

VOL. 5 | MAY 2020

OUR BACKYARD

An agricultural newsletter by Hardin County AgriLife Extension



From the Agent

Howdy!

As we get back to what is our new normal, I hope everyone is keeping in good health and spirits. We are still awaiting information on when we will be able to continue our face to face programming. I have been working with other agents in our area on some online programming efforts to try and fill the void until we are able to get back in the swing of things.

I miss office visits and being able to visit you in your homes. Please don't hesitate to call me, or send me emails, I will do everything I can do to help from afar.

Stay Safe,

Katie A. Pace | Hardin County Extension Agent

OVERVIEW:

- From the Agent
- Horticulture Corner
- Good Reads
- Programming Update
 - Virtual Programming Efforts
- Get Involved



HORTICULTURE

CORNER

In the Garden

May brings our yards to life, so take care of them:

Mulch around tomatoes to control moisture, this will reduce blossom end rot issues

Prune spring blooming plants after done blooming
Check for aphids, spider mites, and powdery mildew

Place new mulch in beds to conserve moisture, deter weeds, and keep soils cool

What should I plant this month?

Finish Planting:

Black Eyed Peas

Cantaloupe

Cucumber

Eggplant

Green Beans
(Pole or Bush)

Lima Beans

Okra

Peppers

Pumpkin

Sweet Potato

Squash

Watermelon

Native Texans



Texas Olive is this month's featured Native Texan. This attractive tree reaches about fifteen feet tall with about a ten foot spread. During spring to fall there are beautiful clusters of white blossoms that are a favorite of butterflies and bees.

The best part of Texas Olive is they produce purple fruit that wildlife love to eat! This Native Texan of the lower Rio Grande Valley is naturally found along stream beds and slopes, preferring a well drained soil. However, they are drought tolerant and frost resistant for temperatures in the 20's, which we don't see much of in East Texas. This tree is one of our few plants that will flower all year.



GOOD
read

No Mow May!

April showers bring May flowers, and if you like food, you should leave those flowers alone! The idea behind not mowing your yard in May results in more flowers and nectar all summer long for struggling pollinators, and The National Wildlife Federation is urging you to leave your lawnmowers locked up until June. Research by a British wildlife organization, Plantlife, claims not mowing your yard in May results in a greater diversity, and number, of flowers throughout the summer.

The Plantlife organization conducted an experiment where hundreds of homeowners agreed not to mow their lawns until June. Participants' lawns produced a much wider variety of flower species and enough nectar to feed 10 times as many bees as normal lawns. The longer your grass grows, the greater the diversity of flower species you get. Because of this, the organization recommends mowing only once a month all summer. If you don't think you can't wait that long, try mowing in sections or chunks. Leaving long patches for pollinators is extremely beneficial too.

The movement has quickly been gaining momentum within communities and states. With Minnesota taking the idea even farther, and allocating funds to pay homeowners to turn their lawns back into native prairies that are filled with wildflowers, clover, and native grasses. Part of this return to native prairies includes the stop of spraying herbicides and stop mowing as often in order to let their lawns to re-wild into a more natural state.

If you are worried about what your neighbors might say you can, you can visit The National Wildlife Federation website at nwf.org to certify your lawn as a Wildlife Habitat. The cost is \$50 to certify your yard and receive a yard sign, like the one at the top of the page. During May Wildlife Month use GARDEN20 for 20% off the total price.

Upcoming Programs for Hardin County

All face-to-face programs have been canceled until May 18, 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



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 or 409-246-5128.

TEXAS A&M
AGRI LIFE
EXTENSION

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

TEXAS A&M
AGRI LIFE
EXTENSION

2020 Beef Management & Economics Series

presented online via Zoom

All Programs 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. (central time)

One time \$10.00 pre-registration fee (attend one or all sessions)

CC/Debit/PayPal ONLY (\$10 + \$2.24 one-time payment fee per participant)

Register Here: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/102698491954>

Upon registration, participants will receive email confirmation with additional instructions

HEALTH & REPRODUCTION

Tuesday, May 5th

Reproductive development & herd health

Breeding Soundness Exams and Bull Fertility

Preventative Herd Health Management for
Reproduction

Economics of reproduction decisions

Thursday, May 7th

Keep / Cull Decisions / Body
Condition Scores

Potential Predator Issues
and Control Options

Economics of management
decisions

FORAGE HEALTH & GRAZING CONSIDERATIONS

Tuesday, May 19th

Integration of livestock into farming practices

cover crops / water conservation / water management

soil health / weed management
opportunities and challenges

crops, and livestock diversification

Thursday, May 21st

Creating a Better Grazing Management Plan

Using supplementation to strategically
influence grazing distribution

Risks associated with prussic acid in forages

Economic decisions impacting forage
availability

NUTRITION & SUPPLEMENTATION

Tuesday, May 12th

Meeting the nutrient requirements of
beef cattle in a forage-based setting

Making economical supplementation
decisions

Economics and risk involved with
nutrition decisions and
supplementation decisions

BEEF QUALITY & EFFICIENCIES

Tuesday, May 26th

A look at the efficiencies of a
dairy farm

Research and Carcass Data
Dairy/Beef Cross Calves

Update on quality and management to improve
carcass quality

Beef/ Industry Panel – Opportunities
and Challenges

Market outlooks for 2020 and
economics of quality beef
improvement through genetics

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POND OWNERS SERIES

TEXAS A&M
AGRI LIFE
EXTENSION

May 15, 2020 11:00 AM- 12:00 PM

Common Aquatic Herbicides Use & Mode of Action

Program covers aquatic herbicide use, and mode of action for the 14 aquatically approved herbicides; and how this impacts management strategies of commonly problematic aquatic vegetation. (CEU 1 hour General).

