

VOL. 22 | OCTOBER 2021

OUR BACKYARD

An agricultural newsletter by Hardin County AgriLife Extension



OVERVIEW:

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From the Agent

Howdy!

As I work on the newsletter I want to apologize in advance that it will be late this month. Heading into the Hardin County Youth Project Show has kept me running these last two weeks! With that being said, I would like to take this time to remind everyone to come out and support all the hard work our kiddos have put into their projects! I've included the schedule just in case.

Hope to see everyone at the fair!

Katie A. Pace | Hardin County Extension Agent



HORTICULTURE

CORNER

In the Garden

Stop watering lawns to reduce the chance of brown patch and other diseases

Plant trees, shrubs, vines, and spring blooming perennials

Limit pruning of shrubs and trees to removal of damage or dead branches

Plant spring flowering bulbs (not tulips & hyacinths)

Native Texans



If you are looking for an immune system boost that grows in your yard, then look no farther than the Elderberry shrub. White flowers bloom from May to July with only partial sun, before producing deep dark purple fruit that presents limitless possibilities for its owner.

Tasting similar to a blueberry and blackberry cross, it is very common to find pies, wines, candies, beverages, jellies, syrups, and toiletries made out of this fruit. It is said that the dried leaves are even a great natural insecticide to keep the mosquitos at bay. They do form dense colonies, so they will require some upkeep if you want to maintain just one shrub.

What should I plant this month?

Landscape Transplant:

Trees

Shrubs

Vines

Spring Blooming Perennials

Transplant or Seed:

Beets

Brussel Sprouts

Cabbage

Carrots

English Peas

Mustard/Collards

Lettuce

Onion

Radish

Spinach

Turnips

GARDEN HARVEST

Cooking

Butternut Squash Nachos

Ingredients

- 4 cups pumpkin squash or pumpkin cubed
- 2 Tbs olive oil
- 1/4 tsp pepper
- 1 bag blue corn tortilla chips
- 1 can black beans, drained
- 2 cups mozzarella cheese

Instructions

1. Preheat oven to 400 degrees Fahrenheit
2. Put cubed pumpkin on sheet pan, drizzle with olive oil. Sprinkle with pepper.
3. Roast for 30 minutes, until pumpkin is tender
4. Reduce oven to 350 degrees
5. Layer chips, pumpkin, beans, cheese, and any other toppings you wish on the tray. Repeat layer.
6. Bake in the oven for 10 minutes, or until cheese is melted.
7. Add toppings of your choice and serve.



Pumpkin Cheesecake Trifle

Ingredients

- 2 packets Cheesecake Pudding, prepared
- 4 cups milk
- 1 30oz can pumpkin puree
- 1 tsp cinnamon
- 1/2 tsp cardamom
- 1/2 tsp cloves
- 3/4 tsp ginger
- 1 angel food cake
- 1.5 cups pecan pieces
- 1 oz dark chocolate

Instructions

1. Combine pumpkin puree and spices
2. slice angel food cake into bite-size pieces
3. In a large glass trifle dish, layer the ingredients as follows: pudding, pumpkin mixture, pecans, chocolate, angel food cake. Repeat process again.
4. Chill 30 minutes and serve. Trifle will keep 2-3 days in the refrigerator.



