

## Marion County, Texas



Cooperative Extension Program  
Prairie View A&M University



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### Quote of the Month

“There is no education like adversity.” - Benjamin Disraeli

Program	August	Time	Place
AARP Defensive Driving	20-21	1 pm	Kelly Park Center
Pesticide Class	26	6 pm	Kelly Park Center

### Agriculture Programs Committee

**President:** Cindy McNeely

**Members:** Johnny Neuville

**Vice-President/Treasurer:** Ray Lewis

Terrie Neuville

**Secretary:** Jane McBride

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### Gardening

# FELDER RUSHING

*As Seen on TV!*



Members of District 5 TAE 4-HA invite you to see

## “Slow Gardening”

Date: August 6, 2008  
Time: 2:15 – 3:45 p.m.  
Cost: \$10.00

Jeffersonian Institute  
120 E. Austin St.  
Jefferson, TX 75657

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### HAY SHOW 2008



What a year for hay? Can you remember a time that so much thought went in to the hay meadow? With diesel prices at record highs and fertilizer prices the same, a person has to ask themselves is it worth all the money to produce hay or should we sell the cows and plant trees. Here is where you can get some guidance for those questions at the hay show.

It is simple to enter and more valuable than you expect. Give Brock Fry a call and set up a time to have your hay sampled. Then it will go to Texas A&M Forage test lab along with a \$5 check per sample. We get the results and give them to you at the hay show.

During this event you will get to see various hay samples from around the county and choose the one you think is the best. The hay is judged and the top 3 places will be awarded.

The educational portion of the program will be lead by a true expert when it pertains to forage Dr. Gerold Evers of the Overton Research Center. He will be on hand to answer questions and give his knowledge from research he has performed. Clint Perkins will be returning this year to judge the hay and talk about berry vines in our pastures.

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### 2008 State Extension Conference Makes Stronger Link with Technology

Cooper Attends, Connors receives Award

Prairie View A&M University Cooperative Extension Program county agents from across Texas and headquarters staff gathered at the Omni Dallas Hotel, March 25 through March 28, to attend the 1890 Extension State Training Conference. The 2008 conference theme, “Techno link: Linking Extension Programs through Technology,” aimed to showcase the many benefits of information technology usage in extension.

The conference objectives: to equip staff with information technology tools needed for effective programming, highlight outstanding achievements, and enrich minds, sharpen skills, and improve performance, were highlighted throughout the week.

The highlight of the conference was the presentation of the 2008 Distinguished Service Awards at the banquet and featured keynote speaker and principal of Paul Laurence Dunbar Learning Center in Dallas, Mr. Grant Atai.

Atai attested to the benefits of organizations like the Cooperative Extension Program, which has as its mission to provide educational and economic development programs to families, youth, agricultural producers and communities through its 4-H & Youth, Family and Consumer Sciences, Agriculture and Natural Resources and Community and Economic Development programs, and related it to his dealings with inner city youth.

“I have had to personally visit students’ homes to ask, why isn’t this child coming to school?” Atai said in an account of occasions when his dedication to service and teaching was tested. “Sometimes the parents are incarcerated, or just gone, so there is no one there to get them up. It’s as simple as that,” he continued.

Atai’s struggles were ultimately turned to successes as the Paul Laurence Dunbar Learning Center was recently listed in Texas Monthly Magazine as one of the top ten schools in Texas.

The 2008 State Extension Conference concluded with the presentation of various awards for the outstanding service of headquarters and county staffs.

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Individuals receiving the 2008 Distinguished Service Awards were from a variety of categories related to extension work and services provided to those that assist extension staff in the county. From Marion County receiving the Supporter of Extension Category was:

Annie M. Conner, Communities in Schools Coordinator, Jefferson I.S.D. Her citation read:

(For outstanding support, participation and assistance in educational activities sponsored by the Cooperative Extension Program through the 4-H and Youth Development and Community and Economic Development components in Marion County)



--The AARP Program is being conducted this month by MS. Sheree Williams with the American Cancer Society. Sheree will be **rolling out the new benefits and programs regarding transportation, prosthesis, assistance with medications and a host of other new and improved benefits provided by the cancer society.** The program is open to the public and all are welcome to come. **If you as a reader can't come, please invite other cancer family members or patients to attend.**

--**May is Older American month.** (Be the best person that you can be by doing a good deed for a senior. Regardless of if they are 60 or more) I know some of us want to be left out. Pamper your self by making sure you've had the annual exams and have rescheduled the new ones.

-- Andrew B. Crocker, Extension Program Specialist—Gerontologist Health, states in a recent article that more than 165,000 people experience cardiac arrest each year and 75% of those episodes happen in the home. A person in cardiac arrest has very little chance of survival unless immediate action is taken to sustain him or her until medical help arrives. It strikes immediately and without warning. Signs may include sudden collapse, loss of responsiveness and failure to

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breathe normally. If you should see this happening, there are several things you should know and can do to aid the person in distress. Call for help and use Conventional Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation are two of the most important. If you or a family member is not familiar with this process it is advisable that someone learns the practice of doing the necessary heart compresses that could save a life. Information can be gained from the local Red Cross, the internet, your local EMS services or from the local Library. Heart compresses were also given as a method of helping without using the mouth to mouth breathing techniques where one could easily be infected by some of the viruses such as Aids

### Reflections

#### Community Development Class Big Hit for Attendees

March Session on: Supporting Existing Businesses “The Case for Downtown Business Development” was an excellent presentation taught by experts Bill Ryan, a statewide educator in downtown and tourism business development. His discussion on how local economic development and business leaders can identify retail/service and real estate development opportunities that make market sense fit perfectly with the progress local areas such as Longview, Kilgore, Tyler and Marshall are doing to improve their communities such as Website development, creation of avenues for increasing revenue to be used for economic development and having a person or group in place that makes development their main goal.

