

# Marion County Extension Newsletter

Volume 4 Issue 3

September, 2010



*Brock A. Fry*

Brock Fry, County Agent -AG/NR  
[bafry@ag.tamu.edu](mailto:bafry@ag.tamu.edu)

Cooperative Extension Program  
Prairie View A&M University



*Paulette T. Cooper*

Paulette T. Cooper, EA-CEP (4-H)  
[pcooper@ag.tamu.edu](mailto:pcooper@ag.tamu.edu)

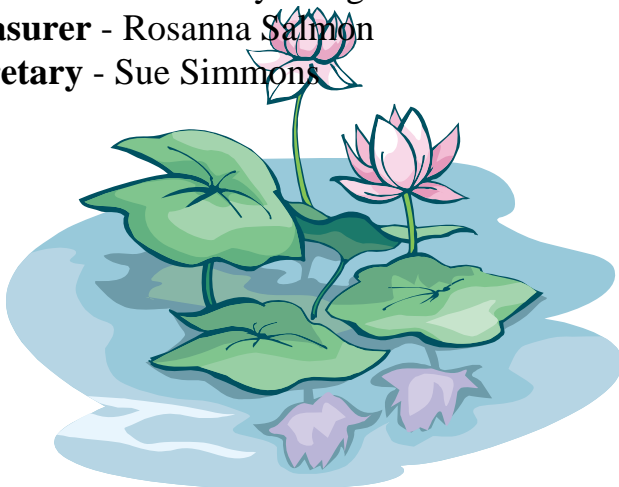
## **Texas Master Naturalist**

**President** - Ted Barrow

**Vice President** - Betty Morgan

**Treasurer** - Rosanna Salmon

**Secretary** - Sue Simmons



## **Topics Covered:**

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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

### **Texas Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Pesticide General Permit Program Stakeholder Meeting**

The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) is currently developing a new general permit to implement new federal regulations and effluent guidelines for pesticide discharges into waters of the United States. The U. S. Environmental Protection Agency will issue a final federal permit by December 2010. TCEQ must issue its permit by **April 9, 2011**.

TCEQ will convene a Pesticide General Permit (PGP) Stakeholder Group Meeting to discuss the *draft* permit. The meeting is scheduled as follows:

**Date:** September 9, 2010  
**Time:** 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.  
**Place:** Texas Commission on Environmental Quality  
12100 Park 35 Circle  
Austin, Texas 78753  
Building E, Room 201S

The meeting will be available by webcast at [www.texasadmin.com](http://www.texasadmin.com)

The *draft* permit will be posted on the TCEQ at the following website beginning August 26, 2010 to provide stakeholders an opportunity to preview and comment on the draft permit prior to formal public notice.

[http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/permitting/water\\_quality/stakeholders/pesticidegp\\_stakeholder\\_group.html](http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/permitting/water_quality/stakeholders/pesticidegp_stakeholder_group.html)

Written responses to these preliminary comments will not be provided; however, TCEQ will review and consider all comments. **Comments must be received on or before September 16, 2010.** Proposed revisions to the *draft* permit will be subject to formal notice publication and public comment prior to adoption. Comments may be sent to Joy Tegbe by fax at (512) 239-4430, or by email at [jtegbe@tceq.state.tx.us](mailto:jtegbe@tceq.state.tx.us) or [PGP@tceq.state.tx.us](mailto:PGP@tceq.state.tx.us). You may also contact me by telephone at (512) 239-5308.

Thank you for your interest in this matter.

Sincerely, Charles W. Maguire, Director Water Quality Division Office of Water

**Summer fire season winds down, but fire activity remains steady**

- With temperatures hovering around the 100-degree mark, most Texans aren't eager to head outside. But the last days of summer historically entice people outdoors — and with their excursions often come a spike in wildfires.

Burning trash, gathering around a campfire, tossing out a lit cigarette and even driving a hot car through tall grass all can lead to an increase in wildfires when combined with vegetation that has been dried out by the summer sun.

“We’re seeing fire activity daily,” Texas Forest Service Predictive Services Department Head Tom Spencer said. “We expect it to continue into the first couple weeks of September and maybe a little beyond that.”

