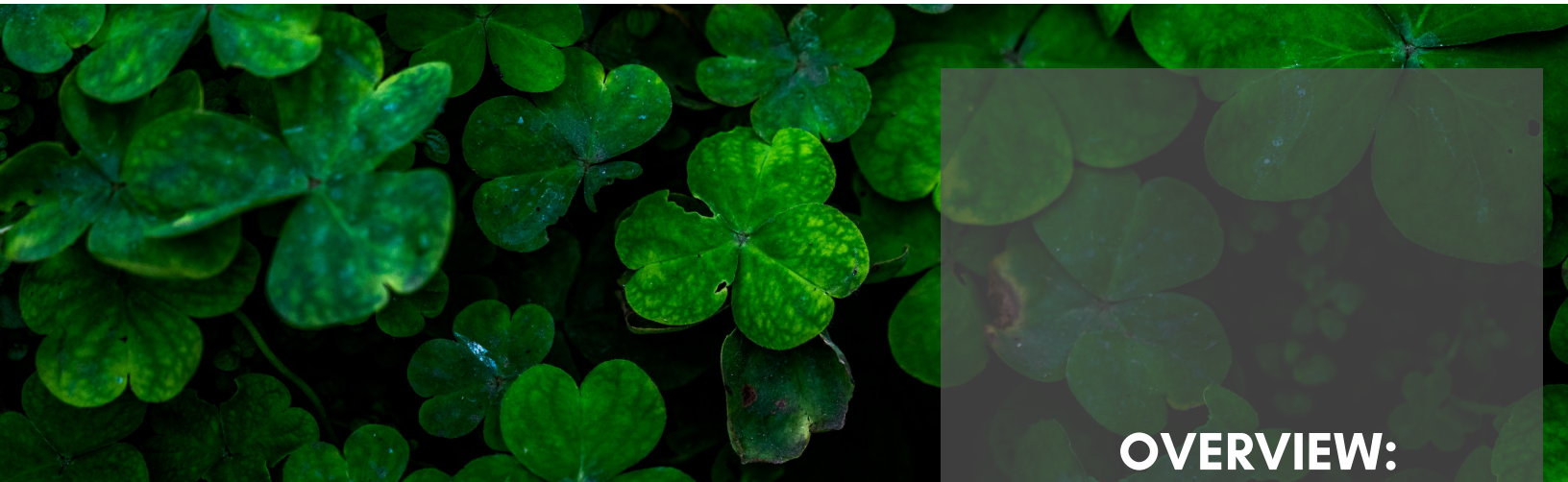


VOL. 15 | MARCH 2021

OUR BACKYARD

An agricultural newsletter by Hardin County AgriLife Extension



OVERVIEW:

- From the Agent
- Texas Speaks
- Horticulture Corner
- Producers Coral
- Good Read
- Programming
- Get Involved

From the Agent

Howdy!

I hope everyone is fairing as well as can be expected after our "blizzard". I don't think I have ever been so excited to start sweating again!

I have received numerous calls over what to do now with your plants, so our Good Read this month goes through each of our different varieties to help put your mind at ease. But please don't ever hesitate to call and ask more questions!

Katie A. Pace | Hardin County Extension Agent



TEXAS SPEAKS

STATEWIDE SURVEY Identifying the Strengths & Needs of Texas Communities

WHAT IS TEXAS SPEAKS?

TexasSpeaks is a state-wide online survey conducted by Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service with the purpose of listening to Texas citizens as they identify the strengths and needs of their communities.

Data from the survey will be aggregated at local levels and provided to local stakeholders. Additionally, statewide data will be aggregated and made available to state agencies and decision makers.

WHAT IS THE GOAL?

To engage as many Texas citizens as possible to create the most accurate and helpful data to support Texas communities at both the state and local levels.

