

»» FORT BEND AG & NATURAL RESOURCES NEWSLETTER ««

Fort Bend Ag/Natural Resources
1402 Band Road, Suite 100, Rosenberg, TX 77471

TEXAS A&M
AGRI LIFE
EXTENSION
June
2024



For Agriculture/Natural Resources
Contact: Dr. Abdul Hakeem,
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(Fort Bend/Brazoria)
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For Horticulture Assistance, contact our
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fortbendmg@ag.tamu.edu

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281-342-3034
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Lorraine.Niemeyer@ag.tamu.edu



THE ONE CONSTANT IS CHANGE



We all have heard the saying - the one constant is change! Change can be exciting and happy and it can be complicated or complex. We have changes of seasons and changes in our lives. Sometimes you may want to plant crops and the weather doesn't cooperate; you have to change your plans or perhaps, equipment fails and you have to change how you do things. Yes, change is inevitable!

Well, if you haven't heard by now, we have said our goodbyes to three of our own: our Ag/Natural Resources Agent, John Few IV, our Horticulture Agent, James Boone Holladay, and our Livestock Coordinator, Kally Felcman. All three have accepted new opportunities and will have great new adventures. John will be an Associate Extension Agent in Powhatan County, Virginia. Yes, he is not only leaving us, but the state of Texas as well! Boone has accepted the Horticulture Agent position at Galveston County AgriLife Extension, and Kally has moved on to Matagorda County USDA/FSA as County Executive Director in training.

On behalf of all our staff, we wish them all nothing but the very best and know they will shine at their new positions. We thank them for their time here in Fort Bend County. Their presence and their knowledge will be missed!

>>> JUNE IS NATIONAL DAIRY MONTH!

Did you know that June is National Dairy Month?

June Dairy Month started out as a way to distribute extra milk during the warm months of summer and officially became Dairy Month in 1939, and is still celebrated today.

Dairy products help us beat the summer heat and so we celebrate the hardworking farmers that produce dairy. Dairy is very versatile from breakfast to dessert. From cream on waffles, milkshakes, ice cream or maybe a creamy yogurt, and cheese, dairy touches us in one way or another! According to The Southeast United Dairy Industry Association, Inc., there are about 300 varieties of cheese sold in the U.S., on an average, cows produce 7-9 gallons of milk a day or around 128 glasses and that 8 grams of protein can be found in one serving of milk! Approximately 75% of goat milk and 95% of sheep milk produced is used in production of cheeses.

FUN DAIRY FACTS!

- American's favorite ice cream flavor is vanilla with chocolate being second.
- It takes about 10 pounds of milk to make one pound of cheese and just over 21 pounds to make a pound of butter.
- Dairy cows eat about 100 pounds of food every day and drink 25-50 gallons of water!

Source: Focus on Agriculture

So, no matter where your dairy comes from, or what form we eat it in, we can thank a farmer and his dairy producers for being part of our agriculture today!

Now, where's my chocolate milkshake?!



All in fun.... <<<

Why can't farmers have any secrets? **HAHA**
Because the corn has ears and the potatoes have eyes!



>>> SUPPORT LOCAL PRODUCERS



Want to Support Local Producers?

Get your Go Texan license plate!

See the form to order at:

https://www.txdmv.gov/sites/default/files/form_files/VTR-810.pdf

UPCOMING EVENTS

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➤➤➤ AGRICULTURE EVENTS:

