



Marion County Texas



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March 2008 Texas AgriLife Extension Service Programs:

Date/Day	Program	Time/Location
6th/ Thursday	Texas Master Naturalist – <i>Ecological Regions of Texas, Ecological Concepts & Ecosystem Management</i>	6:00 PM/ Golden Corral Marshall TX
14th/ Friday	Building Communities Series – <i>Supporting Existing Businesses – The Case for Downtown Business Development</i>	10:00 AM/ Kellyville
20th/ Thursday	AARP – T.B.A Program	2:00 PM/ Kellyville
20th/ Thursday	Texas Master Naturalist – <i>Forest Ecology, Management & Bottomland Forests</i>	T.B.A.
25th/ Tuesday	<i>Pond Management Field Day</i> – Dr. Billy Higginbotham, Charles Snowden at Arnold Farm.	10:00 AM/ 2269 State Highway 43 North, Marion County TX
28th, 29th	<i>Largemouth Bass: Better Fishing Through Private Water Management</i> Conference	Athens TX

Bio-Mass: What is it and why?

By Brock Fry

Forestland covers about 30 percent of the Earth's surface or 9.6 billion acres. In Marion County approximately 70% of our land is classified as forestland. In Cass and Marion together approximately 840 thousand acres is forestland. Here in the U.S. forestland is either being utilized or being looked at for further development of different types of products in addition to lumber and pulp wood. Woody bio-mass is converted into carbohydrates and lignin through photosynthesis. Woody bio-mass can be used for generating

electricity, producing bio-fuels, and making bio-chemicals such as adhesives, solvents, plastics, inks, and lubricants.

Woody bio-mass is the accumulated mass, above and below ground, of the roots, wood, barks, and leaves of living and dead woody shrubs and trees. Lots of this bio-mass goes unused after a thinning or clear cutting takes place. There are many products that can be made using bio-mass. Educational efforts will focus on utilizing forestlands for production of higher value tree products such as ethanol and plastic production.

Among Southern states, logging residues account for about 20 million dry tons of wood each year. About 85 percent of this tonnage would come from private landowners. In 2005 alone 800 million dry tons of destroyed wood were involved with the hurricanes. This amount of wood is not sustainable because we do not have hurricanes like Katrina and Rita each year. About 97% of mill residues are used for energy. Read more about bio-mass utilization in future issues of AgriLIFE Extension Service Marion County Newsletter.

Crisis Exemption Alert

By Paul Baumann, PhD

The Texas Department of Agriculture has issued a Crisis Exemption that authorizes the use of Prowl H₂O (pendimethalin) for sandbur (grassbur) spp. in bermudagrass pastures and hay fields in Texas. Prowl H₂O is manufactured by BASF. The label is attached to this email and must be strictly adhered to by the end users.

We have tested this product in our field studies and it has provided good control of sandbur when applied preemergence (prior to sandbur emergence), when timely rainfall was received to get the product activated. From our research, I would make the following points:

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1. Irrigation or rainfall prior to sandbur emergence is essential.
2. Do not expect 100% control, there may be some escapes that can make the treatment look like it is not working. With this said, Prowl H2O will certainly help tremendously, especially in heavy infestations, providing from 80 to 90% control or more at the rates labeled.
3. In some locations where sandbur germination can be expected throughout the summer, I would recommend applying the higher rate (3.2 quarts per acre), since it will be going out early.
4. Lastly, nothing helps control out more than a well growing bermudagrass stand. The competition from the bermudagrass goes a long way toward keeping the influence of sandbur to a minimum.

Remember, this label is for dormant season applications only so lets get the word out now.

Paul A. Baumann, PhD
Professor and Extension Weed Specialist
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College Station, Texas 77843-2474
979-845-4880

Caution: Always read container label safety precautions and follow directions while using all pesticides.

The Largemouth Bass: Better Fishing Through Private Water Management

Presented by Texas A&M University-AgriLife Extension, Department of Wildlife & Fisheries Sciences, in cooperation with Texas Parks & Wildlife & the Henderson County Wildlife Committee.

