

Marion County Extension Newsletter

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Cooperative Extension Program
Prairie View A&M University



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Agriculture Programs Committee

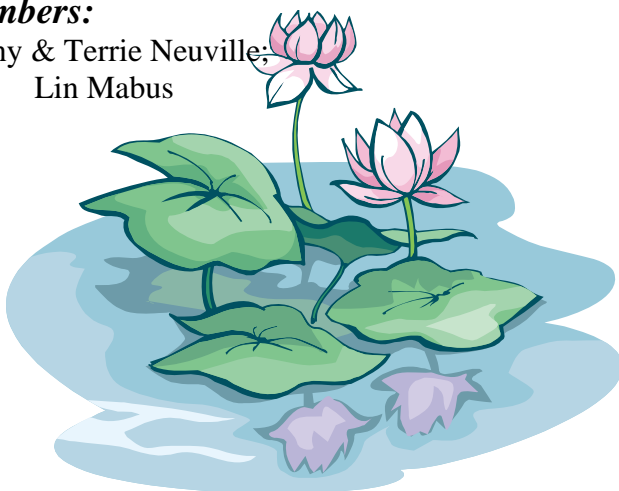
President: Cindy McNeely

V.P. /Treasurer: RayLewis

Secretary: Jane McBride

Members:

Johnny & Terrie Neuville;
Lin Mabus



Topics Covered:

- | | |
|--------------------------------------------------|------------|
| - From the Rose Garden | page 2 |
| - Energy Training for Agricultural Professionals | page 2 |
| - Are You READY...Hurricane Season | page 2 - 3 |
| - Marion County Fair | page 3 - 4 |
| - Teen Drivers | page 5 |
| - Rural Business | page 6 |
| - Announcements | page 6 |
| - Diabetes/AARP Meetings Resume | page 7 |
| - Personal Finances | page 7 |
| - Upcoming Programs | page 7 |

Beef Committee

Mike Clayton, Chairman

Members: Bob Sanders, David Smith, Gerald Harvey, Johnny McNeely, Ray Lewis, Lin Mabus

From the Rose Garden

During August Marion County Agent Brock Fry provided education at the Jefferson Christian Academy School for 15 maintenance crew, students and teachers on caring for your rose gardens. During this program we went over the basics of rose care, problems for roses during the years, how to deadhead roses, and general pruning of roses.

The fall is a great time of year in Texas as the roses come out in full force in September and October. It is important that roses are cared for to get the optimum beauty during this time. Spider mites are on the decline during this time, yet the aphids can present issues. Use insecticide soap should you get an a some wanting to inhabit your roses.

Black spot and powdery mildew are two rose diseases that will significantly damage foliage. These plants need lots of foliage to produce carbohydrates or fuel so roses are more healthy and productive. Use a rose fungicide to remove these invasive diseases.

Energy Training for Agricultural Professionals

Brock Fry, Marion County Extension Agent Agriculture submitted a competitive application to the S.A.R.E. or Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education for EnTAP. He was accepted to go to North Carolina on September 30 - October 3, 2009. “ It is a real honor to chosen out of so many applicants to attend this program.”

There are two others from the State of Texas one from Sherman County, and the other from Wesleco. Most states are sending only two applicants. One of the requirement for this program is that an Energy Educational program be held here in Jefferson with in the next year.

Are You READY...Hurricane Season

Did You Know that TEXAS is the second most hit State with Hurricanes right behind FLORIDA?

It is true. Here is some more information to help you understand and prepare for the hurricane season.
A Category 1 storm according to the Saffir-Simpson Hurricane Scale has sustained winds of 74-95 MPH.
A Category 2 storm has sustained winds of 96-110 MPH. (Moderate)
A Category 3 storm has sustained winds of 111-130 MPH. (Extensive)
A Category 4 storm has sustained winds of 131-155 MPH. (Extreme)
A Category 5 storm has sustained winds of more than 155 MPH (Catastrophic)

Here in Marion County we are usually not hit directly by the storm like the Gulf Coast. It will usually loss some power after making land fall. Warning...This does not mean that we can't have significant damage or loss from a power storm. Hurricane IKE on September 13, 2008 hit Marion County and this hurricane was the 3rd most powerful storm to hit the U.S. Coast in History. It made land fall as a Category 2 storm,

imagine if it were to have been a Category 5.

During a hurricane we can go a day or more with out seeing the sun. Our ground gets soft and with a little wind trees can come down. One of the most devastating things for Marion County during Hurricane IKE was downed trees, they destroy electric lines, fences and cross roads, making it hard to get out if you are in trouble. Take notes before a hurricane about where trees around your home and stay in a safe place were a tree will not fall on you.