- **Wednesday, 6/5/2024: Private Pesticide Applicator Training** - A private applicator training course will be held in San Antonio from 8 am - noon at the AgriLife Extension Office in Bexar County, 3355 Cherry Ridge Drive, Suite 208. To register in advance, or for questions, contact Kennedy Green at 210-631-0400 or kennedy.green@ag.tamu.edu
- **Thursday, 6/6/2024: Building Wildlife Havens** - Texas Master Naturalist, Karl Baumgartner, will share his journey in locating and transforming rural properties into thriving nature centers along with discussing selection of native plants, natural habitat management, control of invasive species and the creation of ponds to support diverse wildlife. The class is free and will be held at 7pm online or in person at the Rosenberg Civic Center. For more information, visit: <https://txmn.org/coastal/>
See all upcoming Coastal Prairie Chapter Master Naturalist events at <https://txmn.org/coastal/events/month/2024-06/>
- **Thursday, 6/6/2024: Managing Vultures on the Texas Landscape Webinar** - Noon - 1pm (virtual/online session). Cost is \$35.00. [Click here](#) for more information.
- **Friday, 6/7/2024: SWCD CEU Workshop** - 5 CEUs offered (3 Gen, 1 L&R, 1 IPM). 9am-3pm in Bay City, Texas - Matagorda County. Pre-registration \$30 or \$35 at the door. Lunch included. Topics on Spray Drift Management, Equipment Operating Laws and Chemical Transport, Livestock, Wild Pig, Prescribed Fire, etc. Call 979-245-1138 ext 3 for pre-registration or event questions. Visit the link: <https://matagorda.agrilife.org/event/swcd-ceu-workshop/>
- **Tuesday, 6/11/2024: Wild Pigs Management in Brazoria County** - Dr. Abdul Hakeem will be hosting a **FREE** virtual/online workshop discussing the current best management practices for controlling wild pigs! The workshop will be from 9am - 12noon. See the flyer and registration information at <https://fortbend.agrilife.org/events/month/2024-06/>
- **Tuesday, 6/11/2024: Bayer Needville Field Day** - CCA & CEUs will be offered. Tour Stops & Discussions start at 9 am, 7405 Schmidt Road, Needville, TX 77461. (Lunch provided) Contact Scott Stanislav 573-253-4962 with questions.
- **Tuesday - Thursday, 6/18-20/2024: Beasley Row Crop Tours/Field Days** - CEUs offered. Contact John Gordy 281-253-6287 for more information.
- **Thursday, 6/20/2024: Agricultural Law Landowner Series** - Brazoria County Extension Office 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm; Registration by June 19 is \$20, late registration \$25, meal included. For more information, visit: <https://brazoria.agrilife.org/event/agricultural-law-2/> or contact 979-864-1558.
- **Friday, 6/21/2024: Texas Parks & Wildlife: Harmony on the Range** - join Jon McLeod for this workshop on integrating grazing and wildlife management from 9am - 4:30 pm. Cost is \$20/pp check or cash upon arrival. Lunch will be provided. See the flyer at <https://fortbend.agrilife.org/events/month/2024-06/>
RSVP by emailing jon.mcleod@tpwd.texas.gov
- **Monday, 7/8/2024: Rainwater Harvesting & Water Management** - Free in-person workshop at the Fort Bend AgriLife Extension Office, 1402 Band Road, Ste. 100, Rosenberg, TX. [Click here](#) to register.
- **Now thru July 27 - Registration opens for 70th annual Texas A&M Beef Cattle Short Course** - From the Cattleman's College to the Texas Aggie Prime Rib Dinner, the nationally and internationally recognized three-day event offers producers more than 50 hours of training across 20 courses. Both in-person and virtual attendance are offered. The cost is \$300 for in-person attendance, \$160 for virtual registration and \$150 for youth. A \$40 fee will be charged for late registration after July 27. Go online for registration, or contact 979-314-8507 or beefcattleshortcourse@gmail.com for more information.

UPCOMING EVENTS CONTINUED

➤➤➤ HORTICULTURE EVENTS:

- **The Fort Bend County Master Gardeners' Landscape Success Program** is still offering classes. The next classes are June 28 - Shade Gardening Ideas and Tips and on August 23 - Tree Care Basics. Register for their classes at the following link: <https://fortbend.agrilife.org/landscape-success/>
- **The Fort Bend County Master Gardeners' Grow Your Own seminar series** has one more class coming up on August 3 - Cool Season Vegetables & Herbs. Register at the following link: <https://fortbend.agrilife.org/grow-your-own/>

If you have any suggestions or recommendations for programs in the future, please feel free to reach out to us!

See all our events at: <https://fortbend.agrilife.org/events>



➤➤➤ BE FEATURED IN OUR NEWSLETTER!

Are you someone that has farmed for years and years and have photos and stories from 20 or 30 years ago and have gone through a lot of farming changes? Or are you a farm producer or have animals and have a story to tell that could help others? Maybe you are someone that went through crop issues that you overcame? Or maybe you are new to farming or raising animals and you have something funny that happened?

Share your wisdom, experiences, first harvests, and fun with our readers! We would love to have our local farmers' advice, stories, and photos featured in our newsletter!

Come on - what are you waiting for?

