



Marion County Texas



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February 2008 Texas AgriLife Extension Service Programs:

Date/Day	Program	Time/Location
7th/	Texas Master Naturalist –	6:00 PM/
Thursday	Introduction to Texas Master	Kellyville
	Naturalist, Sonny Arnold, TMN	
	Coordinator	
8th/	Building Communities Series –	10:00 AM
Friday	Attraction Strategies – Recruiting	/Kellyville
	the Right Things	
14th/	4-States Ag Expo	8:00 AM/
Thursday		Texarkana
19th/	Leadership Advisory Board	6:00 PM/
Tuesday	Meeting	Kellyville
21st/	AARP – Valentines African-	2:00 PM/
Thursday	American History Program –	Kellyville
	music by <i>Don Oatman/Dan</i>	
	Smeltzer, Special Guest: Red Hat	
	Dancers	
21st/	Texas Master Naturalist –	6:00 PM/
Thursday	Geology and Soils of the Caddo	Kellyville
	Basin & Historical Aspects	
23rd/	Texas Master Naturalist –	6:00 PM/
Saturday	Cultural Awareness; Archeology,	Kellyville
	Anthropology, and Historical	
25th/	Pesticide Class: Last Chance	8:00 AM/
Monday	Video, 6 CEUs	Kellyville
26th/	Animal Issues Committee	6:00 PM/
Tuesday	Meeting	Kellyville

Popular Demand!

By Brock Fry

We now live in the computer age and the AgriLife Extension Service is not falling behind. Several people have been looking for outlets to log onto the internet.



The Extension Office and Kellyville have gone

wireless. This means that you can log on to the internet from anywhere in the building and the parking lot. We hope you find this new service helpful. We also have computers for your free use to get on-line during regular business hours.

4-H Registration On-Line

By Brock Fry

We now register all 4-Hers and 4-H events online. I want to encourage you to visit http://texas4-html and register you and your children in a 4-H event.

Southern Forest Futures Project

By Brock Fry

The U.S. Forest Service, in cooperation with the Southern Group of State Foresters is beginning a 2 year project that will forecast the future of forests in the southern 13 states and parts of the Caribbean and describe what those conditions will mean for a wide variety of forest resources, uses, services and values. The project, called the Southern Forest Futures Project (SFFP) will be led by the Southern Research Station and Southern Region of the Forest Service. It will be conducted by teams of scientists from around the South utilizing information from a variety of sources, including the Southern Forest Resource Assessment, and (continued next page)

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

will respond to issues identified with the help of the interested public.

To learn what the public believes are the important issues that should be considered, the SFFP is planning a series of public workshops. During these workshops, which will begin in January and end in March of 2008, we will gather input on (1) the forces of change likely to influence forest conditions, and (2) values at risk from these changes. This input will be used to shape the final plans for the SFFP.

Each public workshop commences at 1:00 in the afternoon and adjourns by 5:00.

Natural resource professionals and the general public are invited and encouraged to attend and participate in this dialogue. A see the regional list of locations and dates below. Additional details regarding the workshops can be found at the SFFP website:

www.srs.fs.usda.gov/futures.

Two other options are available if you are not able to attend one of the public workshops. You can tune into one of two "webcast" meetings that will be held during evening hours. In addition, you can provide your input through a portal on the SFFP website. Regardless of how we hear from you, we will consider your input as we finalize our plans for the project.

Meeting Location	Date
Baton Rouge LA	Jan 29
Little Rock AR	Feb 13
College Station TX	Feb 11
Stillwater OK	Feb 12



Private Applicator Training Class

By Brock Fry

The Private Applicator training is set for April 17, 8:00 AM, at Linden Garden Club building, 300 East Houston Street, Linden TX. Place it on your calendar. If you need more information, contact Gene Bobo, CEA – Agriculture Cass County, 903-756-5391, or by e-mail at ngbobo@ag.tamu.edu.

2005 Hurricane Livestock Compensation Program

By Brock Fry

USDA Farm Service Agency's (FSA) 2005 Hurricanes Livestock Compensation Program (LCP) provides payments to livestock owners and cash lessees (not both for the same livestock) for certain feed losses that resulted from 2005

hurricanes Katrina, Ophelia, Rita and Wilma. LCP also includes a catfish grant program through which states distribute benefits to producers who suffered losses as the result of the 2005 hurricanes. Producers in certain counties of Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee and Texas may be eligible for the program.

