

Atascosa County Ag Newsletter

Courtesy of: Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Office
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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.

Sandhill Cranes

by Jacob Dykes Extension Wildlife Specialist

Sandhill Cranes are one of the oldest living birds on the planet with the oldest fossil estimated at 2.5 million years old. Typically, sandhill cranes stand about 3-4 ft. tall, weigh 6-10 lbs., and can have a wingspan of over 6ft.



Their diet consists of everything from plants and worms to small mammals, reptiles, and amphibians.

They are a game animal in Texas and are often called the 'ribeye of the sky' because their meat is dark red and tastes very good.

Sandhill cranes can live up to 4-years and often mate for life with breeding pairs returning to the same nesting area each year. They can fly over 30 mph and travel over 300 miles a day. Some of their courtship displays include bowing, dancing, and even throwing clumps of grass in the air. They have a pretty low reproductive rate and typically only produce 1-3 eggs yearly with an incubation period of about 30 days. .



"LEARN TO LIVE WITH UGLY" AFTER FREEZE DAMAGE

PRUNING DEAD PLANT MATERIAL CAN CAUSE MORE HARM THROUGH WINTER

Property owners and gardeners should practice patience when it comes to eyesore of freeze-damaged plants, according to a Texas A&M AgriLife expert.

Michael Arnold, Ph.D., director of The Gardens at Texas A&M University and professor of landscape horticulture in the



Department of Horticultural Sciences at the Texas A&M College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, Bryan- College Station, said warmer weather may have gardeners itching to prune back dead leaves and plant material following the hard freeze, but should resist that urge.

The hard freeze occurred early in the winter, but depending on the location in the state, as much as two months of potential frost remain, he said.

"There is a tendency to spruce things up, but if we do that too quickly, we can predispose the plants to more freeze damage," he said. "My advice is to be patient and learn to live with ugly."

Patience best after freeze damage

Cold-sensitive plants like palm and banana trees or woody herbaceous perennials and ornamental grasses were likely strung by the hard freeze and may look dead or dying, but Arnold said it is best to give them time.

Pruning too early can cause more damage in two ways. First, it removes dead plant material that can help insulate living tissue from future freezes. It also can stimulate new growth before the threat of frost has passed.

"LEARN TO LIVE WITH UGLY" AFTER FREEZE DAMAGE CONT.

Plants that look dead may recover, he said. Dead tissue will be apparent when the plant breaks dormancy in the spring, and waiting will ensure plants with live tissue recover that pruning is not detrimental to the plant's long-term recovery.

Warmer days can activate buds below any premature pruning cut, Arnold said. Stimulating new growth that is then exposed to freezing temperatures will inflict more damage to the plant.

Arnold said gardeners should wait until the threat frost has passed for the location - which could be the first few weeks in January in the Rio Grande Valley into March in North Texas. He suggests pruning around typical local "pruning" dates but said gardeners could act a little early if the 10-day forecast shows temperatures will stay above freezing.



"That dead material is Mother Nature's insulation and cutting plants back too soon can do more harm than help," he said. "You also don't want to pull up plants just because they look dead. If there is live tissue in the crown or below the ground, they are likely to recover. Some gardeners may not like to hear it, but right now is time for patience."

Cow-Calf Corner: A New Year for Cattle and Beef Markets Cont.

Derrell S. Peel, Oklahoma State University Extension Livestock Marketing Specialist Article by
Chrissy Fly & The Texas & Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association

The cattle and beef market momentum at the end of 2022 has carried over into the first week of the new year. The new year looks to contrast with last year with noticeably tighter cattle numbers, especially at the feedlot level, driven by previous herd liquidation and sharply lower feeder cattle supplies.

The price of 500-pound, M/L, No. 1 steers at Oklahoma auctions averaged \$227.50/cwt. The first week of 2023, up to 19.3 percent year over year. The price of 800- pound steers averaged \$180.97/cwt., up to 14.7 percent over the beginning of 2022. The Feeder Cattle futures market anticipates higher prices and tightening supply fundamentals with a \$26/cwt. contract price increase from the nearby January contract at about \$182/cwt. to the November contract price over \$209/cwt. at the current time.

The 5- market fed cattle price averaged \$157.83/cwt. the first week of January, up to 14 percent from one year ago. The live cattle futures price for February is currently just under \$157/cwt. while the December contract is priced at \$164/cwt. at the current time.

The choice boxed beef price in early January was \$283.62/cwt., up to 5.8 percent compared to the beginning of 2022. Beef demand in 2022 remained strong in the face of record beef production. Beef product markets do, however, sharply contrast between middle meats and end meats. The Rib primal leads the way currently, up 33.8 percent year over year, with heavy boneless Ribeye (IMPS 112A) Currently priced at \$1,194.03/cwt, up 47.0 percent year over year. The Loin Primal is up 9.0 percent compared to last year with the tenderloin (IMPS 189A), up 25.1 percent year over year and the boneless Strip Loin (IMPS 180) up 14.2 percent compared to one year ago. Sirloin tri-tip (IMPS 185D), however, is currently 17.2 percent below levels in early January 2022. It appears that food service (restaurant) demand is carrying much of the strength in beef markets compared to retail grocery.

