



Marion County Texas



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January 2008 Texas AgriLife Extension Service Programs:

Date/Day	Program	Time/Location
11th/Friday	Building Communities Series – <i>Clusters and Regions</i>	9:30 AM Kellyville

New Year and New Extension Name & Logo

By Brock Fry

Happy New year to all. With the brand new year comes a new name for Extension. Starting January 1, 2008 we are known as "Texas AgriLife Extension Service", and a new slogan, "Improving Lives. Improving Texas." We are still providing you with the same high-quality, relevant educational opportunities and are here to serve the people of Marion County and Texas.

Texas AgriLife Extension Service office hours and phone number are the same. The Extension phone number remains 903-665-2421. Give us a call or drop by our office between the hours of 8:00 AM and 12:00 N or between 1:00 PM and 5:00 PM, Monday through Friday.

You can access our information in many different ways. If you prefer to search out information on your own or at odd hours of the day or night. We have a nice website; <http://marion-tx.tamu.edu>. The website includes, among other things, a calendar of events, publications, links, our location, and newsletters.

Let your neighbors know about the newsletters. Tell them that if they get their e-mail address to me I will send you the newsletter link each month.

We also have a new, Marion County AgriLife Programs website now. You can see past programs, picture gallery of program events, agriculture publications, and much more. Here is the link to the website:

<http://grovesite.com/tamu/mcap>.

Imported Fire Ant in Hay Quarantine in Effect

By Brock Fry

There are 163 Texas counties quarantined for Imported Fire Ant (IFA). Under Texas Administrative Code, Title 4, Chapter 19, Subchapter J, hay from counties infested by IFA are prohibited from being moved into non-infested counties unless the hay has been stored on a concrete slab or heavy duty plastic and the premises where it was stored was kept free of IFA using appropriate bait treatments recommended by the Texas AgriLife Extension Service imported fire ant research and management project's Web site <http://fireant.tamu.edu>.

The list of quarantined counties is located online at www.tda.state.tx.us. Quarantined counties may also be determined by calling 1-800-TELL-TDA. Hay from non-infested counties can be certified based upon the county of hay origin. Prior to movement of hay from an infested county to a non-infested county in Texas, or another state, the hay producer or shipper must contact his or her local Texas Department of Agriculture office to have the hay inspected and to receive a phytosanitary certificate. For more details, see the Administrative Code at [http://info.sos.state.tx.us/pls/pub/readtac\\$xt.ViewTAC?tac_view=5&ti=4&pt=1&ch=19&sch=J&rl=Y](http://info.sos.state.tx.us/pls/pub/readtac$xt.ViewTAC?tac_view=5&ti=4&pt=1&ch=19&sch=J&rl=Y)

In addition, the following items are also quarantined: soil, compost, decomposed manure, humus, muck, and peat, separately or with other things; plants with roots with soil attached; grass sod; logs, pulpwood, and stumpwood; and used mechanized soil-moving equipment.

Educational programs of Texas AgriLife Extension Service are open to all people without regard to race, color, sex, disability, religion, age, or national origin.

Cypress Basin Chapter of Texas Master Naturalist

By Brock Fry

Now is the time to register if you want to become a Texas Master Naturalist of the Cypress Basin.

Texas Master Naturalist spends significant amounts of time learning and educating themselves through educational programs with experts and well educated professionals who teach aspects of nature right here in Marion and Harrison Counties.

Who sponsors these educational programs and events? The basic sponsors are Texas Parks and Wildlife and Texas Cooperative Extension. Local individuals and businesses are also heavily involved with development and resources.

What does a Texas Master Naturalist do? These Naturalists are fused by the bonds of nature and more specifically the nature of the Cypress Basin. There are several chapters across Texas called Master Naturalist who work together to gain their needed certification hours and programming needs.

A Master Naturalist is also a Master Volunteer who works together with other volunteers to complete wonderful projects for our community.

Texas Master Naturalist spends significant time in the classroom learning about ecology and management of the Cypress Basin. They also spend several hours outside and on field trips.

You can learn more about what we do and how we work by attending our orientation class on February 7, 2008. This class graduates in May. The group is focused towards adults and mature youth. The steering committee is making the course as affordable as possible to join. The only cost is for the curriculum book (and it is worth every penny).

For more information about Texas Master Naturalist visit marion-tx.tamu.edu.

For an application to join Texas Master Naturalist, visit the Marion County Extension office. Applications are also available at the orientation class.

Woody Bio-Mass

By Brock Fry

Is woody biomass a significant source of energy? We will get the answer to that and more later in the year. Our federal and state governments, private industries and others are investigating new forms of bio-fuels. One of those is woody bio-mass.

What is woody bio-mass? The big deal is the sugars that can be taken out of tree trunks, limbs and leaves using mechanical, chemical, and enzymatic processes.