Send your information and photos today to our Ag/Hort Administrative Assistant at any time to lorraine.niemeyer@ag.tamu.edu



DID YOU KNOW? <<<

Did you know that you can get a lot of FREE valuable information from AgriLife Learn? Visit the site at: <https://agrilifelearn.tamu.edu/s/>



Once on the site, you can “Browse by Category”, “Browse by Product Type” or click on “Programs”. You can even type the topic you are interested in on the Search bar on the page. For instance, by typing Agriculture in the search bar, you can see topics on Organic Agriculture in Texas, or Business Plans for Agricultural Producers, Agriculture Taxes in Texas, and more! If you search the word Pesticides, publications are there on Managing Insect and Mite Pests of Texas Corn, Beneficial Insects and Common Pests in the Garden and more!

If the publication or online course is listed at \$0.00, it is free. Anything with a fee, will show costs. Check it out today!



>>> PESTICIDE CEU COURSE SEARCH

The Texas Department of Agriculture has approved certification courses for pesticide applicators who need continuing education units (CEUs). The list includes both agricultural and structural CEUs. To view the courses, visit: <https://ceusearch.texasagriculture.gov/>

Choose the Course Type, select the region and then click Search. (Don't forget to also search local AgriLife Extension Office websites as well!)



HORTICULTURE RESOURCES <<<

If horticulture peaks your interest, be sure to check out Aggie Horticulture! The website is: <https://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/>

On this site, you can find resources for fruit and nuts, vegetable resources, small acreage horticultural crops and more! There is also a section for Events, Online Courses and Useful Links!

Take advantage of this free resource for you!





BE NEIGHBORLY CAMPAIGN

Our AgriLife Extension office has the “2024 Be Neighborly Campaign” underway by sharing important safety concerns and asking drivers to be cautious around farm equipment on the roads. A press release has been sent out, an ad is running on the Epicenter’s Marquee (shown below) and we will feature various “ads” about it on our social media in the upcoming months.





IT'S HURRICANE SEASON - ARE YOU READY?

NWS Houston/Galveston
2024 Hurricane & Severe Weather Guide

Download the 2024 Hurricane and Severe Weather Guide from the National Weather Service Houston/Galveston.

ENGLISH

SPANISH

SCAN ME

SCAN ME

It's Officially Hurricane Season!

June 1 is the official date of hurricane season. Hurricane season runs from June 1 to November 30, though storms can also form before and after that time frame.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) predicts an above-normal 2024 Atlantic hurricane season.

Use the QR Codes above to get the 2024 Hurricane & Severe Weather Guide, or use the links below:

The English version: <https://www.weather.gov/hgx/hurricaneguide2024>

The Spanish version: https://www.weather.gov/hgx/hurricaneguide2024_espanol

Read more on the NOAA Hurricane Season at this link:

<https://www.noaa.gov/news-release/noaa-predicts-above-normal-2024-atlantic-hurricane-season>

See our Livestock Hurricane Prep flyer on the next page.

Stay alert - Be prepared!

**It's Hot
Out There!**



PROTECT YOURSELF FROM HEAT & SUN



Drink plenty of **water** and avoid alcohol. Beverages with electrolytes can also help protect against heat stress.



Apply **sunscreen** (SPF 30 or higher) every two hours.



Wear **lightweight, loose-fitting, and light-colored clothing.**



Take regular breaks in the **shade.**



LIVESTOCK HURRICANE PREP

Helping you become prepared for your livestock during Hurricane Season.

TEXAS A&M
AGRI LIFE
EXTENSION

Call Before You Haul!

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension - Fort Bend County

281-342-3034

Fort Bend County Fairgrounds

832-471-2590

Proper Record Management

Know your brand/livestock and be able to ID all your livestock whether that be with physical branding, photos of each individual livestock species, or ear tags. This will help you tremendously upon a need for evacuation.

If using ear tags, be sure to include contact information or something that is easy for you to identify!



Vaccinations & Veterinary Supplies

Make sure your animals are current on all vaccinations (blackleg, leptospirosis, tetanus, encephalitis). Also stock up on basic veterinary supplies (bandages, topical antibiotics, tetanus toxoid) and have restraint equipment (ropes, halters) ready for restraining injured animals that need veterinary assistance.



Ensure you have enough feed!