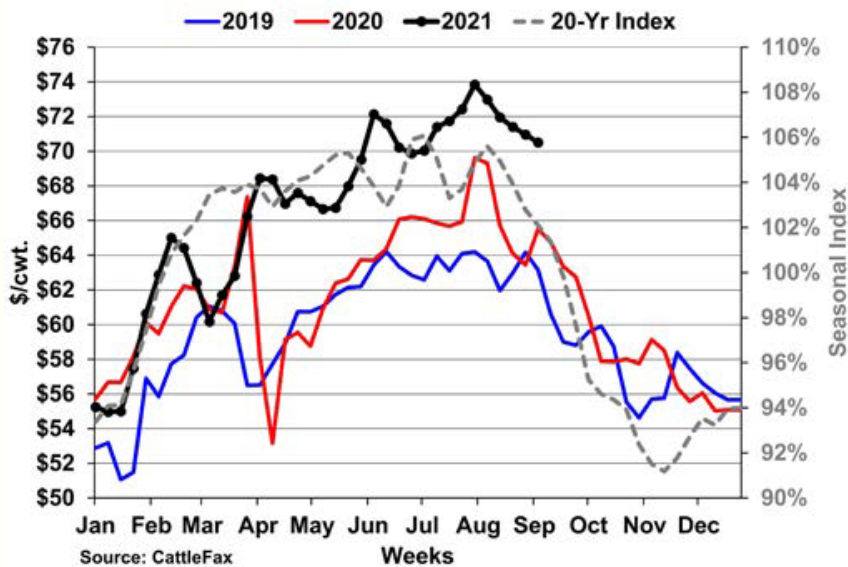
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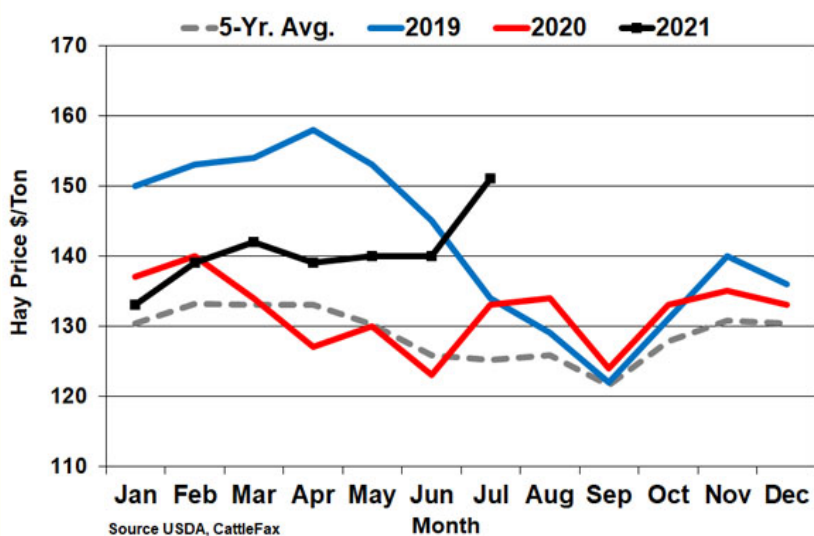


Cattle Market

CattleFax U.S. Utility Cow Price



Monthly U.S. Avg Hay Prices (Other Hay)



What to do with the herd this month?

Conduct hay tests this month so you have an accurate supplementation strategy

Attend the Southeast Texas Beef Cattle Symposium and talk to the experts!

Remove any remaining insecticidal fly tags, as the horn and face fly season is coming to an end

When will she calve?

Oct 1-22 → July 10-31

Oct 23-31 → Aug 1-9

BQA Tip

Using multiple mineral supplements like loose, tubs, blocks, and others at the same time is costly. This can be deemed excessive supplementation, and can lead to death, reduction in growth and reproduction.



Stopping Feral Hogs

The feral hog crisis has burdened farmers, ranchers, and suburban families in Texas for decades. They run on every acre across the state it seems, but hogs tend to stick to bottom lands like rivers and creeks. Never farm from dense protective cover, a feral hog's home range is less than 5,000 acres but can be up to 70,000 acres, according to Wildlife Biologist Rick Taylor.

The rate of reproduction is almost immediate as females are capable of breeding around eight to 10 months of age, and a female can produce a litter size of up to ten to twelve young. Because mature boars usually roam alone, sows and their young will travel in groups together.

These groups of feral hogs cause the most damage to land- rooting up crops, tearing down fences and even scaring families in suburban neighborhoods. Methods to control the feral hog population include trapping, snaring, shooting and the use of specially trained dogs. While these options provide some temporary relief, many people were left wondering what to do next, especially when left in the wake of expensive damages.