The process to get crude oil from trees is too costly at this time, versus coal or oil. More research is needed to assess the benefits and drawbacks of producing ethanol from trees.

Ethanol production from woody bio-mass would significantly increase the value of our tree farms. The tree residues could be used for crude oil instead of being pushed in piles and burned.



Improving Lives. Improving Texas.

Nature-Based Tourism Operation Inventory

By Chelsea Aldrich (Graduate Student, Texas A&M University)

In order to provide improved educational programs, Texas AgriLife Extension is creating an inventory of hunting, fishing, agricultural and adventure tourism operations (ie., nature tourism operations in Texas). This effort is separate from, but will support, the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department effort related to hunting operations.

If you have, or know of someone who has, a nature based tourism operation with activities, in addition to lease hunting on the property, please consider submitting contact information via our online form at <http://naturetourism.tamu.edu> or <http://www.rpts.tamu.edu/tce/NT/>

Outfitters & Guides are also encouraged to submit to the site. You will also find information on nature tourism business development at this site.

Thanks again for your help with this project. If you have further questions about the project, feel free to contact:

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Wildlife Food Plots

By Brock Fry

On December 20, 2007 I visited the twelve food plots planted in September. On this trip I found that every food plot has been utilized to its max. Wildlife has placed tremendous pressure on these plants to produce. 10% is the most plant life left in any one food plot.



Figure 1: Successful Plot

Figure 1 shows the most successful plot with the highest percentage of plants providing food for the wildlife.

Plants have survived freezing temperatures and many animals visiting. Johnny McNeely has placed a wildlife camera on the food plots. We hope to show the plots being utilized.



Figure 2: Healthy Clover

In Figure 2 you can see clover is doing very well. This is what the food plots would look like if no animals were allowed to graze on the plots.



Figure 3: Rio Verde Lab Lab Frozen Out

Not all the plots look as healthy as the ones in Figure 2. The plants in Figure 3 are Rio Verde Lab Lab. It was unable to withstand the freezing temperatures. On the plots just planted with Lab Lab there are no other plants growing. The area outside the cage is bare as well.

We will see in the future months if the plants will survive the winter. We will look forward to the spring green up and to see if the dormant winter plants come alive. For more information about the food plots or for a visit give us a call at the Extension Office 903-665-2421.

From the Garden - January Moon Phases

8th, Tuesday, New Moon



15th, Tuesday, First Quarter



22nd, Tuesday, Full Moon



30th, Wednesday, Last Quarter



2008 Annual East Texas Turfgrass Conference

For: School Districts, City Parks & Recreation, Lawn & Landscape Managers, Homeowners

9-Speakers; 8-Seminars; Vendors & Exhibitors

Thursday, February 7, 2008

Texas A&M University System
AgriLife Research & Extension Center
Overton, Texas

Registration starts at 8:00 a.m.



Registration fee (includes lunch): \$25.00/person. Please make checks payable to: TCE Account #218305-60001, and pay at the door!!

More information at Extension office, 903-665-2421.

Community Development

By Paulette Cooper

December brought us closer to completing another piece of the puzzle in the Building Communities sessions. We learned about “Demographics and More” and how these economic and demographic information sources provide a wealth of information and data. Most of the data, stated the instructor, is what community leaders and economic development professionals still struggle to access and understand and what this information means for their communities. If used correctly, the data can be very helpful in building the confidence needed to assist local leaders in making informed decisions about local choices. Sources given were: Websites for finding county information through state websites, information on healthcare, transportation and income levels and how this data is ranked state and nationally in some cases. Population growth, expectations and how this data can be used to recruit and access needs for jobs, grants, documentation for papers and in recruitment efforts for business opportunities looking to locate to this area.

Students participating in the programs have benefited from a variety of expert speakers and are looking forward to the New Year and information in the concluding six months of classes. The classes are open to all interested persons, local or regional, those interested in certain classes or sessions, and are presented the second Friday of every month for one hour, from 10:00 to 11:00 AM. Students are asked to show up 30 minutes early so that any questions or concerns can be addressed. The sessions are virtually free. There maybe a very small cost for printing handouts and other materials needed for class sessions.

New members are welcome and invited to bring their group members with them if interested in looking for new ideas to improve their community or just trying to discover new trends or ideas for the new year. For more information, Contact Paulette Cooper at the Marion County Extension Office at 903- 665-2421.

Future classes and dates are:

January 11, 2008 Clusters and Regions: Should We Focus on Clusters and Regions when looking to strengthen our economic development efforts? Do they lead to powerful information from which winning regional economic and workforce development strategies can be formed?

February 8, Attraction Strategies – Recruiting the Right Things: This session will discuss how today’s global market place has not just changed the rules, but altered the game. The session will also address how the changing economy demands new forms of infrastructure and community assets in order to be attractive to today’s workers, who themselves are key to sustainable business and economic growth.

