

Marion County Extension Newsletter

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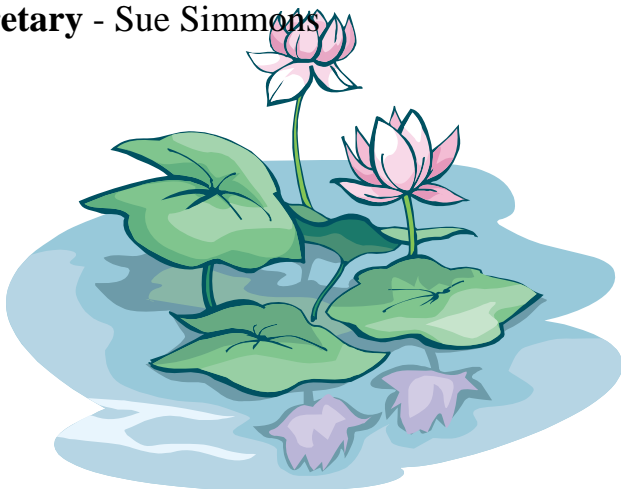
Texas Master Naturalist

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Beef Committee

Chairmans - Robert and Dalette Schmidt

Lynn Mabus

Johnny McNeely

Mike Clayton

Ray Lewis

Bob Sanders

David Smith

Gerald Harvey

HMI Texas Summer Grazing Conference

Pasture Management and HMI Summer Grazing Conference offered in Jefferson. Bob Sanders and Holistic Management International have teamed up to provide a comprehensive program to teach healthier rangeland with greater carrying capacity, biologically active soils, Range demonstrations and intense classroom lectures will be offered. Cost is \$500 registration fee. Conference will last from June 8 - 12, 2010. Speakers will include Greg Judy on Mob Grazing, Dr. Richard Teague on Land Stewardship and Dr. Pat Richardson on Life Beneath the Soil.

Details and Registration at: www.hmitexas.org or call 830-868-2427

Gardening

This is a great time of the year for watching your gardens grow. I hope you got a good one planted. Marion County is about 6" behind so far this year on rain fall. It will be important that you supplement that garden with water. Recommendation is about 1" a week. The temperatures are already rising with some days hitting the 90 degree mark, it is getting hot. This will warm our soils quickly and make for good growing conditions. What to plant during May/June:

Peas, Southern 4/15 - 6/1

Pumpkin 4/1 - 5/15

Watermelon 3/15 - 5/1

Potatoes (Sweet) (slips) 4/1 - 5/15

Muskmelon (Cantaloupe) 3/15 - 5/1

Flea Control

Have you ever been out in the yard or sitting on your couch in your home and found a flea eating away at your leg or arm? This is the time of year for those pests to make abundant explosions in our yards or in our carpets. Jefferson has many types of wildlife in downtown including feral cats, raccoons, birds, and squirrels that carry fleas. To help ourselves and the wildlife populations from suffering from fleas there are a few things that can help.

When fleas are a problem you need to do more than buy a new flea collar. If fleas are on your pet, you can be sure they are in your house. In fact, while adult fleas spend most of their time on animals, the eggs, larvae and pupal stages live in your carpeting, rugs, your favorite chair, along baseboards, in floor cracks and other areas of the house and yard. They can be found wherever your pet goes. The flea life cycle starts off as an egg which turns into a larva and pupates and turns into an adult flea. The life cycle can last from 25 days to several months. A single female flea lays from 300 to 400 eggs during a life time. This rapid multiplication and favorable condition can lead to an explosion in the flea population.

Now that we have established a healthy flea population, what can you do to control or even exterminate the fleas? First if you have a dog or cat in your yard give it baths regularly with a flea killing soap. This will help to keep fleas from gaining easy entry into your home. Second, choose an insecticide that contains IGR or Insect Growth Regulators and be sure that it is labeled for indoor use. Be sure to cover all the pet bedding, floor crevices, carpeting, along baseboards and areas near their favorite sleeping and napping sites which are especially likely places where eggs will be found. Lawns should be a place for managed control because we can not rid our yards of wildlife that uses it. To control lawn fleas use a combination of IGR or Insect Growth Regulators and a Pyrethroid mixed in a spray tank and spray your lawn. Treat with this mixture once and then again in 10 to 14 days for good control. Both these chemicals can be picked up at most Farm and Ranch stores. Keep the dogs and cats inside until the insecticide has dried. Start treatments around the first part of April and reapply as needed.

