeding results, thin cows can have a chance of premature birth. the ideal score is 5-6 with a first-calf heifer closer to 7



Figure 1. A beef cattle with score of 1



Figure 2 A beef cattle with score of 5



Figure 3 A beef cattle with score of 9

The body condition scoring process is a simple tool to allow producers to better manage their herd, by adjusting their feed and forage program.

UPCOMING EVENTS AND EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

Integrated Wildlife Damage Management Webinar

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service specialists will host the 2022 Rangeland, Wildlife, Fisheries and Management Stewardship Webinar series on April 7th from 12pm-1pm featuring a variety of experts and topics. Mikayla House Killam, Department of Range, Wildlife and Fisheries Management program specialist, will address the methods by which damage is managed on native wildlife species. This webinar will offer 1 integrated Pest Management CEU pending TDA approval. The cost is \$35 to register visit <https://tx.ag/RWFMAprilWeb22> for more information about this webinar series contact **Morgan Treadwell** at Morgan.treadwell@ag.tamu.edu

South Texas Agriculture Symposium

The 2022 South Texas Agriculture Symposium will take place April 12 at the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension office in Bexar County. The event will start with onsite registration at 7:30 am and the program will be from 8-noon at 3355 Cherry Ridge Drive, Suite 208 San Antonio. Preregistration is required by calling 210-631-0400. the cost is \$15 payable by cash or check. one general CEU will be offered. Topics include Websites and apps to improve Ranch Management, Sandbur Management in Pastures, Carbon Storage in Grasslands, and more. for more information contact our office.

Let's Enjoy the Outdoors and Wildlife Photography Contest

The Atascosa Wildlife and Fisheries & Atascosa Wildlife Co-op are hosting a photography contest open to anyone at least 8 years old and who resides in Atascosa County. The Contest is open now through April 15th. The cost of Entry is \$10 per photo for Youth and \$20 per photo for Adults. Payment can be submitted via check or cash in person at the Extension office. Or online through Eventbrite at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/lets-enjoy-the-outdoors-and-wildlife-photography-contest-tickets-170025658321>

Please remember you must submit your Entry for and photos to atascosawildlifephoto@gmail.com See attached flyer.

Atascosa Club Calf Breeders Association Online Beef Cattle Sale

The Atascosa Club Calf Breeders are having their beef cattle sale on April 11, 2022 with viewing dates on both weekend of April 2nd and April 3rd as well as April 9th and 10th at 5955 FM 1470 Pleasanton, Tx. The sale is going to be hosted by Cattle in Motion if you have questions feel free to contact our office. The link for the sale is cattleinmotion.com/auctionevent/atascosa-club-calf-breeders-sale-2022

Upcoming Events and Educational Opportunities

Atascosa Cattleman Association Annual Meeting

The Atascosa Cattleman Association will have their annual meeting on April 19th at the Jourdanton Community Center (1101 Campbell Ave, Jourdanton, TX 78026). The cost of the Annual Membership is \$20 per family, dues can be mailed to A.C. A. PO Box 379 Leming, Tx 78050. There will be 1 CEU offered towards your Private, Commercial, or Non-Commercial Applicators License. The topics will be Mineral Supplementation by Dr. Joe Paschal and Landowner Liability by Trace Blair. **See attached flyer for more information.** RSVP by April 15th to the Atascosa County Extension office.

Save the Date

The following dates are for upcoming educational programs we will be releasing more information soon, so mark your calendars.

May 9, 2022 Reproduction Management Training

May 13, 2022 Beef and Forage Program

Also the Spring Water Screening that was to be held April 6-7 has been rescheduled there is not a set date at the moment but we will release more information as it comes available.

Soil Temperature

Spring Has Sprung in Atascosa County but our soil temperatures are still pretty cool. On March 24, 2022, in Leming, Texas the soil temperature was 60° at the 8 inch depth.

Soil Temperature has a direct correlation with our growing conditions and managing our brush species.

This is something new that we will be trying to record on a weekly basis, and we will report them in our monthly newsletter as well as Facebook weekly. For the soil temperature updates follow our Texas A&M AgriLife Extension in Atascosa County Facebook page.



**Improving Lives,
Improving Texas**



Texas A&M AgriLife
Extension Service- Atascosa Co.
P.O. Box 379
Leming, TX 78050

Phone: 830-569-0034
Fax: 830-569-8997
Email: dw-rankin@tamu.edu
Web: <https://atascosa.agrilife.org>

Annual Meeting

Tuesday, April 19, 2022



Jourdanton Community Center
1101 Campbell Ave, Jourdanton, TX 78026

Tentative Agenda

- 6:00 p.m. Registration**
- 6:30 p.m. Welcome and Introduction/Supper**
Gary West – Chairman Atascosa Cattlemen's Assoc.
- 6:35 p.m. Silent Auction Announcement**
Ryan Novak – Silent Auction Chair
- 6:40 p.m. Mineral Supplementation / Fly & Insect Control**
Dr. Joe Paschal – Extension Livestock Specialist
- 7:40 p.m. Landowner Liability**
Trace Blair – Landowner and Mineral Rights Attorney
- 8:45 p.m. Scholarship Winner Announcement**
Casey Bartek – Scholarship Chair
- 8:50 p.m. Election of Directors**
Gary West – Chairman Atascosa Cattlemen's Assoc.
- 9:00 p.m. Silent Auction**
Ryan Novak – Silent Auction Chair