QUICK FACTS ABOUT THE SURVEY

- Online
- Open to the public
- Anonymous
- Takes 10 minutes
- Includes an opportunity to collect open-ended feedback



PARTICIPATE TODAY!
<http://tx.ag/texasspeaks>





HORTICULTURE Corner

In the Garden

Do **NOT** prune or dispose of cold damaged plants yet, they might surprise you with their resilience
#learntolikeugly

Wait to fertilize lawns, but apply preemergence herbicide for crabgrass or grassburs

Hold off on planting annual flowers, but you can plant Alyssum, Larkspur, Poppies, English Daisies, Stock, Snapdragons, and Petunias

Native Texans

If you are looking to cover an arbor in your yard then look no farther than Virginia Creeper! Native to East Texas, this vine can be used for climbing or for ground cover. If you think the lush green is beautiful, just wait until it starts showing its fall colors.



While it does confuse us at times as it looks similar to Poison Ivy, it is easy to remember the old rhyme: "Leaves of three, let it be; Leaves of five, let it thrive." This serves as a reminder that Poison Ivy leaflets are normally in groups of three, while Virginia Creeper are in groups of five.

What should I plant this month?

Transplant

Broccoli

Cabbage

Collards

Seed for Transplant

Beans

Collards

Cucumber

Greens

Melons

Radish

Squash

Spinach

Tomatoes

**Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service
Hardin County
Spring & Fall Vegetable Planting Guide**

Name of Crop	Inches Between Rows	Inches Between Plant In Row	Spring Planting Dates	Fall Planting Dates	Approx. Days to Maturity
Beans (Bush)	18-30	3-4	March 5 - April 30	Aug. 1 —Sept . 20	50-70
Beans (Pole)	24-30	12-18	March 1-April 15		50-90
Beets	12-24	2-3	Feb. 1– March 1	Sept. 15—Nov. 1	60-70
Broccoli	24-30	12-20	Feb. 1—Feb 15	Aug. 15—Oct. 1	70-100
Brussel Sprouts	24-30	12-20		Sept. 1—Oct 1	100-110
Cabbage	24-30	12-20	Jan 15-Feb 15	Sept 1—Nov 15	70-100
Carrots	12-24	2	Jan 15—Feb 15	Oct 1—Nov 1	80-90
Cauliflower	24-30	12-20	Feb 1—Feb 15	Sept 1 — Oct 1	80-100
Collards	12-24	6-12	Feb 1—Feb 28	Sept 1 — Oct 1	60-90
Corn (Sweet)	24-36	8-12	March 5—April 15	Aug 1—Aug 15	80-100
Cucumber	36-48	18-36	March 15-May 1	Aug 15—Sept 20	60-80
Eggplant	18-30	18-24	March 1—April 15		90-100
Garlic	12-24	2-4		Sept. 15—Oct 15	150-160
Kohlrabi	12-24	3-5	Jan 15– March 1	Sept. 15 --Oct 20	65-85
Lettuce (Leaf)	12-24	2-3	Feb 1—April 1	Sept 15—Oct 15	50-90
Mustard	12-24	4-6	Feb. 15—April 1	Sept 1—Nov 1	40-50
Okra	30-40	18-24	April 1—to July 15		65-75
Onion (Seeds)	12-24	2-3		Sept. 1 —Nov 15	100-130
Onion (Plants)	12-24	2-3	Jan 15—Feb 15		90-130
Peas (English)	18-30	1	Jan 10—Feb 15	Oct 1—Nov 1	65-105
Peas (Southern)	24-36	3-5	April to May 20	Aug 1 —Sept 1	70—90
Pepper (Transplants)	24-36	18-24	March 1 to April 25		70-100
Potatoes (Irish)	24-36	8-12	Jan 15-to Feb 20	Aug 15 —Sept 1	90-110
Potatoes (Sweet)	30-36	10-14	April 1 to May 20		110-140
Radish	12-24	1	Feb 1 to April 15	Sept 1 —Oct 15	35-50
Spinach	12-24	3-4	Jan 1 to Feb 15	Sept 1 — Nov 1	50-70
Squash (Summer)	30-40	14-30	March 20 —May 1	Aug 1 —Sept 1	60-70
Tomato (Transplants)	24-40	18-30	March 1 to April 20	July 15 to Aug 1	80-100
Turnip (Greens or Root)	12-24	2-3	Jan 15 to March 15	Sept 1 to Oct 15	40-70

