APRIL 2021 | VOL. 1

AGRICULTURE NEWS

Fort Bend County Agriculture and Natural Resources Newsletter

HOWDY!

WRITTEN BY PHILLIP THIELEMANN, CEA- ANR

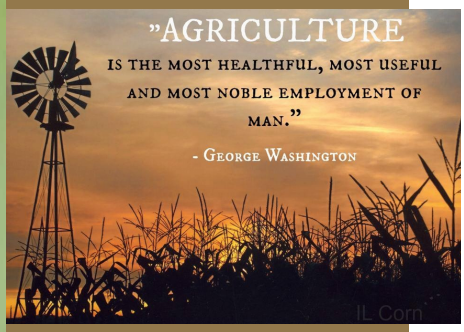
Whether you are an agricultural producer, landowner or just have an interest in Fort Bend Agriculture, here is hoping your 2021 is off to a great start.

We can all agree that 2020 saw some unprecedented times. From shopping to travel, to just visiting with friends and family, the pandemic has done a lot to change the way all of us conduct our daily lives. The Fort Bend County AgriLife Agriculture and Natural Resources Department has certainly encountered its fair share of unprecedented times as well. For many of you, the only way you have heard from us may have been through social media, phone, and periodic emails. Actually, that has been the only avenues we have been allowed to use. At this point we are still, "may I say" in a hold position as far as face-to-face meetings are concerned. Being safe is priority, so we will continue to follow any county mandates until such time allows for more face-to-face interaction.

Periodically, we receive information that may be beneficial to you. The information may be important dates, articles written by our extension specialist or just announcements of upcoming educational programs and events. We will use the format that you see in this publication. Still be on the lookout however for the occasional email regarding specific pertinent announcements as well.

Fort Bend County still commands a large presence in terms of agricultural production such as Cotton, Sorghum, Corn, Rice, Soybeans and Livestock. As well, Fort Bend County population is growing at a very rapid rate, so we will also provide helpful information for landowners "new" and "not so new" in this newsletter.

Here's hoping this information will be beneficial and valuable to you.



Changes coming for 2021-22 dove hunting season

AUSTIN — Hunting regulations for the 2021-22 season were approved by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission at its public meeting held online March 25. Hunters will see some changes this fall, including the elimination of the experimental pronghorn season in the northern Panhandle and extension of the general pronghorn season from 9 to 16 days statewide, and the addition of two days of hunting opportunity in the Special White-winged Dove Days within the South Dove Zone.

Click here to view entire article

MESSAGE FROM DR. ISAKEIT, PROFESSOR & EXTENSION PLANT PATHOLOGIST

I received a report from a consultant that had seen sorghum downy mildew in a Fort Bend County field. The question was whether this could be controlled with a fungicide now and the answer is no. However, with most hybrids, the incidence of systemically-infected plants will not increase. Generally, if there is 30% or less incidence, there will not be a yield loss, because non-infected plants compensate in yield.

See the publication below

AgriLIFE EXTENSION Texas A&M System — PLANT PATHOLOGY & MICROBIOLOGY

PLPA-FC001-2008

SORGHUM DOWNY MILDEW – PART 1: SYMPTOMS

Sorghum downy mildew (SDM) is caused by a soilborne fungus, *Peronosclerospora sorghi,* The disease is most common in the Upper Gulf Coast counties of Texas, but has been seen in other sorghum production areas. Recent outbreaks have been associated with strains of the fungus resistant to the seed treatment fungicide, Apron.

Infected seedlings are pale yellow or have light-colored streaking or mottling on the leaves (Fig. 1), often accompanied by a white, fuzzy growth of the fungus on the underside of leaves (Fig. 2). These symptoms indicate systemic infection by the fungus. Such plants will not yield.

Fig. 1. Sorghum downy mildew in a seedling: systemic symptom.

Fig. 2. Underside of leaf showing fungal growth.

