

Gillespie County Extension
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Agriculture & Natural Resources



GILLESPIE COUNTY

WINTER 2014

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Canola Field Day**
 Date: Tuesday, April 1st
 Location: Doss Community Center
 Cost: \$10.00
 Time: 10:00am—2:00pm
 2 General CEU'S
 Participants will tour Geistweidt's canola field and equipment. More details will be announced in the future.
- Wildlife Field Day**
 Date: Thursday, April 3rd
 Location: Junction, TX
 Details and Speakers will be announced later

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Multi-County New Land Owner Series

The multi-county 2014 New Landowner Series, presented by the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service, will be held in four South Central Texas counties from March through September. A total of six sessions will be held in Blanco, Gillespie, Kendall and Kerr counties.

According to Brad Roeder, one of the agents organizing the series, "At these sessions, attendees can meet and speak with some of the top experts in their respective fields, as well as get hands-on experience in learning how to get the most out of their property."

Roeder said topics addressed in the series will include learning how to make wildlife, livestock and the environment work; live oak wilt and decline; how to drought-proof pastures; taxes, permits and property regulations; growing your own food; facts about the best hay, forages and grains for the area; and herbicides/pesticides for home and commercial use.

"We will also make site visits to operations in all phases of agriculture and have hands-on activities," he said. "And participants will be provided a new landowner notebook full of timely information and handouts."

All programs begin with registration from 1:00-1:30 p.m., with presentations from 1:30-5:00 p.m.



"These sessions are designed for the novice who just acquired property or is looking into purchasing land in the Hill Country," - Brad Roeder, Gillespie County Extension Agent

Dates, towns and topics for the sessions are:

– March 7, Fredericksburg, Introduction, Neighbor Relations, Tax Valuations, Well and Septic Permits, Grazing and Hunting Leases.

– April 4, Kerrville, Live Oak Wilt, Home Use Pesticides, Turf, Tree and Landscape Maintenance, Rainwater Harvesting.

-May 9, Stonewall/LBJ Ranch, Forage Production, Livestock Production and Handling, Crop Production.

– June 13, Stonewall, Commercial Horticulture, Vineyards, Orchards, Produce (hands-on pruning).

– July 11, Boerne, Back to Basics, Home Gardening, Chickens, Natural vs. Organic.

– Sept. 12, Kandalia, Wildlife and Range Management, Brush Work and Sculpting.

Specific session sites are being identified, with maps and directions to each location to be provided to attendees prior to each session.

The cost is \$30 per session or \$100 per person, \$150 per couple, for the entire series, payable in advance or at the door. Make checks out to Gillespie Ag & Natural Resource Committee and drop off or mail to:

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service
 95 Frederick Road
 Fredericksburg, Texas 78624

Advance notice for each session is requested so adequate quantities of take-home materials can be prepared.

“The target audience is agricultural producers and landowners interested in building an effective and efficient estate, retirement and/or transition plan. This ensures that the rewards of a lifetime of work are preserved for current and future generations or directed as intended” - Jason Johnson



Estate and Transition Planning Workshop for Agricultural Producers

The Estate and Transition Planning Workshop for Agricultural Producers is coming to Fredericksburg!

According to Jason Johnson, an Associate Professor and Extension Economist with Texas A&M University and Texas A&M Agrilife Extension, “The Estate and Transition Planning Workshop is a hands-on program that will address critical estate, retirement, and transition planning issues and resources. Participants will leave the program better prepared to work effectively with their trusted advisors and implement their desired plans.”

In Fredericksburg, the workshop will be held February 27, 2014 from

10:00am to 3:00pm with lunch provided. Registration will begin at 9:45am. Workshop will be held at the Gillespie County Texas A&M Agrilife Extension Building at 95 Frederick Rd. in Fredericksburg, TX.

Speakers will include Dr. Wayne A. Hayenga, Professor Emeritus, Ag. Economist, and Attorney; Dr. Jason Johnson, Extension Economist; & Dr. Rob Hogan, Extension Economist.

Program is supported by the Southern Risk Management Education Center.

Questions can be directed to Jason Johnson at 254-968-4144.

Registration fee is \$35.00 per person and covers materials and lunch.

Fee may be paid by check payable to: Texas A&M Agrilife Extension Account #: 222100-60010

Registration forms and payment can be mailed to the Gillespie County A&M Agrilife Extension: 95 Frederick Rd. Fredericksburg, TX 78624

Registration forms can be picked up or e-mailed to you from the Gillespie County Extension Office in Fredericksburg, TX. Registration forms can also be found by visiting <http://stephenville.tamu.edu/estate-planning/>.

Cherry Spring Wildlife Management Area



The Cherry Spring Wildlife Management Area Association will meet on Thursday, February 6 at the Gillespie Agricultural Extension building located at 95 Frederick Road in Fredericksburg, Texas.

Association Program

A pot luck meal will begin the meeting at 6:00 p.m. An educational program by Judon Fambrough, from the Texas A&M University Real Estate Center, on the Texas Deer Lease will begin at approximately 6:30 p.m.

All members of the association and anyone interested in the educational program are invited to attend. Bring a dish and join in the pot luck meal or just come for the educational program.

Weed of the Week: Thistles

According to Forage Fax (<http://foragefax.tamu.edu/>), the weed of the week is Thistles.