What: The Largemouth Bass: Better Fishing Through Private Water Management
When: March 28-29, 2008
Where: Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center, 5550 FM 2495, Athens TX

<http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/spdest/visitorcenters/tffc/>

Registration fee: \$60 before March 15; \$90 after March 15

For more information, please contact:
Billy Higginbotham, 903-834-6191,
b-higginbotham@tamu.edu or
Michael Masser, 979-845-7370, m-masser@tamu.edu



Pond Management Field Day



Charles Snowden
Natural Resource Conservation Service

Dr. Billy Higginbotham
Texas AgriLIFE Extension Service, Overton Research Center

Topics:
Aquatic Vegetation
Dam Building
Fish Densities,
Test for pH, Muddy Water, and Others...

March 25, 2008, 10:00 A.M.
Arnold Farm
2269 Highway 43 North, Marion County TX
2.6 miles North of Smithland (Hwy 43-49 Intersection)

****FREE LUNCH****

Please RSVP
Marion County Office 903-665-2421
Cass County Office 903-756-5391
By March 21, 2008

From the Garden - March Moon Phases

7th, Friday, New Moon
14th, Friday, First Quarter
21st, Friday, Full Moon
29th, Saturday, Last Quarter



Integrated Pest Management (IPM) for the Home Vegetable Garden

IPM uses four key strategies to control pest damage while keeping in mind environmental awareness and stewardship:

1. Plant genetic resistance to pests and disease;

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2. Biological control (the use of one organism to control another);
3. Environmental and cultural (favorable for the plant, unfavorable for the pest);
4. Chemical - the last resort.



Photo By: Extension Entomology, Department of Entomology, Texas A&M University

The Flea Beetle, above photo, is one of many insects that affect our potatoes, greens and other foliage in the garden.

Flea beetle description:

- adults are approximately 1/16 inch long
- some are entirely black, others brown-black with faint, lighter markings
- larvae are small, slender and white with a black band and 3 pairs of legs

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Flea beetle damage:

- plant foliage has numerous, very small, rounded or irregular holes
- holes eaten through or into the leaf
- leaves look like they were peppered with fine shot
- leaves may wilt and turn brown
- may kill or stunt the plant.

Flea beetle control:

There are many options available to control this pest. One that is effective is in the pesticide class Carbamate. The name is "Ortho Sevin Carbaryl Insecticide 5 Dust". It is effective to use on: beans, cabbage, broccoli, Brussels sprouts, cauliflower, kohlrabi, corn, cucumber, melons, pumpkins, squash, lettuce, carrots, eggplant, potatoes, peppers, strawberries, tomatoes.

Ortho Sevin Carbaryl Insecticide 5 Dust also controls many other insects like: harlequin bugs, imported cabbageworms, young cabbage loopers, salt marsh caterpillars, corn rootworms (adults), European corn borer, sap beetles, pickleworms, melon worms, squash bugs, six spotted leafhoppers, spittlebugs, lygus bugs, lace bugs and others. This is a dust formulation so give your plants a dusting.

Action:

Sevin dust inhibits cholinesterase, preventing the termination of nervous impulses and causing death.

Application dates to harvest:

This dust may be applied up to day of harvest unless noted as follows: 1 day: Strawberries 3 days: Cabbage, Broccoli, Brussels Sprouts, Cauliflower, Kohlrabi 14 days: Lettuce, Carrots.

Caution: Always read container label safety precautions and follow directions while using all pesticides.

Reflections on Last Month

Texas Master Naturalist

By Brock Fry



This past year a group of stake holders in Panola, Harrison, and Marion Counties formed a chapter of Texas Master Naturalist. Our first class was on Feb. 7, 2008. The group met three times in February.

Here is a link to The Cypress Valley Master Naturalist website:

<http://grovesite.com/page.asp?o=tmn&s=cbc&p=239487>



Take a look at all of the pictures in the "Photo Gallery"!

Herbicide Update

By Brock Fry

Direx 4L a true pre-emergent for Bermuda pastures. Active Ingredient is Diuron 40%. It is used to control pasture weeds. Application works best when applied to pasture under high humidity conditions. See label for more information.