Leaves that emerge later have white, parallel stripes of green and white tissue (Fig. 3). (Do not confuse this striping with iron chlorosis, which results in a pale color between veins; the white stripes of SDM are not limited to veins and vary in width.) Later in the season, these striped areas die, turn brown, and disintegrate, resulting in a shredded leaf (Fig. 4). Overwintering spores (oospores) of the fungus are produced in this tissue, fall to the soil and overwinter there.

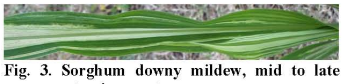


Fig. 3. Sorghum downy mildew, mid to late season systemic symptom.

The white, fuzzy growth on systemically-infected plants indicate the production of short-lived spores, known as sporangia. Sporangia are produced in cool, humid or wet weather. They become airborne and infect leaves of other plants, causing a local lesion phase of SDM. Local lesions are brown and somewhat rectangular (Fig. 5).

Fig. 4. Sorghum downy mildew, late season.

Fig. 5. Local lesions.

Local lesion infections can become widespread throughout a field, but cause no yield loss and are usually short-lived. New infections cease as the temperature increases during the season. Local lesions do not produce oospores. Under cool, wet conditions, however, infection of young seedlings by sporangia can result in systemic infections in some hybrids.

Text and Photos by Dr. Thomas Isakeit, Professor and Extension Plant Pathologist
April, 2013

AgriLIFE EXTENSION Texas A&M System — PLANT PATHOLOGY & MICROBIOLOGY

PLPA-FC002-2012

SORGHUM DOWNY MILDEW – PART 2: CONTROL

The most stable, effective control of sorghum downy mildew (SDM) integrates three methods: fungicide seed treatment, resistant hybrids, and crop rotation, which reduces the survival spore (oospore) populations in soil over several years.

Crop Rotation:

Severe outbreaks of SDM since 2000 in several counties between Houston and Victoria have often been associated with sorghum monoculture. Initially, the disease is not noticeable in a field, as infected plants tend to be obscured by healthy plants. However, this allows a stealthy build-up of survival spores so that in a subsequent year, the disease dramatically appears (Fig. 1).

Fig. 1. Wide-spread occurrence of sorghum downy mildew noticeable as yellowing in plants.

If SDM occurred in a field, that field should be out of sorghum for at least two years. Corn is the only other crop susceptible to SDM, if it is not planted late. However, infected corn produces little or no oospores. Johnsongrass is also susceptible to SDM, so this weed should be controlled in a rotation program. After the rotation out of sorghum, these fields should be planted with a hybrid resistant to the pathotype in that field.

Resistant hybrids:

If you do not have SDM, you do not need to consider SDM resistance when you are selecting a hybrid to plant.

If you have an outbreak of SDM, contact your county agent to arrange a test of the strain (pathotype) of the fungus causing it and for hybrid recommendations for future crops. There are two pathotypes present in Upper Coast Counties. Pathotype 6 is less common than pathotype 3, and there are fewer hybrids resistant to it than to pathotype 3.

Seed treatment fungicide:

SDM outbreaks have been associated with metalaxyl resistance in both pathotypes. Currently, there is no effective replacement seed treatment fungicide for controlling SDM.

In fields where there has been no SDM, metalaxyl should be used on a preventative basis for seed treatment as follows:

Varieties susceptible to pathotype 3or 6: Use a metalaxyl rate equivalent to 1 oz. (dry weight) active ingredient/100 lb seed. For example, the rate for Allegiance™-FL is 3.0 fl oz./100 lb. seed. The corresponding rate for mefenoxam (also known as metalaxyl-m), the active isomer of metalaxyl, is 0.5 oz. (dry weight) active ingredient/100 lb seed. For example, the SDM control rate of Apron XL® LS, a commercial formulation of mefenoxam, is 1.28 fl. oz. formulation/100 lb. seed.

Varieties resistant to pathotype 3or 6: Use a rate of metalaxyl labeled for SDM control with resistant varieties, which ranges from 0.25 to 0.5 oz. (dry weight) active ingredient/100 lb. seed.

Refer to the fungicide product label for additional information, particularly for allowable rates, as well as precautions.