End meat markets are doing well to hold steady over year. The Chuck and Round primals are priced about equal to last year with numerous chuck and round cuts at or below year ago levels. The Brisket primal starts 2023 down 29.7 percent from year earlier levels. Beef demand remains a concern and will bear close monitoring in the coming months. Numerous macroeconomic threats persist and decreasing beef production will keep pressure on to push beef prices higher. While there is scant indication of "trading down" among beef consumers thus far, shifts in beef product demand are more likely in the coming year.

Drought remains the biggest issue for many producers aggravated by persistently high feed costs. The revenue side of cattle production will be less of concern in 2023, at least as far as cattle prices go. However, managing maintaining production and managing the rising cost of production will continue to be major challenges for cattle producers this year.

Looking back on the livestock markets Derrell Peel, OSU Extension Livestock marketing specialist, says cattle producers faced a lot of challenges in 2022 on SunUpTV
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W_vGiDmdYH4&list=PLgI0SpV-TcadvUT94k2ZDaOvQF9BRvTGs&index=

UPCOMING EVENTS & EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

Brush Country Beef 706

Session Two of the Beef 706 program is just around the corner.

Session two will take place on **February 4, 2023 at 9:00am** at the Texas 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 Rosental Meat Science Center beginning at 9 am on Day 1 and 7:30am 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 Sign up for session two call the **Live Oak County Extension Office at 361-449-1703 by January 27th.**

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. Categories include Wildlife Portraits, Landscape/Scenic, Motion, Game Camera, & Mobile Phone. The Contest is open to all photographers at least 8 years of age and reside in Atascosa County. Age 8-17 years must obtain verified parental or guardian contest regardless of division entered. 18 years or old are prohibited from entering the youth division. Entries must be submitted as digital files and emailed along with the entry form to atascosawildlifephoto@gmail.com

Strawberry Fruit & Nut Tree Program

Texas A&M Agrilife Extension Atascosa County will be hosting a Fruit & Nut Tree Program on March 2nd 2023 at the **Stevens Farm** Located **425 McCaughn Road Poteet, TX 78065**. This Program will be starting at **5:30pm** we ask that you **RSVP by Friday 2/24/2023 at 830-569-0034**. **Topics Covered are 2022 Strawberry Results Data, Strawberry Fertility, & New Varieties Updates. 1 General CEU will be offered towards your TDA Private or Commercial Applicator License**

Save the Dates

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

March 7th Annual Peanut Growers Meeting

April 18th Annual Cattlemans Association Meeting

April 5th -6th Spring Water Screening

April 24th Atascosa Club Calf Breeders Online Sale



2023 Summer Camp Schedule

JUNE	7-11	ROLLING PLAINS BOBWHITE BRIGADE THE 1687 FOUNDATION	RISING STAR, TX
	11-15	SOUTH TEXAS BUCKSKIN BRIGADE CHAP ARROSA RANCH	LA PRYOR, TX
	24-28	SOUTH TEXAS BOBWHITE BRIGADE BUCK HORN CREEK RANCH	MCCOY, TX
	24-28	SOUTH TEXAS RANCH BRIGADE DUVAL COUNTY RANCH	SANTA ANNA, TX
JULY	5-9	BASS BRIGADE WARREN RANCH	SANTA ANNA, TX
	12-16	WATERFOWL BRIGADE PINTAIL HUNTING CLUB	GARWOOD, TX
	17-21	RANCH BRIGADE WARREN RANCH	SANTA ANNA, TX
	23-27	NORTH TEXAS BUCKSKIN BRIGADE WARREN RANCH	SANTA ANNA, TX
	25-29	COSTAL BRIGADE SEA STAR BASE GALVESTON	GALVESTON, TX

APPLY NOV.1 - MAR.15 • TEXASBRIGADE.ORG/APPLICATIONS



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 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 two will be held Saturday, February 4, 2023, at 9:00 am at Texaana 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 feed yard performance and impact finished steer value. The program will start with a feedyard tour at 9:00 am. Please RSVP by January 27, 2023 by calling 361-449-1703.

Session three will be held May 2-3, 2023 at 9:00 am at Texas A&M University Rosenthal Meat Science Center beginning at 9:00am on DAY 1 and 7:30am 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 the harvest, grading and fabrication process. Please RSVP by April 21, 2023 by calling 361-449-1703. There will not be a cost to attend the workshop but individuals must participate in the complete series.

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 REQUEST THAT YOU CONTACT THE ATASCOSA COUNTY EXTENSION SERVICE EIGHT DAYS (8) PRIOR TO THE EVENT OR AS SOON AS POSSIBLE TO ADVISE US OF THE AXILIARY AIR OR SERVICE THAT YOUR REQUIRE 830-569-0034

Questions

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

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

**To Register Call
Live Oak County
361-449-1703**

TEXAS A&M
AGRI LIFE
EXTENSION



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
- 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 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 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 a 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. Payment may be submitted online through Eventbrite at <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.



