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 Bexar County

**CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

- Aug 31 – Urban Feral Hogs
- Sept 7 – Private Applicator Pesticide Training
- Sept–Nov – South Region Landowner Series
- Oct 5 – TSCRA – Ranch Gathering
- Jan 9 & 16 – Beef Cattle Short Course

**Urban Feral Hogs**

Mark your calendar for an informative educational program Thursday, August 31<sup>st</sup> from 5-9 p.m. at the Bexar County Extension Office. Three hours of pesticide CEUs will be offered – 1 L&R, 1 IPM, 1 General. Cost is \$15/person payable in advance or at the door. Topics will include Feral Hog Biology – Dr. Maureen Frank, Extension Wildlife Specialist; Control Options – Jessica Alderson, Urban Biologist TPWD; Disease Issues – Dr. Brodie Miller, Region 5 Director TAHC; Watershed Implications – Amanda Nasto, Environmental Investigation Specialist, SARA. Contact Denise at 210-631-0400 to register.



Individuals with disabilities who plan to attend class and need special accommodations or auxiliary aid, please contact the Bexar County Office at (210)631-0400 at least five (5) days prior to the date so appropriate arrangements can be made.

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

**South Region Landowner Series**

The Texas A&M AgriLife Extension offices of Atascosa, Bexar, Kerr, Medina and Uvalde counties will be sponsoring the South Region Landowner Series September – November. You are welcome to attend one or all four of the sessions. Individual cost is \$15/session or \$30/series; Couples – \$25/session or \$50/series. Registration will be handled through the Bexar County Extension Office by contacting Denise at 210-631-0400. Our target audience is absentee landowners however, many of the topics will apply to landowners in general. A total of nine hours of TDA Pesticide CEU credit will be offered!

**Tuesday, September 19<sup>th</sup>**

***Bexar County Extension Office 4-7 p.m.*** Topics will include 10 Things Landowners Need to Know; Agencies that can Assist Landowners; Overview of AgriLife Extension; Evaluating Resources, Setting Goals, Land Fragmentation. Refreshments provided.

**Tuesday, October 10<sup>th</sup>**

***Kerr Wildlife Management Area, Kerrville 10-2 p.m.*** Discussion will focus on wildlife and range management topics. Lunch will be served. 3 hours of CEU credit offered.

**Tuesday, October 31<sup>st</sup>**

***Chris Jenschke Enterprises, Poteet 9-12 noon.*** Discussion will focus on forage and pasture management. 3 hours of CEU credit offered.

**Tuesday, November 14<sup>th</sup>**

***Brady's Bloomin Barn, Rio Medina 9-2 p.m.*** Topics will include Weed and Brush Management, Plant ID and Sprayer Calibration Techniques. Lunch will be served. 3 hours of CEU credit offered.

Be watching for more information as the programs near.

## Wildlife Update

Dr. Maureen Frank, Extension Wildlife Specialist

### Zika

- Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) posted a news release last week regarding a probable local Zika infection.
- Unlike previous Zika cases in Texas, DSHS has determined that the man who was infected most likely received the bite from a mosquito in Texas.
- At this time, there is no evidence that other mosquitos in the state are infected with Zika, but precautions should still be taken to avoid mosquito bites.
- Zika is not known to be zoonotic. Humans can become infected and can infect each other, but the disease is not known to spread to other animals.



### Snake Identification

How do you tell whether a snake is venomous?

- Start at the tail. This might seem obvious, but check first for rattles! If present, you have your answer right away. If there are no rattles, the snake may still be venomous.
- Next, check the head. All but one of the venomous snakes in Texas are pit vipers, meaning they have an opening between the eye and the nostril on each side of the head. Pit vipers also have venom glands on the sides of the head, giving the head a triangular shape.
- If there are no rattles and the head is not triangular, next check the color. If the snake is encircled by red, yellow, and black bands, with the red and yellow touching, it is a coral snake.
- If the snake has no rattles, the head is not triangular, and it does not have “red touch yellow, kill a fellow” bands, it is most likely not venomous! Leave it alive and take a picture if you can. However, if you’re still unsure, just leave the snake alone. Most bites occur when people are attempting to catch or kill a snake.



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### Private Applicator Pesticide Training

A Private Applicator Pesticide Training program is scheduled for Thursday, September 7<sup>th</sup> at the Bexar County Extension Office, 3355 Cherry Ridge Street, Suite 208. Registration will begin at 8:00 a.m. with the training to follow at 8:30 a.m. Lunch will not be provided. This training is for people who do not have a license or those who had a license that expired at least a year ago. If you plan to attend, please call the Bexar County Extension Office to sign up. Study materials are available at the Extension Office and can be picked up in advance. The program registration fee is \$60/person and includes study materials. Participants should plan on bringing a calculator and photo ID.



### Beef Cattle Short Course – Save the Date

Mark your calendar to attend the Bexar County Beef Cattle Short Course January 9<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> at Palo Alto College. Registration will begin each evening at 6:00 p.m. with the program to follow. Program topics and speakers will be confirmed in the coming months. Be watching for more information.



