

# 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.agrilife.org](http://Atascosa.agrilife.org)

## Our Staff:

### Dale Rankin

County Extension Agent  
Ag and Natural Resources

### Druann Benavides

County Extension Agent  
Family and Community Health

### Ashlie Stayton

4-H Program Assistant

### Teresa Mendieta

Assistant Extension Agent  
Ag and Natural Resources

### Monica Zepeda

Office Manager



*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 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.*

## TXDOT HELPS LAND OWNERS

Our Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Specialist has worked closely to help our land owners in a time serve drought to bring to them a agreement letter to allow bailing of hay adjacent to their property.

Rachel Bauer has worked with TXDOT to secure a form land-owners can use to request permission to bale the State-Owned right of way on roads adjacent to their property. Once the form is completed, it is to be submitted to the local TxDOT office in Atascosa County. If you are interested in this opportunity reach out to our Atascosa Extension Office at 830-569-0034 and we can get you that form in print form as well as email.



## **Fall IS FOR GROWING HERBS**

Herbs are plants that are used as flavoring in most foods. Mild or savory herbs impart a delicate favor to food, while the stronger or pungent herbs add zest. Herbs are also planted for their ornamental value.

**Planting**—Select a well-drained location with plenty of sun. At the time of planting, apply a slow-release fertilizer at a rate of 2 pounds per 100 square feet

**Watering**—Water is essential in this time of drought. Generally, herbs need about 1 inch of water per week, either from rain or in our current situation in irrigation. Mulch should be used to help conserve soil moisture as well as reduce weed growth.

**Harvesting**—The leaves of many herbs, such as parsley and chives, can be harvested for fresh seasonings. Gradually remove a few leaves from the plants as you need them. Don't remove all the foliage at one time. With proper care, these plants will produce over a long period.

**Drying**— After harvest, hang the herbs in loosely tied bundles in a well vented room. Spread the leaves on flat trays. Cover the herbs with a cloth that will keep dust off but allow moisture to pass through. Many of the herbs we grow today are from the Mediterranean region, so hot, dry summer weather suits them perfectly. Herbs need to good drainage and the right exposure. Most require full sun. Mints and a few others herbs grow well in shade.

### **Grow well in Texas—**

**Basil**—This is one of the easiest herbs to grow, even from seed. However, basil is tender, so expect to lose it at the first sign of frost.

**Mints**— There are many mints. The easiest to grow is spearmint; peppermint is more difficult. Most mints are tough, hardy plants. Other mints include apple mint, pineapple mint, and orange mint, which is so vigorous that it soon becomes a weed. All mints appreciate moisture and do best where they get afternoon shade.

**Chives**—The smallest member of the onion family, chives are easily grown from seeds to transplants.

**Dill**— is one of the easiest herbs to grow from seed. It will easily become a weed if the seed heads are allowed to dry on the plant. The large green caterpillars that eat dill will turn into swallowtail butterflies, so plant enough for you and them.

**Thyme**—is a good ornamental in beds and rock gardens.

Along with sage, rosemary, marjoram, and oregano, thyme should be considered a basic of every herb garden.

## **SHRIKING CATTLE HERD COULD EQUAL HIGH CALF, BEEF PRICES**

The shrinking Texas cattle herd is likely to translate into high calf beef prices years beyond a break in the 2022 drought, according to a Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service expert.

David Anderson, Ph.D., AgriLife Extension economist, Bryan-College Station, said Texas cattle producers have culled earlier and deeper than normal this year due to drought. He suspects the number of culls, and the small number of replacement heifers could mean post-drought herd recovery could be longer than the years following record drought in 2011. It could also drive calf prices toward records set in 2014. "It's clearly bad out there based on the numbers of culls we've seen," he said. "Drought is forcing the issue. Whether it is zero grazing, low forage stocks, high feed and hay prices, or running low on water, Texas ranchers are facing tough decisions right now."

### **Texas Drought Shrinking Cattle herd**

Historically, Texas accounts for a big chunk of the U.S. beef cattle herd. Mother Nature's impact on Texas ranchers is likely to ripple into sale barns and grocery stores around the country years beyond the drought. The U.S. herd has been shrinking in recent years, and the Texas drought is further reducing cattle numbers.

The U.S. beef cow herd was just over 30 million head in January, down 2% compared to last year, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The total estimated inventory of Texas cows that had calved and heifers was 5.1 million head, down 3% compared to 2020.

Anderson said this weather-related contraction is impacting producers negatively. There are no estimates available that quantify the economic hardship Texas' ranchers have endured so far in 2022, but livestock losses during the 2011 drought were estimated to be \$3.23 billion.

Losses included the increased cost of feeding livestock due to the lack of pastures and ranges and market losses. Market losses included the impact of fewer pounds sold per calf and any impact on market prices due to above-normal cattle sale volumes over a short time.

The 2011 drought was a bad time for ranchers, but the years following included historic cow/calf prices as the Texas and U.S. herd numbers recovered.