According to recent reports, the feral hog population in Texas has swelled to over 2.6 million. Feral hogs cause an estimated \$500 million in damages, not just to farm and ranch land, but to urban areas, parks, golf courses. Feral hogs were even responsible for at least one human death in the last few years.

Texas Agriculture Commissioner Sid Miller announced an exciting new tool in the war against feral hogs with the release of a new hog contraceptive bait entering the market. A new product called HogStop is being released with the goal of curbing the growth of the feral hog population in Texas over time.

"The feral hog problem has exploded into a crisis," said Commissioner Miller, "Texas farmers and ranchers need every tool they can get their hands on to stop these hogs. With this new product, we're one step closer to my goal of making feral hogs an endangered species in Texas."

HogStop is a mixture of natural feedstuffs that is fed to feral hogs that acts as a male contraceptive for feral boar hogs. Sperm counts in feral boar hogs are reduced, and hence so is fertility. Births of piglets will be decreased, which will decrease the feral hog populations over time. HogStop is not a poison that will kill the hogs, but should be fed in hog-specific feeders that are designed to keep out all other species.

"I am very excited about this new product, HogStop," Commissioner Miller said. "This could be a great new weapon in the war on feral hogs. It appears that unlike other hog baits, this is not a poison. Instead, it interrupts the reproduction of this animal over time, and therefore makes the product more humane."

A writer in the FY 2022-2023 Texas State Budget will allow Texas Department of Agriculture to collaborate with Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service on an experimental use program set in evaluating the efficacy of Warfarin as a feral hog control method. Under this pilot project, a Warfarin based pesticide product can be registered for use in the state provided it is approved by EPA and meets the guidelines set forth by Texas A&M AgriLife for this project.

"We're looking forward to working with Texas A&M AgriLife to get this pilot project underway quickly," said Commissioner Miller. "I appreciate legislators giving us the opportunity to evaluate a Warfarin based pesticide once and for all and hopefully getting one registered for use by farmers and ranchers as soon as we can."

"HogStop, or any other product, that is available to help Texas farmers and ranchers curb the damage done by these feral hogs, is welcomed at the Texas Department of Agriculture." HogStop is considered a 25 (b) pesticide by the EPA, and as such, does not have to be registered by TDA before use.

"Contraceptive baits like HogStop work to strike a blow against the exponential growth of the feral hog population in Texas," said Commissioner Miller. "As we fight to find other ways to eradicate these pests, these kinds of products can knock down the numbers over a period of time."

Interested in more information? Visit www.hogstop.com

Upcoming Programs for
Hardin County

TEXAS A&M
AGRILIFE
EXTENSION

TEXAS
MASTER GARDENER
TEXAS A&M AGRILIFE EXTENSION

There is still time!
**HARDIN COUNTY
MASTER GARDENER
TRAINING**

October 9, 2021 at 8:00 AM

**Hardin County Annex Lobby
1135 Redwood Kountze, TX**

FALL PLANT SALE

TEXAS
MASTER GARDENER
TEXAS A&M AGRILIFE EXTENSION
Jefferson County

**Saturday, October 9
9a.m. – noon**

Where:

Master Gardener Test Garden

Jack Brooks Regional Airport

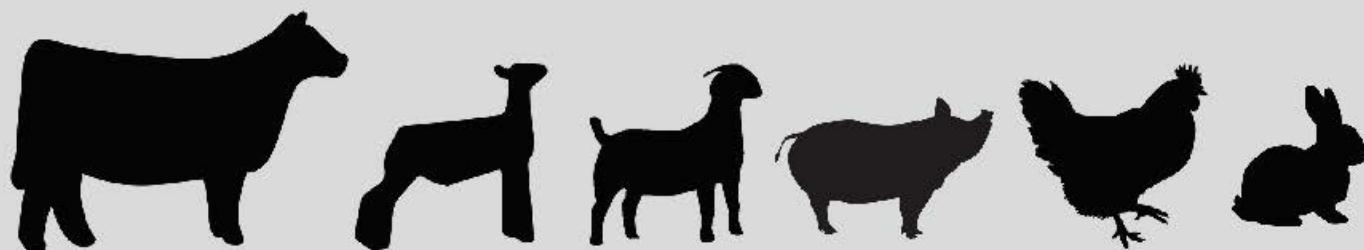
We will have winter vegetables, herbs, blueberries, bedding plants, azaleas, camillias, mayhaw trees, and many more plants...