The current fire activity is considered normal for this time of year, Spencer said. It is likely to continue until mid September, when the fall transition brings shorter days and cooler temperatures, which make conditions less ideal for wildfires.

For the most part, recent fires haven't grown exceptionally large or exceeded the capabilities of local responders. But, Spencer warned, that doesn't mean they're not a problem.

Fires ignited accidentally by people remain a primary concern for wildland firefighters, he said.

“Grass this time of year still burns. It doesn't matter if its 10 acres or 100 acres, the fire department still has to roll out there, and it still could threaten a home or building,” Spencer said. “It's still a dangerous situation. Any fire can be a dangerous fire. People just need to be aware.”

**Wildfire Safety Tips**

Obey outdoor burning bans. Don't burn trash or debris when conditions are dry or windy. Unsafe burning of leaves, brush, household trash and other debris is the No. 1 cause of wildfires in Texas.

If conditions are right and there is no burn ban in place, you may burn debris. But before you ignite the fire, you'll first need to create a wide firebreak around material to be burned. Stay with your fire until it is out cold.

If camping or hunting, check local restrictions on campfires. Use an approved gas stove as an alternative for heating and cooking. If charcoal grills are permitted, use them only over fire proof surfaces such as asphalt or bare mineral soil.

Dispose of smoking materials properly. Extinguish them in an ash tray. Don't throw them out your window.

Avoid parking and idling in tall, dry grass. Catalytic converters can get hot enough to ignite the grass under your vehicle.

Keep water available when using welding equipment or cutting torches around grass and brush. A five-gallon bucket of water with a tote sack in it could prove valuable if sparks or hot pieces of metal catch nearby grass on fire.

Avoid setting hot chainsaws or other hot, gas-powered equipment in dry grass, which could ignite after coming into contact with hot mufflers.

For more information, go online to visit [Texas Forest Service](#) or the [Texas Interagency Coordination Center](#).

### **Timber Land Owners' Association Meeting**

The East Texas Timberland Owners' Association will hold a meeting for all local forest landowners from 6:00 to 9:00 pm on Tuesday, September 14, 2010 at the Texarkana College, Chemistry Building, Room 206, Texarkana, TX. Mr. Gary Price, a Consulting Forester from Atlanta and Mr. Jared Lemmon, a Law Enforcement Agent for the Texas Forest Service, will be the featured speakers for the evening. Mr. Price has over 30 years experience with sustainable forest management in both Texas and Montana. He will speak on the problems forest landowners have with regard to timber theft, trespass and natural disasters, such as fire, tornado, and ice storm, with the focus on what the landowner should do if this happens. Being Consulting Forester, Mr. Price should be able to answer your questions on virtually all services desired by timberland owners, or anyone needing professional forestry, timber, or timberland expertise. This includes timber and timberland sales, management, litigation, appraisals, taxation, and investment. Mr. Lemmon from the Texas Forest Service Law Enforcement Division will speak about what you should do as a forest landowner when you have had a theft of your timber.

- The Bulldog Bistro at the Truman Arnold Student Center at Texarkana College will be open for those who wish to grab a bite to eat before the meeting.

The East Texas Timberland Owners' Association serves the timber owners of Bowie, Cass, Marion and Red River Counties and welcome new members. We are a non-profit organization whose objectives include educating landowners about good forest management and harvesting practices, and keeping landowners up to date on matters affecting timberland operations, taxes, and legislative actions. For additional information, contact Charles Snowden, Program Chairman at 903-756-7172 or Fred Winters, Public Relations Officer at 903-639-1267 or Russell Lykins, Linden District Forester at 903-756-5571/5572 or Don Edson, New Boston District Forester at 903-628-2711.

It's that time of the year when we start thinking about electing a new slate of officers to lead the East Texas Timberland Owner's Association for the next year. Since the meeting on Tuesday, September 14, will be our last regular meeting of the year, we will accept nominations and elect new officers at that time. The nomination process will allow any member in good standing to serve in any capacity if they so desire. If you are unable to attend this meeting, you may still nominate and vote for officers using the attached ballot form. **The absentee ballots must be received not later than Saturday, September 11, 2010.** For those attending the September meeting, nominations will be accepted from the floor. So here is your chance to serve the association. Step up and take a chance! See you at the meeting!