New from DOW: MileStone Herbicide uses NO 2,4D. The active ingredient is called aminopyralid. This herbicide is supposed to be environmentally friendly. The new broadleaf herbicide MileStone does not require a pesticide applicators license.

Caution: Always read container label safety precautions and follow directions while using all herbicides.

Welcoming Entrepreneurs to Your Community

By Paulette Cooper

On Wednesday, April 23 at 1:30pm (EST) the eXtension Entrepreneurs & Their Communities webinar topic will be ***Welcoming Entrepreneurs to Your Community***. Communities of all sizes are starting to recognize the value of home-grown businesses as a vital part of economic development. So how can Extension, local officials, and community and economic development professionals help create a climate where entrepreneurs feel welcome and supported? Co-facilitators Greg Wise, UW Extension, and Charlie French, UNH Cooperative Extension, will share tips and tools those communities can implement to encourage entrepreneurship as an economic development strategy.

Those interested are invited to call the AgriLIFE Extension Office to reserve a seat. All local and regional business owners, Chamber of Commerce members, JEDCO members and those serving on local economic development boards, and those hoping to become entrepreneurs are invited to attend to find out how businesses can be strengthened as well as the communities we live in. The meeting is open to the public.

For more information call 903-665-2421.

Exercising for a New Me

By Paulette Cooper

In a recent Publication from Good Shepherd Medical Center and Recognized by the American Diabetes Association there was an article on Exercise. The Article listed Exercise as being one of the important parts of the Diabetes programs. Some of the benefits given for doing the exercises were: Reduced risk of heart diseases, risk of stroke, colon cancer, lowers blood pressure, cholesterol and helps control weight. Exercise also keeps bones, muscles, and joints healthy, relieves arthritis pain, lessens anxiety, stress and depression. Exercise improves sleep, increases energy, and most importantly, makes you feel good about yourself.

Many of us have any number of reasons for not exercising. However, there seems to be no **good** reason unless you are physically unable and the doctor has told you not to exercise. Age once considered a factor has fallen through the cracks as well as not liking to exercise, weather and the lack of a partner. I know that you want to add your own to the list so here are some spots:

Good Shepherd mentions three forms of exercise for those with diabetes which are: Aerobic, Strength and Flexibility. The Aerobics involve activities such as: walking, dancing, swimming, bicycling etc. These types of exercise make the heart stronger. Exercise is recommended for at least 30 minutes on each or most of the days of the week. Strength exercise helps build muscles, strong bones and activities such as: light weights and elastic band exercise are recommended. The Flexibility exercises should be done for 5-10 minutes prior to aerobic exercises to help warm up the joints keeping them flexible and reduces the chances of injury while doing other activities.

Some facts to consider based on the Good Shepherd Article are:

- Be sure to check with your doctor before starting an exercise program
- Think about what you like to do that you can do with or without a partner
- Always have the proper shoes and clothing for walking
- Carry of wear diabetic identification, such as wallet cards, bracelets or necklace
- Carry fast acting sugar such as glucose tablets or hard candy in case of a low sugar attack
- Be sure to drink extra water before and after the activity.

The key to a great exercise program is to began gradually and work up to the 30 minutes, knowing which program is best for you and exercising after a meal or a snack.

Finally, after all this work and you find yourself wanting a treat, bake up a batch of these delightful Butter Rum Cookies. The recipe comes from the *Diabetic Living* magazine spring 2008 issue. More recipes can be found by going to: www.diabeticlivingonline.com

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Butter Rum Cookies

Butter-flavor, nonstick, cooking spray	1/2 cup packed brown sugar*
6 tablespoons lower-fat stick margarine	1 teaspoon ground cinnamon
1/4 teaspoon baking soda	1 tablespoon light-color corn syrup
1 teaspoon vanilla	1 teaspoon rum flavoring
1 cup all purpose flour	3/4 cup rolled oats
1/4 cup raisins	

1. Pre-heat oven to 375 degrees. Coat two cookie sheets with non-stick cooking spray. Set aside.

In a medium bowl, combine brown sugar, margarine, cinnamon and baking soda. Beat with an electric mixer on medium speed until mixture is combined. Stir in corn syrup, vanilla, butter flavoring and rum flavoring.