All Major Credit Cards Accepted

For more information, call the Jefferson County office of the Texas Agri-Life Extension service at 409-835-8461 or 727-2191, Ext 8461

**TEXAS A&M
AGRILIFE
EXTENSION**

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.



HARDIN COUNTY YOUTH PROJECT SHOW SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

October 11th-4-6 p.m.-Exhibit Hall Drop off

October 12th-7-9 a.m.-Exhibit Hall Drop Off
2-4 p.m.-Exhibit Hall Pick Up

October 13th-7-8 a.m. Welding Contest Check In
8:00 a.m. Welding Contest Start time

October 14th-8:00 a.m.-Poultry & Rabbit Sift
9:00 a.m. Roaster Show Start Time
Turkey Show follows 15 minutes after Roaster Show
Rabbit Show Follows 15 minutes after end of Turkey Show

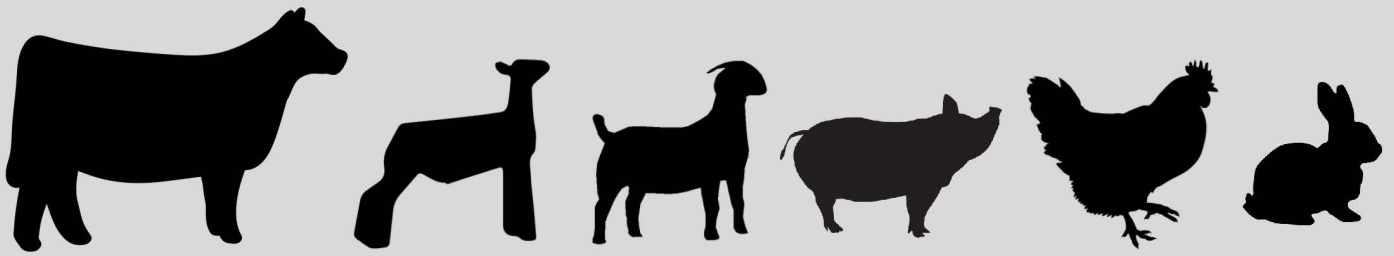
October 14th-PIGS ONLY

6-8 P.M.- Pig Weigh In

***ALL PIGS MUST STAY OVERNIGHT IN THE BARN AFTER
BEING WEIGHED****

***GATES CLOSE AT 9 P.M.**





HARDIN COUNTY YOUTH PROJECT SHOW

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

October 15th-7:00-8:00 a.m.-Lamb/Goat Weigh In

9:00 a.m. Pig Show Start Time

Goat Show will start 15 minutes following pig show

Lamb show will follow 15 minutes following goat show

Lunch

1:00 p.m.-Steer Weigh In

Steer Show will begin immediately after weigh in

October 16th

Gates open at 8:00 a.m.

Exhibitors arrive at 4:30 p.m.

Auction begins at 6 p.m.





SOUTHEAST TEXAS BEEF SYMPOSIUM

SAVE THE DATE

Thursday, October 28th, 2021
White's Park, Anahuac Texas

TEXAS
PARKS &
WILDLIFE

HUNTERS EDUCATION COURSE

\$25 Lunch is Provided

SATURDAY, October 30th
9:00 am.-3:00 p.m.

Hardin County Annex Building
1135 Redwood
Kountze, TX 77625

Questions?? Contact the Hardin County Extension Office at 409-246-5128

Registration:

<https://tpwd.elementlms.com/course/hunter-education-classroom-course-6427/>

Credit/Debit Card Payments:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/copy-of-texas-hunter-education-course-tickets-170033969179>

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

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<http://hardin.agrilife.org>

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