*1st Fall Frost November 30th

*Last Spring Frost March 3rd

*Revised 1/28/21

PRODUCERS

Coval



Cattle Market

Price Expectations	2019	2020	2021	2021 Range	
				Low	High
All Fresh Retail Price (\$/lb.)	\$5.82	\$6.35	\$6.20	\$6.05	\$6.35
Composite Cutout (\$/cwt.)	\$220	\$237	\$225	\$205	\$245
Fed Steer Price (\$/cwt.)	\$117	\$110	\$119	\$108	\$128
800-lb Steer Price (\$/cwt.)	\$139	\$133	\$145	\$135	\$160
550-lb Steer Price (\$/cwt.)	\$164	\$160	\$168	\$160	\$180
Utility Cow Price (\$/cwt.)	\$60	\$62	\$64	\$50	\$70
Hide & Offal Value (\$/cwt.)	\$8.88	\$7.95	\$9.50	\$8.50	\$10.50
Spot Corn Futures Price (\$/bu.)	\$3.83	\$3.64	\$4.75	\$3.75	\$5.75

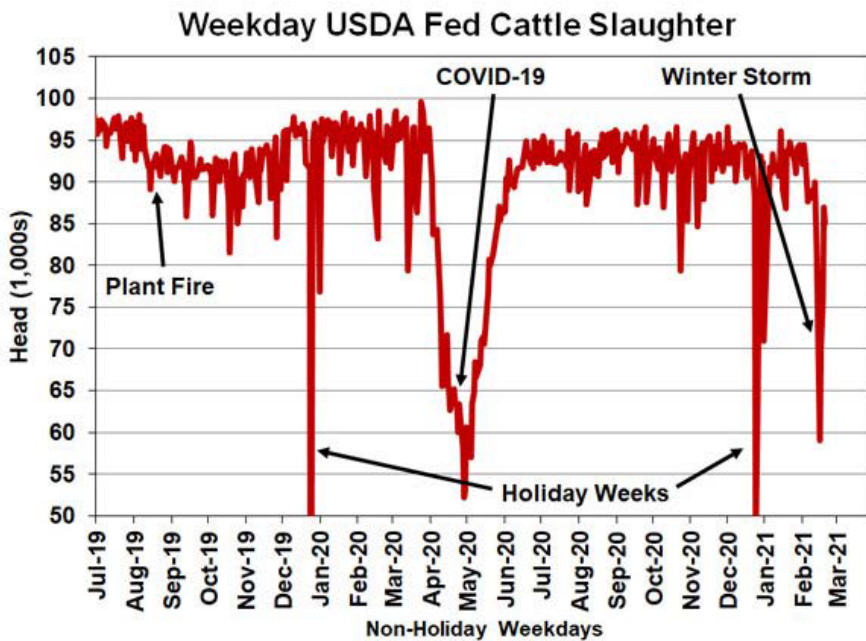
What to do with the herd this month?

Continue to feed/replace High Magnesium Mineral Supplement to prevent grass tetany

Select replacement heifers, vaccinate and deworm them for spring breeding

End fall/winter breeding, collect your bulls and focus on feeding them back to soundness

Schedule breeding soundness exams for spring use bulls



When will she calf?

March 1-24 → December 8-31

March 25-31 → January 1-7

GOOD read

Learn to Love Ugly!

There is absolutely nothing you can do to speed up this freeze damage/healing process. Watering, pruning, or fertilizing won't make it happen any quicker. Most work now is purely cosmetic. The solution is warm nights, warm days, and longer day lengths. Once the plants start to grow (or not), we will know the answer and what parts to cut away or which plants to replace. Some damage doesn't show up for months and some plants that appear dead come back to life from the root system. Some plants with green stems like roses will show what's dead even quicker and can be cut back sooner. The stems on others will split to show that they are damaged. Remember just cut off the stems as the roots may still be alive.