Anderson said nominal prices are higher now than in 2011 as the drought was taking hold and forcing widespread herd consolidation and liquidations. The weekly weighted average price for 500-600-pound steers at auctions across Texas in 2011 was \$139.73 per hundredweight compared to \$181.12 per hundredweight so far this year.

Record prices occurred as the beef cattle herd recovered, and the same weight class steers rose to a weighted average of \$236 per hundredweight in 2014. Calf prices peaked in late October 2014 at around \$283 per hundredweight.

"The beef cattle market isn't something that turns on a dime," he said. "It takes time. Cattle are a long-term cycle, and I suspect this will all play out similarly to the years following the 2011 drought."

**To read more about Shrinking Cattle herd and high calf prices visit**

**<https://agrilifetoday.tamu.edu/2022/07/26/shrinking-cattle-herd-could-equal-high-calf-beef-prices/>**

## **UPCOMING EVENTS & EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES**

### **Strawberry Education Program**

The Atascosa Extension will be hosting a strawberry education workshop on August 10th covering a wide range of information including this season research trial results. The even will take place at Rossville Community Center at 6:00pm. RSVP by August 5th by calling the Atascosa Extension office at 830-569-0034

### **Private Applicator Training**

A private applicator training will be held on Friday August 12 at 8 am at the Atascosa County Extension office please call to save a seat by August 5.

### **Brush Country Beef 706**

The Texas Beef Council and the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension have teamed up to present the Brush Country Beef 706 Program. This is a three part series of hands on sessions, focusing on beef quality management and marketing opportunities, is available for all beef cattle producers, to help maximize profits and have a better understanding of the production process after their cattle enter the feed yard.

This program is being put together by the Atascosa, Live Oak, Wilson, Karnes, Bee, McMullen, Bexar and San Patri-cio County Extension Programs. The **First Session** will take place **September 15,2022 at 6:00 pm** at the Live Oak Livestock Market Auction 3795 U.S. 281 Three Rivers, Tx beginning at 6pm with dinner. **Session two** will take place **February 4,2023 at 9:00 am** at Texana Feeders Ltd. 3493 FM 539 Floresville, Tx. Lastly **session three** will be held as a 1.5 day program on **May 2-3, 2023** at Texas A&M University Rosenthal Meat Science Center beginning at 9 am on Day 1 and 7:30 am on Day 2 ending at 1pm.

To read more about each session and the Brush Country Beef 706 Program see attached Flyer. If you would like to register call the **Live Oak County Extension Office at 361-449-1703.**

### **Oak Wilt Program**

The Texas A&M AgriLife Extension program in Atascosa County has teamed up with the Texas Forestry Service to present a Education Program on Oak Wilt held on August 25th. This program will cover What Oak Wilt is, How to identify it, as well as possible treatment options. As we know more information we will notify you.

## **SAVE THE DATE**

**As we get into September and October be on the look out for some upcoming pro-grams!! Mark your Calendar and save these dates.**

South Texas Annual Peanut Growers Tour – **September 22,2022**

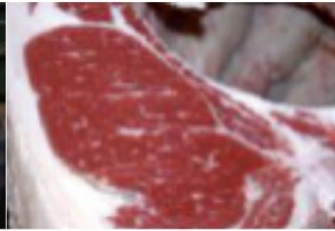
Multi– County Water Screening—**October 12-13,2022**

Fall Wildlife Workshop – **October 15,2022**



# Brush Country Beef 706

Series of Three Field Trips/Workshops



The Texas Beef Council and Texas A&M AgriLife Extension have teamed up to present the Brush Country Beef 706 program. This is a three-part series of hands-on sessions, focusing on beef quality management and marketing opportunities, is available for all beef cattle producers. This Checkoff-funded program is designed to help producers maximize profits and have a better understanding of the production process after their cattle enter the feed yard.

**Session one will be held Thursday, September 13, 2022 at 6:00pm** at the Live Oak Livestock Market Auction, 3795 U.S. 281, Three Rivers, TX (4 miles south of Three Rivers, TX on Hwy 281 or 6 miles north of George West on Hwy 281, located on the west side of Hwy 281) beginning at 6:00pm with dinner. Speakers will discuss factors affecting feeder calves and the value they receive at auction based on their expected performance in the feedyard. Producers will then choose and bid on a calf for the feedyard and processing secotrs.

**Session two will be held Saturday, February 4, 2023 at 9:00am** at the Texana Feeders Ltd. 3493 FM 539 Floresville, TX. During this session, producers will get to review their cattle as nearly- finished market steers and learn about factors that impacted feedyard performance and impact finished steer value. The program will start with a feedyard tour at 9:00 am.

**Session three will be held May 2-3, 2023 9:00 a.m.** at Texas A&M University Rosenthal Meat Science Center beginning at 9:00am on Day 1 and 7:30 am on Day 2 and ending at 1:00pm. This 1.5-day session will allow producers to participate in a hands-on exercise that takes their chosen feeder calves from session 1, now finished steers, through harvest, grading and fabrication process.