Prepared by Dr. Thomas Isakeit, Professor and Extension Plant Pathologist
Texas AgriLife Extension Service; The Texas A&M University System
April, 2012

Articles of Interest

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service specialists are updating grain sorghum producers on regional conditions. (Texas A&M AgriLife photo by Kay Ledbetter)

Texas A&M AgriLife offers April online grain sorghum updates

Six meetings address regional conditions around Texas

The Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service is partnering with the Texas Grain Sorghum Association to provide two series of regional updates for Texas sorghum farmers utilizing a digital format.

Click here to view entire article

Cotton growing in the field. (Texas A&M AgriLife photo)

Cotton industry plastics contamination follow-up webinar set May 5

Program will include expert presentations, panel discussion on plastics in cotton

Plastic contamination is one of the greatest problems for cotton producers, affecting every segment of the cotton industry.

Click here to view entire article

Cattle producers should be making a plan for transitioning from cool-season to warm-season forage production. Making good decisions is especially important this year due to high input costs and potential drought. (Texas A&M AgriLife photo by Adam Russell)

Forage producers face high input costs, drought

Higher fertilizer prices and poor precipitation outlook could mean thin margins and little room for error for cattle and forage producers this year, according to a Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service expert.

Click here to view entire article

Texas Department of Agriculture
Family land Heritage Program

The Family Land Heritage Program

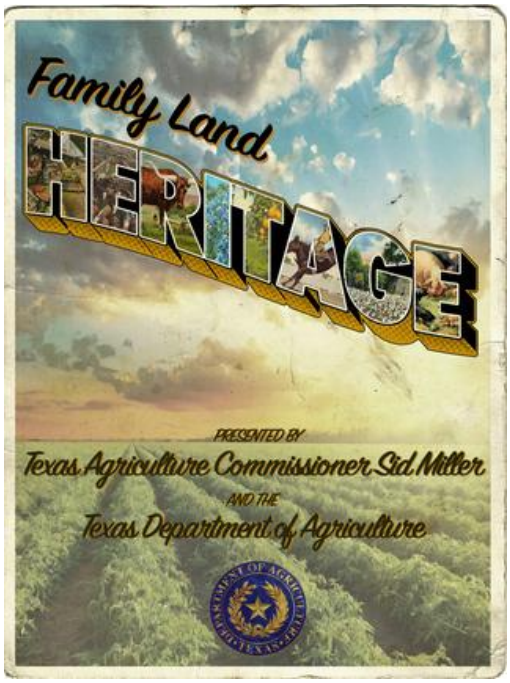
Has your family owned and operated a continuous agricultural operation for 100 years or more?

The Texas Department of Agriculture's (TDA) Family Land Heritage (FLH) Program honors farms and ranches that have been in continuous agricultural production by the same family for 100, 150 and 200 years.

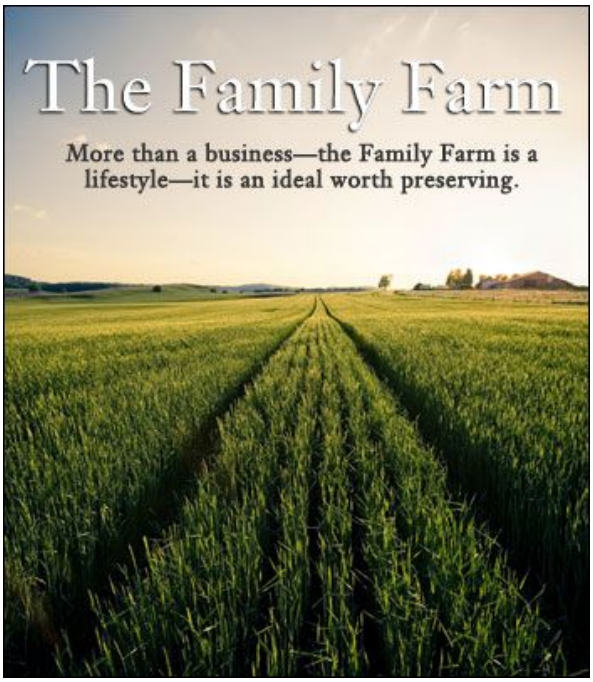
The Family Land Heritage (FLH) program is a recognition program that honors families who have owned and operated a continuous agricultural operation for 100 years or more. Every year TDA hosts a ceremony at the Texas State Capitol to celebrate and commemorate the families who have passed down their proud Texas legacy from generation to generation.

