



Marion County Texas



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Brock Fry, CEA-AG-NR

October, 2007 Extension Programs:

2nd (Tuesday)	Marion County Hay Show	6:00 PM Kellyville	Page 3
9th (Friday)	Underground Water Board	6:30 PM The Annex	Page 3
12th (Friday)	Building Communities Series	9:15 AM Kellyville	Page 3
18th (Thursday)	AARP-Breast Cancer Awareness	2:00 PM Kellyville	Page 4
29th (Monday)	Preparing for the Winter Season	6:00 PM Kellyville	Page 4

Agent On Call...

During this month I visited a feral hog harvester. He has an operation between 10 – 20 hogs depending on the time of the year and how many hogs he is able to trap. The farmer sells hogs to local residents for mixing with deer for sausage, for eating, and for other personal use.

During my trip the Texas Animal Health Commission was on hand to give an inspection of the farm. Eddie Hays, Texas Animal Health Commission, gave us advice about three legal options to dispose of trapped feral hogs. Eddie says one thing we can do is sell the hogs to two permitted hog buyers in our area: Wade Cobb of Naples TX or J.W. Tennyson of Henderson TX. The second option is that we can take them to a slaughter facility for processing. The first two options are unique because we can transport them live to the locations. Third option allows a local resident to buy and remove the animals from the farm, but the hogs must be dead when they leave the farm.

Feral hogs are numerous in Marion County. If you have not seen feral hogs on your property, chances are you know someone who has. A few people in Marion County trap hogs for sale for distribution to others. Some of these



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Paulette T. Cooper, EA-CEP (4-H)

operations have between 10 – 20 hogs in their pens depending on the time of the year.

The caution with feral hogs is when they are first trapped. The reason for the caution is two diseases: Swine Brucellosis and Pseudorabies. Swine brucellosis causes reproductive problems in infected swine and can be passed from boars to sows. Infection also can be transmitted to humans through blood contact, which can occur during butchering. Feral hogs can, on rare occasions, infect cattle with swine brucellosis, causing a positive on brucellosis tests.

Pseudorabies poses no threat to humans, but swine can transmit it to other animals. Infected cattle, dogs, cats, and other animals die but do not spread the disease. Infected adult swine typically develop only flu-like symptoms, but young pigs under a month of age can have severe respiratory and digestive symptoms and may die within three or four days after contracting the disease.

According to a survey of slaughter plant blood samples, about a third of feral swine tested positive for pseudorabies. If the meat is thoroughly cooked, it is safe to eat. The National Pork Producers Association recommends pork products be cooked to an internal temperature of 160° F.

To prevent the spread of any disease, no domestic swine may be penned or maintained within 1.5 miles of the feral hog holding facility.

Brock A. Fry

Brock A. Fry, CEA-AG-NR

From the Garden

October Moon Phases

3rd, Wednesday, Last Quarter

11th, Thursday, New Moon

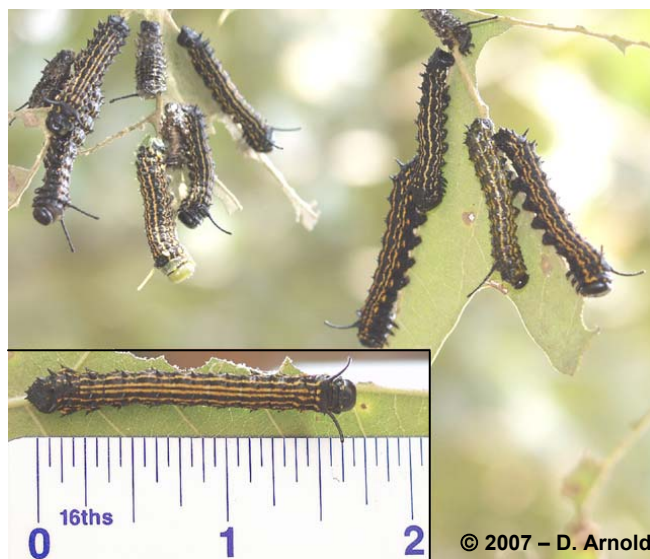
19th, Friday, First Quarter

26th, Friday, Full Moon



Oak Worm

By Dr. James Robinson, Professor and Extension Entomologist
(<http://overtone.tamu.edu/>)



IDENTIFICATION: Larvae of the orange-striped oakworm are charcoal black with orange-yellow stripes. The head is jet black and the segment just behind the head is bright orange-yellow. The second thoracic segment (right behind the head) has long, black spines. These spines or "horns" are used to scare predators away and do not have the capacity to sting. The abdominal spines are relatively small. The larvae, when mature, are about 1-½" long. They may be found in East Texas forests from August to October. There is one generation per season.