Addressing the needs of the small businessman was Specialist J.D. Milburn of the Wisconsin Department of Commerce. Milburn stated that he provides one-on-one technical assistance to businesses in Wisconsin’s Main Street communities and also helped communities with business retention and recruitment, special projects, and local economic returns.

Questions used as self evaluation were:

- \* Why are down towns important?
- \* When thinking of down town, what is its single biggest problem?
- \* What are Challenges that face downtown?
- \* What makes downtown a quality place to visit and how do we strengthen it?

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\* What does the Market Analysis look like? What are the Methods and tools used to perform this analysis? What are the conditions and how are market opportunities identified by sector? How are they evaluated?

\*What brings people back and how do we create a realistic innovative mix of downtown businesses?

\* How do we recruit and what part does community readiness play in the marketing plan?

Much more information was offered in the one hour class. However, it would take more than an hour to type. Never the less, the next session is Friday April 11, 2008 at 10: am here at the Extension office where we will be discussing: Entrepreneurship- It's Good for Business, Government and the Civic Sector. Greg Wise Will addresses entrepreneurship as a community development solution to enhance our community's quality of life.

### **AARP Gardening Program Termed Successful.**

Members of the AARP were both happy and surprised by the number of participants attending their gardening Program. Those in attendance gained valuable information of various tips and methods of mixing soil, planting various plants, controlling insects and instructions on how to use added nutrition's and fertilizers. Avid gardener and plant store owner Dave Shemmick of Shemicks' plant store on the lake provided this part of the program. Extension Agent Brock Fry added to the program by teaching how to graft and the reasons for grafting.. The group presents the gardening program on an annual basis and evaluations have found that even the older gardeners learn and share new information and also share their personal experiences. Some have even found that newer and improved methods work better than the ones they have practiced for years. AARP meets monthly on the third Thursday of every month at 2:00pm at Kelly Park and the public is invited.



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### *Cypress Basin Chapter of Texas Master Naturalist*

Texas Master Naturalist of the Cypress Basin has about 21 active members from Panola, Harrison and Marion Counties. This group has worked for about 2 years to obtain their certifications by attending 12 educational programs coordinated by Brad Bailey (president), Texas Parks and Wildlife, and Marion County Texas AgriLIFE Extension Service. Members must obtain 40 hours of college level courses in the classroom and spend 40 hours volunteering in the areas of "nature and wildlife". They are required 8 hours per year of advanced training. The Cypress Basin Chapter of Master Naturalist have taken field trips to the Wildlife Management Refuge, Tramel's Trace, and Bird Watching Areas.

Since they have finished the classroom work in June, the group has taken on a project at the Head Start School and built a Butterfly garden and Rainwater Harvesting educational model. Projects such as this one enrich the educational programs in our schools and enhance the well round experience students received here in Jefferson. Officers for the group are Brad Bailey - President, Greg Helfenbein - Vice President, Ted Barrow - Volunteer Coordinator, Rosanna Salmon - Secretary, Nancy Coleman - Treasurer. If you would like more information about becoming a member or projects of the Master Naturalist group contact the Marion County Extension Office and Brock Fry at 903-665-2421.



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### August

20<sup>th</sup>, Wednesday Defensive Driving  
Kelly Park Community Center

26<sup>th</sup>, Tuesday Pesticide Class 2 CEUs  
Kelly Park Community Center 6:00 PM

### September

9<sup>th</sup>, Tuesday Leadership Advisory Board Meeting  
Kelly Park Community Center 6:00 PM

23<sup>rd</sup>, Tuesday Hay Show - Dr. Gerold Evers and Clint Perkins  
Kelly Park Community Center

25<sup>th</sup>, Thursday AARP - Elder Care Conference - Agency Vendors, Health and Services  
Fair, USDA Housing Program

### October

7<sup>th</sup>, Tuesday Cattle Raisers Meeting - Chute Side - Dr. Jason Banta  
Smith Ranch Lewis Chapel Rd.

16<sup>th</sup>, Thursday AARP - Gardening: Preparing for the Future Harvest - Dave Shimic, Shimic  
Gardening, and Planting Fruit Trees - Brock Fry, Extension Agent  
Kelly Park Community Center

28<sup>th</sup> Tuesday Wildlife Program  
Kelly Park Community Center

### November

T.B.A. Equine Brood Mares - Dr. Brett Scott  
Kelly Park Community Center

18<sup>th</sup>, Tuesday Animal Issues Committee Meeting

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Kelly Park Community Center 6:00 PM

20<sup>th</sup>, Thursday AARP - Health Care Interpretations  
Kelly Park Community Center

### December

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16<sup>th</sup>, Tuesday Pesticide Class, 2 CEUs  
Kelly Park Community Center 6:00 PM

18<sup>th</sup> Thursday AARP - Celebration  
Kelly Park Community Center

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*“Improving Lives. Improving Texas”*