Evergreen Woody Shrubs: Wait until they start to resprout from the existing stems or the ground, then cut away dead and leave what is alive and growing. Split stems will be dead. There will most likely be no blooms this year and all old foliage will most likely fall off. Many of these plants are from milder parts of southeastern Asia and simply aren't used to zero degrees. Most broadleaf evergreens prefer milder climates while narrow leafed evergreens and deciduous plants are more adapted to colder climates.

Roses: Many roses in Texas and the South have taken a severe hit and will have varying degrees of freeze damage. At first glance it appears that many will freeze back to and resprout from the snow line. Hybrid teas, grandifloras, floribundas, polyanthas, and modern shrub roses like Knockouts and Drifts are considered more cold hardy while uniquely Southern roses like Teas, Chinas, Noisettes, Banksias, etc. will have suffered the most damage. Once you see which stems are brown/dead and which stems are green and resprouting, cut them back with loppers or hand pruners, sprinkle a bit of lawn fertilizer, and they should look nice again by fall.

Vines: Native vines like coral honeysuckle and crossvine may be just fine while others like Carolina jessamine and confederate jasmine may be damaged. Still others like coral vine and creeping fig may have been killed. English ivy may have had foliage damage only. Once you see the stems split open and the plants resprout, cut them back to that point, even if it's at the ground.

Crapemyrtles: There will be different amounts of damage on different cultivars in different microclimates. Don't do anything until they start to sprout then cut back to where new growth is occurring, even it's at the ground. They will grow back vigorously. In the 1980s *Lagerstroemia fauriei* froze and died, 'Natchez' and many hybrids froze to the ground, and there were varying degrees of damage to most older indica cultivars.

Ornamental Grasses: With the exception of purple fountain grass, lemon grass, napier grass, and vetiver, most are cold hardy and will sprout back from the crown. Go ahead and cut them back to the crowns now and wait until early summer to see what comes back.

Herbs: Many herbs like rosemary and bay laurel will be dead and will need to be replaced, certainly those in pots which are always less cold hardy than those in the ground. Some rosemary cultivars are more cold hardy than others but very few can survive zero degrees. Most herbs are Mediterranean and prefer mild winters and dry soils. Some lavender may have survived but generally dies during wet winter or wet summers.

Vegetables: Most were frozen and will need to be replanted including onions, potatoes and cool season greens. There's still time to get in a late crop of cool season plants like lettuce, greens, cabbage, broccoli, etc. It's still too early for tomatoes and peppers and I wish folks would quit putting them out for sale. Never plant those before March 15.

Native Plants and Wildflowers: Most are perfectly fine as they evolved to deal with periodic Arctic blasts and blue northers.

House plants (aloe vera, Christmas cactus, croton, peace lily, philodendron, ponytail palm, sanseveria, etc.): If they were left out outside, they should be dead, even if covered. Count it as a minor miracle if not. These plants aren't designed to withstand 32 degrees much less 0!

Magnolias: Other than ice damage to southern magnolias, they appear to be fine like many native plants are. Deciduous magnolias lost their flower buds but will be fine.

Palm Trees and Sago “Palms”: Many will be damaged or dead but do nothing but cut off the dead fronds for now. It will take months to see if they resprout. Historically the only palms reliably cold hardy here in Texas and the only ones to survive zero degrees in the 1980s were Mexican/Texas sabal palms, Brazoria palms, dwarf palmettos, and a number of windmill palms. All others froze and died. Sagos aren't true palms, are less cold hardy, and back then were only cold hardy from I-10 south.

Fruit trees: Most are cold hardy except avocado, citrus, pomegranates, olives, and figs which will have varying degrees of damage and death. Most citrus above I-10 will have severe damage. Once again, do nothing for now and prune back to live growth when they sprout. Open flowers and fat buds on blueberries, peaches, and pears froze, but the trees should be alive and sprout as normal. Unfortunately fruit production will be limited. I'd think blackberries will be fine.

Live oaks: All foliage will be lost which would have been lost when the new foliage came out in spring anyway. There however many be varying degrees of damage including death like there was in Dallas during the 1980s when all the bark eventually popped off, but once again nothing you can do right now but take a cold tater and wait. Live oaks are coastal trees not used to zero degree weather. Friend Neil Sperry says they'll be fine so we'll all hope for the best!