March 14, Supporting Existing Businesses – The Case for Downtown Business Development.

Come learn the tools and resources needed to help support existing local businesses and create vibrant business districts. This program features an understanding of the changing marketplace and how communities can identify opportunities that are both realistic and sensible for their downtowns and communities.

April 11, Entrepreneurship – It’s Good for Business, Government and the Civic Sector

This session will address entrepreneurship as a communities quality of life, how important it is and what the essential ingredients of successful entrepreneurship development are. Entrepreneurship projects will be highlighted as answers to possible questions.

May 9, Sustainable Development – Is It Going Mainstream? We will explore “What challenges and lessons does it offer to those of us working to enhance our communities?” What does it suggest in terms of new ways of doing business? Learn about new key elements in community development efforts.

June 13, Final Class – The Art and Science of Putting It All Together

UW-Extension Professor will reflect of over three decades of working with communities to address critical community development issues. He’ll help us understand how and when to support a communities need to have an early success or take a step back to put a plan in place. The instructor offers a “real-world tempered” perspective on how to guide a community in making local, sustainable development choices.

Community Development Announcements

By Paulette Cooper

If you are looking for a walking group, call and sign up for a walking program called Walk Across Texas. It is an eight week walking program where miles are logged by team members to total over 700 miles. It’s a great way to get the exercise in and lose a few pounds. Call for more details.

From February 4 to March 3, 2008, TxDOT will hold 46 public hearings, which will specifically focus on the I-69/TTC Draft Environmental Impact Statement. The format for these hearings is designed to gather public comments solely on the document and maps, <http://ttc.keeptexasmoving.com/pdfs/projects/i69/deis/summary.pdf>.

To learn more about hearings in your area, go to <http://ttc.keeptexasmoving.com/projects/i69/hearings.aspx>.

AARP/Diabetes Coalition Meetings

By Paulette Cooper

The AARP/Diabetes Coalition group is a unique group of Seniors. Most belong to the AARP organization that meets on a monthly basis, (except June and July) usually the third Thursday of every month at 2:00 PM at Kellyville. They

host the annual driver's education program in August and an annual health fair in September or early October. Their meetings include an educational program that usually focuses on a health related issue or topic of concern for seniors. There is a socialization period and sometimes the meetings are centered on special events such as Valentines, Cinco de Mayo, and a trip in the summer and various parties for special events. The group is looking to add more members and new ideas to their annual fun filled calendar. The group is open to the public and will publish it's calendar of events following final approval at the January meeting.

Youth In Community Leadership Forum Held

By Paulette Cooper

Last month more than 80 youth and adults participated in a youth issue forum centered around youth issues and how they can participate in youth/adult partnerships to enhance opportunities for youth to participate in their community. A variety of speakers addressed resources, problems caused by youth and ways of addressing these issues, ideas for improving the community, ideas for youth becoming involved in community service, and other topics related to inclusion and cultural diversity.

Speakers for the program included former "Youth In Community Leadership Program/RAP" members, Whitney McCoy and Leticia Hopkins, Marion County District Attorney, Bill Gleason, and Jefferson City Manager, Jim Gibson. The program is sponsored by the Cooperative Extension Program, Prairie View A&M University, the USDA- Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service, Jefferson Independent School District, students involved in the "Communities In School Program", and other interested Jefferson Junior High students.

Over eighty issues that need to be addressed were identified by students. Some were closely related but, when the group was divided into eight smaller groups, the issues were some

what narrowed as they learned about census and how to rank issues to be solved based on their likely hood of being solved in a timely manor, what resources are available and who will be able to help them solve their issue when thinking of volunteers and /or elected officials. Among the issues were bullying, community clean-ups, posting "Crime Watch", "Keep Our Community Clean", and "Drug Free" signs in troubled communities. Littering was also a concern. More after school activities and Adopt-A-Highway programs were also on the list. The final project has not been selected and youth will take one more look at the list during January and select one they are confident they can work to complete by May.

Youth continue to learn the skills needed to become involved in successful adult partnerships not only with their sponsors, but with other community leaders and elected officials.

For more information or sponsorship ideas contact Paulette Cooper Extension Agent or the Marion County Extension Office.

2007 Census of Agriculture

By Brock Fry

You should be getting the 2007 census of agriculture in the mail if you are a farmer or rancher. It is our responsibility as farmers and ranchers here in the U.S.A. to support the National Agricultural Statistics Service by returning this information. It does not matter how small or large your operation is or where it is located. In 2007 Agriculture is proud to say "Agriculture Counts".

If you need help with a question, give AgriLife Extension Marion County a call, 903-665-2421. We are here to serve you.

2008 Calendar of Upcoming Events

(Watch the calendar monthly for additions and changes.)