Several days or even a week before a hurricane is expected to make landfall, purchase additional feed, hay and water supplies. These items might not be available after a hurricane.

Steinhauser's- 832-595-9500 Tractor Supply Co- 281-232-7878 Needville Feed & Supply- 979-793-6176 Damon Farm & Ranch- 979-742-3317 EB Milling- 979-335-7554 Wharton Feed- 979-532-8533



Evacuation Planning

Get an evacuation plan NOW! It is best to develop a pre-plan today, rather than to wait right before a storm hits our county. Do what is best for yourself remembering the safety of all your livestock. Please do not leave your livestock behind upon a mandatory evacuation.



Having Plenty of Water for Your Livestock



Daily Water Intake	
Animal	Gallons
Horse	18
Cattle	23
Swine	6
Sheep/goat	3
Chickens	1
Turkeys	2



Cattle should not drink water with a salt content over 5,000 ppm.

Hay and water are the most important items for livestock in both hurricane evacuation and recovery. Carry sufficient water with you on the livestock trailer—you might get caught in traffic on the evacuation route. It is recommended to carry a three day supply of water per animal if you're evacuating livestock out of the county.

Post Evacuation Care

Animals are like people in that they are emotionally affected by disasters. Often, violent impacts of disasters disorient and temporarily alter the behavioral state of livestock. When, and if, you locate your animals, realize that they may be upset, confused and agitated. They need help finding their normal behavioral pattern.

Here are some proven techniques for doing this:

1. Handle livestock quietly, calmly and in a manner they are familiar.
2. Wear clothing and use vehicles that are familiar to them.
3. If possible, keep or reunite familiar animal groups with each other.
4. As soon as possible, place them in familiar settings or one which is quiet, calm and insulated from additional stimuli.
5. Soft music and familiar sounds may help calm livestock.
6. If possible, clean the animals (i.e., wipe out their eyes, mouths, and nostrils).
7. If possible, move animals away from the residue of the disaster.
8. Treat wounds of injured animals so their comfort level improves.

Rangeland Conditions Vary Across State Based on Moisture, Precipitation Outlook Texas Crop and Weather Report - May 29, 2024



While rangelands in the state's eastern half have received ample precipitation, the west and portions of the Panhandle are already contending with abnormally dry to drought conditions, impacting forage production. (Michael Miller/Texas A&M AgriLife)

See full article at: <https://agrilifetoday.tamu.edu/2024/05/29/rangeland-conditions-vary-across-state-based-on-moisture-precipitation-outlook/>

Organic Certification Cost Share Program (OCCSP)

OCCSP provides cost share assistance to producers and handlers of agricultural products who are obtaining or renewing their certification under the [National Organic Program](#) (NOP). Certified operations may receive up to 75 percent of their certification costs paid during the program year, not to exceed \$750 per certification scope. The deadline to apply is October 31, 2024

Eligible OCCSP applicants include any certified organic producers or handlers who have paid organic certification fees to a USDA-accredited certifying agent.

Cost share assistance covers expenses including application fees, inspection costs, fees related to equivalency agreement and arrangement requirements, inspector travel expenses, user fees, sales assessments and postage. OCCSP pays a maximum of \$750 per certification category for crops, wild crops, livestock, processing/handling, and state organic program fees (California only).

Source: USDA, <https://www.usda.gov/> and <https://www.ams.usda.gov/news>

House Farm Bill Moves Forward

By Jessica Domel, Multimedia Reporter

After more than 12 hours of discussion, the House Agriculture Committee voted 33-21 to advance its version of the farm bill, the Farm, Food, and National Security Act of 2024, out of committee Thursday evening.

See the full story at <https://texasfarmbureau.org/house-farm-bill-moves-forward/>

Source: Texas Farm Bureau, *Texas Agriculture Daily*



WHAT FINE WEBS ARE WEAVED - FALL WEBWORMS



If you've noticed webs in your fruit or shade trees, they most likely are fall webworms! These small, hairy caterpillars occur in groups and spin their webs on tree branches and typically show up in the spring and continue in the fall. An identifying trait are the two rows of black spots, called tubercles, down the back. Eventually, they will become a bright white moth with dark spots on the wings.