Using these recommendations should keep a happy home for the spring and summer months. For more information about flea control or other pest call the extension office at 903-665-2421 or email us at bafry@ag.tamu.edu

Energy Savings: Home

Ways to make your living space more energy efficient and save money!

Today more than ever we need to be conscience of the amount of electricity being used were we live. With rising cost of electricity, natural gas, and propane, a prepared energy plan for the home is needed for reducing our carbon foot print, saving money and eliminating waste. Making a plan is simple.

Start by gathering information about where you are using energy at home or place you work, for instance: running the air conditioner, coffee pot, lights in all rooms, microwaves, televisions, toaster, radios, clocks, battery chargers, etc. Now a realistic list has been put together we can move on to the next step.

Give an assessment as to how much the product is used or not used. Use a number system 1-10. For those products that run all day long give them a ten and those that are used once a week or less give a one. This list may help you make decisions

10 – Refrigerators	4 - Coffee pots
10 – Deep freeze	3 – Vacuum cleaners
9 - Washing machines and dryers	3 – Night lights
9 – Air conditioner	2 – Electric drills and tools
8 – Lights	2 –Hair dryers and curling irons
8 – Water heaters	1 - Battery chargers
7 – Televisions	1 – Phones
7 – Clocks and radios	
6 – Dishwasher	
6 – Stand alone heaters or coolers	
5 – Computers	
5 - Printers and fax machines	
4 – Microwaves and toaster ovens	

Now that we have a realistic list for both your home and business and can measure where we are spending most of our energy dollars, lets see were we can reduce our energy cost and give longer life to appliance investments.

Take the refrigerator for example; most people will have food in them year round. Monitor the temperature that the refrigerator is set for by making sure that it is at least cold enough to be effective, but we don't want the milk to freeze. The freezer as well, frozen is good enough. And if you eat out alot and don't keep anything in the ice box, but ketchup and mustard, unplug it and throw your condiments away and you will save money.

Look for the ENERGY STAR® label when buying large appliances. ENERGY STAR qualified appliances incorporate advanced technologies that use 10–50% less energy and water than standard models.

All appliances do not need to be plugged-in unless you are using them. The deep freeze is a good example if you have stuff in it, fine, it needs to be plugged in, and sometimes you have enough that will store in your kitchen freezer and cut the big freezer off. Take food that you know is not good out of the deep freezer and your kitchen freezer, it is a waste of space and costing you precious dollars.

Unplug appliances that are not in use such as the toaster, microwave, coffee pot, and clock/radios. Plug in only what you need for time you need to use it. Some of these devices will use energy all day long.

Insulation

A home must have good insulation to protect your investment of air temperature. Start by using the appropriate amount and thickness for your home. Properly seal window and doors. The amount of windows in the home can have a big effect as well. Make sure to use insulated windows and doors.

If you are a renter, and can't change the home, try altering your sleeping habits. We really don't need to heat or cool the whole house. Instead heat or cool the rooms that the children and you are in and place a stand alone heater in the bathroom.

Use weather striping and seal off places around doors and windows where air escapes or enters your home.

It is important that you change your air filter regularly especially in areas where the external temperature changes to the extremes. This is due to the amount of bacteria and floating air particles that can accumulate in your home or business.

Making a plan will help you ensure that you are making less of a carbon foot print and saving the max amount of money. Good luck on your saving energy this next summer and winter. For more information contact the Marion County Extension Office 903-665-2421 or bafry@ag.tamu.edu

Community Development

Social Capital is the new Community Development buzz word. It simply means getting people together to identify needs and improve their community. Investing in Social Capital is investing in your community. Liking where you live is an important part of life. Being satisfied with your community is a good thing. If you are not completely satisfied, see what you can do to improve it. That's investing in Social Capital.

4-H Youth

Youth and parents have a great opportunity to learn to shoot and handle fire arms right here in Marion County. There will be local competitions and plenty of time on the range. The Bulls-eye 4-H club is meeting two times a month. You are invited to get involved. Call the Marion County Extension Office for more details 903-665-2421.

Youth Sponsors

The 4-H Program is seeking adult volunteers to assist with programs. One in particular is recruitment and transportation of youth to Career Awareness and Youth Lab at Prairie View A&M University June 15-17, 2010. Ten youth will spend three days on campus learning about college life, financial aid, scholarships, etc., as well as attending several career-related classes that will assist them in preparing for the future. Youth from any youth group or church, and their leaders, are invited to attend. There is no charge for adult volunteers and some scholarships are available for youth. Call 903-665-2421 for more information.

