

Ag & Natural Resources

Gillespie County

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Gillespie County Fair

The 130th Gillespie County Fair will be taking place August 23—26 at the Gillespie County Fairgrounds.

The fair will open on Thursday, Aug. 23 at 5 p.m. with free admission to the fair grounds according to this year's fair catalog. There is a charge for the carnival and miway which also opens on Thursday and goes on through the weekend.

This year's Gillespie County Fair will include various events and activities over the 4 day course including the carnival, horse racing, musical entertainment, arts & crafts, displays of home products and agriculture, queen's contest, a parade and much more.

Thursday, entries will be taken in the agriculture and home skills departments beginning at 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.

A concert and dance put on by Jake Hooker & The Outsiders on Friday, Aug. 24 beginning at 8 p.m. and Saturday night, Steve Warner & Cory Morrow will take the stage.

Livestock judging will take place at the Show Barn both Friday and Saturday, Aug. 24-25.

The Hill Country Antique Tractor and Engine Club will be offering demonstrations and displays during the fair.

The Swine Futurity show will start on Saturday, Aug. 25 at 9 a.m. with an entry fee of \$20 and will begin with gilts followed

The 2018 Gillespie County Hay Show exhibits will be set up on Wednesday, Aug. 22 at 9 a.m. at the fair grounds. Entry deadline is July 27 at 5 p.m. All entries and analysis reports can be picked up after 5 p.m. on Aug. 26.

Over the weekend, agriculture and home displays, educational exhibits and much more will be open for those interested at the Exhibition Hall.

The 130th Gillespie County Fair is sponsored by the Gillespie County Fair and Festivals Association. Tickets can be purchased at the gates or ahead of time at <http://www.gillespiefair.net/>.

For more information, visit <http://www.gillespiefair.net/> or see this year's Fair Catalog.





4-H BBQ Fundraiser - Fair Friday

The Gillespie County 4-H Adult Leaders Association will be hosting this year's 4-H BBQ Fundraiser following the Gillespie County Fair Parade on Friday, August 24 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. until supplies last.

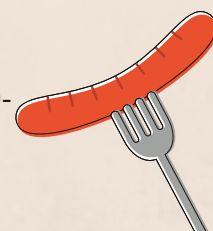
Bethany Lutheran Church will have a drive-thru available and for eat-in option, Adelsverein Halle at Markplatz.

Meals will be \$10 per plate and will consist of pork barbecue, potato salad, beans, pickles and onions, bread and cookies. Tea and water will also be provided.

During the barbecue, there will be 10-12 prize drawings. Tickets can be purchased for \$5 each or 5 for \$20 and can be picked up at Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Gillespie County office and Itz Electric.

The fundraiser proceeds will go to community service project, college scholarships and projects for the 10 clubs in 4-H.

For more information, please call the Gillespie County Extension office at 830-997-3452.



2018 Gillespie County Hay Show - Rules

The entry deadline for the 2018 Gillespie County Hay show was July 27. The two divisions for this year's show were Perennial and Annuals Grasses.

By competing, producers learn the crude protein value of their hay and receive a nitrates test. This information will be used in determining the value of the product along with ADF and visual appearance of hay and presence of weeds. This is beneficial to producers if they plan to use or sell their hay in the fall and winter months.

The following guidelines are used in considering the level of nitrates for placing hay: <1% will be acceptable; 1.01% - 1.49 will be penalized; and > 1.50% will be withdrawn from the show. The above guidelines are the recommendations of the Texas A&M University Forage Testing Laboratory.

The Hay Show Exhibit will be set up by the committee on Wednesday, Aug. 22 at 9 a.m. at the fair grounds and will be open to the public when the fair kicks off.

After the fair, entires need to be removed by the producer on Sunday, Aug. 26 after 5 p.m. Hay that has not been picked up will become property of the Gillespie County Fair and Festivals Association.

The 2018 Gillespie County Hay Show is sponsored by the Gillespie County Fair and Festivals Association and the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service Ag & Natural Resource Committee.

If you have any questions regarding the show, feel free to give the Extension Office a call at (830) 997-3452.



Water Saving Methods for your Flowerbeds & Gardens

Tired of paying too much for water to irrigate your landscape?

Come learn how to set up your own drip or drip-tape irrigation systems on Aug. 16 from 6:30-7:30 p.m. at the Harper Library in Harper, Texas - No RSVP needed.

Also included will be information on water conservation methods, so you can stretch your outdoor water use even farther.

Contact the Harper Library at 830-864-4993 or email harperlibrary406@aol.com if you have questions about this program.

Visit:

<https://agrillife.org/bennetttrust/>

to see a detailed agenda!

Fall Range Tour

This year's Fall Range Tour will take place on Thursday, October 4th.

Planning is still in the works, so be sure to keep an eye out for more information to come.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to give our office a call at 830-997-3452.