Pines: Pine in some areas have turned brown. This is mostly likely just freeze damage to the needles but the buds and stems should be fine. Our native pines along with all our other native plants have learned to survive periodic Arctic blasts. Note that nature made sure that short leaf pine occurred further north, loblolly pine with medium length needles occurred farther south, and longleaf pine occurred the most south. It's all about holding up to ice and snow but all have always been cold hardy here for thousands of years. Most conifers including pines and cedars will be fine although they may be damaged and broken from snow and ice. Saw off the broken branches close to the trunk or nearest major branch wherever you can.

Deciduous Trees: Most deciduous trees and shrubs (those that drop their leaves in winter) will be just fine although they may have lost their bloom buds (deciduous magnolias). Deciduous plants evolved with cold winters. Spireas appear fine. Mophead and lace cap hydrangeas may have different degrees of damage. Once again, only prune away what is dead once they sprout. Oakleaf hydrangeas are probably fine.

Groundcovers: Some such as aspidistra, English ivy, ferns, and liriope may have foliage damage only. Others like Asian jasmine may have suffered even more damage. Cut off, shear, or mow the dead leaves, scatter a sprinkling of lawn fertilizer and most will grow back after the nights get warm and the days longer.

St. Augustine and Centipede lawns: There will possibly be dead areas and freeze damage. Mow as normal but avoid pre-emergent herbicides which can damage injured grass. Do not fertilize until nights are warmer in mid-April and do not water until June, July, and August, once per week, one inch per application. Watering in the spring contributes to gray leaf spot and brown patch. Most folks water too often and cause their own problems. Bermudagrass and zoysiagrass are more cold hardy and should be just fine.

Perennials: Cut away the dead mush (wait until April 1 if you can stand it) and wait till mid spring to see what comes up. Many perennials are cold hardy but many we grow in the South are more tender and tropical (confederate rose, lantana, Mexican petunia, and lots more) and may not make it when the ground freezes.

Bulbs: Although the foliage has been damaged and many blooms lost on spring bulbs, most should survive with possibly reduced bloom next year due to less foliage this year. I wouldn't be surprised if many heirlooms produced more foliage and bloomed almost normal next year. Note due to their geographic genetics, narcissus are the least hardy, jonquils more hardy, and daffodils the most hardy. Some daffodils may still bloom. However anything that already had buds won't bloom this year. Tulips seem OK. Spider lilies (lycoris) and oxblood lilies lost their foliage but will be fine with possibly reduced bloom this fall. Cannas and Hymenocallis may have rhizome and bulb damage if the ground froze. You will have to wait and see if any, some, are all of the clumps come back. Except for a few tender types, most crinums will be fine.

Succulents (Agaves, aloes, cactus, opuntia, manfredas, yuccas, sedums, etc.): Some of these guys are very tender and will be dead while others are more-cold hardy and will be fine. When it warms up and the mush dries, peel it away and see what comes back.

Tropicals (bananas, bougainvillea, Mexican heather, tropical hibiscus, etc.): Cut away the dead mush and stems (wait until April 1 if you can stand it) and wait till mid spring to see what comes up. The general rule on tropicals is if the air freezes the tops die and if the ground or soil freezes the whole plant dies. Those left outside in pots are probably dead and should be replaced in April/May when the nights warm up. This is a good time to learn about hardiness zones which indicate which zone/ temperatures plants are hardy to. Look up your plant. If it's listed as zone 9 or 10 it probably froze and died. If it's listed as zone 8 it probably froze to the ground. If it's listed as zone 7 or lower, it probably survived.

Weeds: The reason many weeds survived is that they are cool season plants from colder parts of Europe while most of the dead or damaged plants are from warm parts of Asia. Hot temperatures kill cool season weeds, not cold temperatures.

Invasive: Chinese tallow and Chinese privet will suffer freeze damage like many other southeastern Asian plants have with both foliage and stem die back but other than seedlings will mostly likely resprout from their stems and certainly roots.