AARP/Diabetes Coalition

Seniors, get your questions answered and your needs met at the AARP monthly meetings every third Thursday of the month except in July and August. As we head into the summer, our AARP/Diabetes group would like to make the following announcements:

May 20 – Regular monthly meeting and final plans for the summer trip to Eureka Springs, Arkansas. The public is invited to help us fill our bus and enjoy an overnight stay in beautiful Eureka Springs where you will enjoy a wonderful Dinner Theater with gospel music entertainment, see The Great Passion Play, and visit the Bible Museum, Sacred Arts exhibit and others. The dates are June 28 & 29, 2010. Deadline to pre-register is May 28. Call early, as the bus only accommodates 56 people. For more information, call (903)665-2421.

June 9 – Defensive Driving Course for all seniors interested in recertifying to reduce the cost of insurance or receive credit for reducing your insurance. This course was held in August for the past two years, but is in June this year, so be sure to mark your calendar and don't let the date pass. In September, we will sponsor a special program presented by members from the State AARP office to inform seniors about the new health

care package recently passed by Congress.

Phone Bill Fraud

If you've ever looked at your phone bill and found calls to numbers you don't recognize and know you didn't make, there is something you can do about it. In a recent article in the May/June issue of AARP, page 22, Ron Burley offers the following information for preventing unauthorized third-party charges on your phone bill. Ask your carrier to block them all. Here are the contact numbers: AT&T - 1-800-288-2747; Comcast - 1-800-266-2278; Quest - 1-800-491-4966; and Verizon - 1-800-837-4966. Mr. Burley also offers a free service if you have any problems getting this done. E-mail him at OnYourSide@aarp.org.

Youth/Adult Partnership

As some of you might have noticed, we have been working to enhance the playground in Kellyville. Some play equipment has already been set in at Kelly Park. Other pieces and some benches are waiting to be installed and we need assistance from county residents to get this done. We need holes dug with a tractor and an auger. Sand for the sandbox has been donated by Shimic's Nursery, but we are in need of mulch for the ground around other equipment. A donation of a bag or bags of mulch from families, individuals, or businesses would help us complete this project and give you a stake in the restoration of this park. Quite a bit is needed and can be purchased for less than \$5 a bag. We are also in need of cross ties or telephone poles to seal off the area around the playground. Work days are set for the week of May 11-15. Some new tables are needed also, and the flower beds in front of the park sign and in front of the community center building are replanted twice a year, Spring and Fall. All donations of work, monetary donations or mulch will be greatly appreciated. Our goal is to complete the project by the end of May this year.

Food Preservation Program

The coming harvest season for vegetables and fruits is fast approaching. Last year, we presented a program on food preservation. If you are in need of such a program and we have enough response for an evening program, we would be happy to conduct this program again this year in June. Call 903-665-2421 if you would like to attend such a program.

Volunteers

If you are interested in Volunteering with the Marion County Extension Office please let us know. We offer many committees such as (Beef, Animal Issues, 4-H, Timber) and a Texas Master Naturalist Programs. If you see an area where you can make a difference let us know. Committees are needed in the area of Community Development, Youth Development, Event. Contact the Marion County Extension Office for more information 903-665-2421.

Timber Management Program

John Porter – Lumbermen's Insurance

Justin Penick – ACORN Forestry
Control burn

Dr. Eric Taylor – Texas AgriLIFE Extension Forestry
Specialist
New regeneration pest control methods

Date: Thursday, May 13, 2010

Time: 6:00 P.M. – 8:00 P.M.

Place: Kellyville Community Center
130 Kelly Park Rd.
Jefferson, TX 75657

BBQ meal sponsored by Ag Programs Committee
R.S.V.P. Appreciated by May 12, 2010
Please call 903-665-2421

2 CEU for Private Pesticide Applicators

Directions: From Jefferson 4.5 miles on HWY 49 W.
From Hughes Springs 20 miles on HWY 49.
Look for the tan building on the North side of the HWY.



Educational programs conducted by the Texas Agrilife Extension Service serve people of all ages regardless of race, color, sex, religion, disability or national origin. Individuals with disabilities who require an auxiliary aid, service or accommodation in order to participate in this meeting are encouraged to contact the Marion County Extension Office at 903-665-2421 to determine how reasonable accommodations can be made.

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“Improving Lives. Improving Texas.”