The larvae are gregarious when they are small. When they reach maturity, they become solitary. These older larvae are often seen crawling around on lawns or the sides of houses, or feeding singly on foliage. After maturity, the larvae burrows three to four inches into the soil to pupate and overwinter.

This insect may be found in large numbers on the various species of oak. Infestations are usually localized, but defoliation may be severe.

The moths emerge from June to August and lay their eggs in clusters on the undersides of leaves. The adult moth is 1-

1/4" long with wings closed. They are reddish brown, translucent with a submarginal dark stripe and a white spot on each forewing. Over a period of a month the female will deposit up to 500 eggs in a single cluster on the underside of an oak leaf, usually on the lower branches.

DAMAGE: Young caterpillars feed by skeletonizing the leaf surface. Older caterpillars are defoliators and may consume all but the leaf midrib. Defoliation usually occurs one branch at a time when populations are small. Occasionally the insect reaches outbreak densities.

Tree health is rarely affected by oakworm defoliation. Because the caterpillars feed in late summer, most photosynthesis is complete and foliage loss has little impact on the tree. Native predators and parasites usually help keep the insect from being a problem every year.

CONTROL: Manually destroy aggregations of young larvae when detected on small trees. An application of *Bacillus thuringiensis* (Thuricide) or horticultural oil will control young larvae. Damage is seldom widespread and chemical control is rarely needed.

QUOTE: Joe Pase, an entomologist with the Texas Forest Service at Lufkin, (<http://txforestservice.tamu.edu/~jpase@tfs.tamu.edu>), has the quote of the day, "The larvae are really doing homeowners a favor by converting leaves to pelletized fertilizer for free."

Bt (*Bacillus thuringiensis*) The Natural Insecticide

By Bonnie Willie

The Oak worm can be controlled with Bt (*Bacillus thuringiensis*). Bt is a naturally occurring, soil borne organism that has gained recent popularity for its ability to control certain insect pests in a natural, environmentally friendly manner. Bacterial agents, like Bt, are effective in controlling insects in the larva stage only. The larva stage in an insect's life cycle is the stage during which most of the feeding occurs. Since, Bt must be ingested to work, the insect must be controlled during the larval stage. The larval stage is the stage in which the insect appears worm or caterpillar-like. By this time of the year the caterpillar has done its damage and controls are useless.

(www.gardenlink.usask.ca/pests/bt.html)



Oak Tipped Moth

Do you have a gardening tip or problem? Call your friend, Brock, at the Marion County Extension Office, 903-665-2421.

Marion County Fair

Fall, cooler temperatures, and the Marion County Fair are on their way. The Fair will be held October 27, 2007 at Kellyville from 9:00 AM – 7:00 PM.

Performing live will be music from Southwest Gospel group “GiGi and Randy” who have performed at PRCA events. Some of the events this year will be a Chili Cook off, the woodlands (lumberjack competition), antique tractors, pig chases, a livestock show (cattle, rabbits, goats, chickens), a 4-H and FFA benefit auction (food, livestock, plants).

There will be many booths occupied by local businesses and businesses from afar, churches, and civic groups. Kids events include tricycle races, greased pole climbing, and syrup sopping.

The 2007 Marion County Fair promises to be an exciting and fun event.

October Extension Programs (Continued)

Marion County Hay Show

By Brock Fry

Marion County Hay Show on October 2, 2007, 6:00 PM, at Kellyville.

The judging takes place at 3:00 PM. A program will be given by Johnny Cates and Clint Perkins who reside in Wood County but are not strangers to hay shows. Johnny has



been judging hay shows for over 23 years and Clint worked at the soil testing lab at Texas A&M for several years. The program is free and includes a bar-b-que meal from Riverport Bar-B-Que. You are invited, even if you did not submit a sample for the show. Good luck to all participants. Sponsored by Conroy Tractor Company of Mt. Pleasant, and Abernathy Polled Herford Ranch, operated by J.P. and Marla Abernathy, and 4K Trophies and Awards, Jefferson TX.

Underground Water Board Program

By Brock Fry

Could someone take away the underground water supply? As Texas law is written now the answer is YES! Statistics show that Texans use more water than ever and it is leaving aquifers faster than they are being replenished to maintain sufficient levels.



This program is on October 9, 2007 at The Annex Building, 102 West Austin Street, Jefferson TX, at 6:30 PM. You won't want to miss this opportunity to discuss this topic with specialist in the field of water management Bruce Lesiker of Texas A&M, Robert Bradley of the Texas Water Development Board and Kelly Mills of Texas Commission of Environmental Quality. They are going answer your questions about how boards work to protect the precious commodity WATER. This program is sponsored by the municipal water district.

