

VOL. 6 | JUNE 2020

# OUR BACKYARD

An agricultural newsletter by Hardin County AgriLife Extension



## OVERVIEW:

- From the Agent
- Horticulture Corner
- Storm Season Preparedness
  - Preparing Your Family
  - Preparing Your Livestock
- Programming Update
  - Virtual Programming Efforts
- Get Involved

## *From the Agent*

Howdy!

June means warmer weather, summer tans, and hurricane season is upon us. This month our Good Read section is a little different and it is focusing on being prepared for whatever mother nature can throw at us next.

I can say that this last month I have enjoyed being able to talk to everyone more as we began our transition back into the office. Don't forget I am here for all your odd questions, and if I don't know the answer we will find someone that does!

Stay Safe,

Katie A. Pace | Hardin County Extension Agent



# HORTICULTURE *CORNER*

## **In the Garden**

Pick up a copy of the Texas Super Star plant list from the extension office for the best plants for summer

Plant heat loving tropical plants like hibiscus

Seed Bermuda grass in sunny areas and keep moist

Move Orchids or Christmas Cactus outside on shaded patios or decks for the summer

### **What should I plant this month?**

Heat loving vegetable  
crops:

**Southern Peas**

**Okra**

**Sweet Potatoes**

**Bell Peppers**

**Hot Peppers**

**Eggplant**

**Cucumber**

**Squash**

**Zucchini**

## **Native Texans**



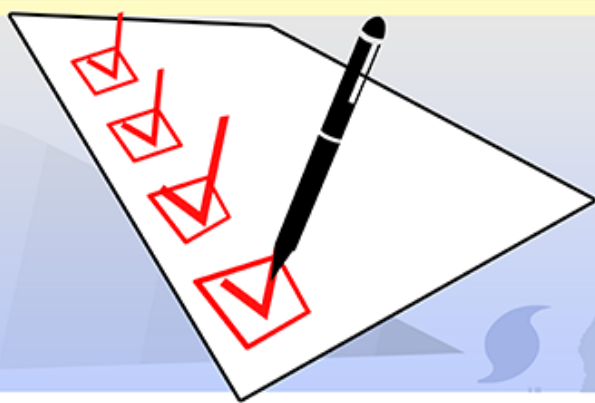
If you are looking for an evergreen shrub, then this month's Native Texan, Wax Myrtle, might be your next purchase. Fast growing, fragrant leaves, and waxy gray berries that can be used to make candles has me sold!

This shrub is on the larger side, growing normally 20-30 feet high, but it is available in dwarf varieties. It loves our sandy loam soil in East Texas, but as always, you will want to plant this in an area of your yard that has well drained soil and full sun. But the joy of Wax Myrtle is it will also thrive in partly shaded areas, giving you a lot more options of where to plant it.

# 5

## THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT

### BEING PREPARED FOR A HURRICANE



1

Writing down your plan will ensure you don't make mistakes when faced with an emergency.



2

Document all of your valuables and possessions with a camera or video camera well before the storm.



3

Gather all vital documents, like passports and medical records, and put them somewhere that you can quickly access.



4

Make planning and preparedness a family affair to ensure everyone knows what to do.



5

It does NOT matter how many hurricanes are forecast for this year. It only takes one storm.





# 5

## THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT GETTING YOUR HURRICANE SUPPLIES



1

Food/Water - Get supplies well in advance, enough for each person for at least one week.



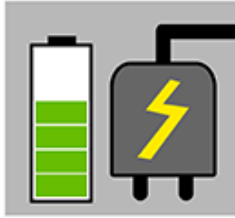
2

Medicine/First-aid - Have 30 days worth of medicines and medical supplies. Fill prescriptions before the storm.



3

Communications - Have extra batteries or portable chargers for your cell phones and batteries for your radios.



4

Gas - Fill up your car or a gas can beforehand. If the power goes out, you will be unable to pump gas.



5

Money - Have cash on hand. With no electricity, ATMs and credit cards will not work.





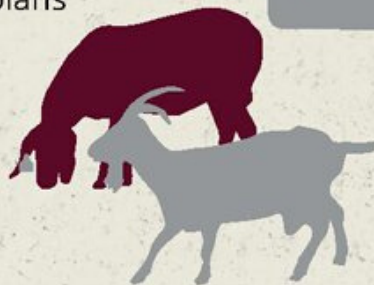


TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY  
**ATM** Veterinary Medicine  
 & Biomedical Sciences

# PREPARING LIVESTOCK HERDS FOR DISASTER

## START PLANNING!

Visit with your veterinarian to:  
 establish herd and individual animal identification  
 and keep registrations current, maintain herd  
 records, and develop biosecurity plans



## TAKE PREEMPTIVE STEPS!

Identify key parts of your plan in advance:



find alternative sites  
 and plan evacuation  
 routes, decide where  
 to place equipment  
 and feed, find  
 resources to move  
 livestock, take photos  
 of all equipment, and  
 develop a *Continuity  
 of Operations* plan  
*(The VET can help!)*

## BE READY TO GO!

Don't wait till it's too late:

allow ample time to pre-position  
 equipment and feed sources,  
 as well as to move livestock to  
 safer locations

*Don't depend on historical norms  
 to inform your evacuation plans!*



***Always have a plan for your herd!***

Visit [vetmed.tamu.edu/vet/beprepared](http://vetmed.tamu.edu/vet/beprepared) for a full list of tips.