2. Use a wooden spoon to stir flour into margarine mixture. Stir in oats and raisins. Drop dough by rounded teaspoons 2 inches apart on prepared cookie sheets.

3. Bake for 8 to 10 minutes or until light brown around edges. Transfer cookies to wire racks; cool. Makes 24 cookies.

* Even though this recipe comes from a diabetic magazine, they recommend no sugar substitutes for the brown sugar. (I like to add just a few ground nuts or flax seed.)

National Program to Help Food Business Entrepreneurs is Coming to Arkansas

By Paulette Cooper

Two really great workshops will be offered September 29th in El Dorado Arkansas if you are interested in a foods business and willing to travel. The workshops entitled "From Recipe to Reality and From Product to Profit" will answer questions to key factors when considering: market research, product development, food safety, packaging, labeling, pricing, product introduction and marketing and the business and legal structure of issues. Students will work with food scientist and business consultants with the development of their own business ventures. Other questions to be answered will be : How to start a food company. How do I sell my family recipe for salsa, BBQ sauce, jelly, etc., to stores?

For more information on this venture contact Cindy Langston, El Dorado Chamber of Commerce, 111 West Main, El Dorado, AR 71730, or at 870-863-6113.

Community Development Leadership Program Meeting

By Paulette Cooper

Topic: *Supporting Existing Businesses-The Case for Downtown Business Development.* Attendees will learn about the changing market place and how communities can identify opportunities that are both realistic and sensible for

their downtowns. The classes are open to the public. March program is set for the 14th, 10:00 - 11:00 AM.

Reflections on Last Month

AARP/Diabetes Valentines Program Termed Successful

By Paulette Cooper



Approximately 30 people showed up and had a great time enjoying the music performed by Don and Dave. Member Don Oatman gave the history of each African-American musicians tune prior to singing and playing that particular tune. Several new members were recruited and refreshments were served by members Mary Margaret Harvey and Mary Oatman as well as other members adding to the table.



The group meets the third Thursday of each month at 2:00 PM at Kellyville with programs mostly related to health issues and current events.

Henbit – A Broadleaf Weed

By Richard L. Duple, Turfgrass Specialist



Henbit (*Lamium amplexicaule*) is a cool season, annual broadleaf weed. Seedlings begin to emerge in early fall and grow throughout the fall, winter and spring. Henbit can dominate turfgrass in the spring throughout the southern region.

Although henbit is not known for any herbal or medicinal purposes, this plant is used in flower arrangements because of its unusual leaf shape and arrangement.

Description. Henbit, a member of the mint family, has characteristic square stems. Stems are slender, ascending or prostrate, and freely branched at the base. Stems may root at the lower nodes. Leaves are opposite, nearly circular, deeply veined, hairy and petioled. Upper leaves clasp the stem and the lower leaves are distinctly petioled. Roots are shallow and fibrous.

Flowers, conspicuous in early spring, are tubular, pink to purple, and borne in the leaf axile. Seeds are borne in a pod.

Control. Henbit is most effectively controlled with herbicides in the fall while plants are small and immature. Products containing dicamba, MCPP and 2,4-D have demonstrated effective control in the fall and early spring. In dormant bermudagrass, glyphosate, diquat or metribuzin will control henbit.

If applied prior to germination, products such as surflan, bensulide, pendimethalin and simazine also provide good control of henbit. Follow label directions on all products recommended for henbit to obtain the best control.

Richard L. Duple, Turfgrass Specialist
Texas Cooperative Extension
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Wildlife Food Plots

By Brock Fry

On February 24, 2008 I visited the Wildlife Food Plots. On this trip I saw many tracks from deer, hogs, and other animals. The whole plot is being utilized to its max. Every plot has minimal amount of available forage.

You probably have noticed more deer along the highways. They are hungry and are finding an easy food source along the roadsides. Hopefully, the weather will be changing soon and more changes will be seen this spring. Here are three pictures:



Protected Animal Tracks



Clover and Oats



Control Cage

2008 Calendar of Upcoming Events

(Watch the calendar monthly for additions and changes.)

