

Top of the Windmill News

Spring 2018

TEXAS A&M
AGRILIFE
EXTENSION

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By: Roy Walston – CEA-Ag/NR

Calendar of Events

- April 5 - Estate Planning & Leasing Seminar
- April 14 - Hill Country Master Gardener Blooms & Barrels Plant Sale
- April 16 - Beginner Bee Keeping Class
- April 18 - Pecan Grafting & Production Workshop (3 CEUs)
- Apr 26-27 - 5th Annual Hill Country Land Stewardship Conference (3 CEUs minimum)
- May 4 - Horticulture Field Day (4 CEUs)
- Aug 17-18 - Texas Sheep & Goat Expo



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Estate Planning & Leasing Seminar

Kerr County Extension will be hosting an Estate Planning & Land Leasing Seminar on Thursday, **April 5th** at the Kerr County Event Center from **5:00 – 8:00 p.m.** Tiffany Dowell Lashmet, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Agricultural Law Specialist will be discussing Leasing of rangelands for grazing and hunting as well as estate planning. Tiffany Dowell Lashmet has served as an Agricultural Law Specialist for Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service since 2013. Tiffany's work focuses on legal issues impacting Texas landowners and agricultural producers including leases, water law, oil and gas law, pipeline easement negotiation, and landowner liability. She travels the state speaking at various meetings and conferences on these issues and has published several law review articles, extension fact sheets, magazine articles, and newspaper articles on these topics. We are looking forward to having Mrs. Lashmet on April 5th. Registration for the seminar will be \$10 per person payable at the door. We would appreciate your RSVP to the Kerr County Extension office by Monday, April 2 to 830-257-6568.



Blooms & Barrels Plant Sale

The Hill Country Master Gardeners will be hosting their annual Plant Sale on **April 14th** from **9a.m. – 2 p.m.** at the Kerr County Youth Event Center. Educational programs and information will be available along with the opportunity to purchase landscape plants and rain barrels. So, put April 14th on your calendar and stop by and meet a Master Gardener.



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The Texas A&M University System, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the County Commissioners Courts of Texas Cooperating

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5th Annual Hill Country Land Stewardship Conference April 26-27, 2018

KERRVILLE – “Tools for the Trade” is the theme and exactly what will be offered at the fifth annual Hill Country Land Stewardship Conference hosted by the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service **April 26-27** in Kerrville, according to the program coordinator.

The annual event will feature speakers on everything from grazing to prescribed fire, herbicide control to hunting leases, and legal issues to consider while managing a ranch, said Dr. Larry Redmon, AgriLife Extension program leader and associate department head in the Texas A&M University department of soil and crop sciences in College Station. “The Hill Country is a special part of Texas with an attraction to millions of individuals who ranch and come to vacation, hunt, rest and relax each year,” Redmon said. “Along with the spectacular beauty of the area, the Hill Country has its own special needs for management and this conference is designed to help landowners and managers address those needs.”

The conference fee is \$75 and includes all meals, break refreshments and tour transportation costs. A minimum of 3 CEUs will be offered. Registration will be available through **April 16th** at <https://agriliferegister.tamu.edu/BennettTrust> or 979-845-2604.

The conference will open with on-site registration, check-in and breakfast at **7:30 a.m. April 26** at the Y.O. Ranch Hotel, 2033 Sidney Baker St. The program will begin at **8:30 a.m.**

The following topics and speakers are set for April 26:

- Grazing Livestock: Cattle, Goats, Sheep and Wildlife, Dr. Robert Lyons, AgriLife Extension range specialist, Uvalde.
- Prescribed Fire: Rejuvenate and Prevent Wildfire, Dr. Morgan Russell, AgriLife Extension range specialist, San Angelo.
- Herbicide Control Options: Is it Necessary?, Dr. Megan Clayton, AgriLife Extension range specialist, Corpus Christi.
- Setting Some Goals: Knowing When To Do Nothing, Clayton.
- U.S. Department of Agriculture Farm Service Agency – Resources/Programs, Ricky Neffendorf, Farm Service Agency county executive director, Fredericksburg.
- Hunting Leases: Hunting for Success, Dr. John Tomecek, AgriLife Extension wildlife specialist, Thrall.
- Ag or Wildlife Tax Valuation: What Your Choice Ultimately Means, Tomecek.
- Fence Laws: How to Not Get Your Britches Ripped, Jim Bradbury, attorney, Austin.
- Wildlife Signs and ID's, Annaliese Scoggin, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department biologist, Abilene.
- Rural Living: How Population Increases in the Edwards Plateau Will Affect You, Dr. Rebekka Dudensing, AgriLife Extension economist, College Station.

The second day of the conference will be dedicated to tours. Attendees will pick from tours of the Hillingdon Ranch in Kendall County, “Wine and Roses” in Kerr and Gillespie counties, or Wildlife Management in Kerr County. For more information, contact Redmon at l-redmon@tamu.edu or an AgriLife Extension agent in the region, or go to <http://agrilife.org/bennetttrust/>.