Make sure you have plenty of food, water, and light before a hurricane hits. A generator will help you if you electric goes out. If you run out of fresh water you can steal some from the water heater. Food in the refrigerator can spoil quickly after the electric goes out. Have some can foods available and always have a hand turning can opener. Always have a weather radio. Some storms become tornadic from feeder bands. I hope you never have to use any of these measures and just have to know about them for your protection.

Marion County Fair

Come out on October 23 - 24, 2009 to the Old Tyme Marion County Fair. It will truly be a grand time for Marion County residence. See Schedule below:

Wednesday, October 21, 2009

- Registering of all exhibits 8:00am-8:00pm (No Livestock)

4-H Exhibits

FFA Exhibits

Youth Exhibits

Adult Exhibits

Thursday, October 22, 2009

Judging starts on all exhibits 10:00am-12:00pm

BINGO (Need tables & chairs for this)

1:00-2:00 - Session 1 - Magnolia Manor Bingo

2:00-2:30 - Entertainment (Jefferson ISD 4th Grade Choir)

2:30-4:00 - Session 2 - Pine Hill Bingo

4:00-4:30 - Entertainment (Cypress Bend High School Choir)

4:30-6:00 – Session 3 – Cypress Place Bingo

5:30-8:00 - Fish Fry

8:00pm - Youth Auction Winning Bids Announced - Silent Auction for the Youth Exhibits

Friday, October 23, 2009

10:00am - *Barn Yard Tours (School Tours)*

Little House on the Prairie Demonstrations presented by the

East Texas Home-School Association and the

7th Day Adventist School- Cypress Bend

6:30pm - 9:00pm - Ice Cream Social & Family Gospel Night

Featuring: “Jefferson Soulsters” & “On My Way”

Admission: \$3.00: Enjoy a night filled with entertainment as well as stepping back in time to the days when “Ice Cream Socials” were popular.

9:00pm 5th Quarter Celebration: Jefferson Bulldog Home Game after game celebration.

Saturday, October 24, 2009

6:00am – All-U-Can-Eat-Pancake Breakfast (\$5.00)

Fair Grounds open for vendor’s arrival

Food Drive - Suggested canned food item to be collected by the Boy Scouts

7:00am-8:00am – Registering & weigh-in of livestock animals – West side of building.

8:00am - Hot Air balloon Ride Starts (West field)

9:00am - Open Ceremonies: (Flag Pole)

Jefferson Jazz Band – Star Spangled Banner

10:00am Chili Cook-off Begins (Kitchen) - Chili needs to be cooked at the fair grounds. Can be creative in presentation of cooking. Ribbon presented for best Chili & best presentation.

All events open for participants:

Food Vendors, Craft Booths, Dunkin Booth, Jolly Jumper, Train Ride, Kellyville Farms Greased Pole Climb, Games: Washers, Horses shoes, Sack Races, Hula Hoop competition, Musical Chairs, Fire truck/police cars/Ambulance, Scavenger Hunt, Syrup Sopping, SONIC Hot Dog Eating Contest

Cross Cut Saw Competition, Cheerleaders/Twirlers perform, Small Dog Races Cow Plop Bingo

Tricycle Races, Cake Auction, Lawn Mower Races, Greased Pig Chase, *Children’s Puppet Show*

42 Tournament, Story Telling Time, Red Hatters Dance, Pet Parade, Homemade Ice Cream Contest

Chili Cook-Off, Quilt Show, 4-H & Youth Exhibitions, Home Arts & Crafts Exhibits, Senior Citizen Exhibits, Livestock Auction, Train Club Exhibit

The following new rules are being passed on to you as parents and concerned citizens from the Texas A&M system. The rules not only affect teens but adults that might be the passenger in a car thinking the old seat belt rules are still in effect,

Teen Drivers

Traffic accidents are the leading cause of death for teenagers in America. Inexperience, driving while distracted by cell phone use and other teen passengers, and failure to wear seatbelts are all contributing factors.

Parents can help their teens become safer drivers by taking an active role. Supervise practice driving and be a good role model by practicing safe driving yourself. Remind teens of the new laws regarding cell phone use and texting while driving. Remind them that they and all passengers are required to wear seatbelts.

New Laws Passed Regarding Teen Drivers and Child Booster Seat Usage

Parents need to be aware of recent new laws that go into effect September 1 regarding driving and child passenger safety!

- HB 339 prohibits teens under 18 from texting or talking on a cell phone while driving.
- HB 537 requires that everyone in the car, regardless of age and regardless of where they are sitting, needs to wear a seatbelt.
- HB 61 requires that all children younger than 8 years and less than four feet nine inches tall be in a child safety seat system.