March

6th, Thursday	Texas Master Naturalist – <i>Ecological Regions of Texas, Ecological Concepts & Ecosystem Management</i> , Golden Corral, 5012 East End Blvd, Marshall TX	Marshall TX
14th, Friday	Building Communities Series – <i>Supporting Existing Businesses –The Case for Downtown Business Development</i>	Kellyville
20th, Thursday	AARP – T.B.A Program	Kellyville
20th, Thursday	Texas Master Naturalist – <i>Forest Ecology, Management & Bottomland Forests</i>	T.B.A.
25th, Tuesday	<i>Pond Management Field Day</i> – Dr. Billy Higginbotham, Charles Snowden at Arnold Farm, 2269 State Highway 43 North, Marion County TX.	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.
11th, Friday	Building Communities Series – <i>Entrepreneurship—It's Good for Business, Government and the Civic Sector</i>	Kellyville
17th, Thursday	AARP – <i>National Cancer Awareness Program</i> – 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	<i>Private Applicator</i> Training	Linden TX
19th, Saturday	Texas Master Naturalist – <i>Ornithology</i>	T.B.A.
23rd, Wednesday	Community Development – <i>Welcoming Entrepreneurs to Your Community</i>	Kellyville

May

1st, Thursday	Texas Master Naturalist – <i>Aquatic Ecology and Management & Ichthyology</i>	T.B.A.
6th, Tuesday	Leadership Advisory Board meeting	Kellyville
9th, Friday	Building Communities Series – <i>Sustainable Development – Is It Going Mainstream?</i>	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 – <i>Herpetology & Wildlife and Vegetative Communities of the Cypress Basin</i>	T.B.A.
27th, Tuesday	Pesticide Class: <i>Last Chance Video</i> , 2 CEUs	Kellyville
29th, Thursday	<i>Northeast Texas Woody Bio-Energy</i> Symposium – Dr. Eric Taylor	Cypress Valley Alliance (CVA) Jefferson TX

June

2nd, Monday	Ag Programs Committee Meeting	Kellyville
4th-6th, Wed-Fri	<i>Northeast Texas Woody Bio-Fuel Symposium</i> – Train-the-Trainer, Conference, and Workshops	Kellyville
13th, Friday	<i>Building Communities Series</i> – Final Class: <i>The Art and Science of Putting It All Together</i>	Kellyville
24th, Tuesday	<i>Forestry Tour</i> Program – Dr. Eric Taylor	T.B.A.
30th, Monday	<i>Bob Bullock Museum</i> Trip – Gladys Jenkins	Austin TX

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July

	<i>AARP</i> – No Meeting	
15th, Tuesday	<i>Disaster Management</i> Program	Kellyville
29th, Tuesday	<i>Garden</i> Program	Kellyville

August

T.B.A.	<i>AARP – Defensive Driving</i>	Kellyville
26th, Tuesday	Pesticide Class: <i>Last Chance Video</i> , 2 CEUs	Kellyville

September

9th, Tuesday	Leadership Advisory Board Meeting	Kellyville
23rd, Tuesday	<i>Hay Show</i> – Dr. Jerold Evers	Kellyville
25th, Thursday	<i>AARP – Elder Care</i> Conference – Agency Vendors, Health and Services Fair, USDA Housing Program	Kellyville

October

7th, Tuesday	<i>Cattle Raisers</i> Meeting – Chute Side – Dr. Jason Banta	David Smith Ranch
16th, Thursday	<i>AARP – Gardening: Preparing for Future the Future Harvest</i> – Dave Shimic, Shimic's Gardening, and <i>Planting Fruit Trees</i> – Brock Fry, Extension Agent	Kellyville
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</i> Committee Meeting	Kellyville
20th, Thursday	<i>AARP – Health Care Interpretations</i>	Kellyville

December

16th, Tuesday	Pesticide Class: <i>Last Chance Video</i> , 2 CEUs	Kellyville
18th, Thursday	<i>AARP – Celebration</i>	Kellyville

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“Improving Lives. Improving Texas”