Click here to view entire article

Click here to download the 2021Family Land Heritage Application



Family Land Heritage Commemorative Program 2018
Go Texan



TEXAS SPEAKS SURVEY

WE WANT TO HEAR WHAT YOU HAVE TO SAY!

WHAT IS TEXAS SPEAKS?

TexasSpeaks is a state-wide online survey conducted by Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service with the purpose of listening to Texas citizens as they identify the strengths and needs of their communities.

Data from the survey will be aggregated at local levels and provided to local stakeholders. Additionally, statewide data will be aggregated and made available to state agencies and decision makers.

WHAT IS THE GOAL?

To engage as many Texas citizens as possible to create the most accurate and helpful data to support Texas communities at both the state and local levels.

QUICK FACTS ABOUT THE SURVEY

- Online
- Open to the public
- Anonymous
- Takes 10 minutes
- Includes an opportunity to collect open-ended feedback

PARTICIPATE TODAY!
http://tx.ag/texasspeaks

Contact
Dr. Scott Cummings
s-cummings@tamu.edu
979-229-3187

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension

Track the Progress >> https://texasspeaks.tamu.edu/

PARTICIPATE TODAY!

http://tx.ag/texasspeaks

Safety Tips

Most farm accidents are caused by tired, stressed, rushed, distracted, or incompetent operators.

2-Factor Safety Involves:
The Equipment & The Operator

STEER TOWARDS SAFETY WITH THESE 8 CHECK OFFS:

- ☐ While working with equipment, ensure that clothing and long hair are secured to prevent entanglement.
- ☐ Ensure new & experienced workers are properly trained to use the tractor.
- ☐ Make sure no passengers, especially children, are on board.
- ☐ Never start the tractor in a closed shed.
- ☐ Use roll-over protection structures (ROPS) & wear a seatbelt.
- ☐ Take your time & use common sense.
- ☐ Drive forward down steep slopes and backward up them. Never drive diagonally across a steep slope.
- ☐ Never leave a tractor unattended..

Protect yourself & those you care about. Follow safety guidelines & use ROPS on your equipment.
It's a small investment with the payoff of a lifetime.

Learn more about tractor safety at http://bit.ly/agtractorsafety

To learn more about the ROPS Rebate Program visit https://www.ropsr4u.org/

NEWS FROM USDA - NRCS

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE - NATURAL RESOURCE CONSERVATION SERVICE

USDA United States Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation Service

FORT BEND LOCAL WORK GROUP LISTENING SESSION

Your input is needed! Help determine natural resource priorities and criteria for USDA-NRCS conservation and programs planning for the upcoming fiscal year.

You are invited to:

- ✓ Help shape plans and priorities future projects.
- ✓ Identify where the best investments can be made to address natural resource issues
- ✓ Review the work that has already been done in the county, and
- ✓ Share your vision for what the county will look like when these natural resource concerns have been addressed.

WHERE:

CALL: (469) 294-4461

CONFERENCE CODE: 876 730 646#

DATE: APRIL 20, 2021

TIME: 6:30 - 8:00 pm

For more information contact:

LINDA FREUND (281) 232-6898
COASTALPLAINS@SWCD.TEXAS.GOV

***We can also email TEAMS meeting link.**

A request for accommodations for persons with disabilities should be made at least 48 hours before the meeting.

