

# Agriculture/Horticulture Newsletter

March 2024

## Multi County Wildlife Program April 23, 2024

Make plans to join us for the Multi-County Wildlife Program in Menard, April 23, 2024.

### Topics will include:

**Horned Lizards**—Mark Mitchell, Mason Mountain TPWD

**Feral Hogs**—Mikayla Killam—AgriLife

**Turkeys and Habitat**—Meagan Clayton— AgriLife

**Birding with Extension**—Liz Tidwell—AgriLife

**New Technology in Predator Calls**—Gary Roberson—Burnham Brothers and *CARNIVORE TV*



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## Millersview Wheat Tour

The Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Services of Concho and McCulloch Counties will host the annual Millersview Wheat Tour on Thursday, May 2<sup>nd</sup> at the Millersview Gym, 12199 CR 6009. Registration will begin at 8 a.m. with the program beginning at 8:30. There is no registration fee, but we still recommend you pre-register by April 29 to be counted for the meal. Lunch will be provided by Boondocks Catering, of Brady, courtesy of Central Texas Farm Credit. Four Continuing Education Units have been approved by Texas Department of Agriculture.

Speakers this year will include Dr. John Neilsen-Gammon, discussing the harvest weather outlook for small grains this year; Cory Pence, Laws and Regulations; Tyler Mays will speak over hessian fly management and will partner with Gregory Wilson to give the Integrated Pest Management Updates in Small Grains for West Central Texas. Dr. Mark Welch will then give a Grain Marketing Update, followed by Jeff Wright and Mark Hodges of Oklahoma State University discussing the Plant Variety Protection Act. After lunch, Dr. Reagan Noland will partner with a panel of producers to overview precision nutrient management; Dr. Brett Carver of Oklahoma State University will then cover Variety Development for Pest and Disease Resistance. After moving to the test plots, we will finish the day with the Plot Demonstration with Dr. Reagan Noland and Dr. Brandon Gerrish.

*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.*

# Multi County Landowner Program Series



## Multi-County Program Series

There will be four educational opportunities in April for landowner's of all levels, with topics ranging from leasing, liability and law, to new and beginning landowner.

### Programs will include:

**April 12**– Ex-Urban Landowner NRCS Training

**April 13**– New and Beginning Landowner Workshop

**April 23**– Owning Your Piece of Texas: Key Laws Texas Landowner's Need to Know

**April 24**– Rancher's Leasing Workshop

For more information and to register, visit: [https://agrilifetoday.tamu.edu/2024/01/26/statewide-workshops-to-connect-new-rural-landowners-with-natural-resource-personnel/?fbclid=IwAR2i\\_Hg6-NFYlzX6tO1bBVvS\\_iKoB6yM8PFaIa1gFO9vBZzL7yOwLGpC4oE](https://agrilifetoday.tamu.edu/2024/01/26/statewide-workshops-to-connect-new-rural-landowners-with-natural-resource-personnel/?fbclid=IwAR2i_Hg6-NFYlzX6tO1bBVvS_iKoB6yM8PFaIa1gFO9vBZzL7yOwLGpC4oE)



### OWNING YOUR PIECE OF TEXAS: KEY LAWS TEXAS LANDOWNERS NEED TO KNOW

April 23, 2024 - 9:00 - 4:00

Texas A&M AgriLife Research and Extension Center

7887 N US Hwy 87 North

San Angelo, TX

Registration \$75.00

7 Hours CE credit available for real estate agents

#### Speakers Include:

Tiffany Dowell Lashmet, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Ag Law Specialist  
Dr. Blake Bennett, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension District Economist  
Kyle Weldon, Attorney  
James D. Bradbury, PLLC  
Stu Chaney, Attorney, Mars, Ellis & Hodge, LLP

#### Topics Include:

- Eminent domain
- Landowner liability
- Fence law
- Special use tax valuation
- and much more!

#### REGISTER HERE



[bit.ly/OYPTSanAngelo](https://bit.ly/OYPTSanAngelo)



Anyone needing specific accommodations to participate in this educational meeting should contact Tiffany at 806-677-5681 at least five days prior to the event so arrangements can be made. 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, gender identity, or any other classification protected by federal, state, or local law and will strive to achieve full and equal opportunity throughout Texas A&M AgriLife.

## 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.

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## HOW TO TAKE AN ACCURATE SOIL SAMPLE

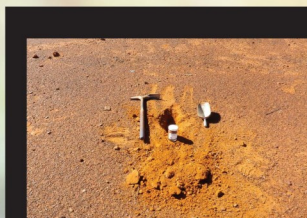
### Why Should You Test Your Soil?