Due to Rita during the time period of 9/23/05 - 11/22/05 Marion County is eligible for the LCP.

The Emergency Agricultural Disaster Assistance Act of 2006 (the Act), enacted June 2006, authorizes LCP. Under the Act, USDA's Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) provides up to \$95 million in benefits to producers through LCP. FSA administers LCP on behalf of CCC.

Eligible Livestock

To be eligible under LCP, livestock must be:

- Dairy cattle, beef cattle, buffalo, beefalo, equine, poultry, elk, reindeer, sheep, goats, swine or deer that:
 - Have been physically located in an eligible county on the beginning date of the disaster period;
 - Have been maintained for commercial use as part of a farming operation on the beginning date of the disaster period; and
 - Not have been produced and maintained for reasons other than commercial use as part of a farming operation. Such excluded uses include, but are not limited to, wild free roaming animals or animals used for recreational purposes such as pleasure, hunting, pets or for show.

Eligible Producers

To be eligible for LCP, agricultural producers must have:

- Either owned or cash-leased eligible livestock (but not both for the same livestock) on the beginning date of the disaster period; and
- Suffered a loss of feed from produced or purchased forage or feedstuffs which were (1) damaged or destroyed by an eligible hurricane; (2) physically located in an eligible county; and (3) intended for use as feed for eligible livestock.

Payments

CCC calculates LCP payments by multiplying the national payment rate for each livestock category by the number of eligible livestock in each category. The national payment rate represents the cost for corn needed to maintain the specific livestock for 30 days, as determined by CCC.

(continued on next page)

Producers may receive no more than \$80,000 under LCP. An individual or entity whose adjusted gross income exceeds \$2.5 million is ineligible for LCP benefits.

In the event that total eligible LCP claims, including claims under the Catfish Grant Program, exceed the Act's \$95 million cap, each payment is reduced by a uniform national percentage as determined by CCC.

2005 Catfish Grant Program

Under the 2005 Catfish Grant Program, USDA provides grants to states having catfish producers who suffered catfish feed losses. USDA does not administer the grant program. Governors or their designees announce sign-up dates and application procedures for the catfish feed loss program and distribute program payments.

Sign-up for LCP begins December 11, 2006 and ends February 2, 2007. Livestock producers must submit applications in the county where the eligible livestock were physically located on the applicable disaster date.

To Apply For LCP

Livestock producers applying for LCP must submit the following:

- A completed application in the county where the eligible livestock were physically located on the applicable date;
- Adequate proof, as determined by CCC, that the feed loss:
 - Was for the claimed eligible livestock;
 - Occurred as a direct result of an eligible hurricane during the disaster period;
 - Other supporting documentation necessary to applicant's determine the eligibility. Supporting documents may include, but are not limited to:
 - o verifiable purchase records;
 - o veterinarian records:
 - o bank or other loan papers; rendering truck receipts:
 - o Federal Emergency Management Agency records:
 - National Guard records;
 - o written contracts:
 - o production records;
 - o Internal Revenue Service records:
 - o property tax records:
 - o private insurance documents;
 - o sales records, and similar documents.

The application must be filed during the application period. Other application guidelines include:

Payments may be made for eligible losses suffered by an eligible producer who is now deceased, or by a dissolved entity if a currently authorized representative signs the application for payment.

- Proof of authority to sign for a deceased producer or dissolved entity must be provided.
- If a producer is a dissolved entity, all former members at the time of dissolution or their duly authorized representative(s) must sign the application for payment.
- Data furnished by the applicant is used to determine eligibility for program benefits.

A minor is eligible to apply for program benefits if all eligibility requirements are met and one of the following conditions exist:

- The right of majority has been conferred upon the minor by court proceedings or statute;
- A guardian has been appointed to manage the minor's property and the applicable program documents are executed by the guardian; or
- A bond is furnished under which a surety guarantees any loss incurred for which the minor would be liable as an adult.

For more information about FSA and its programs, visit your local USDA Service Center, 207 Highway 8 North, Linden TX 75563, 903-756-5491, or online at: http://www.fsa.usda.gov.

