

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

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AgriLife Extension Path to the Plate

Page 2-3

Keeping Livestock Healthy During a Texas Winter Page 4

Upcoming Events & Flyers Page 5-10



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.

DROUGHT MONITOR

Our district 12 DAR Agent Richard Griffin has shared with us a recent Drought Monitor. Texas's drought situation continues to improve for most of the State. Stay up to date on your local county situation by monitoring :

Www.drought.gov/states/Texas/county/Atascosa

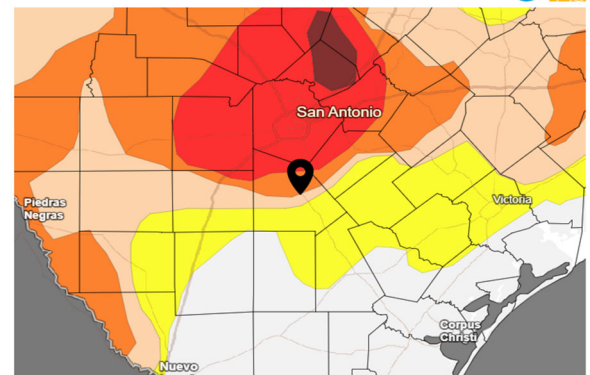
South Region

The Texas A&M AgriLife Today has released the following statement about the drought levels in our southern region. "Soil moisture levels were short to adequate. Many areas received rainfall over recent weeks with average amounts ranging

from 1-2 inches and isolated areas receiving up to 10 inches. More rainfall was in the forecast. Temperatures warmed back up following cool spell that accompanied storm systems. Cotton harvest was underway in some areas and complete in others, while some fields around the district ranged from flowering to the boll-opening stage. Cotton stalk clearing was underway in some fields. Peanut fields continued to progress. Strawberry fields were prepared for planting. Pastures and rangeland were greening up, and forage conditions were improving rapidly in some areas. There were reports of mealy bugs and armyworms in pastures. Bermuda grass pastures looked good with some fields ready for cutting and baling but too wet for harvesting. Hay producers were replanting hay grazer. Livestock condition's were improving, cattle prices were consistent as sales volumes decrease. Ranchers were still providing supplemental feed to livestock and deer. Producers were preparing fields for cool-season small-grain planting. Irrigation slowed in citrus and sugarcane. Dove season was in full swing. "

To read more about the other regions in Texas and the Texas drought conditions follow this link <https://agrilifetoday.tamu.edu/2022/09/07/rainfall-across-texas/>

U.S. Drought Monitor



U.S. Drought Monitor for Atascosa County

(D0) Abnormally Dry: 99.67%	(D1) Moderate Drought: 58.23%	(D2) Severe Drought: 40.24%	(D3) Extreme Drought: 15.14%	(D4) Exceptional Drought: 0.00%
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Source(s): NDMC, NOAA, USDA
Updates Weekly - 09/13/22

Drought.gov

AGRILIFE EXTENSION PATH TO THE PLATE

Game Meat Edition

Game Birds (Quail, Dove, Duck, Turkey)

Hunter Safety

- Always treat firearms as if they are loaded
- When retrieving a bird, never run with your gun.
- Always verify it is clear beyond your target before shooting.

Field Dressing

- Two main methods for cleaning game birds:
 - This method entails picking all of the feathers off the bird and leaving the skin on
 - “Breasting” is done by removing the skin with feathers intact, along with back and legs, leaving only the breast meat attached to the breastbone.
- Remember: One fully feathered wing or head must remain attached to dressed waterfowl while being transported between the place taken and to the: personal residence or migratory bird processing facility.

Food Safety

- Cook or freeze fresh poultry meat within 1 to 2 days
- Always wash your hands before and after touching raw meat
- Thaw frozen poultry meat in the refrigerator. This lets the meat thaw completely and cook evenly. Thawing poultry meat at room temperature can increase the number of germs in it that make a person sick.
- When transporting raw poultry meat, keep it cold (40°F or colder) with ice or ice packs.

Packaging Safely at Home

- Before freezing, game birds should be finely cleaned by removing any feathers or traces of organs.
- Meat sealed in airtight containers can be kept for 6 to 9 months in the freezer
- Game birds can be frozen in plastic bags partially filled with water. This helps reduce freeze burn.

How to Cook/ Prepare

- Poultry should be cooked to an internal temperature of 165°F. You can check this by using a meat thermometer.
- If the weather is 90°F or higher, eat or store poultry within one hour. After cooking be sure to keep the food hot (at least 140°) until it is served. Otherwise, eat or refrigerate it right away.