Bennett Women's Conference: "Empowering Women - New Stewardship Traditions"

A conference devoted to helping women manage natural resources in the Edwards Plateau will take place in Fredericksburg Oct. 1-2, 2018 at the Inn on Barons Creek.

"The Women's Natural Resource Management Conference is funded by the Ruth and Eskel Bennett Endowment," said Dr. Larry Redmon, co-chair and Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service Bennett Trust specialist.

The women's conference is an extension of the Bennett Trust Land Stewardship Conference, which has been held three times in Kerrville, Redmon said. "More and more women are becoming landowners through inheritance and other means, and we want to help these women be a success in the management of their natural resources," he said. "By offering a lady's conference, we hope women will feel more comfortable with attending and participating. We also want to encourage mothers to bring their daughters; it is a generational thing."

"Everyone involved in the planning process is excited about our new Edwards Plateau Land Stewardship conferences," he said.

"And thanks to the Bennett's generosity, this will be a unique learning opportunity for all of us for years to come."

The conference will cover stewardship of natural resources, prescribed fire, birding and more. Those with a passion for natural resource stewardship and a love for the Texas Hill Country will want to be there.

Among the speakers will be wildlife biologists, animal scientists, range scientists, and financial planners. The conference's preliminary agenda for the first day includes a presentation on empowering women to new stewardship traditions.

The registration fee includes all meals, break refreshments and tour transportation costs.

For more information and to register, please visit <https://agrilliferegister.tamu.edu/>.

Gillespie Grazing Group

If you are interested in joining a new ag-related group here in Gillespie County, you may want to look into joining the Grazing Group.

The group meets on the second Thursday of each month at the South Church from 5:30 p.m. until 7 p.m. located at 103 Industrial Loop, Suite 100 in Fredericksburg.

Though the primary focus of the meetings are grazing, all agriculture topics are discussed and encouraged. Soil, wildlife and livestock are a few talking points shared during the monthly meetings.

The meetings consist of educational videos on hot topics in the ag industry, as well as, guest speakers and those who wish to present their own agricultural subjects.

All are welcome, and it is not restricted to Gillespie County only. Folks from Junction and surrounding counties are known to attend.

This is a great opportunity to get involved and meet local agriculture enthusiasts in and around the county.

Coming up in the next few months is an opportunity to attend a two-day workshop hosted by the Grazing Group with a guest speaker from Africa. Topics will include cattle production, ranching for a profit, grazing and there will be ranch and pasture walks. This program will have limited seating. If interested, keep watch for more information to come or contact Garret Kunz, one of the Grazing Group leaders.

For more information involving the workshop or joining the group, contact Garret Kunz by email at g.kunz@me.com

Wanna Lease?

One of the most popular phone calls our office receives is questions regarding leasing land, how to start, what to charge, lease agreements, etc.

Brad Roeder, our Ag & Natural Resources Agent, is a great source to get you started. There is also a handbook (funded by Southern Extension Risk Management Education Center), *Ranchers' Agricultural Leasing Handbook* that addresses multiple lease-related topics such as why leases can be beneficial, landowner liability, checklists, calculating payment terms and much more.

Leasing land is mutually beneficial to both parties involved and according the handbook, "Leasing land can benefit almost any farmer in any situation."

Download the handbook here: [Ranchers' Agriculture Leasing Handbook](#)

If you have any questions regarding leasing, feel free to give our office a call at 830-997-3452.



Predator Control Survey

Officials at Texas A&M are requesting participation in a survey from local livestock producers.

William (Bill) Thompson, Assistant Professor and Extension Economist, stated:

"As all of you are fully aware, predator pressures are increasing in many areas of the state. The reasons for this increased predation also vary from region to region. We want to gather information on the scale of the losses, which species are suffering those losses and the predator control costs producers are incurring."

The information collected is part of Dr. Redden's Livestock Guardian Dog project.

If you would like to assist by taking the survey, please click the link below. We appreciate your support.

<https://tinyurl.com/PredatorSurvey>

Texas Sheep & Goat Expo

This year's Texas Sheep and Goat Expo will take place on Aug. 17-18 at San Angelo's 1st Community Federal Credit Union Spur Arena on the San Angelo Fairgrounds in San Angelo, Texas.

This expo offers hands-on activities and speaker interactions.

According to Robert Pritz, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service regional program leader in San Angelo, this event is the premier sheep and goat educational event for the entire state.

"A main goal for the expo is to always present new material, and even after four years of conducting this major event, the committee never fails to deliver on that premise," Pritz said.

"New this year, among other things, will be some twists on the topics of predator control and internal parasite management, two of the top limiting factors that have long faced the industry nationwide. We'll also introduce AgriLife's Path to the Plate initiative, which seeks to connect agriculture with good health," he said.