See the recent article written about fall webworms at <https://www.chron.com/life/wildlife/article/strange-webs-houston-worms-19472787.php> and download a free publication all about them at <https://agrifilearn.tamu.edu/s/product/fall-webworm/01t4x000004OUVPAA4>



PREVENT WILDFIRES THIS SUMMER

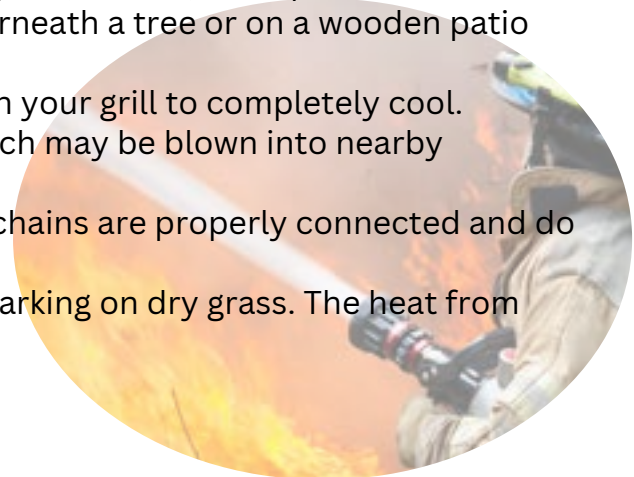


Nine out of 10 wildfires are caused by humans and are preventable. As we head into summer, keep the following tips in mind to help prevent wildfires:

- Always check with local officials for burn bans and other outdoor burning restrictions.
- Pay attention to local guidelines regarding open fires, campfires and outdoor activities that may pose a fire hazard.
- Never leave your grill unattended. Wind gusts may blow embers into dry vegetation, potentially starting a wildfire.
- Ensure your grill is kept clean of excess grease to prevent flare-ups.
- Place your grill in an open space away from tall or dry grass, shrubs, woodpiles or other flammable materials. Also avoid placing your grill underneath a tree or on a wooden patio deck.
- After you are finished grilling, allow time for the coals in your grill to completely cool. Smoldering coals may reignite and release embers, which may be blown into nearby vegetation.
- If you are pulling a boat or camper, make sure the tow chains are properly connected and do not drag on the roadway creating sparks.
- Park in designated spaces and avoid driving over and parking on dry grass. The heat from your vehicle can easily ignite the grass.

For more information about protecting your home, visit: <https://tfsweb.tamu.edu/ProtectYourHome/>.

Source: AgriLife Today



NOTICE OF UPCOMING OFFICE HOLIDAY CLOSURES

Please note that our office will close at 4pm on Tuesday, June 18, 2024 and be closed day on Wednesday, June 19, 2024 for the Juneteenth Holiday.

Our office will also be closed at 4pm on Wednesday, July 3, 2024 and closed for the day on Thursday, July 4, 2024 for the Independence Day Holiday.



Fort Bend County Extension Office

Office Hours: Monday-Friday 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM
(Except for Holidays)

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension County Director: Dr. Amy Ressler

Mailing & Physical Address
1402 Band Road, Suite 100
Rosenberg, TX 77471

Telephone: (281) 342-3034
Fax: (832) 471-2400
Email: fort-bend-tx@tamu.edu

[Follow us on YouTube](#)

»» Making a Difference....

The Fort Bend County Office of the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service and Cooperative Extension Program (CEP) educates Texans in all areas of agriculture, youth & adult life skills, human capital & leadership, and community economic development.

Extension offers the knowledge resources of both Texas A&M and Prairie View A&M Universities to educate Texans for self-improvement, individual action, and community problem solving. We are part of a statewide educational network and a member of the Texas A&M University System linked in a unique partnership with the nationwide Cooperative Extension System and Fort Bend County Commissioners' Court.



We hope you enjoyed this issue of our Ag Newsletter!

If you have agriculture photos, topics, clean humor, or other ideas you would like to see included, submit your ideas to lorraine.niemeyer@ag.tamu.edu



Texas A&M AgriLife Extension provides equal opportunities in its programs and employment to all persons, regardless of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, disability, age, genetic information, veteran status, sexual orientation, or gender identity. The Texas A&M University System, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the County Commissioners Courts of Texas cooperating. Individuals with disabilities who require an auxiliary aid, service or accommodation in order to participate in any Extension activities, are encouraged to contact the Fort Bend County Extension Office at 281-342-3034 for assistance five working days prior to activity.