Please RSVP to (830) 569-0034 by Friday, April 15th. One (1.0) I.P.M. continuing education unit will be offered to Private, Commercial and Non- Commercial Applicators. The cost for annual membership is \$20 per family. Due's income is used to support activities and program implementation. The funds are also used toward scholarships in amounts up to \$500. We all know how expensive college can be. Investing \$20 now will afford your graduating senior the opportunity to apply for this scholarship. Dues can be mailed to A.C.A., P.O. Box 379, Leming, TX 78050.

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. We will seek to provide reasonable accommodation for all persons with disabilities for this meeting. We request that you contact the Atascosa County Extension Service twelve days (12) prior to the event at (830) 569-0034 or as soon as possible to advise us of the auxiliary aid or service that you require.

Let's Enjoy the Outdoors and Wildlife! Photography Contest

Hosted by: Atascosa Wildlife & Fisheries and Atascosa Wildlife Co-op



Get Started Right Away...

Entry period is open now through April 15, 2022

Adult & Youth Categories are

- Wildlife Portraits
- Landscape/Scenic
- Motion
- Game Camera
- Mobile Phone

Photos must be captured in Texas. For a complete set of rules and official entry form visit [Atascosa.agrilife.org](https://atascosa.agrilife.org) and look at upcoming events on the home page.

Who is Eligible?

The contest is open to all photographers who are at least 8 years of age and reside in Atascosa County, Entrants 8 to 17 years of age MUST obtain verified parental or guardian consent regardless of division entered. Entrants 18 years or older are prohibited from entering the youth division.

How to Enter?

Entries must be submitted as digital files and emailed along with Entry Form to atascosawildlifephoto@gmail.com

Entry Fees: Youth \$10/photo or Adults \$20/photo. Youth may compete in the adult division but cannot compete in both divisions.

Payment Methods: Payment and entry form may be submitted via check payable to Atascosa Wildlife & Fisheries, PO Box 379, Leming, Texas 78050. Cash is accepted in person at 25 E. 5th street Leming Texas 78050. Payments may be submitted online through Eventbrite at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/lets-enjoy-the-outdoors-and-wildlife-photography-contest-tickets-170025658321>. Please not Eventbrite charges an additional fee for their services. Please remember to email us your entry form.

The Atascosa Wildlife & Fisheries and Atascosa Wildlife Coop are a non-profit organizations created to connect adults and youth with nature, promote responsible stewards or wildlife, and encourage conservation efforts.

TEXAS A&M AGRILIFE EXTENSION COVID-19 UPDATE AND RESOURCES

While more and more face to face events open up we are still upholding our commitment to helping Texas better their lives. Here at the Extension Office we deal with three of some of the most important things in your life. Your Food, Your Health, and Your Children. For a complete list of available resources check out <https://agrillifeextension.tamu.edu/coronavirus/>

Food: Our local farmers and food producers are working hard to ensure a safe wholesome food product from their fields to your table. For our beef producers here in the county <https://beeffax.tamu.edu> is a great resource for cattle market updates.

Health: As we adjust to our new normal our FCH Agent Dru Benavides has some awesome resources on our Face-book page to help stay active, manage stress adhering to guidelines on social distancing, and how to safely shop at the grocery store. When out shopping for essential items it is important to remember the following tips:

1. If possible go by yourself, the less people out minimizes the chance of exposure and spread.
2. Only touch products you will buy
3. Sanitize cart and cart handles before shopping
4. Keep your distance from others, CDC Guidelines say 6 feet apart at all times.
5. Go with a paper grocery list, be prepared so you minimize the amount of time at the store, and throw away your list when you're done shopping
6. After you get home thoroughly wash produce and disinfect items such as boxes and cans with sanitizing wipes, or make your own sanitizing solution with 1/3 of a cup of bleach to a gallon of water
7. Sanitize commonly touched items such as door knobs, light switches, refrigerator door handle, faucets, car keys, and counter tops. Wash your hands with soap and water for 20 seconds after using cleaning products.

Children: As home becomes school and school becomes home, 4-H has some amazing educational resources to help facilitate school lessons with agriculture, learning about 4-H projects, and some at home projects to help the community. Join District 12 4-H with 12 at 12. A Facebook live event every Tuesday and Thursday at noon. There will be quizzes, project exploration, and interaction with our 4-H'ers. Also check out the Texas 4-H Facebook page for daily activities and videos! Contact Ashlie Stayton at the Extension office for even more 4-H resources.