If left uncontrolled, thick thistle stands can reduce grazing and result in less forage production. A single thistle plant can produce at least 4,000 seeds, which increases the chance for higher thistle popu-



Mature thistle in pasture

lations in the pasture the following year.

Consequently, management practices need to be conducted prior to flower formation for effective thistle control. Even if thistles have not infested your pasture in the past, it is ideal that your pastures are scouted in late fall through mid-spring (November to March) to ensure that thistles do not get out of control. New infestations are easier to manage than large-scale populations. Although there are at several different species of thistle in Texas, most are closely related and control recommendations will not differ.

Best time to control with a herbicide is when thistles are in the rosette stage. The rosette stage is when the thistle forms a low-growing ring of

leaves. As they mature they are harder to control and may require higher rates of herbicide to have effective control.

Select Herbicide Options:
 Weedmaster
 2, 4-D
 GrazonNext Remedy
 PastureGard
 Cimarron Max (for bermudagrass pastures, will control bahiagrass)

REMEMBER: THE LABEL IS THE LAW! Always read the pesticide label before using.

(photos courtesy of Vanessa Corriher-Olson, Assistant Professor and Forage Extension Specialist)

“Best time to control with a herbicide is when thistles are in the rosette stage. The rosette stage is when the thistle forms a low-growing ring of leaves.”



Thistle in rosette stage

Harper WMA Meeting

(article taken from the Fredericksburg Standard-Radio Post January 15th edition)

Harper Wildlife Management Association will host a meeting on Thursday, Feb. 6th in the Harper High School Library, beginning at 6:30pm.

Purpose of the meeting is to turn in harvest record books and hear reports from the members, a biologist, and

game wardens from Texas Parks and Wildlife Department about the past white-tail and turkey season.

In addition, a report will be presented from William Krebs on the Jacob Krebs Memorial Youth Hunt held in mid-January.

Members are reminded that harvest records must be turned in no later than



March 1st.

Books can be turned in at the Texas A&M Agrilife Extension Office in Fredericksburg, to one of the officers or directors of the association or at Behrends at Bode's in Harper.



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The members of Texas A&M Agrilife provide equal opportunities in programs, education and employment, without regard to race, color, sex, religion, national origin, age, disability, genetic information, or veteran status.

Gillespie County Extension Agents

Brad Roeder is the Ag & Natural Resources (ANR) CEA which encompasses hay production, wildlife management, predator control, farming, lawn care, gardening, pest management, CEU's, livestock production, water conservation, brush management and economic development.

Shea Nebgen is the Family and Consumer Science (FCS) Agent who provides programming in areas like nutrition, sewing, diabetes, child safety seats, and healthy living.

Micah Walker is the 4-H and Youth CEA and oversees Gillespie County's 11 4-H clubs and over 400 4-H members.

Jim Kamas is our Horticulture CEA but is on special assignment with the Texas A&M Agrilife Extension Research Viticulture & Fruit Lab. Jim can be reached through our office for special needs related to fruit tree and vineyard management.

Training Offered For Prescribed Burn Managers in February and March at Sonora

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SONORA – After several years of drought, 2013 produced forage that, under the proper supervision, could fuel prescribed burns and prevent wild-fires, according to Ray Hinnant, a Texas A&M Agrilife Research senior research associate in College Station.

The Academy for Ranch Management will host two Texas Department of Agriculture Prescribed Burning Board approved courses in February and March at the Texas A&M Agrilife Research-Sonora Station located on State Highway 55 between Sonora and Rocksprings.

A Prescribed Burning School will be held Feb. 20-22. This basic prescribed burning workshop will provide information on the history of fire, weather, planning a burn, fuels and fuel moisture and equipment. This school also is useful for those wanting more about prescribed burning, but don't want to

be certified, Hinnant said.

The Advanced Prescribed Burning School on March 6-8 builds on the previous school by providing more information on fire behavior, fire effects, and planning and conducting a prescribed burn, he said.

Individual registration is \$395 for each school, plus a \$45 facilities use fee due upon arrival.

Successful completion of both courses and a passing grade on the exam will provide the educational component to begin application for either a private, commercial or not-for-profit certified prescribed burn manager through the Texas Department of Agriculture, Hinnant said.

Persons interested in attending either school should go to <http://www.ranchmanagement.org/2014.pdf> for a registration form, and mail it and payment to Jeanne Andreski at Texas A&M University, Department of Ecosystem Science and Management, 2138 TAMU, College Station, TX 77843-

2138. She can be reached at 979-862-2128 for those needing a registration form mailed to them.

"If we continue to receive precipitation, 2014 might be a good year for landowners to get back on track to control cedar, prickly pear and other noxious plants and to help reduce hazardous fuel loads that could lead to catastrophic wildfires," he said.

The Academy for Ranch Management is a program of Agrilife Research and the Texas A&M University department of ecosystems science and management in College Station. The Sonora facilities provide a teaching laboratory for hands-on experience.

Hinnant and Dr. Charles "Butch" Taylor, superintendent of the research station, are prescribed-burning board instructors. Other speakers during the two courses include Dr. Mort Kothmann, Texas A&M University department of ecosystems science and management professor, and Nick Garza, an Agrilife Research associate at Sonora.