Pecan Grafting and Production Workshop

A Pecan Grafting and Production Workshop is scheduled for **April 18th at 9:00 a.m.** at Bill Hathaway's Orchard. This will be an informative and educational opportunity for those pecan producers interested in grafting pecans. Early season insect and fertilization management will also be discussed by Dr. Larry Stein, Extension Horticulturist from Uvalde.

The orchard is located on Texas highway 173, approximately 4 1/2 miles from Kerrville-Schreiner State Park. Turn left on Center Point River road and enter the first gate on the right; signs will be posted. Three hours of CEU's will be offered to Private, Commercial and Non-Commercial applicators. Anyone interested in learning more about pecan production will benefit from this field-day. Registration for the field-day is \$10.00 and is payable at the field-day. Please contact the Kerr County Extension office to pre-register for the field-day at 830-257-6568.



Horticulture Field-Day

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension in partnership with the Kerr County SWCD will be hosting a Horticulture Field-day on **May 4th** from **8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.** at Bridget's Basket in Hunt. We will be offering 4 CEU's for Private, Commercial and Non-Commercial Applicators. This year's focus will be on Small Acreage

Horticulture production including topics on vegetable and melon production on small acreages, pest management in high tunnels, IPM approach in vegetable gardening, backyard poultry management, pest and disease management in hydroponic vegetable production as well as a tour of a hydroponic vegetable garden. The cost of the program is \$25 per person by **April 27th** or \$30 on site. Registration due to Missie@kerrcountyswcd.com. or drop it off at the Soil and Water Conservation District office at 2104 Memorial Blvd. Suite 103 Kerrville, Texas.



Texas Sheep & Goat Expo

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension will be hosting its second Texas Sheep & Goat Expo in San Angelo, Texas on **August 17-18, 2018**. While we are in the planning stages for this year's program, all areas of the Texas sheep & goat industry will be covered, including; wool sheep production, hair sheep production, club lamb industry, and meat goats production. These are all concurrent programs that will include a full slate of speakers for both days. Booth exhibitors will also be available for producers to visit with during breaks. Last year's program was a tremendous success with over 200 attendees. So, save the date, **August 17-18**, for the Texas Sheep & Goat Expo. It is a great opportunity to meet and visit with friends and learn something new about the sheep and goat industry. More information will be coming.





Beginner Bee Keeping Class By;
Double L Feed
Texas A&M AgriLife Extension
& Kerr County Farm Bureau

Cost?
Totally Free!

Where?
Hill Country Youth
Event Center

When? Monday
April 16th
6:00 p.m.

FREE Door Prizes!
Very Informative
For Beginners,
And Hobbyists!

Molly Keck - Integrated Pest Management Program
Specialist, & Board Certified Entomologist, Will cover
hive placement, Setting up a new hive, Inserting
your nucleus hive, Tools, Suits, General maintenance,
and other necessary topics!

RSVP to Double L Feed 830-367-4100 or 830-896-7722
and reserve your seat today!

Musk Thistle Control in Permanent - Grass Pastures

Musk thistle is a biennial weed. Biennials require portions of two growing seasons to reproduce. The first season the plant germinates from seed and produces a rosette of basal leaves. These basal leaves are characterized by having a wide, white midvein and whitish leaf margins and tips. The rosette overwinters and the cold temperature causes the rosette to send up a stalk the next season, flower and produce seed.

Rosettes may reestablish any time during the growing season. Some rosettes may extend three feet or more in diameter by late fall.

Flower shoots are initiated in early May and the plant reaches full flower in early June. Plant size at flowering may reach a height of six feet. Seed production is usually completed in mid-to-late June. Once seeds mature, the plant dies.



The red-purple flower of musk thistle is about two inches in diameter, which is larger than other biennial thistles (i.e., bull and tall) and perennial thistles, such as Canada thistle. The drooping or nodding flower head is surrounded by broad, spiny-tipped bracts. Musk thistle is a prolific seed producer. One plant can set up to 20,000 seeds. However, only one-third of the seeds are viable. Musk thistle produces many heads. The terminal, or tallest, shoots flower first, then lateral shoots develop in leaf axils. A robust plant may produce 100 or more flowering heads.

Control Practices

The best time to treat musk thistle, or other biennial thistles, with herbicides is in late fall or early spring when the rosettes are present, but before flowering stalks are initiated. Musk thistle plants with flower stalks are more difficult to kill than the rosettes. Rosettes need to be treated when they are actively growing and not under drought stress. The younger the rosette, the more susceptible it is to the herbicide.

Musk Thistle Control in Conjunction with Pasture Improvement

Cultural control. Maintaining pastures and rangeland in good condition is a primary factor for musk thistle management. To favor pasture and rangeland grass growth, do not overgraze. Fertilize only when necessary and according to soil testing recommendations. To successfully manage musk thistle, prevent seed formation.

Mechanical control. Musk thistle will not tolerate tillage and can be removed easily by severing its root below ground with a shovel or hoe. Mowing can effectively reduce seed output if plants are cut when the terminal head is in the late-flowering stage. Gather and burn mowed debris to destroy any seed that has developed.