Pritz emphasized the expo is tailored for all levels of knowledge, from neophytes just considering entering the industry to those with generations of production knowledge behind them.

Pritz said there will also be equipment demonstrations, an extensive trade show, a youth program that targets sheep and goat skill-a-thons and concurrent sessions for all major segments of the industry. These include sessions on Angora goats, hair sheep production, wool sheep and meat goats.

On Friday, Aug. 17, the program will begin at noon with registration and lunch and will continue until 7:30 p.m. with dinner included.

On the second day, registration will begin at 7 a.m. and will close out at 2 p.m. with a performance-oriented sheep and goat sale.

Topics during the two-day event include: guardian animal options, predator management, drenching, genetic selection for parasite management, food labeling and more.

Adult registration is \$40, and youth is \$15. The deadline to register is Aug. 14. There will be an on-site registration only after Aug. 14. The fee covers participation for one or both days of the Expo.



Junior Master Gardeners

Are you interested in growing your own vegetables or learning about the environment? Consider the Gillespie County Junior Master Gardener program.

This year in addition to planting and caring for a vegetable garden, participants will get to pretend to be landscape designers and learn about landscape design.

The program will meet on Tuesdays (except for a fieldtrip on October 18th) from 4:30- 5:30 pm at the Gillespie County Extension Office. It will start on August 14th, 2018 and run to November 13th, 2018. There is a limit of ten youth for this program, so sign up soon. First come, first served. The cost for this program is \$20.

For more information, call the Extension office at 830-997-3452!

- **First Meeting: Tuesday, August 14**
- **Time: 4:30 - 5:30p**
- **Location: Extension Office**
- **Age: 3rd - 5th grade for the 2018-19 school year (or at least 8 years of age)**



Youth Heifer Sale

According to Micah Walker, County Extension Agent in Mason County "We are excited to share that the Hill Country Youth Commercial Heifer Show and Sale is currently entering its fifth year of existence. It all started with a group of passionate ranchers who believed in facilitating an opportunity for youth to acquire knowledge of life in the commercial beef industry.

This project is one that is undoubtedly most practical in terms of its goals. Participants from seven counties commit and dedicate six months to raise three commercial female heifers. Throughout this experience they learn about the dynamics of the beef cattle industry including all aspects of animal husbandry, estrus synchronization, genetics, problem solving, recordkeeping, and marketing. At the completion of their time invested, the participants, as producers, have the opportunity to defend every decision-making process throughout the raising of the females via an expense summary form and oral presentation to a prospective buyer.

Year after year, we observe that this commercial heifer project has made a lasting impact on the young producers' futures. We believe this commercial beef industry model could grow and adapt towards extra opportunities including, but not limited to the following: additional leadership opportunities, broadening educational perspectives, and increasing the real-world application prospect to further enhance the knowledge base of all youth involved.

The longevity of this excellent agricultural program and educational opportunity will continue to be expanded upon and sustained by your generous support. We hope you take part in this inspiring vision of promoting the agricultural industry by educating the youth through an enhanced yet practical hands-on experience. We aim to promote excellence in our youth with the highest quality of leadership, education, and agricultural service our world deserves. Thank you for this opportunity to share our passion with you. For additional information or any questions you may have, please contact me at (903) 439-5935 or Adam Geistweidt at (830) 998-8145."

[Click here for more info!](#)

- Entry Deadline: April 20
- Validation/Tagging: April 28
- Palpation Form Deadline: October 8th
- Judging / Interviews: Thursday, October 18th
- Cost: \$30.00 per pen of 3 or \$10.00 per head



Mark Your Calendars ...

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Water Irrigation Program - August 16
- Texas Sheep & Goat Expo - August 17 & 18
- Gillespie Co. Fair - August 23-26
- 4H BBQ Fundraiser - August 24
- Bennett Women's Conference - October 1 & 2
- Fall Range Tour - October 4 more details to come
- Gillespie Co. Annual Predator Assoc. Meeting - October 11
- Youth Heifer Sale - October 18
- Gillespie Co. Pecan Show - November 30
- 5 Hour CEU - December more details to come
- Holiday CEU - December more details to come
- GCYLS - January 10- 12
- Hill Country Cattle Women's Seminar - January more details to come

**Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service
Gillespie County**

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Website: <http://gillespie.agrilife.org>**

Gillespie County Extension Agents

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

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

Taylor Osbourn is the 4-H and Youth CEA and oversees Gillespie County's 10 4-H clubs and over 450 4-H members.

Beth McMahon is the Horticulture County Extension Agent, providing programming and consulting on horticultural topics such as trees & tree health (shade and fruit trees included), lawns & ornamental plantings, plant identification, gardening, plant disease and pest identification and general horticultural crop questions.

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.

Our office will be closed on the following
dates:

- August 24 - Fair Friday
- September 3 - Labor Day

Sorry! WE'RE
CLOSED