# PREPARING HORSES & SHOW LIVESTOCK FOR DISASTER



TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY  
Veterinary Medicine  
& Biomedical Sciences

## START PLANNING!

Visit with your veterinarian to:  
obtain medical records, maintain core  
vaccinations and Coggins status, maintain  
test status to facilitate movement,  
and refill prescriptions



have your animals permanently  
identified (*microchipped*  
or *freeze-branded*)—and don't  
forget to keep registration  
information current

## CREATE A "GO-KIT!"

Inside waterproof containers, include:



3-5 days' worth of food and water,  
2 weeks' worth of medications,  
medical records, first aid supplies,  
cleaning supplies, and extra lead  
ropes, halters, and blankets



## BE READY TO GO!

When it's time to leave home, be sure to:

have your truck and trailer maintained  
and road-worthy, identify alternate  
transportation options, and know  
where you're going (*have a list  
of boarding facilities and/or shelters  
that allow livestock*)



***Never leave your animals behind!***

Visit [vetmed.tamu.edu/vet/beprepared](http://vetmed.tamu.edu/vet/beprepared) for a full list of tips.

# Upcoming Programs for Hardin County

All face-to-face programs have been canceled until at least August 2020 unless extended by the county or Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service.

The entire agency has been working together in an effort to bring you CEUs and great online programs! I have included just a few that might be of interest to you, but there are so many more coming up on [agrilifeextension.tamu.edu](http://agrilifeextension.tamu.edu)



TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
COMMISSIONER SID MILLER

## **Future Fridays**

We have continued to do Future Fridays and have begun to highlight several of our own from Hardin County. As we can get back to face-to-face I would love to interview some of yall in person if you do not care to do it online.

If you are interested in doing a career interview please contact me at [katie.pace@ag.tamu.edu](mailto:katie.pace@ag.tamu.edu) or 409-246-5128.

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TDA has allowed AgriLife to create a completely online Texas Private Pesticide Applicator Training. This training is \$75 on the AgriLife Learn Portal [agrilifelearn.tamu.edu](http://agrilifelearn.tamu.edu)

TEXAS A&M  
AGRI LIFE  
EXTENSION



# GARDENING IN THE GULF COAST

Join our Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Horticulture agents and specialists online as they discuss gardening in the Gulf Coast Region of Texas.

## June 2020 Schedule

- June 3 at 10:00am - Annuals in the Summer Heat
  - by Paul Winski, AgriLife Extension Horticulture Agent in Harris County
- June 10 at 10:00am - Olives on the Texas Gulf Coast
  - by Stephen Janak, Extension Program Specialist
- June 17 at 10:00am - Gardening in Containers
  - by Skip Richter, AgriLife Extension Horticulture Agent in Brazos County
- June 24 at 10:00am - Turf Irrigation Audit
  - by Michael Potter, AgriLife Extension Horticulture Agent in Montgomery County

Online via Microsoft Teams  
[Register Here](#)

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**AGRI LIFE**  
EXTENSION

EXTENDING KNOWLEDGE  
*Providing Solutions*

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 activity, are encouraged to contact the County Extension Office for assistance 5 days prior to the activity.



*"Is the next crash just around the corner?"*

*Long term market outlook and preparing the ranch*

## SOUTHEAST REGION BEEF AND FORAGE INITIATIVE TEAM ONLINE WORKSHOP

JUNE 10, 2020

9 A.M.—12 NOON

The second in a 2 part series

[agrilliferegister.tamu.edu/beef](http://agrilliferegister.tamu.edu/beef)

\$10

ENROLL

For more information contact

[Brian.Yanta@ag.tamu.edu](mailto:Brian.Yanta@ag.tamu.edu)

Meeting will be conducted  
through the MS Teams platform

During and after Drought

**Market Outlook,**

Dr. David Anderson, Economist

**Sale Barn Update,**

Area Agents

**Fever Tick Update**

Dr. Joe Paschal, Corpus Christi

**CARES Act**

Dr. Joe Outlaw, Co-Director AFPC

Agriculture Food Policy Center, College Station

### BEEF & FORAGE TEAM

Quinn Berckenhoff, DeWitt Co; Megan Clayton, Range Specialist; Jason Cleere, Livestock Specialist; Vanessa Cormier-Olson, Forage Specialist; Shannon DeForest, Lavaca Co; Allen Homann, Grimes Co; Anthony Metardus, DeWitt Co; Joe Paschal, Livestock Specialist; Stacie Villarreal, Walter Co; & Brian Yanta, Galind Co

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, marital status, sexual orientation or gender identity and will strive to achieve full and equal employment opportunity throughout Texas A&M AgriLife.