Payment Rates for Eligible Livestock

Kind of Livestock	Туре	Weight Range	Payment Per Head
Beef	Adult	Cows and Bulls	\$17.48
	Non-adult	500 pounds or more	\$13.11
Dairy	Adult	Cows and Bulls	\$45.45
-	Non-adult	500 pounds or more	\$13.11
Buffalo/Beefalo	Adult	Cows and Bulls	\$17.48
	Non-adult	500 pounds or more	\$13.11
Sheep	All		\$4.37
Goats	All		\$4.37
Deer	All		\$4.37
Equine	All		\$12.94
Swine		Less than 45 pounds	\$0.52
	1.100	45 to 124 pounds	\$1.22
	1000	125 to 234 pounds	\$2.10
	Sow	235 pounds or more	\$7.17
	Boar	235 pounds or more	\$4.20
Elk		Less than 400 pounds	\$3.85
		400 pounds to 799	
		pounds	\$7.17
	1000	800 pounds or more	\$9.44
Poultry	All	Less than 3 pounds	\$0.11
	All	3 pounds to 7.9	
		pounds	\$0.22
	All	8 pounds or more	\$0.50
Reindeer	All		\$3.85



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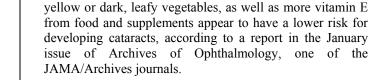
From the Garden - February Moon Phases

7th, Thursday, New Moon

14th, Thursday, First Quarter

21st, Thursday, Full Moon

29th, Friday, Last Quarter



"The oxidative hypothesis of cataract formation posits that reactive oxygen species can damage lens proteins and fiber cell membranes and that nutrients with antioxidant capabilities can protect against these changes," the authors write as background information in the article. Vitamin E, vitamin C, beta carotene, lutein and zeaxanthin are all believed to have antioxidant properties. Lutein and zeaxanthin are the only carotenoids, yellow plant pigments, present in the lens of the human eye and may also protect against cataracts by filtering harmful blue light."

"In conclusion, these prospective data from a large cohort of female health professionals indicate that higher intakes of lutein, zeaxanthin and vitamin E are associated with decreased risk of cataract," the authors write. "Although reliable data from randomized trials are accumulating for vitamin E and other antioxidant vitamins, randomized trial data for lutein/zeaxanthin are lacking. Such information will help to clarify the benefits of supplemental use of lutein/zeaxanthin and provide the most reliable evidence on which to base public health recommendations for cataract prevention by vitamin supplementation."

For more information on the study click on the link above or call Paulette Cooper, 903-665-2421.

Flu Vaccine, Personal Precautions Offer Protection

By Josefa B. Pena

With flu classified as widespread in the state for the last two weeks, Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) officials are reminding people to take precautions to reduce the risk of getting and spreading the viral illness.

According to health officials, getting a flu vaccination is one of the best ways to prevent getting and spreading the illness. Vaccination is recommended for people ages 6 months and older. Flu vaccines are available in shot and nasal spray forms. Only healthy people ages 2 through 49 years who are not pregnant may receive the spray form.

DSHS health officials offer the following additional precautions:

- Wash your hands frequently with either soap and water or an alcohol-based hand sanitizer;
- Cover your coughs and sneezes;
- Stay home if you're sick.

The Texas flu season typically runs October through March. The flu vaccine, which takes about two weeks to become fully effective, can be given at any time during this period.

(continued on next page)

Viticulture Calendar of Events

By Fran Pontasch

I hope you all find the following upcoming events helpful in laying the ground work for a great start on 2008's growing season:

- Pruning Workshops in North Texas:
 - o Jan 25, 2008 (10:00 AM-1:00 PM)
 Tara Vineyard & Pine Plantation
 Vineyard, 8603 CR 3914, Athens TX
 - Feb. 1, 2008 (1:00-3:00 PM)
 Oak Creek Vineyard, Wagner Road, Saint Jo
 TX
 - March 5, 2008 (9:00 AM-12:00 N)
 Cedar Creek Vineyard, Old Airport Road,
 Denison TX
- Grape Grower & Wine Maker meeting with Mike Sipowicz
 - Feb. 5 (1:00-4:00 PM)
 Lightcatcher Winery, 6925 Confederate Park
 Rd/FM 1886, Fort Worth TX
- **Disease Management** with Jim Kamas
 - Feb. 15 (10:00 AM-2:00 PM)
 Brushy Creek Vineyard, 572 CR 2798, Alvord TX