Genetics, provenance, and acclimation: Cold hardiness has much to do with the genetics and evolution of a species (Who's your daddy and where are you from?); what part of the historic range the seed source was from (live oak seed from colder Virginia or live oak seed from warmer South Louisiana); and how warm it was and how actively the plant was growing before it froze (plants freeze much more easily when they are growing than when they are dormant). This explains why National Arboretum crapemyrtles never froze in Washington D.C. and more northern climates but have frozen numerous times in Texas over the years.

If plants are green and not withered, they are most likely fine. It all has to do with their evolutionary and geographical genetics as to whether they can survive zero degrees. But just because they are brown doesn't mean they are dead. It's possible that the stems or roots may still be alive. Give them time.

Upcoming Programs for *Nardin County*

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension has lifted their suspension. As we begin to look for areas in the county to host programs we will update everyone.

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

There are also many different programs on agrilifelearn.org



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 DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
COMMISSIONER SID MILLER

GARDENING ON 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.

February 3 at 10:00am - Seasonal Landscape Pruning
by Stephen Brueggerhoff
AgriLife Extension Horticulture Agent in Brazoria County

February 17 at 10:00am - Best Practices for Citrus Plants
by David Oates
AgriLife Extension Horticulture Agent in Jefferson County

March 3 at 10:00am - Vegetable Gardening: More Bounty, Less Work
by Skip Richter
AgriLife Extension Horticulture Agent in Brazos County

March 17 at 10:00am - Composting Done Right
by Stephen Brueggerhoff
AgriLife Extension Horticulture Agent in Brazoria County

March 31 at 10:00am - Spring Lawn Care
by Michael Potter
AgriLife Extension Horticulture Agent in Montgomery County

Online via Microsoft Teams

[Register Here](#)

Registration Questions? Please email Janice Anderson at
janice.anderson@ag.tamu.edu



Pond Management for Private Pond Owners

TEXAS A&M
AGRI LIFE
EXTENSION



Join us online for a two part series

March 3, 2021

Aquatic Vegetation and Management

Brittany Chesser,

Aquatic Vegetation Program Specialist, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service
Lead Diagnostic Scientist, TAMU Aquatic Diagnostics Laboratory

- Identifying aquatic plant species
- When aquatic plants become a problem
- Basics of why aquatic vegetation needs to be controlled
- How to select an appropriate herbicide, biological, or physical control method

March 11, 2021

Fish Management Strategies for Recreational Fishing Ponds

Todd Sink, Ph.D.

Associate Professor, Texas A&M University, Department of Rangeland, Wildlife & Fisheries Management
Aquaculture Extension Specialist, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service
Director, TAMU Aquatic Diagnostics Laboratory
Publications Chair, USDA-NIFA Southern Regional Aquaculture Center

- Natural food availability and sources
- Food chain development
- Fertilization to grow bigger fish
- Feeding fish with fish food and fish nutrition
- Identifying population problems
- Maximum fish production strategy
- Big bass management strategy
- Black crappie management strategy
- Largemouth bass genetics
- Fish attracting structures
- Big bluegill/pan fish management strategy

Presentation: 12:30 PM – 2:00 PM

Via Microsoft Teams

All preregistered attendees will receive meeting details including the link to attend once registered

Online Registration ONLY

FREE TO ATTEND

[Click here to register!](#)

For questions, please contact Brandy Rader,
Administrative Assistant ANR, by phone 281-342-3034
or by email brandy.rader@ag.tamu.edu

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. The Texas A&M University System, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the County Commissioners Courts of Texas Cooperating. Persons with disabilities who plan to attend this event and who may need auxiliary aids or services are required to contact Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service at 281.342.3034, five working days prior to the meeting so appropriate arrangements can be made.



Floral Fridays

Join Horticulturist
Stephen Brueggerhoff
and

Celebrate Plants in Bloom

This is an ongoing Facebook Live program
Every Friday at 11 AM
www.facebook.com/brazoriacountyextension



If you need special accommodations, please contact the Extension Office no later than seven days before the program so we can consider your request. 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.



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. 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>

TEXAS A&M
AGRILIFE
EXTENSION