# Pond Management

watch-from-home webinar series

every Monday in June @ 6 pm

Free to Watch • CEU hours available\* \$10/CEU Hour



**JUNE 1\*** — AQUATIC VEGETATION ECOLOGY & MGMT — Brittany Chesser, *Aquatic Vegetation Management Program Specialist*  
1 CEU Gen.

**JUNE 8\*** — AQUATIC VEGETATION ID & CONTROL — Brittany Chesser  
1 CEU IPM *Submit photos by June 5, for weed ID. Instructions on Pg 2.*

**JUNE 15** — FARM PONDS: PLANNING, DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION — Glen Minzenmeyer, *Civil Engineering Technician, Natural Resources Conservation Service*  
no CEU

**JUNE 22** — POND STOCKING — Todd Sink, Ph.D., *Associate Professor, Dept of Range, Wildlife and Fisheries Management, Aquaculture and Fisheries Extension Specialist*  
no CEU

**JUNE 29** — FISH POPULATION MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES — Todd Sink, Ph.D.  
no CEU



Participants **MUST** register in order to receive link to meeting and password.

Register at: <https://forms.gle/oZ5cvTsqFieoSeyJ6>

OR call **979-542-2753**

**Geri L. Kline**

LEE COUNTY  
Extension Agent  
Agriculture/Natural Resources

**979-542-2753**

**Ashley Radde**

BASTROP COUNTY  
Extension Agent  
Agriculture/Natural Resources

**512-581-7186**

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Participants for the June 8 Webinar, are encouraged to submit clear, closeup photos of plants/algae issues, that will be identified and addressed during the presentation. **PHOTO DEADLINE: JUNE 5**

**WHEN SUBMITTING PHOTOS OF TANK WEEDS:**

**Photo #1** - Good overview, but bad closeup.

**Photo #2** - Good closeup. Good detail.

**Photo #3** - Clean background. Good detail.

**INCLUDE IN YOUR EMAIL, INFORMATION ABOUT:**

- Management goals (i.e., cattle only, cattle & fish)
- Size of tank and percentage covered in vegetation
- Does plant grow in or above water, or both?
- Does livestock drink from this water source?

Email inquires to: [Brittany.Chesser@tamu.edu](mailto:Brittany.Chesser@tamu.edu)

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# RANCHING GOATS FOR PROFIT

TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY AGRILIFE EXTENSION  
SOUTH EAST REGION

## JOIN US TUESDAY MORNINGS TO LEARN HOW MEAT GOATS CAN MAKE YOUR RANCH MORE PROFITABLE

JUNE 9TH - WHY ARE MEAT GOATS PROFITABLE  
DR. REID REDDEN

JUNE 16TH - HOW TO MARKET MEAT GOATS  
DR. SHAWN RAMSEY

JUNE 23RD - KEEP YOUR GOAT IN AND PREDATORS OUT  
DR. REID REDDEN

JUNE 30TH - PASTURE, NUTRITION AND PARASITE  
MANAGEMENT  
DR. REID REDDEN

Join us at 7am on Facebook Live  
[@BrazosValleySmallRuminantCommittee](#)

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AGRILIFE  
EXTENSION







**BIRDS, BEES AND  
BUTTERFLIES:  
GARDENING FOR  
WILDLIFE**



**GROW NATIVE,  
NOT WILD!**



**TEXAN  
PLANTS**



For the most up to date  
information and programming  
efforts:

*Follow Us!*



Facebook

- Hardin AgriLife Extension
- Hardin County 4-H Youth  
and Development



YouTube

**Hardin County 4-H**

Educational programs of the 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 this meeting are encouraged to contact the Hardin County Extension Office at (409) 246-5128 two working days prior to the meeting to determine how reasonable accommodations can be made.



# *Get involved with Hardin County Extension*

Please consider joining the Hardin County Agriculture Committee to provide leadership and suggestions for upcoming programming. You don't have to make a large time commitment, with as few as four meetings per year, but we would love to hear your ideas and for you to share input on your county!

Please contact the office to update your email address, or if you know someone that would like to be added to this list, at (409) 246-5128, or by email [katie.pace@ag.tamu.edu](mailto:katie.pace@ag.tamu.edu). We also welcome suggestions for upcoming newsletters!

PO Box 610 | 1135 Redwood | Kountze, TX 77625

p: (409) 246-5128 | f: (409) 246-5201

<http://hardin.agrilife.org>

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