There will not be a cost to attend the workshop but individuals must participate in the complete series.

## Questions

Dale Rankin Warren Kopplin  
Atascosa County Live Oak County  
830-569-0034 361-449-1703

TEXAS A&M  
AGRI LIFE  
EXTENSION

Atascosa County  
Live Oak County  
Wilson County  
Karnes County  
Bee County  
McMullen County  
Bexar County  
San Patricio

To Register Call  
Live Oak County  
361-449-1703



# STRAWBERRY EDUCATION PROGRAM



TEXAS A&M  
**AGRI**LIFE  
EXTENSION

Improving Lives.

Improving Texas.

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension  
Service - Atascosa Co. Office  
25 E. Fifth Street  
Leming, TX 78050

Phone: 830-569-0034

web: <http://atascosa.agrilife.org>

Wednesday August 10, 2022  
Rossville Community Center  
6:15 Pm

RSVP by 08/08/2022 by calling  
830-569-0034

## Topics

Irrigation Management and Results  
Weed Management and Results  
Fertility Study Results  
Planting Dates  
Growing during excessive heat

2.0 Continuing Education Units  
Offered to Private Applicator

**There will be a \$15 cash charge for  
the event. As well as a meal**

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. 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 eight days (8) prior to the event at (830)-569-0034 or as soon as possible to advise us of any auxiliary aid or service that you require.

# St. Augustinegrass Home Lawn Maintenance Calendar

Chrissie A. Segars, Ph.D., Extension Turfgrass Specialist

Becky Bowling, Ph.D., Extension Urban Water Specialist

The Texas A&M University System

TEXAS A&M  
AGRI LIFE  
EXTENSION

EHT-141  
6/20

\*\*\*This calendar serves as a general guide and practices may vary depending on environmental conditions\*\*\*

## Warm-season growth calendar

Winter			Spring			Summer			Fall			
Root growth												
Establishment	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December
Mowing	Mow, if necessary, to prevent winter annual weeds from flowering.		Mow at 2 to 4" weekly, or as frequently as necessary to prevent scalping. Never remove more than 1/3 of the leaf tissue at one time.  The best time to establish warm-season grass is during active growth periods.									
Fertilization			Make the first fertilizer application when the lawn is actively growing and has been mowed at least two times.	Apply 0.5 to 1 lb. of nitrogen/1000 ft <sup>2</sup> 1 to 4 times during the growing season with a combination of quick- and slow-release fertilizer. Do not exceed 4 lbs N/1000 ft <sup>2</sup> per year.  Do not apply fertilizer to a stressed grass.  Make the last application of nitrogen 4 to 6 weeks before the first historic frost.  Apply other nutrients based on soil test results.								
Aerification			Aerate to relieve soil compaction, especially in new lawns with limited organic matter or in lawns that are moderately or heavily used. Aeration is best performed when there is adequate soil moisture.									
Thatch removal			Remove problematic thatch using hollow-tine aerification, a vertical mower, or a power rake. Thatch at 0.5 to 1" depth can begin to impede water infiltration and harbor disease and insects.									
Weed Control	Apply pre-emergence herbicides when soil temperatures reach approximately 55°F for 4 to 5 consecutive days for the prevention of summer annual weeds (i.e., crabgrass, goosegrass).					Apply post-emergence herbicides as needed for summer annual and perennial weeds.	Apply pre-emergence herbicides when soil temperatures reach approximately 70°F for 4 to 5 consecutive days for the prevention of select winter annual weeds (i.e., annual bluegrass, herbicil, rescuegrass).					
Irrigation	Turn off irrigation during winter months when turfgrass is not actively growing.		Complete the "Water-Wise Checklist" before turning irrigation on for the spring and summer.		Irrigate only when necessary to prevent wilting or to replace at least 60% of evapotranspiration. Do not irrigate during rainy periods or early spring and late fall when natural rainfall is more likely to meet the lawn's needs.							
Insect Control					Apply preventative white grub products, if necessary.		Apply curative or rescue insecticide for white grubs, if necessary.		Scout for fall armyworms.			
Disease Control			Scout for chinch bugs and apply insecticide, if necessary.									
			Scout for take-all root rot and gray leaf spot.									
			Apply preventative fungicide products for large patch disease (Rhizoctonia solani) in areas with a history of disease development when soil temperatures are between 50–70°F.									

Visit [aggieturf.tamuedu](http://aggieturf.tamuedu) for more information on weed identification and control in turfgrass lawns.

Texas A&M Agrilife Extension is an equal opportunity employer and program provider.

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

**W**hile more and more face to face events open up we are still upholding our commitment to helping Texans 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://agriflifeextension.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 Facebook 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, learn 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 other 4-H'ers. Also Checkout the Texas 4-H Facebook Page for daily activities and videos! Contact Ashlie Stayton at the extension office for even more 4-H resources.