- Fred Winters

Public Relations Officer

East Texas Timberland Owners Association

2301 Richmond Road

Texarkana, TX 75503

**August - Time To Sow Seed for Fall Transplants**

by Dr. William C. Welch, Professor & Landscape Horticulturist

Vegetable potager

A vegetable potager

If you haven't already done so, this is the time to begin sowing seeds for fall transplants. By starting now you can have:

- \* Pansies
- \* Calendulas
- \* Johnny-Jump-Ups (violas)
- \* Flowering cabbage
- \* Flowering kale
- \* Broccoli
- \* Cauliflower
- \* Cabbage
- \* Chinese cabbage
- \* Lettuce

\* and other cool season transplants ready to plant in the garden in September or early October.

If starting your own transplants has been disastrous for you in the past, especially in the spring, then take heart because starting fall transplants is easier. Since the soil is not as cool as it is in spring, there is not much damping-off disease. Gardeners are able to start the transplants outside where they can get plenty of sunlight. But, it is best if the transplants don't get too much sun - morning sun and afternoon shade make a good combination.

Although many containers can be used to grow seeds, the most convenient I've found is the foam coffee cup discarded by people whenever they take a coffee break. Simply poke three or four holes in the side at the bottom of the cup. Write the name of the variety being planted on the side of the cup where it will remain without getting lost, as so often happens if you use labels. An additional advantage of the coffee cups is that they're white and reflect heat.

The next major concern is a potting soil mix. Many standard potting soils will work fairly well, but you can make your own. To one bushel each of vermiculite and peat moss (finely ground pine bark can be substituted for peat moss), add 10 tablespoons of 0-20-0 (superphosphate) and 1/2 cup of garden fertilizer, such as 12-24-12. Mix the material thoroughly by putting the ingredients out on the drive, scooping into the bottom and throwing each shovel-full on top, pyramid fashion. Another technique is to roll the mixture back and forth in an old tarp. The soil should be slightly watered down so it's damp but not soggy.

Most seeds should be barely covered with the soil mix, but some tiny seeds like lettuce should not be covered at all. Water them in thoroughly, preferably by setting them in a pan of water and allowing the soil to soak from the bottom. Allow the containers to drain and then put them in a plastic bag out of sunlight. Within a few days the seedlings will begin to grow. As soon as this happens, take the containers out of the bags and put them in a well-ventilated area. As the seedlings begin to make growth, use any soluble houseplant fertilizer to keep them growing vigorously.

If you've had problems with disease in the past, you might want to use a fungicide twice: once at planting and again at germination. Lightly dust the seeds prior to planting. A fungicide can also be used to drench young seedlings just as they come up. Before you know it, you'll have a pot full of tiny seedlings that can either be transplanted into individual containers, or if there aren't too many in the pot, held until time to go into the garden. Perhaps the simplest technique is just to plant two or three seeds in each pot, thinning them to one plant after a few weeks.

If you opt for transplanting, be sure that you handle the young seedling only by the leaves. If you grasp the stem and damage it to any extent, the young seedling will be stunted. Pots for transplants should be filled to within 1/4 inch of the rim. A pencil can be used to make a hole in the center of the potting soil mixture. This is where a little moisture is critical; dry soil won't allow the hole to stay open. Carefully lower the seedling roots into the hole and then use the pencil again in a lever-like action to firm the soil against the root system. Be sure to water the plants carefully, picking up any that get knocked into the soil. Firm the soil, shade the young seedlings for several weeks for direct afternoon sun, and continue watering thoroughly as needed.

Before you know it, you'll be eating delicious, home grown broccoli.

### **USDA Drought Insurance (Risk Management Agency - RMA)**

[www.rma.usda.gov](http://www.rma.usda.gov)

The RMA website with further information is

<http://www.rma.usda.gov/policies/pasturerangeforage/>

If you own hay meadows and pastures, you may be interested in this new insurance for Marion County. Log on to the world wide web and visit these website for more information. We will have a booth at the Marion County Fair that will help you better understand how it works.