Building Communities Series October Session

By Paulette Cooper

The program participants left the September program with many questions they hope to have answers to by the close of the next nine sessions according to one program participant. The next session is set for Friday, October 12th, 9:15 AM, at Kellyville. The focus of this session, “Community Capacity Building – Engaging and Empowering Them All”, is community building and how to get people engaged and to empower them to become decision makers. Who are the right people to engage and have involved? How do we assure that all voices are being heard? We will explore how to maximize citizen input and design strategies that will address the needs of all those in our communities.

There are still openings in the class for those individuals with an interest in seeing what it takes to move our county from good to great and figure out their role in the process. Everybody has a role but, not everyone knows what that role is. Preparing for change, and being prepared when it comes, can make the difference in how citizens accept or reject change. Learning how to make it work is key, according to Coordinator Cooper. Therefore, we invite you come, invite a neighbor, recommend a friend or a neighbor but, be sure you come and be a part of a professional learning process. Don't just talk about change, be a part of the process.

The program is conducted in partnership with the University of Wisconsin-Extension and the Cooperative Extension Program here in Marion County. JEDCO (Jefferson Economic Development Corporation), The Minority

Coalition For Economic Development in Marion County, CVA (Cypress Valley Alliance) as well as other local entities join us in sponsoring this program.

For program information contact Paulette Cooper, Marion County Extension Office, 903-665-2421, or pcooper@ag.tamu.edu. To register, call Barbara Hampton at 903-665-2421.

American Association of Retired Persons (AARP) October Program

By Paulette Cooper

The program, Breast Cancer Awareness, is at Kellyville at 2:00 PM on Thursday, October 18, 2007. It is free and refreshments will be served.

Paulette Cooper has more information at 903-665-2421.

Preparing for the Winter Season

By Brock Fry

During the winter months our homes should be prepared for winter. Paulette Cooper and Brock Fry will discuss preparing for the winter season. Home and pet protection, ice storm awareness will be discussed at this program. Bring your winterizing tips, tricks, and ideas to share.

The program is Monday, October 29th, 6:00 PM, at Kellyville.

Reflections:

New Planting Strategies and Stand Densities Program

Story and Photo By Brock Fry



Forestry program with Dr. Eric Taylor was a success. Several locals and a few out of Towner's have made their way to Kelly Park on September 18, 2007. Dr. Taylor talked about Stand Densities and New Planting Strategies. He explained about tree spacing and the differences between container and bare root seedlings. He also through out the old saying "grow them thick and cut them quick" mentality.

Fall Vegetable Planting Program

By Brock Fry

On September 24th fifteen people attended the Fall Vegetable Planting Program. Keith Hanson, CEA-Smith County, talked for two hours about soil preparation, beneficial insects, and what vegetables to plant that will work well in a Fall/Winter garden.

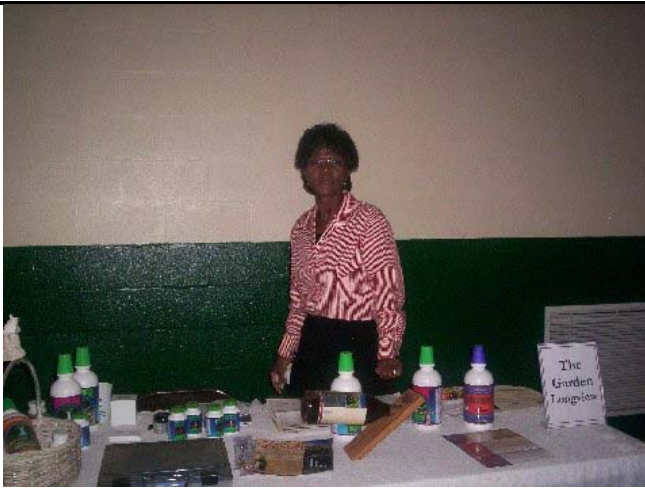
Healthy Aging Information Day Termed Successful

Story By Paulette Cooper

Photos By Mary Spearmon



Fifteen, plus, vendors showed up for the "Aging Healthy for Seniors Program." "The program was designed to plug county and the surrounding area senior citizens into available programs and, to dispel many of the myths related to receiving benefits from government entities. Many found they were eligible for programs they thought they wouldn't qualify for such as home repair assistance and financial assistance for installing aerobic sewer systems. The USDA has made funds available to area residents. The income guidelines for low income for a one person household starts at \$15,000. Now, if one is really thinking poor and in Marion County, how many seniors do we know with that type of income?"



There was information from private vendors as well as the East Texas Council of Governments with much needed information on social security benefits, home repairs, veterans benefits, "Preparing for the Future" and managing finances, setting up the "Before You Need It" plans, and Estate and Medicaid (part D) Planning and Pre-qualification. Other vendors included information on Asset Preservation Strategies, Tax Deferred Annuities, Trusts and Long Term Care. Many service oriented groups were also present such as: nursing home representatives, equipment vendors and Hospice.