Atascosa Wildlife Photography Contest Entry Form



Contestant Information

Name _____ Phone Number : () _____

Email _____ Physical Address: _____

Age Division (check one) Youth ☐ Adult ☐

Payment Method (check one) CASH ☐ Check (# _____) Online ☐

Number of Photos Submitting: _____ Total: \$ _____

I AGREE TO THE RULES, TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF THE
PHOTO CONTEST: ☐ INITIALS: ☐

Photo Information

Photo ID or File Name: _____

Photo Description: _____

Category Entered: _____

Edits Made: _____

Photo Information

Photo ID or File Name: _____

Photo Description: _____

Category Entered: _____

Edits Made: _____

STRAWBERRY, FRUIT, & NUT TREE PROGRAM



*Improving Lives.
Improving Texas.*



Thursday, March 2, 2023

Stevens Farms
425 McCaughn Road
Poteet, TX 78065

Registration starts at 5:15pm
Program starts at 5:30pm

Topics include:

2022 Strawberry Results Data,
Strawberry Fertility (preplant,
slow release, foliar),
New Varieties update

1.0 general continuing education
units towards your T.D.A. private
applicator license.

Please RSVP by Friday, 2/24/23 at
830-569-0034.

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

Phone: 830.569-0034

E-mail: dw-rankin@tamu.edu

web: <http://atascosa.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. 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 the auxiliary aid or service that you require.

Check out the latest Result Demonstrations on our website!

atascosa.agrilife.org

Click on the Ag & Natural Resources tab and scroll down to “[Atascosa County Result Demonstrations](#)”

Brush and Weed Studies

[2020 Invora Huidache cut-stump Treatment Progress Report Atascosa](#) Summary- Three rates of Invora and one rate of Remedy Ultra were used to treat huisache using the cut-stump method. At one-year post-treatment, all treatments exhibited 100% plant-mortality. Final evaluations will be conducted in 2023.

[2021 Ground broadcast juvenile huisache control Progress report Atascosa Guadalupe](#) Summary- Four treatments with Invora herbicide were applied at sites in Atascosa and Guadalupe Counties in October and November 2021. At one-year, apparent plant-mortality for all treatments was above 80%. However, the lowest rate of Invora appears to be less consistent than other treatments.

[Control of Key Weeds in South Texas Peanut](#)- Everman et al. (2008) found that the critical weed free period of broadleaf weed interference in peanut was approximately eight weeks after planting, thus effective early-season control is of utmost importance for maintaining yield potential. Palmer amaranth (*Amaranthus palmeri* S. Wats.) emerging with the crop is capable of out-competing peanut for sunlight, water, and nutrients and is likely to produce extremely large amounts of seed if allowed to compete season-long (Mahoney et al. 2021). Burke et al (2007) found that peanut yield was decreased 28% due to season-long competition from one Palmer amaranth individual plant per meter of row.

Beef Studies

[Beef 706 -Result Demonstration Report](#) Summary- Cow/calf producers are faced with several production and marketing alternatives. Knowledge of factors affecting phases of production beyond weaning will result in a more comprehensive understanding of the entire beef industry and better decision making.

[Brush Country Fecal Analysis 2022 Report In progress](#)- Cow/calf producers are faced with ongoing challenges in managing beef cattle herds for internal parasites that may reduce the performance of their herds. In addition, resistance to dewormers used to control gastrointestinal internal parasites (GIN) is a severe problem recognized worldwide. No new classes of dewormers have been released in the U.S. since the 1980s. However, during the last decade, parasite resistance to dewormers has become more prominent, requiring new control strategies. This project aims to evaluate Texas cattle ranches to determine the prevalence of resistance to current dewormers and develop improved control strategies.

Crop Studies

[2022 Peanut Variety Trials & Breeding Lines](#) Summary- The TAMU Peanut project had replicated yield trials located in South Texas, (Pearsall, Dilley, and Derby). 5 small plot Advanced Line Tests (ALT's) and 2 large plot Combine Trials across Texas as well as two replicated screening nurseries for Sclerotinia and Leafspot resistance. We narrowed down lines developed for drought tolerance to one high performing line in our ALT test in order to continue to get more accurate information on the line's performance. Two top performing candidates were included from previous year's results. Thirteen new breeding lines were included that were top candidates for the Multiple Disease Resistance Test and from the High Yield and Grade tests and 5 commercial checks Georgia 16HO, AG18, Georgia 09B, Georgia 14N, Webb and NemaTAM II. Across the state results for individual test were statistically revealing however when combined the yield and value per acre results did not prove to be statistically significant. However, for brevity the combined analysis is presented for discussion.

[2022 Strawberries Result demonstration report Atascosa](#) Summary- Texas A&M AgriLife Extension, Texas Tech University, Prairie View A&M University, the Poteet Strawberry Festival Association, the Poteet Rotary Club, and Texas strawberry growers collaborated on this research project to increase the sustainability and profitability of Texas-grown strawberries.