Natural Resources Conservation Service

www.tx.nrcs.usda.gov

TEXAS STATE Soil & Water CONSERVATION BOARD

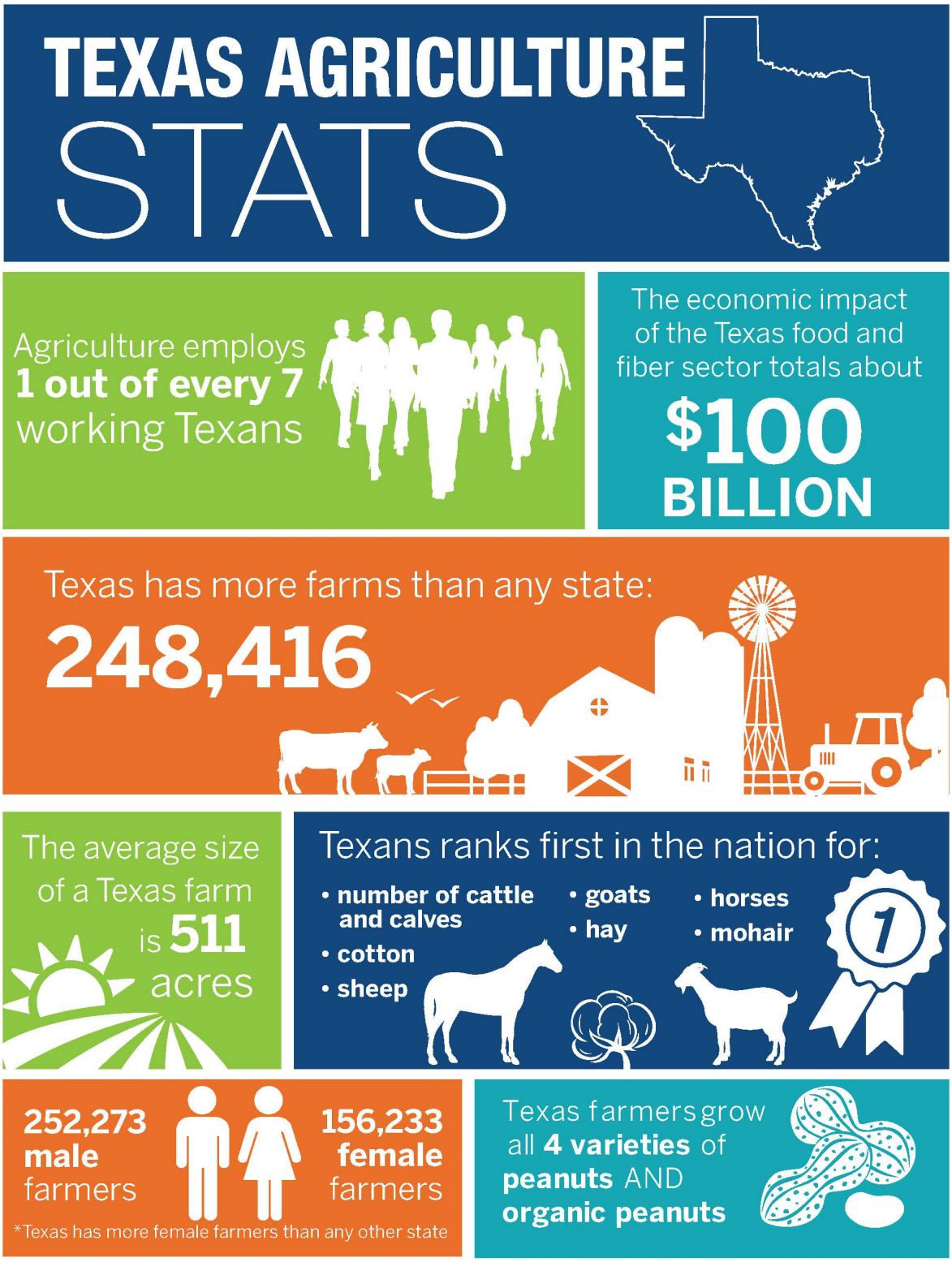
Coastal Plains Soil and Water Conservation District

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer and lender.