Visit the [legislative page of the Texas PTA Web site](#) for a downloadable flier and more information.

Booster Seats

Car crashes remain the number one killer of children ages 2-14 in the United States. The Safekids Buckle Up Campaign recommends the following safety tips:

- Use a booster seat correctly in a back seat every time your child rides in a car.
- Use a booster seat until your child weighs between 80 and 100 pounds, and is about 4 feet, 9 inches tall. For most children, that will be between ages 8 and 12.
- Tell all drivers who transport your child that booster seat use is a must when your child is in their vehicle.
- Booster seats are not installed the same way car seats are. They sit on the vehicle seat and are used to properly position the adult safety belt for an older child. Always use a lap and shoulder belt with a booster seat.
- Never place the shoulder belt under the child's arm or behind the child's back.
 - Be sure all occupants wear safety belts correctly every time. Children learn from adult role models.

The Cooperative Extension Program Rural Business staff will collaborate with community organizations in rural areas to host workshops on starting community investment clubs focusing on business and economic development. Specially designed workshops that focus on the legal, technical, and investment principles of establishing community investment clubs will be taught in selected rural communities. These seminars will take a “community unity”, participatory approach to investing in the economic development projects that can empower these small towns. Club members will decide what projects they wish to undertake. This innovative, proactive strategy on economic development within their own neighborhood (or their childhood community if they have moved away after high school) will facilitate growth in areas typically slow to development, and those that have become stagnated or overlooked. Assisting these communities in developing the interest in utilizing investment clubs to fund local projects will not only empower these communities but will also promote community leadership, and increased awareness of creative, sustainable economic development strategies. In many instances, these investment clubs will allow a vehicle for former (and many times extremely successful) community members to give back to their community and home town.

Other workshops include:

1. Starting a business from the grass root
2. Government contract opportunities
3. Small business programs and resources
4. Green technology for businesses
5. USDA and other government resources
6. Small business financing
7. Business and strategic planning
8. and Youth entrepreneurship

For more information on establishing Investment Clubs in your area or to schedule a workshop contact:
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Announcements

September 11, 2009 “Service Rocks” National Day of Service. Go to: createthegood.org for more information.

The National AARP magazine offers the following suggestions: Write letters and help others fill out forms. Become a tax aide, Make a difference in your community, become a lobbyist for community issues, Work with the local reading program. Get in the kitchen and cook, Inspire middle schoolers; Make a solid smile by sending letters or packages to deployed members of the Armed Services. For more information go to “My soldier (914-323-5172; mysoldier.com) . You may also work to protect and preserve a Natural Treasure, such as a park or historical site. Volunteers are also encouraged to: Embrace their inner teacher skills by joining other 55-plus folks to tutor struggling elementary school students. (Call Dr. Sharon Ross at JISD for more information on how you can help). Grant a Wish opportunities are also available for either those older than 68 or families struggling to make ends meet. (Local city and government offices or Twilight Wish (877-893-9474; twilightwish.org.) might be of assistance and finally spruce up a house. This project is as easy as finding a group of community groups that share your interest, selecting a project involving low income seniors or those with disabilities, securing supplies and getting the job done.

For more information on any of the projects listed above, call our office or read or find a copy of the September/October 2009 issue of the AARP magazine.

Diabetes/AARP Meetings Resume

Members of the Diabetes/AARP group will continue their monthly meetings on the third Thursday of September. The meeting will center on fellowship, recruitment, a short program and refreshments. In October, featured speaker will be Andy Crocker who conducted the program on Memory last year. Come out, bring a friend and be a part of this great gathering for seniors. We are looking to expand this program and include programs/ activities seniors are interested in. We need your input and attendance to make it work.

Personal Finances

Every year based on information gained from the September/October 2009 AARP magazine, retirees pass up a whopping \$10.1 billion in Social Security benefits, spousal benefits that most people don't even know they are entitled to. These benefits, the writer claims could increase one's income and solve the big riddle that confronts so many when they first think about Social Security: whether to get immediate monthly income at 62 or wait and get a bigger check if an individual holds off until 66. The catch seems to be locked into a phrase called spousal benefits.

For more information on this riddle as the article calls it, go to AARPMAGAZINE.ORG or contact your local Social Security office.

Upcoming Programs

September 15, 2009 - Hay Show

Speaker: Vanessa Corriher Forage Specialist

Meal Provided

Time: 6 P.M.

September 29, 2009 - Feral Hog Program

Speakers: Dr. Billy Higginbotham Wildlife and Fishery Specialist

Dr. Greg Hawkins of Texas Animal Health Commission

Meal Provided

Time: 6 P.M.

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“Improving Lives. Improving Texas.”