There is NO charge for these events, however, please sign up so we know how many to expect. To recieve a program flyer, or if you have any questions or wish to sign up, please contact:

Fran Pontasch 254-968-4144 or 254-977-3641 fmpontasch@ag.tamu.edu

Diets High in Lutein, Zeaxanthin, Vitamin E Associated With Decreased Risk of Cataracts

Public release date: January 14, 2008

http://www.eurekalert.org/pub_releases/2008-01/jaaj-dhi011008.php

Diets high in lutein, zeaxanthin and vitamin E associated with decreased risk of cataracts Women who have higher dietary intake of lutein and zeaxanthin, compounds found in

People wanting the flu vaccine should call their health care provider, local public health department, 2-1-1 or check online at www.211Texas.org about availability.

Flu is not a reportable condition in Texas, but DSHS relies on reports from a surveillance network to classify flu activity in the state. The widespread classification applies when there are increases in flu-like illnesses and recent laboratory-confirmed flu cases in at least half of the state's regions.

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Community Development Class

By Paulette Cooper

We really appreciate the comments and phone calls about our newsletter. If you are having problems bringing up a website, call and we will be glad to help. One comment relating to the Community Development class had to do with a problem with the website.

You may register at www.uwex.edu/ces/cced/building_community.cmf or by calling our office at 903-665-2421 for information on our program. You may also e-mail: Andrea Rush at: andrea.rush@uwex.edu.

We have purchased a site for our office and at a much, much smaller fee than the \$40.00 per session you pay as an individual. We would love to have you join us at Kellyville every second Friday of the month. The next session is February 8th on "Attraction Strategies- Recruiting the Right Things".

Senior Housing Issues

By Paulette Cooper

I know many of you can relate to the needs of seniors needing costly housing repairs done. There are some programs out there that will assist them. Some are a bit on the shady side or not really right for them. Many of the programs are hard to understand. Some seniors may find they are not really comfortable working with some agencies and can easily get frustrated in the process.

This year for our Senior Health Fair, in September, we have invited USDA to bring their agency, once again, to conduct one-on-one, hands-on training. They will share a variety of information on requirements and documents needed to participate in these programs with seniors and or residents

that choose to participate. A list of the USDA Rural Development Office requirements (a.k.a. 504 Requirements) follows at the end of this newsletter.

The program is being announced early to give residents plenty of time to get required documents and to find a person they trust to help guide them through the program. If you are one of those who want to get started early, you can reach the USDA office in Henderson TX at 903-657-2571.

Health Notes

By Paulette Cooper

Last month I offered a challenge for a walking program. This month, my co-worker sent me a list of reasons to join the walking program that I want to share with you.

12 Great Reasons to Get Moving:

- 1. Strengthen your heart and lungs.
- Increase the level of HDL (good cholesterol) in your blood.
- 3. Lower your blood pressure.
- 4. Prevent Diabetes.
- 5. Keep your bones strong.
- 6. Strengthen and tone your muscles.
- 7. Have more energy and be more productive.
- 8. Sleep better
- 9. Improve your posture and looks.
- 10. Reduce Stress.
- 11. Fight depression and anxiety.
- 12. Improve your sense of well being.

The American Dental Association recommends that to better protect the teeth and gums, we should brush for a full two minutes. The brush should be held at a 45-degree angle and short circular strokes should be used. Brush twice a day and floss once a day to reduce your risk for gum disease. That may pay a double premium in the long run, since gum disease may also be linked to increased risk for heart disease.

My co-worker is located in Cass County and is Home Economist, Pamela Lincoln. She writes a Lifestyles newsletter that you may request by calling 903-756-8923.

Cooper Conducts Officer Training for Local AARP Chapter

By Paulette Cooper

AgriLife Extension Agent Paulette Cooper recently conducted officer training for members of the local AARP chapter. The training, related to jobs and responsibilities of the officers and board members, will prepare them for the New Year. It also serves as a guide for members wishing to serve in other positions and capacities in the organization.