Nutrition

3.5 Ounces of wild turkey meat contains: 163 Calories, 26 grams of Protein, 1 gram of Fat, 55 milligrams of Cholesterol, 25% of your daily allowance of Iron and 5% of your daily allowance of Ribofla-



Native Game (White-tail, Mule Deer, Pronghorn)

Hunter Safety

Bow Hunting tips:

- Treat bows and arrows like you would a loaded firearm
- Don't "dry-fire" a bow, always use an arrow when firing a bow.
- Don't shoot bent, cracked or broken arrows, check frequently for cracks or separations

Field Dressing

- Brining home a safe cut starts with good preparation. Make sure you have the right tools for the job:
- Hunting , Boning, Butcher, Fillet, and Paring Knife
- Sharping Tool , Reciprocal Saw, Game Shears, Gambrel Hoist, Rope Carcass Cradle, Meat Packing Tools and Personal Protection Equip.

Food Safety

- Freezing is an excellent way to preserve meat, but be sure to thaw it safely when you are ready to consume it.
- Refrigeration is the best option in original air-tight packaging to reduce pathogen growth.
- Microwaving defrosts quickly, but needs to be used immediately, do not re-cool
- The cooking process lessens risk of cross contamination between surfaces and other foods.

Packaging Safely at Home

- Fresh meat can be consumed within 2 days if stored in the refrigerator
- Freezing elongates the life of your game meat when stored properly.
- Canning, curing and drying are also good preservation options.
- The carcass should be aged no matter the end use.
- Aging should occur at 40°F or less for no more than 2-3 days.



Hunters are responsible for educating themselves on the rules and regulations regarding hunting and harvesting wild game. Game meat can provide a nutritious, delicious and sometimes less expensive alternative to traditional meat products sold in the grocery store; however, safe handling and processing in the field, along with proper storage is critical to preventing spoilage and foodborne illness.

TEXAS A&M
AGRI
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EXTENSION

PATH
TO THE PLATE

How to Cook/Prepare

- Venison is naturally lean and tends to dry out easily without fat cover.
- Use moist heat and baste often
- Cook all meats to a minimum internal temperature of 160°F Take care to not overcook.
- Venison can be substituted for any meat in many recipes

Nutrition

3.5 Ounces of White Tail Venison contains 134 Calories, 26 grams of Protein, 3 grams of Fat, 95 milligrams of Cholesterol, 21% of your daily allowance of Iron, 30% of your daily allowance of Riboflavin, and 29% of your daily allowance of Niacin.

KEEPING LIVESTOCK HEALTHY DURING A TEXAS WINTER

Texas A&M Veterinary Medical Diagnostic Laboratory provides tips, assessments for overwintering livestock. Texas winters are infamously fickle. Each year, weather conditions range from mild temperatures with high humidity to record-setting rain, sleet and sometimes snow. Sometimes, Texas livestock experience all of these weather conditions within the same week, presenting them with health challenges. The Texas A&M Veterinary Medical Diagnostic Laboratory, TVMDL, offers several tests to maintain and evaluate animal health during the winter. Guy Sheppard, DVM, TVMDL veterinary diagnostician, said there are also a few basic mitigation strategies livestock producers may consider this winter.

Make sure shelter and water sources remain clean

Most livestock species are adaptable, however, it's important to provide animals shelter to protect them from cold, blustery and wet conditions.

Once a shelter is in place, maintaining the area can ensure animals stay healthy. "Cleanliness of the shelter areas is important as disease pathogens survive and thrive in dirty and contaminated environments," Sheppard said. "Manure removal and bedding replacement will ensure that your livestock have an excellent place to escape the winter elements. Along those same lines, make sure that clean, adequate water supplies are available and will be easy to maintain during freezing conditions."



Nutrition and safe consumption of forages

Energy and protein are important levels to evaluate during a cold winter. People may think an animal's metabolism slows during the winter, but the opposite is true, Sheppard said. "Nutritional requirements increase during winter," Sheppard said. "This coincides with a time the nutritional value of our forage is decreasing." In addition to decreasing in nutritional value, certain forages may become stressed and produce toxins, Sheppard said. For example, forages within the sorghum family produce and accumulate cyanide, also known as prussic acid, and nitrates. Therefore, it's important to evaluate the quality of forage before offering it to livestock.

TVMDL's role in assisting livestock producers this winter

TVMDL offers several tests that can be performed at the herd or individual levels and range from panels to assess energy balance and mineral levels to testing forage or feed to ensure it's free of toxins. Five TVMDL veterinary diagnosticians, such as Sheppard, are available to assist with testing recommendations and result interpretation. As a starting point, TVMDL encourages livestock producers to first contact their veterinarian to determine what kind of testing, if any, is recommended. For more information on TVMDL's testing, visit tvmdl.tamu.edu or call one of the agency's full-service laboratories in Bryan-College Station or Canyon.

Written by Mallory Pfeifer with the Texas A&M Veterinary Medical Diagnostics Laboratory .