### **Community Development**

A recent statement in a Community Development News letter sent to me by Dan Cowling had the following statement by Rex Nelson that really gives some validity to my thoughts on Community Development:

"Successful community and economic development approaches in this century are far different from the approaches taken by most communities in the second half of the previous century." Rex Nelson

In past times many were guided into leadership without much formal education in the field. Now there are degrees and Institutes that focus on Specific areas of community development.

Recently two residents from Marion County were able to attend a week long training held by the Community Development Institute at the University of Central Arkansas; those in attendance were

Chamber Director Juanita Chitwood, and Community Leader Tosha Moore. These ladies are now participants in a three year program used to engage community leaders, elected officials and others interested in becoming leaders in a curriculum based program. This program teaches techniques and skills that prepare them for future planning and implementing of goals and methods needed to influence change in rural America. It uses as its models cities and towns that have successfully faced many of the issues most rural areas face. Students are taught by experiencing hands on situations and simulations that focus on real life situations. Hats off to their sponsors: The Minority Coalition for Economic Development, The Leadership Marion County Fund, Security State Bank and the Chamber of Commerce. Members have agreed to speak to groups about their experience and are in the process of recruiting new members for the class of 2011. The key is to express an interest early to get the better cost break. We will be asking local businesses to include this sponsorship in their budgets.

### **AARP PROGRAM**

The AARP/Diabetes group will meet on September 23<sup>rd</sup> at 1:00 pm for a Board meeting, followed by their regular meeting. On that day they will also host a “Senior Information Day” in partnership with the Cooperative Extension Program. The State AARP office will be here showcasing /introducing all of their programs, as well as USDA, The East Texas Council of Governments, Jordan Health Services, Veterans Affairs, and other organizations that provide information for citizens of all ages. The program is set to begin at 3:00 pm and end at 6:00pm. For more information contact the office at 903-665-2421.

### **Marion County Hay Show**

The Marion County Hay Show will be held on September 21, 2010.

Location: Kelly Park Community Center (130 Kelly Park Rd. Jefferson, TX 75657)

Time: 6:00 pm

Riverport BBQ meal will be served and it is sponsored by Quality Liquid Feeds.

On Program:

Extension Forage Specialist - Dr. Vanessa Corriher

Frank Strickland - QLF Sales manager

Beef Update from Dustin Sanders

Traditions insurance services will have a booth and giving information about the new drought insurance we now qualified to receive.

### **Private Pesticide Applicators will receive 1 hour of continuing education**

## **Cass, Marion and Morris Counties' Weed Control Demonstration Field Day And Weed Control Program**

**Thursday, September 23, 6:00 PM – 9:00 PM**

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**Morris County Livestock Show Barn  
Hwy. 259 North, Daingerfield, TX**

### **Presentation Topics**

- **Weed Control Demonstration Plots (5 treatments + Check)**
- **Weed Control in Summer Pasture and Hay Meadows – Dr. Vanessa Corriher, Forage Specialist, Texas AgriLife Extension Service**
- **Prescriptions / Recommendation for Chemical Control**

**A meal will be served. Please RSVP by September 20 by calling your County Extension Office (number listed below).**

**CEUs offered: -1 General, 2 IPM**

**For More Information, contact Gene Bobo (Cass County) 903-756-5391, Robert Grant (Morris County), 903-645-2222, Brock Fry (Marion County) 903-665-2421**

“If you require auxiliary aids, services or other accommodations for this meeting due to a disability, please call the Extension office and an Agrilife Extension representative will discuss your needs.”

Extension programs of Texas AgriLife Extension Service are open to people without regard to race, color, sex, religion, disability, age, or national origin. The Texas A&M University System, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the County Commissioners Courts of Texas Cooperating.



**Published Quarterly By:**  
**Texas AgriLIFE Extension Service,**  
**Marion County Office**  
**130 Kelly Park Road, Suite A**  
**Jefferson, TX 75657 - 6667**  
**903-665-2421 or 903-665-2272 office**  
**903-665-1256 Fax**  
**<http://marion-tx.tamu.edu/>**  
**Brock Fry: [bafry@ag.tamu.edu](mailto:bafry@ag.tamu.edu)**  
**Paulette Cooper: [pcooper@ag.tamu.edu](mailto:pcooper@ag.tamu.edu)**

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