Youth and Adults Partnering to Create Community Change Workshop

By Paulette Cooper

Adult volunteers wishing to serve as Volunteer Leaders with our 4-H and Youth Development Program are invited to attend a special training on Saturday, February 9th 2008 at Prairie View A&M University.

The training is free. Those from Jefferson attending will spend the night on Friday. Rooms are provided if we are notified by February 5th that you plan to attend. The training starts at 8:30 AM and ends around 3:00 PM. For more information call Paulette at 903-665-2421.

Bio-Fuels here in Jefferson?

By Brock Fry

Welcome to the 21st century. Today crops are seen very differently than 8 years ago. With more corn and soy beans going towards ethanol production, prices of corn have risen from \$1.50 per bushel to over \$5.00 and on January 11th, soybeans traded at \$13.42 per bushel, the highest price ever recorded. These prices are double those of a year or two ago. That may not sound like much for the leading nation in the world to deal with.

It has changed the way we live and our life styles, that are a bit different. It has placed a strain on other countries like Mexico, where corn meal prices are up 60% and in Pakistan where flour prices have doubled, and Italian pasta price are up 20%. Here in the U.S.A., by late 2007, the price of a loaf of whole wheat bread was up 12% more than a year ago, milk is up 29%, and eggs are up 36%. Prices like these are forcing food manufacturers and retail outlets to raise values to cover cost.

World grain prices have gone up only 3 times since World War II and all because of weather which reduced crop yields. Now we are faced with demand higher than supply. Over the past 7 of 8 years world grain production has fallen short of consumption. We are usually good and have gotten by on carryover stocks but that is not the case any longer these have dropped to lowest on record of 54 days left in storage bins. (reference http://www.earth-policy.org/Updates/2008/Update69_data.htm).

We (you and I) have to make a difference. We can not rely on foreign oil which has placed us in a fix. We must find new ways to produce another source of energy. One way to provide a gain-gain for forestry producers, ethanol producers, and plastic manufactures are the trees we produce. Could we make a difference with our trees right here in Jefferson and surrounding areas that would make an impact on ethanol production, corn and soy bean prices? Please see future editions of the Marion County Extension Newsletter for more information.

Wildlife Food Plot Report

By Brock Fry



On January 18, 2008 I visited the food plots. The plants are struggling to survive with the freezing weather (see picture 1). Some of the oats that had been totally green a month ago are now turning brown in some places as evident by the above photo. They are continuously being visited by feral hogs, deer and other rodents such as raccoons and armadillos.



In the photo above the ground has been torn up by feral hogs. We do have a feral hog trap set up about 25 feet from the food plots, but have not caught any hogs yet. Hogs are omnivores which mean they eat both plants and animals. When I got back from Christmas break the hogs or wind blew down two the cages. I put them back and reapplied the 10 inch spikes to hold them in place.

Continued next page.



This photo is of some wildlife tracks of deer or hogs. There were several track across the plots such as these. We have received some rains which make the ground soft enough for imprints to be left I the soil.



Here is what the food plots look like from inside the wildlife viewing area. One can clearly see the cages with vegetation in them and those without. Some of our cages have Rio Verde Lab Lab only and it does not grow during the winter months. Very little vegetation is left in the plots, although some plots have a little clover and oats and has been eaten down, but most with out this variety of plants are bare.

2008 Calendar of Upcoming Events

(Watch the calendar monthly for additions and changes.)

February		
7th, Thursday	Texas Master Naturalist – <i>Introduction to Texas Master</i>	Kellyville
	Naturalist, Sonny Arnold, TMN Coordinator	
8th, Friday	Building Communities Series – Attraction Strategies –	Kellyville
	Recruiting the Right Things	
14th, Thursday	4-States Ag Expo	Texarkana
19th, Tuesday	Leadership Advisory Board Meeting	Kellyville
21st, Thursday	AARP – Valentines African-American History Program –	Kellyville
	music by Don Oatman/Dan Smeltzer, Special Guest: Red Hat	
	Dancers	
21st, Thursday	Texas Master Naturalist – Geology and Soils of the Caddo	T.B.A.
	Basin & Historical Aspects	
23rd, Saturday	Texas Master Naturalist – Cultural Awareness; Archeology,	T.B.A.
	Anthropology, and Historical	
25th, Monday	Pesticide Class: Last Chance Video, 6 CEUs	Kellyville
26th, Tuesday	Animal Issues Committee Meeting	Kellyville

Continued next page.