UPCOMING EVENTS & EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

Multi County Water Screening

The Water Screening Program, Sponsored by Atascosa, Dimmit, Frio, McMullen, LaSalle, and Zavala Counties are hosting a water well screening on October 12th to give area residents the opportunity to have their well water screened. The cost is \$15.00 per sample. Samples will be collected between 8 & 9 am. Well owners may pick up a sample bag and instructions from their Extension Office. Atascosa County AgriLife Extension Office,



25 E. 5th Street, Leming, Tx. Results will be available on October 14, at your local County Extension Office. Samples are screened for fecal coliform bacteria, nitrates, salinity, and hydrocarbons.

Agri-Land Resources

A workshop focused on assisting Agri-land owners and managers. Topics include financial resources, programs for urban and small-scale farming, and direct marketing. The event will be held October 18, 2022 at 9:30 am-12:30 pm at the Texas Dept. of Agriculture—8918 Tesoro Dr. #120 San Antonio, TX 78217 the registration is free and open online at www.alamorcd.org. the deadline to register is October 14, 5:00 pm

Fall Wildlife Workshop

October 22, 2022 we will be hosting a wildlife program covering the topics of Multispecies Wildlife Management covered by Trey Barron with the Texas Parks and Wildlife. The program will be held at the Atascosa Extension office from 9-12 am on Saturday October 22, 2022. If you are interested in attending please call our office by October 19, 2022 830-569-0034

2023 Let's Enjoy the Outdoors and Wildlife Photography

Our Wildlife photography contest has opened up and will run from October 1, 2022 to April 15, 2023 if you are interested in entering a photo the cost is \$20 per photo for adults and \$10 per photo for the youth. For more information see the flier on page 9. For more information feel free to contact our office at 830-569-0034 or our wildlife email at atascosawildlifephoto@gmail.com

Save the date

Preparing for the spring CEU Workshop to be held **December 13, 2022**

UPCOMING EVENTS & EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

The District 12– TCAAA is hosting there raffle in support of the 2024 NCAAA National Conference if you would like to purchase tickets feel free to contact our office at 830-569-0034



DISTRICT 12

TCAAA 2022 RAFFLE

— ★ ★ ★ —

IN SUPPORT OF THE 2024 NCAAA NATIONAL CONFERENCE

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**2.**

**3.**

**4.**

**5.**

**6.**

**7.**

**8.**

**9.**

**10.**



District 12
TCAAA
Gun Raffle

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Donation: \$20/ticket

RAFFLE ITEMS

1. Bergara B14 HMR 6.5 Creedmoor
2. Bergara B-14 Hunter .270 Win.
3. Browning Buck Mark Micro Bull .22 LR
4. Rock River Arms ATH V2 Carbine 223 Wylde 18"
5. Weatherby Orion o/u 20 ga. Turkish Walnut
6. Bergara BMR Micro MFR 22 LR
7. CZ 75 P-09 9mm
8. Sig P320XF 9mm 4.7" 17 Rd BLK
9. Remington 700 SPS Tactical AAC-SD .308 Win 20 BBL
10. Remington 870 12 Ga. 26" Walnut

Drawing: Friday, November 18, 2022

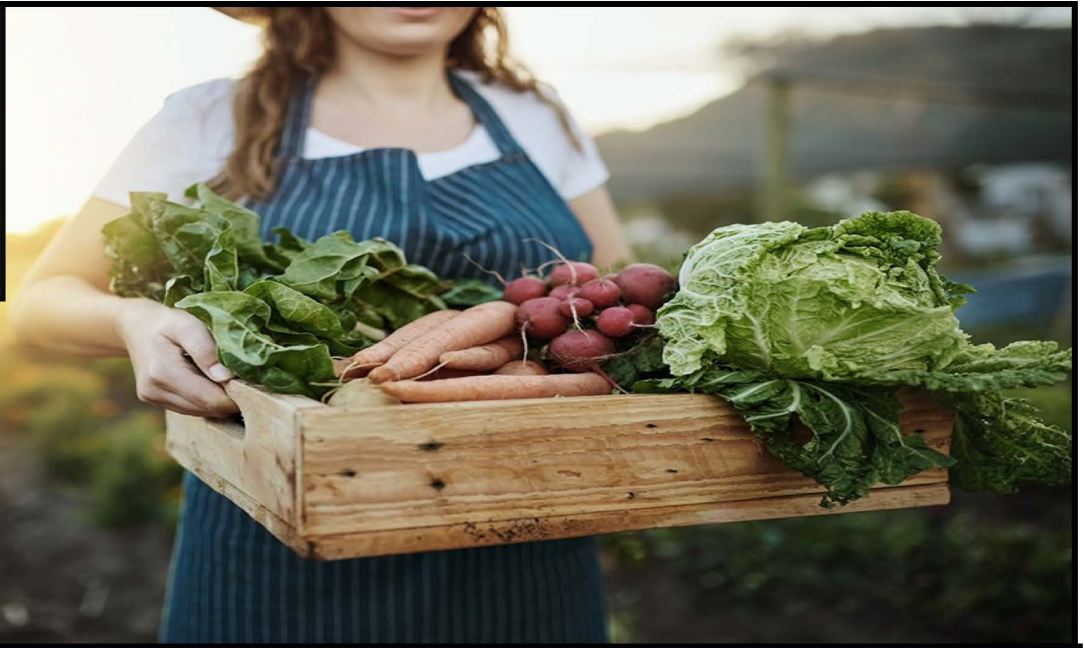
Winners must meet minimum age requirements and pass FFL background check.