May 15, 2020 12:30 PM - 1:30 PM

Aquatic Plant ID and Control

Program covers 10+ of the most common problematic aquatic vegetation species in Texas and their effective control options and integrated pest management strategies. (CEU 1 hour IPM).

Registration:

\$15 Per session
non refundable
convenience fee will apply

Contact Brazoria County
Agrilife Extension
(979)864-1558

Online Registration:

<https://brazoria.agrilife.org/events/>

Sponsors

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Sea Grant
Texas
AT TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

SMALL ACREAGE BIG OPPORTUNITY

A wildlife management program especially for landowners with small properties.

MAY 16, 2020 - WEBINAR

Gulf Prairies, Piney Woods, and Post Oak Savannah

\$25 registration fee

includes exclusive access to online presentations and resources

Join us to learn:

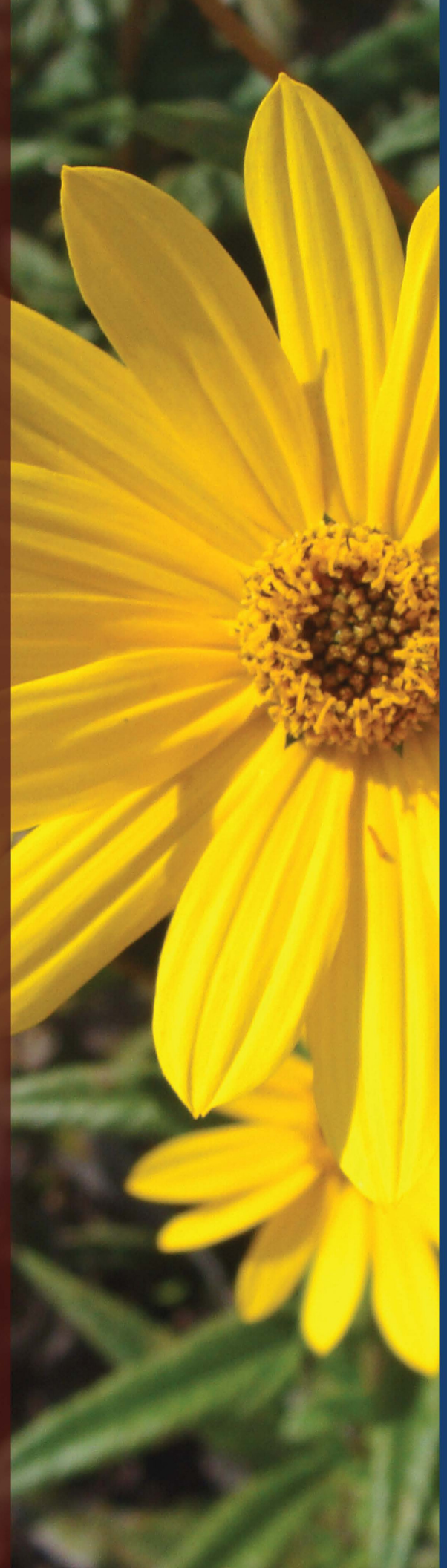
- Brush management
- Reseeding native grasses
- Soil health
- Creating wildlife habitat
- Earning 1-d-1 wildlife tax valuation
- Cost share opportunities
- Meet landowners who are doing the work
- And more!

REGISTER TODAY:

TEXAS - W I L D L I F E . O R G



TEXAS A&M
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Small Flock Poultry Program

Join Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service as we cover the necessary information needed to start a small-scale poultry program from your home or farm.

Date: Monday, May 18 - Thursday, May 21

Time: 12:00 - 1:00 P.M. Daily

Agenda:

Monday, May 18: Getting Your Flock Started with Craig Coufal

Tuesday, May 19: Healthy Management Practices for Your Flock with Craig Coufal and Dr. Martin Ficken

Wednesday, May 20: How To Increase Egg Production with Craig Coufal

Thursday, May 21: Egg Handling, Food Safety, & Egg Sales with Craig Coufal

Speakers:

- Dr. Craig Coufal: Associate Professor & Extension Specialist of Poultry Science
- Dr. Martin Ficken: Center Director at Texas Veterinary Medical Diagnostic Laboratory

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.



Use this link to join:

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Password:
poultry





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Sea Grant
Texas
AT TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY



NOAA Live! Webinar Series: Coastal Marshland in My Texas Backyard

**Wed, May 27, 2020
10:00 AM - 11:00 AM**

**Presented by: Nikki Fitzgerald,
NOAA's Texas Sea Grant in
Anahuac, TX**

**Learn about the importance of our
coastal marshes and discover the many
different animals that call it home.**

**Scan for
Registration Link**



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Online Ranchers Agricultural Leasing Workshop

AgriLifeLearn.tamu.edu

Online Ranchers Agricultural Leasing Workshop

UNDERSTANDING LEASE AGREEMENTS

AgriLifeLearn.tamu.edu

Online Ranchers Agricultural Leasing Workshop

AgriLifeLearn.tamu.edu

For the most up to date
information and programming
efforts:

Follow Us!



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- 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. 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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