Chemical control. Several herbicides are registered in pasture, rangeland and noncrop areas to control musk thistle. Tordon 22K (picloram), Milestone (aminopyralid), Transline (clopyralid), Perspective (aminocyclopyrachlor + chlorsulfuron), Banvel/Vanquish/Clarity (dicamba), 2,4-D, or Banvel/Vanquish/Clarity plus 2,4-D are commonly used. Apply these herbicides in spring or fall to musk thistle rosettes. Refer to Table 1 for rates and application timings and always read the herbicide label before using the product. Applications during the reproductive growth stages with these herbicides (bud through lowering) will not eliminate viable seed development.

Escort (metsulfuron) or Cimarron X-tra (metsulfuron + chlorsulfuron) also can be used in pastures, rangeland, and non-crop areas. Research from Colorado State University and the University of Nebraska shows that chlorsulfuron or metsulfuron prevents or dramatically reduces viable seed formation when applied in spring, up to early flower growth stages. The latest time to apply these herbicides is when developed terminal flowers have opened up to the size of a dime. Add a good agricultural surfactant at 0.25 percent v/v to Escort or Cimarron X-tra treatments or control is inadequate (equivalent to 1 quart of surfactant per 100 gallons of spray solution). (Continued on page 6)

Continued from page 5 Musk Thistle Control in Conjunction with Pasture Improvement:

Table 1. Herbicide rates and application timings to control musk thistle.

Herbicide	Rate (Product/A)	Application timing	Comments
Tordon	0.5 to 1 pint	Spring at rosette growth stage; or in fall	Use higher rates for older or dense stands
Milestone	3 to 5 fl oz	Spring at rosette growth stage; or in fall	Use higher rate for older or dense stands; may be used to edge ponds or streams
Transline	0.67 to 1.33 pints	Spring at rosette to early bolting growth stages; or in fall	Use higher rate for older or dense stands
Banvel, Vanquish, or Clarity (dicamba)	1 to 2 pints	Spring rosette growth stage; or in fall	Use higher rate for older or dense stands
Perspective	3 to 4.5 oz	Spring rosette growth stage; or in fall	Use higher rate for older or dense stands
Cimarron X-tra	0.5 oz	Spring rosette to early bud growth stages; or to fall rosettes	Add non-ionic surfactant at 0.25%
Escort	0.5 oz	Spring to rosette to early bud growth stages; or to fall rosettes	Add non-ionic surfactant at 0.25%

Lawn Weed Control Strategies

Integrated weed management (IWM) is a component of integrated pest management (IPM). Homeowners and turf grass professionals alike can benefit by employing an integrated approach to weed management. These approaches should consider; 1) Preventative, 2) Biological, 3) Cultural, 4) Mechanical and 5) Chemical control measures. Chemical weed control demands precision and judicious use of herbicides.

Preemergence herbicides are applied before the weeds sprout through the soil surface. Generally speaking, to control warm-season annual weeds, apply a preemergence herbicide in early spring (January to March) before the soil temperature has warmed to 55 degrees F. For weeds that tend to sprout throughout the summer, a second application may be required in June or July.

Postemergence herbicides are applied after weeds have sprouted. They are most effective when weeds are still small: less than 4 inches high. Some herbicides (ex.; atrazine, simazine, dithiopyr) have both postemergence and preemergence activity if they reach the soil through direct contact or by washing off the foliage.



Weed identification is of upmost importance in selecting the proper herbicide for the job. Weeds can be identified as a grassy, broadleaf or a sedge. Weeds are also categorized as annual, biennial or perennial. (Continued on page 7)

Continued from page 6 Lawn Weed Control Strategies:

Broadleaf weeds	
Dandelion (P) Dock (P) Plantain (P) Purslane (P) Thistle (P) Black Medic (A) Chickweed (A or P) Clover (P) Ground Ivy (Creeping Charlie) (P) Henbit (WA) Knotweed (A) Mallow (A or P) Spurge (A) Yarrow (P)	These weeds are best controlled by selective postemergence herbicides. Early fall is the best time to control winter annual (WA) and perennial weeds (P). Spring is the best time for summer annual (A) weeds. Apply when soil is moist and weeds are young and actively growing. Dicamba can be dangerous to trees and shrubs because it can move in the soil and be taken up by tree shrub roots.
Grass weeds	
Annual bluegrass (A, P) Barnyardgrass (A) Crabgrass (A) Foxtail (A) Goosegrass (A)	Use preemergence herbicides. Apply two to three weeks prior to expected germination of weed seeds. Some of these herbicides may injure fine fescues or bentgrasses. Most preemergent herbicides will harm newly seeded grasses except siduron (Tupersan).
Bromegrass (P) Quackgrass (P) Tall Fescue (P) Creeping bentgrass (P)	These weeds can be controlled only with nonselective herbicides. Spot treat only because herbicide will also kill desirable grass plants. Apply when weeds are actively growing.

A = Annual
 P = Perennial
 WA = Winter annual

This information is current as of the date of printing. Read and follow the label directions for the use of all pesticides.

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