## Potassium – Why is it Important?

Vanessa Corriher-Olson, Extension Forage Specialist, Overton, TX

We rely heavily on our bermudagrass pastures and hay meadows during the summer in many parts of Texas. Often times we are disappointed with production, see a thinning of our stand and/or see disease like symptoms. This is often times referred to as “Bermudagrass Decline.” We quickly blame weather. Granted weather can have an impact on each of those issues, there is often a deeper problem that we need to access.

### Primary Causes:

1. **Low Potassium (K) Fertility:** A deficiency in K will result in poor stress tolerance, reduced winter hardiness, decreased disease resistance, and reduced rhizome and stolon production. To determine if K deficiency is causing the problem, a soil analysis will be imperative. Collect representative soil samples from the affected areas and another from areas nearby that are unaffected or less affected. More soil testing information can be located here: (<http://soiltesting.tamu.edu>). Potassium deficiency may occur during periods of water stress. The plant absorbs K from the soil by drawing in water from the soil that contains K. Therefore, even if the soil test indicates an adequate level of soil test K, a drought can reduce the amount of K available to the plant.
2. **Low Soil pH:** There are several ways that soil pH causes a problem. First, toxic levels of soluble Al can occur in soils where the soil pH has dropped too low. This burns back the fine root hairs and prevents root growth. Low soil pH also reduces the availability of other nutrients such as P, K, Mg, Ca, and others. Ultimately, low soil pH starves the plant of water and nutrients. Soil pH (as evaluated by soil test) showed not to be less than 5.5 for Coastal bermudagrass and 5.8 for Tifton 85 bermudagrass. Overseeded forages such as clover and ryegrass need a pH of 6.0 or higher for optimum growth.
3. **Leaf Spot:** Helminthosporium leaf spot (*Bipolaris* spp.) is commonly associated with bermudagrass decline. Helminthosporium leaf spot commonly attacks bermudagrass stands where K levels are low.
4. **Ryegrass:** The past two springs have been abundant with rainfall and ryegrass (volunteer or otherwise). In the spring when bermudagrass is breaking dormancy, an abundance of ryegrass can out-compete bermudagrass for water, nutrients and light. Heavy growth of ryegrass and removal as hay can deplete large amounts of K from the soil, thus effectively reducing the amount of K available to the bermudagrass. To avoid this problem, be sure to avoid late applications of N to ryegrass stands and utilize as much ryegrass forage as possible by grazing.
5. **Drought:** Bermudagrass is quite drought tolerant. However, if drought is combined with other stressors such as K and pH stress drought can be challenging for bermudagrass to handle. Remember to maintain soil fertility during good growing conditions (periods of rainfall) so if drought does become an issue bermudagrass will be better prepared, so to speak.
6. **Poor Nutrient Management in Hay Production:** Bermudagrass can be an excellent hay crop if properly managed. High rates of nitrogen fertilization with no attention to depletion of other plant nutrients (especially K) can lead to low soil potassium and the associated problems as listed above. Annual soil testing and special



*Struggling Bermudagrass Hay Meadow*



*Improvement of Bermudagrass Hay Meadow with Weed Control, Fertilizer Application and Replanting.*

## TSCRA Ranch Gathering

Texas and Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association will be hosting a Ranch Gathering in Hondo at Hermann Sons Steakhouse on Thursday, October 5<sup>th</sup> from 5:30 – 8:00 p.m. Attendees are not required to be a TSCRA member so everyone is welcome. A free beef dinner will be provided in addition to presentations on law enforcement and federal legislative activities. Please RSVP to 800-242-7820 Ext. 192.

## Result Demonstration Cooperator

I am interested in cooperating with a beef cattle producer on a result demonstration project this fall. Examples include things such as internal parasite control on cows and calves, calf working demonstration, growth implants on calves, mineral supplementation of cows/calves, and pregnancy rates in cows after body condition scoring at calving. If you have an interest in such a project, please contact me at 210-631-0400.

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### HORTICULTURE PROGRAMS

#### Fall Planting & Soil Preparation

Wednesday, August 30<sup>th</sup> – A FREE program discussing the essentials of Fall Planting and Soil Preparation will be conducted by David Rodriguez, County Extension Agent – Horticulture, from 6:30-8:30 p.m. at Eco Centro, 1802 N. Main Avenue. Contact the Bexar County Extension Office at 210-631-0400 for more information.



#### Fall Vegetable Gardening Seminars (FREE)

**Part I** – Preparing Your Fall Vegetable Garden presented by David Rodriguez, County Extension Agent – Horticulture.

Saturday, August 26<sup>th</sup> – Milberger Nursery, 3920 North Loop 1604, 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

**Part II** – Thursday, September 7<sup>th</sup> – Blue Star Brewing Company, 1414 S. Alamo St., Ste. #105., 7:00-9:00 p.m.

Contact the Bexar County Extension Office at 210-631-0400 for more information.