January		
11th, Friday	Building Communities Series – <i>Clusters and Regions</i>	Kellyville
February		
7th, Thursday	Texas Master Naturalist – <i>Introduction to Texas Master Naturalist</i>	Kellyville
8th, Friday	Building Communities Series – <i>Attraction Strategies – Recruiting the Right Things</i>	Kellyville
14th, Thursday	<i>4-States Ag Expo</i>	Texarkana
19th, Tuesday	<i>Leadership Advisory Board</i> Meeting	Kellyville
21st, Thursday	<i>AARP – Valentines African-American History</i> Program – music by <i>Don Oatman/Dan Smeltzer</i>	Kellyville
21st, Thursday	Texas Master Naturalist – <i>Geology and Soils of the Caddo Basin & Historical Aspects</i>	T.B.A.
23rd, Saturday	Texas Master Naturalist – <i>Cultural Awareness; Archeology, Anthropology, and Historical</i>	T.B.A.
25th, Monday	<i>Pesticide Class: Last Chance Video</i> , 6 CEUs	Kellyville
26th, Tuesday	<i>Animal Issues Committee</i> Meeting	Kellyville
March		
6th, Thursday	Texas Master Naturalist – <i>Ecological Regions of Texas, Ecological Concepts & Ecosystem Management</i>	T.B.A.
14th, Friday	Building Communities Series – <i>Supporting Existing Businesses –The Case for Downtown Business Development</i>	Kellyville
20th, Thursday	<i>AARP – Am I Losing My Mind</i> Program – <i>Andy Craiker</i>	Kellyville
20th, Thursday	Texas Master Naturalist – <i>Forest Ecology, Management & Bottomland Forests</i>	T.B.A.
25th, Tuesday	<i>Pond Management</i> – Dr. Billy Higginbotham, Charles Snowden	Smithland TX
28th, 29th	<i>Largemouth Bass: Better Fishing Through Private Water Management</i> Conference	Athens TX
April		
3rd, Thursday	Texas Master Naturalist – <i>Rare/Endangered Animals/Plant species of the Caddo Basin & Predators of the Caddo Basin</i>	T.B.A.
10th, Thursday	<i>Bio-Fuels Conference</i> – Dr. Eric Taylor	Jefferson TX
11th, Friday	Building Communities Series – <i>Entrepreneurship—It's Good for Business, Government and the Civic Sector</i>	Kellyville
17th, Thursday	<i>AARP – National Cancer Awareness</i> Program – Sheree Williams	Kellyville
17th, Thursday	<i>4-States Lawn & Garden Expo</i>	Texarkana
17th, Thursday	Texas Master Naturalist – <i>Mammology & Entomology</i>	T.B.A.
19th, Saturday	Texas Master Naturalist – <i>Ornithology</i>	T.B.A.
May		
1st, Thursday	Texas Master Naturalist – <i>Aquatic Ecology and Management & Ichthyology</i>	T.B.A.
6th, Tuesday	<i>Leadership Advisory Board</i> meeting	Kellyville
9th, Friday	Building Communities Series – <i>Sustainable Development – Is It Going Mainstream?</i>	Kellyville
13th, Tuesday	<i>Youth Board</i> meeting	Kellyville
15th, Thursday	Texas Master Naturalist – <i>Herpetology & Wildlife and Vegetative Communities of the Cypress Basin</i>	T.B.A.
27th, Tuesday	<i>Pesticide Class: Last Chance Video</i> , 2 CEUs	Kellyville

June

2nd, Monday	<i>Ag Programs Committee</i> Meeting	Kellyville
13th, Friday	Building Communities Series – <i>Final Class: The Art and Science of Putting It All Together</i>	Kellyville
24th, Tuesday	<i>Forestry Tour</i> Program – Dr. Eric Taylor	T.B.A.

July

15th, Tuesday	<i>Disaster Management</i> Program	Kellyville
29th, Tuesday	<i>Garden</i> Program	Kellyville

August

26th, Tuesday	<i>Pesticide Class: Last Chance Video</i> , 2 CEUs	Kellyville
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September

9th, Tuesday	<i>Leadership Advisory Board</i> Meeting	Kellyville
23rd, Tuesday	<i>Hay Show</i> – Dr. Jerold Evers	Kellyville

October

7th, Tuesday	<i>Cattle Raisers</i> Meeting – Chute Side – Dr. Jason Banta	T.B.A.
28th, Tuesday	<i>Wildlife</i> Program	Kellyville

November

T.B.A.	<i>Equine Brood Mares</i> – Dr. Brett Scott	Kellyville
18th, Tuesday	<i>Animal Issues Committee</i> Meeting	Kellyville

December

16th, Tuesday	<i>Pesticide Class: Last Chance Video</i> , 2 CEUs	Kellyville
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