Seniors received information on the new Border Health Clinic and what it will do for them as well as the grandchildren they are sometimes responsible for. Home Health services were represented as well as the Texas Department of Human Services encouraging residents to apply for their services. The DADS program, another name for the Texas "Department of Aging And Disabilities Services", educated seniors about how money follows the person. The "Money Follows the Person" (MFP) policy allows Texans who are eligible for Medicare and living in a nursing home facility to choose an appropriate community setting and receive community services and support.

As with all programs, in relation to the people that really needed the information, the evaluations revealed that more ways of getting the word out are needed. Some suggestions were related to transportation and coordination of services through local churches assisting with their vans. MINIBUS, was listed as a possible partner as well as looking at conducting programs at a variety of locations in the county.

Our office would appreciate any suggestions the public has on the results of the evaluation and also suggestions for future programs. For more information on agencies in attendance call the office for phone numbers at 903-665-2421.

Building Communities Series Up and Running

By Paulette Cooper

Members of the recently started Community and Economic Development Class met for their first class on Friday, September 14 th with 15 students registered to attend. The program was held at the Jefferson High School Administration building with special thanks going to the School Board, Mr. Cook, the superintendent, and to Technology Specialist, Jeremy Peeler.

The first program in the 10-part series was "Community Development—The Foundation for a Better Place". It was structured to set the stage for engaging communities and their stakeholders to maximize positive change. Some of the basic concepts and issues in the community development field were introduced. The dilemmas and contradictions of participatory development, a discussion of the basic features of a development approach based on a communities' strengths and assets was also approached.

GONE BANANAS!

Story and Photos By Brock Fry



Mr. Lonnie and Betty Halmark have made a mark with their banana trees in them Mims community. Lonnie who was

born in Brownwood, TX and lived in Fort Worth for about 30 years now lives in Mims. For 11 years he has made an impact with his very presents serving the community in many capacities like Mims Volunteer benefit on October 6, 2007 and help to start Kids Fish Day more than 7 years ago.



Lonnie, who dedicates several hundreds of hours a year to his gardens, started growing bananas on day about 6 years ago. Since his first planting of two banana trees has a farm of them now. He has transplanted more than 150 trees and given several to friends.

Lonnie says that he cares for the trees by cutting away the smaller trees that come up by the Mother tree. Bananas use a lot of water so Lonnie placed a soaker hose down in the ground and leaves it on all night. For winter preparation he cuts them down to the ground and places some leaves over the tops for freeze protection and other matters as well. This is a rarity for a Marion County Fruit keep up the good work.



If you would like more information about growing bananas give the Marion County Extension office a call 903-665-2421.

Searching for Beginning Quilters

By Paulette Cooper

The art of quilting is one of the many traditional forms of perserving history. It also makes great gifts from grand-ma to grand children and from mothers to their children. However, the skill is one that has to be learned and practiced in order to take advantage of some of the unique patterns and designs offered in the latest magazines and television shows. The Marion County Extension office under the guidance of Mrs. Myra Lewis, would like to offer the citizens of marion county an opportunity to learn and grow this skill during a morning or after noon class between the hours of 8:00 – 5:00 PM. The program is set to began in October. This program is waiting for participants to call 903-665-2421 and register by October 15. Those registering will set the meeting date and times based on their schedule.

Wildlife Food Plots

Story By Brock Fry

Photo by Cindy McNeely

September Johnny McNeely and Brock Fry planted 12 wildlife food plots on Johnny's land near Smithland, TX. The purpose of these food plots are to find how well they will be foraged by Deer, Hogs and other wildlife during the winter and spring months. We have placed a about 3' circular cage on each plot so we have a control and know what it would look like if no animal graze on the plot. We will continue to view this plot monthly and give updates on its condition and activities.



2007 Calendar of Upcoming Events

October		
2nd, Tuesday	<i>Marion County Hay Show</i>	Kellyville
9th, Tuesday	<i>Underground Water Board</i> with Bruce Lesikar, Ph.D., Texas County Extension, Kelly Mills, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality and Robert Bradley, Texas Water Development Board	The Annex Building
12th, Friday	Building Communities Series - <i>Community Capacity Building Engaging and Empowering Them All</i>	Kellyville
18th, Thursday	American Association of Retired Persons (AARP) Monthly Meeting – <i>Cancer Awareness Program</i>	Kellyville
29th, Monday	<i>Preparing for the Winter Season</i>	Kellyville
November		
8th, Thursday	<i>Pesticides</i> (2 CEUs)	Kellyville
13th, Tuesday	<i>Cattle Raisers Meeting</i> with Jason Banta, Ph.D., Texas Cooperative Extension Beef Specialist and Jeffery Koch, Ph.D., Program Specialist for Ag and Natural Resources	Kellyville
December		
3rd, Monday	<i>Animal Issues Emergency Management Plan</i>	Kellyville

Published Monthly By:

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