March		
6th, Thursday	Texas Master Naturalist – Ecological Regions of Texas, Ecological Concepts & Ecosystem Management	T.B.A.
14th, Friday	Building Communities Series – Supporting Existing	Kellyville
	Businesses – The Case for Downtown Business Development	
20th, Thursday	AARP – T.B.A Program	Kellyville
20th, Thursday	Texas Master Naturalist – Forest Ecology, Management & Bottomland Forests	T.B.A.
25th, Tuesday	Pond Management – Dr. Billy Higginbotham, Charles Snowden	Smithland TX
28th, 29th	Largemouth Bass: Better Fishing Through Private Water Management Conference	Athens TX
April		
3rd, Thursday	Texas Master Naturalist – Rare/Endangered Animals/Plant	T.B.A.
, ,	species of the Caddo Basin & Predators of the Caddo Basin	
11th, Friday	Building Communities Series – Entrepreneurship—It's Good	Kellyville
	for Business, Government and the Civic Sector	
17th, Thursday	AARP – National Cancer Awareness Program – Sheree Williams	Kellyville
17th, Thursday	4-States Lawn & Garden Expo	Texarkana
17th, Thursday	Texas Master Naturalist – <i>Mammology & Entomology</i>	T.B.A.
17th, Thursday	Private Applicator Training	Linden TX
19th, Saturday	Texas Master Naturalist – <i>Ornithology</i>	T.B.A.
May		
1st, Thursday	Texas Master Naturalist – Aquatic Ecology and Management & Ichthyology	T.B.A.
6th, Tuesday	Leadership Advisory Board meeting	Kellyville
9th, Friday	Building Communities Series – Sustainable Development – Is It Going Mainstream?	Kellyville
13th, Tuesday	Youth Board meeting	Kellyville
15th, Thursday	<i>AARP – Cinco de Mayo Celebration</i> – Jessie Peralta, Manager, Don Juan's Restaurant	Don Juan's Restaurant
15th, Thursday	Texas Master Naturalist – Herpitology & Wildlife and	T.B.A.
,	Vegetative Communities of the Cypress Basin	
27th, Tuesday	Pesticide Class: Last Chance Video, 2 CEUs	Kellyville
29th, Thursday	Bio-Fuels Conference – Dr. Eric Taylor	Jefferson TX
June		
June 2nd, Monday	Ag Programs Committee Meeting	Kellyville
	Ag Programs Committee Meeting Building Communities Series – Final Class: The Art and	Kellyville Kellyville
2nd, Monday	<u> </u>	
2nd, Monday	Building Communities Series - Final Class: The Art and	

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July		
	AARP – No Meeting	
15th, Tuesday	Disaster Management Program	Kellyville
29th, Tuesday	Garden Program	Kellyville
August		
T.B.A.	AARP – Defensive Driving	Kellyville
26th, Tuesday	Pesticide Class: Last Chance Video, 2 CEUs	Kellyville
September		
9th, Tuesday	Leadership Advisory Board Meeting	Kellyville
23rd, Tuesday	Hay Show – Dr. Jerold Evers	Kellyville
25th, Thursday	AARP - Elder Care Conference - Agency Vendors, Health and	Kellyville
	Services Fair, USDA Housing Program	
October		
7th, Tuesday	Cattle Raisers Meeting – Chute Side – Dr. Jason Banta	T.B.A.
16th, Thursday	AARP – Gardening: Preparing for Future the Future Harvest	Kellyville
	 Dave Shimic, Shimic's Gardening, and 	
	Planting Fruit Trees - Brock Fry, Extension Agent	
28th, Tuesday	<i>Wildlife</i> Program	Kellyville
November		
T.B.A.	Equine Brood Mares – Dr. Brett Scott	Kellyville
18th, Tuesday	Animal Issues Committee Meeting	Kellyville
20th, Thursday	AARP – Health Care Interpretations	Kellyville
December		
16th, Tuesday	Pesticide Class: Last Chance Video, 2 CEUs	Kellyville
18th, Thursday	AARP – Celebration	Kellyville

Published Monthly By:

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"Improving Lives. Improving Texas"