

LOST PINES COUNTY AGRICULTURE NEWSLETTER

June 2024



UPDATE ON THE NEW EXTENSION OFFICE

Dakota Kempken

Apologies for the recent gap in communication over the past couple of months. The Bastrop County Extension Office has finally moved into our new office at Mayfest Park! Unfortunately though, that does not mean we are open to the public yet. The building is still under construction and there are still a lot of kinks that need to be worked out. As frustrating as it is, we do not have any deadline for when everything will be finished, so until we announce otherwise, visits are still by appointment only. We apologize for any inconveniences.

A&M FOREST SERVICE COOL-SEASON FIRE BREAK GRANT NOW AVAILABLE

Fire season is here, and landowners need to be mindful of anything that may cause a fire. Sometimes, fires happen out of our control, such as from lightning strikes, which is why Texas A&M Forest Service is offering a cool-season fire break grant for landowners in US Congressional District 10. To help curb the effects of a potential fire, grant recipients will be reimbursed for costs up to \$80 per acre for the establishment of cool season fire breaks in or around strategic locations on their property. If you live north of the Colorado River, you are eligible to apply for this grant!

For more information and how to apply, please visit tfsweb.tamu.edu/windbreak/ or call the Texas A&M Forest Service at 979-599-5385.

TEXAS PECAN GROWERS CONFERENCE IN SAN MARCOS JULY 14TH – 17TH

The 103rd annual Texas Pecan Growers Conference is coming up. Located at Embassy Suites in San Marcos, this is the biggest industry event in the state, featuring pecan management at the Mini Pecan Short Course from Texas AgriLife and the 2023 Texas Pecan Show, which awards the state's best pecans for the most recent crop year. Additionally, the conference will feature multiple special events, including a Texas Pecan and Wine Pairing with Wedding Oak Winery and Texas Hills Vineyard, and a tour of WW Farms in Seguin. In addition to learning about best farming practices, conference attendees will also receive updates from industry groups, attend networking events, mingle with product and service providers, and fundraise for research and advocacy projects. More information about the TPGA Conference and Trade Show can be found at TPGA.org.

AMMONIUM NITRATE AND PRUSSIC ACID IN FORAGES

With hot, dry weather back again and hay fields in full swing, hay growers and cattle producers alike need to be mindful of the buildup of toxins in their forage. During times of stress like droughts, toxic substances can quickly build up in plant material to fatal levels if ingested, even if those substances are naturally produced.

Ammonium nitrate is a naturally produced substance that is normally assimilated into amino acid formation with plenty of moisture, however in dry conditions can cause nitrates to build up by limiting nitrate assimilation. There are three ways this can happen: 1) through photorespiration (when hot, wet conditions cause plants to release carbon dioxide instead of assimilating it into energy, 2) when soils contain high nitrate levels but little soil moisture, causing excess nitrate to

AUCTION BARN REPORTS

Lockhart Auction

June 13th, 2024

Wt	Rng	Avg
Steers		
Under 300	220-540	380.00
300-400	210-390	300.00
400-500	200-337.50	268.75
Over 500	170-310	240.00
Heifers		
Under 300	200-510	355.00
300-400	200-340	270.00
400-500	200-335	267.50
Over 500	170-285	227.50
Packer Cows		
	80-143	111.50
Packer Bulls		
	130-168	149.00
Stocker Cows		
	1200-2400	1800.00
Cow/Calf Pairs		
	1600-3400	2500.00

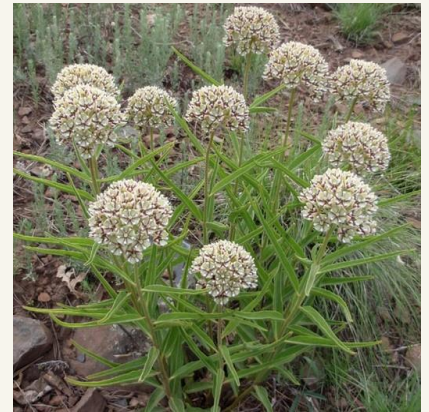
be absorbed, and 3) herbicide injury limiting assimilation. Unfortunately, nitrates are a nonvolatile substance, and stay within plant tissue even after cutting and drying.

Prussic acid (PA), another naturally occurring chemical, can become a major threat in grazed sudangrass. Normally Prussic acid exists in low concentrations under normal growing conditions, however times of high stress can cause the material to build up to dangerous concentrations. Fortunately, though, PA is highly volatile and will dissipate quickly from plant tissue once harvested and left to dry.

I highly recommend testing sorghum haygrazer for nitrates to ensure levels are safe for cattle consumption. To receive information on forage testing, call our office at 512-581-7186 or visit the Texas A&M Forage Testing Lab at <https://soiltesting.tamu.edu/>.

WEED OF THE MONTH – ANTELOPEHORN MILKWEED

To some, a weed. To others, a beneficial native pollinator. Antelopehorn milkweed is a native herbaceous plant that serves as a vital food source for pollinators, specifically the Monarch Butterfly. In grazing land and hay meadows, however, they can become a nuisance by taking up space, reducing hay quality, and potentially poisoning livestock who consume it. Antelope milkweed is a relatively small broadleaf plant with thick, unbranched stems coming out of a single base. Leaves are long and slender with a pointed tip, and the flower takes the form of a pale ball shape consisting of multiple florets at the top of the plant. They prefer open pastures, draws, trailsides, and roadsides.