\$20 PER TICKET

Drawing will be on Facebook live on the Texas County Agricultural Agents Association- TCAAA in District 12 Facebook page at 12:00 noon

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2022





Agri-Land Resources

A workshop focused on assisting
agri-land owners and managers

Topics include
financial resources, programs for urban and small-scale
farming, and direct marketing.

October 18, 2022

9:30 am – 12:30 pm

**Texas Dept. of Agriculture-8918 Tesoro Dr. #120
San Antonio, TX 78217**

**FREE Registrations open NOW,
ONLINE at www.alamorcd.org
DEADLINE October 14, 5:00 pm**

This workshop sponsored by Alamo RC&D Area Inc. in cooperation with USDA , the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley (UTRGV) and the Texas Department of Agriculture.

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.



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
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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



Multicounty

Water Well Screening Day



HAVE YOU TESTED YOUR PRIVATE WATER WELL?

Private water wells should be tested annually. A water screening program is being held by The Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service of Atascosa, Dimmit, Frio, McMullen, LaSalle, Maverick, and Zavala counties.

The offices are hosting a water well screening on **October 12, 2022**, to give area residents the opportunity to have their well water screened. The cost is \$15.00 per sample.

Samples will be collected on Wednesday, October 12, 2022, between 8:00 a.m. and 9:00 a.m. Well owners may pick up a sample bag and instructions from their County Extension Office.

- Atascosa County AgriLife Extension Office, 25 E. 5th Street, Leming, TX 78050
- Dimmit County AgriLife Extension Office, 539 Industrial Blvd., Carrizo Springs, TX 78834
- Frio County AgriLife Extension Office, 400 S. Pecan Street, Pearsall, TX 78061
- McMullen County AgriLife Extension Office, 604 River Street, Tilden, TX 78072
- Zavala County AgriLife Extension Office, 221 N 1st Ave, Crystal City, TX 78839
- LaSalle County AgriLife Extension Office, 119 S. Front Street, Cotulla TX 78014
- Maverick County AgriLife Extension Office, 2350 East Main Street Eagle Pass, TX 78852-4419

Results will be available on **October 14, 2022** at your Local County Extension Office. The screening is presented by Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service.

Samples screened for:

FECAL COLIFORM BACTERIA

Presence indicates that feces (bodily waste from humans or animals) may have contaminated the water. Water contaminated with these bacteria is more likely to have pathogens present that can cause diarrhea, cramps, nausea or other symptoms.

NITRATES

Levels above 10 ppm may cause infants, pregnant or lactating women, the elderly, and the immune-suppressed to be at risk for methemoglobinemia, a condition which inhibits the ability of blood to sufficiently carry oxygen to tissues and cells.

SALINITY

Measured by Total Dissolved Solids (TDS). Water with high TDS levels may leave deposits and have a salty taste. Using water with high TDS for irrigation may damage the soil or plants.

HYDROCARBONS

Presence indicates that oil contamination has occurred.



Education programs of Texas AgriLife Extension Service are open to all people without regard to race, color, sex, disability, religion, age, or national origin. Support for the Texas Well Owner Network program is provided through Clean Water Act §319(h) Nonpoint Source funding from the Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency under Agreement No. 10-04.

Let's Enjoy the Outdoors and Wildlife!

Photography Contest

Hosted by Atascosa
Wildlife & Fisheries and
Atascosa Wildlife Coop



Get Started Right Away ...

Entry period is open now through
April 14, 2023 .

Adult & Youth Categories are

- Wildlife Portraits
- Landscapes/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://www.atascosawildlife.org) and look at upcoming events on the home page.

Who is Eligible?

This contest is open to all photographers who are at least 8 years of age and reside in Atascosa County. Entrants 8 to 17 years 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.

Payments 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 in Leming , Texas 78050. Payment may be submitted online through <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/418067329637>. Please note 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 non-profit organizations created to connect adults and youth with nature, promote responsible stewards of wildlife, and encourage conservation efforts.