For more information contact:

Linda Freund (281) 232-6898
coastalplains@swcd.texas.gov

DID YOU KNOW?



www.texasfarmbureau.org

EVENTS AND PROGRAMS

TEXAS A&M AGRILIFE EXTENSION

HOME GROWN LECTURE SERIES

HARRIS COUNTY TEXAS

April 15, 2021 - Sausage Making 101
Shannon Dietz, County Extension Agent-ANR

May 6, 2021 - Benefits of Bats
Brandi Keller, Master Gardener Program Coordinator

June 3, 2021 - A "Legen-Dairy" Lecture
Shannon Dietz, County Extension Agent-ANR

To Register: Click here

Thursday, April 22, 2021

Weed Control for Pasture and Hay Meadows

Vanessa Corriher-Olson, Ph.D.
Professor & Extension Forage Specialist
Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service
Department of Soil & Crop Sciences

3 CEUs
Bonus PAC Training
*Must attend full program to receive CEUs

Brush Management and Range & Pasture Herbicide Updates

Picolinic Acid Chemistry Training

Megan Clayton, Ph.D.
Associate Professor and Extension Range Specialist
Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service
Department of Rangeland, Wildlife, and Fisheries Management

Program: 8:00 am to 11:00 am

Via Microsoft Teams
All preregistered attendees will receive meeting details including the link to attend once registered
Online Registration ONLY

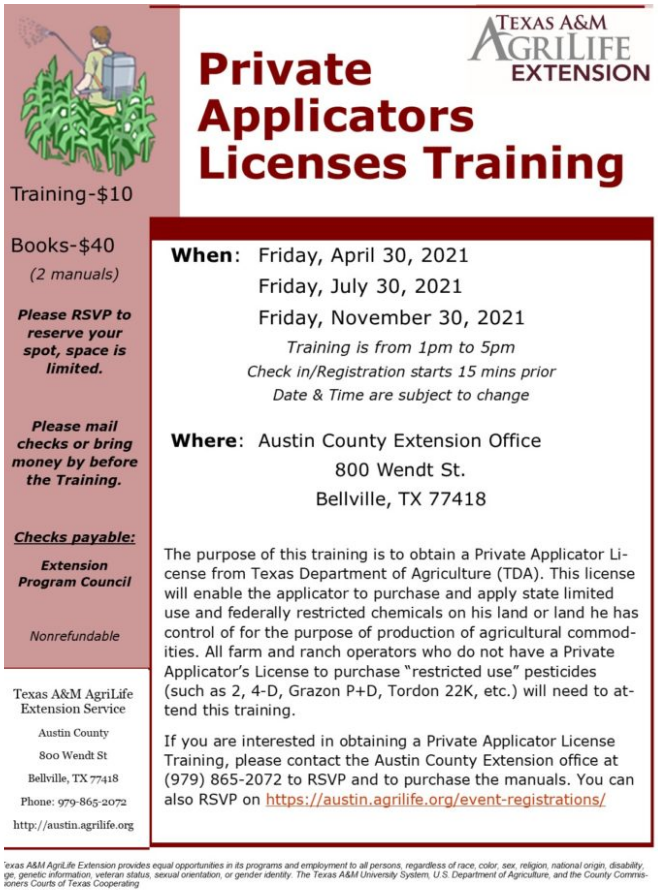
$20.00 per person
* No refunds unless cancelled by the organizer
* Program will not be recorded for distribution

For questions, please contact Brandy Rader, Admin. Assist. ANR, by phone 281-633-7029 or by email brandy.rader@ag.tamu.edu

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. Persons with disabilities who plan to attend this event and who may need auxiliary aids or services are required to contact Texas A&M

Click here to register on Eventbrite!

EVENTS AND PROGRAMS



To Register and Pay for Programs in Austin County

http://austin.agrilife.org

Contact Us

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phillip.thielemann@ag.tamu.edu

Ph: 281-342-3034

Brandy Rader - Administrative Assistant - ANR

Brandy.Rader@ag.tamu.edu

Ph: 281-342-3034

Social Media/Websites

Fort Bend County AgriLife Website

Fort Bend County Extension YouTube

Fort Bend County Extension Facebook

If you would like to unsubscribe to this newsletter, please submit an email to Brandy.Rader@ag.tamu.edu