Testing your soil is very important as it tells you how healthy your soil is or isn't. The soil testing measures the PH level as well as any nutrient deficiencies. By doing this every few years, it assists you in growing a healthy beautiful lawn and garden, as well as, it will save you a lot of time and money by knowing what you need to do before the planting begins.

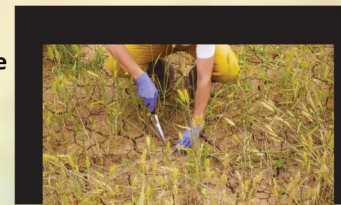
**Materials Needed:** Bucket, Garden shovel/trowel, plastic zip lock (quart size) bag, sharpie, measuring cup.

**Step 1 -** Prior to digging your core sample, make sure and remove all organic matter and debris from the top layer in which you will be taking your core samples from.

**Step 2 -** With a clean shovel and bucket you will want to take your soil samples from dry soil (before adding fertilizer of any kind). You will want to take a sample from 6-10 different areas from where you are wanting to plant your vegetable/flower garden or lawn. Your samples should be 6-8 inches deep. Put your samples of your vegetable garden area in one bucket, your flower garden samples in another bucket, and so on.



**Step 3 -** Once you have filled your bucket with the 6-10 core samples from the testing area, mix the dirt well and break apart all the clumps. If you have more than one area you are testing, do the same process for each area.



**Step 4 -** Once all the mixing is complete, spread the soil out in plastic containers or on top of newspapers to dry. Make sure not to mix your different testing areas (if there is more than one) together. Ideally, the soil should have no moisture in it when sending it off to the lab.

**Step 5 -** Take 1 cup of soil per testing area that you would like to be tested, and place in your zip lock bag. If for example, you are testing 3 different areas, you should have 3 different zip lock bags. (Label each bag you are submitting samples for with either zone, A, B or C, or the actual area ie; lawn, garden, etc.)

**Step 6 -** Click on the link [soiltesting](#) in order to obtain the proper sample forms to fill out for each sample bag you are sending to obtain the lab address and the pre-payment information. Once you are on the soil testing website, click on "Our Submittal Forms" that are in "red" at the bottom of the page. Finally, click the soil submittal form (PDF) , and this will bring you to the submittal form D-494 S20. A routine analysis at \$12.00 per soil sample is usually sufficient for most soil sample testings.

**Step 7 -** You will receive a detailed soil analysis, once all testing is complete. If you would like to discuss the results with the Harris County Ag Agent, please email @ Shannon.Dietz@ag.tamu.edu and we can discuss this further to answer any questions that you may have.

*\*The laboratory's primary mission is to provide research-based analysis and non-bias recommendations for agronomic and non-agronomic soil analysis, plant tissue analysis, forage nutritive analysis, and non-drinking water analysis. The laboratory also aids the research and extension communities with analysis needs.*



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, Individuals with disabilities who require an auxiliary aid, service, or accommodation in order to participate in this meeting are encouraged to contact the County Extension Office prior to the meeting to determine how reasonable accommodations can be made.

# National Gardening Month

Time to clean your garden to start on



Larry Stein, Texas A&M Extension Hort Specialist

## Spring cleaning for your garden

Just as your house may need a thorough spring cleaning about now, so may your garden.

“Start weeding early in the flower garden,” Stein said. “Early competition with small plants can delay flowering. A mulch will discourage weed growth and make those that do come through easier to pull.”

If spring cleaning includes your indoor plants, Stein said when moving houseplants outside to be repotted, remember not to place them in direct sunlight. Tropical plants, however, usually can be placed in containers in full sunlight for a dazzling display of summer color.

For gardeners who make their own mulch, Stein suggested they continue to collect fallen leaves and catkin blooms as organic materials.

“Removing spent flowers, trimming back excessive growth, and applying fertilizer to an established annual bed can do wonders toward rejuvenating and extending the life of the planting,” Stein said.

Whether for creating new beds, replenishing beds or filling pots and containers, purchase new soil now as needed. However, Stein

stressed, it needs to be examined closely.

“Often, nut grass and other weeds, nematodes and soilborne disease are brought into a yard through contaminated soil sources,” he said. “You don’t want to introduce new problems to your garden.”

Let your region’s weather and temperatures guide you on planting summer crops, Stein said. Most folks can start to plant okra, melons, lima beans and southern peas, but others may want to hold off until it warms a bit more.

“Once you’re done planting, any leftover flower or vegetable seeds can be saved for the next season by closing the packets with tape or paper clips and storing them in a sealed glass jar in your refrigerator,” he said.



Leftover seeds can be sealed in their packet and stored in a glass jar in the refrigerator for future use. (Laura McKenzie/Texas A&M AgriLife)

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