Control:

Generally milkweed is not an aggressive invader and proves to be a tremendous benefit for pollinators on native rangeland, and on grazing land, they can pose a minimal issue for cattle due to their unpalatable taste, however there are still occasions in which their population needs to be controlled. Maintaining thick stands of forage can prevent milkweed from germinating. Physical cutting will only cause regrowth from rhizomes, however passive herbicide treatment can be sufficient.

Herbicides labeled for Antelopehorn Milkweed:

- Milestone
- GrazonNext HL
- Roundup
- Pastora

**Giddings Livestock
Commission**

June 10th, 2024

Wt	Avg	High
Steers		
150-300	296	400
300-400	319	375
400-500	287	342.50
500-600	264	300
600-700	241	270
700-800	219	252.50
Heifers		
150-300	292	400
300-400	285	360
400-500	266	317.50
500-600	257	282.50
600-700	234	257.50
700-800	205	235
Yearling bulls		
700-850	190-245	
850-1000	185-235	
Packer cows		
Top	130-149	
Med.	115-125	
Thin	80-110	

TEXAS DROUGHT MONITOR UPDATE

Bastrop County, TX

[Home](#) / [Bastrop County, TX](#)

Map released: Thurs. June 6, 2024

Data valid: June 4, 2024 at 8 a.m. EDT

Intensity

- None
- D0 (Abnormally Dry)
- D1 (Moderate Drought)
- D2 (Severe Drought)
- D3 (Extreme Drought)
- D4 (Exceptional Drought)
- No Data

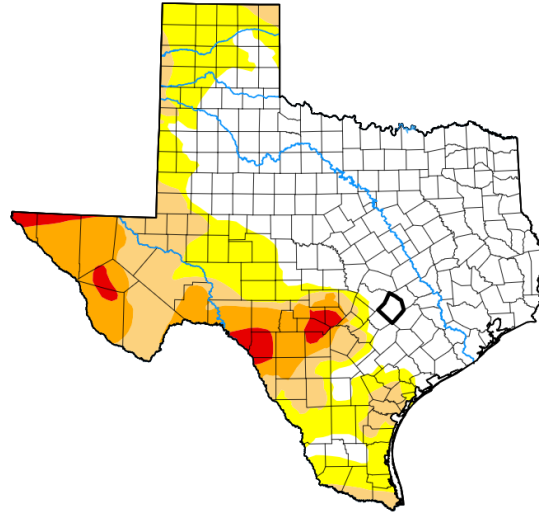
Authors

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Beginning Backyard Gardening

Gardening for New Landowners



Friday, June 21st
Bastrop Community Gardens
• 1067 Hwy 71, Bastrop, Tx 78602
Registration begins at 8:30am.
Program starts at 9am.

Pre-Registration: \$35
At the Door: \$45
Lunch will be provided!

**Pre-Register by Friday, June
14th.**

For more information or to pre-register: Contact Bastrop County AgriLife Extension at
512-581-7186 or email bastrop-tx@tamu.edu

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

BRUSH BUSTERS WORKSHOP

Thursday, July 18th

St. Mary's Catholic Church
405 St. Mary's Rd. Rosanky, Tx 78953

Registration begins at 8:30am

4 CEU's Offered

- Controlling Pricklypear on Rangeland - 1 Gen.
- Brush IPT and Broadcast Treatment demonstration - 1 Gen.
- Sprayer calibration and troubleshooting - 1 Gen.
- Pesticide Laws and Regulations updates - 1 L&R



\$30 at the door

Please RSVP by July 12th

For any questions or to RSVP,
please call 512-581-7186

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AROUND THE COUNTY

Gonzales Livestock Market

February 10th, 2024

Wt	\$ Range
Steers	
150-300	325-475
300-400	275-375
400-500	255-350
500-600	245-312
600-700	225-285
700-800	225-257
Yearling bulls	
700-900	115-175
Heifers	
150-300	315-375
300-400	285-325
400-500	255-312
500-600	210-285
600-700	223-238
Stocker Cows	
900-2,250	
Cow-Calf pairs	
1,800-3,200	

BEGINNING BACKYARD GARDENING PROGRAM ON FRIDAY, JUNE 21ST

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension - Bastrop County will host an in-depth introduction to Backyard Gardening program at Bastrop Community Gardens on Friday, June 21st. If you are interested in producing and/or selling your own fruits and veggies, this educational event will provide a jumping off point and connect you with organizations that can help you. Topics to be discussed include garden planning and design, soil management, plant selection, organic pest management, and product marketing. Lunch will be provided!

Please pre-register by Friday, June 14th by calling the Bastrop County AgriLife Extension Office at 512-581-7186. Registration fees are \$35 before June 14th, and \$45 at the door. For more information, please contact Dakota Kempken at 512-581-7186 or by email at dakota.kempken@ag.tamu.edu.

BRUSH BUSTERS WORKSHOP ON THURSDAY, JULY 18TH. 4 CEU'S OFFERED

1 Laws and Regulations and 3 General CEU's will be offered at a Summer Brush Busters Workshop on Thursday, July 18th held at St. Mary's Catholic Church Hall in Rosanky. This morning program will provide information on nuisance brush control in range and pastures using AgriLife "Brush Busters" techniques and refreshers on pesticide laws and regulations. Further information on topics of discussion can be found in the attached flyer on page 6.

To make sure enough materials are provided, please RSVP with the Bastrop AgriLife Extension Office by July 12th. Sign-in will be \$30 at the door; cash or check only. For any questions and more information, please contact the extension office at 512-581-7186!