



Agriculture/Horticulture Newsletter

May 2024

New Landowner Lunch & Learn Webinar Series

The Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Office in Menard County is hosting a Webinar Series for New Landowners in Menard County. You are invited to join in these free webinars during your lunch hour—**Noon—1:00pm**. Topics, speakers, dates and links are listed below.

April 25, 2024 – Wildlife Habitat Management
Jacob Dykes, AgriLife Extension Wildlife Specialist
<https://bit.ly/Menard-Wildlife>

June 27, 2024 - Fence Law
Tiffany Dowell-Lashmet, AgriLife Extension Ag Lawyer
<https://bit.ly/Menard-Fence>

July 25, 2024 - Groundwater Regulations in Menard County
Meredith Allen, Menard County Underground Water District Manager
<https://bit.ly/Menard-Water>

For more information on these webinars please visit our website
<https://menard.agrilife.org/new-landowner/>

Or scan the QR code:



To join our email list and stay up to date on programming opportunities visit:
<https://bit.ly/Menard-Email-Signup>

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In this issue:

- New Landowner Webinar Series
- Mexican Free-Tailed Bats
- Anthrax
- Horticulture

Are you a new Landowner? Are you a seasoned landowner?

Please join us for the next installment in the New Landowner Webinar Series—**FENCE LAW**. These are *FREE* and you can join from the comfort of your home or office.

Please pre register by scanning the QR code or by typing in the address under each program in the flyer.

If you have any questions or have trouble registering please call the Extension Office in Menard at 325-396-4787 and we can help you.

Mexican Free-Tailed Bats

By Brandi Keller/Jacob Dykes

Mexican free-tailed bats are mostly migratory, wintering in Mexico, and migrating to Texas for spring, summer, and fall. In Houston, a population remains year-round due to the subtropical climate. Bracken Cave in Comal County, TX hosts the world's largest concentration with an estimated 20 million bats.

These bats are FAST, flying up to 60 mph and covering 100 miles each night in search of food, which can amount to 67% of their body weight. Their diet primarily consists of moths and other crop pests, providing valuable pest control to the state of Texas... a savings of an estimated \$1.4 billion per year.

We are approaching a really cool time of year, as Mexican free-tailed bats give birth in June. Bats are mammals, so mom produces milk to feed the pups, and pups weigh about 1/8 of an oz but grow quickly and are flying within about 6 weeks.



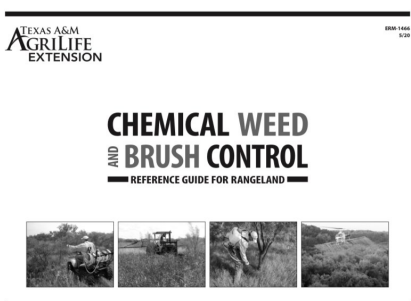
Inspired by Bracken Cave, J. David Bamberger decided to build a bat cave on his ranch in Blanco County in 1997. The bat cave is home to a maternal colony of over 200,000 Mexican free-tailed bats. <https://www.bambergerranch.org/>



Chemical Weed and Brush Control Reference Guide—Updated

ERM-1466 Chemical Weed and Brush Control Reference Guide was updated in May of 2020 to include the most recent chemicals.

This publication provides general suggestions for herbicides used to control brush and weeds on Texas rangelands. It also gives information on the levels of control expected. Visit the Agrilife Bookstore for the free download:



<https://agrilife.org/westtexasrangelands/files/2020/05/ERM-1466.pdf>



Figure 9. Mesquite tree showing lateral roots and branching taproot.

Educational programs of the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service are open to all people without regard to race, color, sex, religion, 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.

Anthrax Confirmed in a Schleicher County Sheep

AUSTIN, TX – Texas Animal Health Commission (TAHC) officials received confirmation of anthrax in a crossbred sheep, on a premises in Schleicher County on April 19, 2024. This is the first reported case of anthrax in Texas this year.

The premises is located northwest of Eldorado, Texas, and has been quarantined. TAHC rules require proper disposal of affected carcasses on the premises prior to release of the quarantine.

**Anthrax Vaccine is inexpensive
(Around \$1/head of livestock)
and worth every penny**



Anthrax is a bacterial disease caused by *Bacillus anthracis*, which is a naturally occurring organism with worldwide distribution, including certain parts of Texas. Anthrax cases in Texas are most often found in a triangular area bound by the towns of Uvalde, Ozona, and Eagle Pass. Schleicher County is near this area.

“Protecting animal and human health is key when handling zoonotic diseases like anthrax,” said Dr. Bud Dinges, TAHC state veterinarian and executive director. “Diligent efforts to reduce human exposure, vaccinate susceptible animals before they are infected, and consult a veterinary practitioner or TAHC region office if you suspect disease in livestock is important to mitigating the potential effects and spread of the disease.”

An increase in anthrax cases after periods of wet, cool weather, followed by hot, dry conditions is common. In these conditions, animals ingest the odorless, colorless, and tasteless anthrax bacteria when they consume contaminated grass and hay or by inhaling the spores. Outbreaks usually end when cooler weather arrives.

After exposure to anthrax, it typically takes three to seven days for animals to show clinical signs. Once symptoms begin, death usually occurs within 48 hours. Acute fever followed by rapid death with bloody discharge from body openings are signs of anthrax in livestock. If a noticeable amount of deer or exotic wildlife are found dead, and carcasses show bleeding characteristic of anthrax, remove livestock from access to carcasses immediately.

Owners of livestock and animals displaying clinical signs consistent with anthrax or experiencing death of animals should contact a private veterinary practitioner or a TAHC official immediately.

Landscape Irrigation and TREE CARE



San Angelo—May 30th , 2024



Virtual Seminar

Landscape Irrigation and Tree Care

Join us in-person to view the live, virtual presentations from:
Charles Swanson, Extension Program Specialist - Irrigation Technology
Camille Wiseman - Woodland Ecologist, Texas A&M Forest Service

Thursday May 30, 2024 - 6pm-8pm (sign in 5:30-6:00pm)

Cost to attend: \$10, cash or check, pay at the door

Location: Tom Green 4H Center, 3168 N US 67, San Angelo

Please RSVP: tomgreen.agrilife.org or call 325-659-6522

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