

Top of the Windmill News

Winter 2018

TEXAS A&M
AGRILIFE
EXTENSION

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Calendar of Events

- Dec. 4 - Hill Country District Pecan Show
- Dec. 4 - Kendall County 5 Hour CEU Class
- Dec. 10 - Ag Day 5 Hour CEU Class
- Dec. 11 - Gillespie County 5 Hour CEU Class

Hill Country District Pecan Show

With the cooler weather many homeowners and commercial growers are anxiously awaiting the Hill Country District Pecan Show set for December 4, 2018 at the Kerr County Hill Country Youth Event Center in Kerrville. Growers throughout the Hill Country appear to be having a good crop this year and should have plenty of pecans for this year's shows. Each year pecan growers from the Hill Country area, Bandera, Kendall, Kerr, and Real counties collect and enter their pecans to compete for awards, recognition and advancement to the Central Texas Regional Show. Growers will compete for ribbons and plaques with the Champion Commercial, Classic and Native pecans all receiving plaques.



Growers from this area may enter one entry of each improved variety and as many native entries as they like. Each entry must consist of 45 nuts of one variety, it must be grown by the exhibitor and taken from this year's crop. What makes a good sample? Good pecan entries are uniform in color, shape and size; free of disease and insect markings with very little discoloration or white at the end of the pecans. Pecans should be free of splits or cracking to insure a good sample. Pecans may not be altered by marking, filing or excessive polishing, any of which will disqualify the entry. Each entry will be selected based on a random sampling of 10 nuts selected from the entry. The 10 nuts are weighed in shell, then shelled and a kernel weight is taken. Based on the size of the nuts, percent edible kernel, color and appearance the nuts are placed.



If you would like to compete in this year's Hill Country District Pecan Show please bring your pecans to the Kerr County Extension Office, 3775 Hwy. 27 no later than Thursday, November 29th. Questions can be directed to 830-257-6568.

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension provides equal opportunities in its programs and employment to all persons, regardless of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, disability, age, genetic information, veteran status, sexual orientation, or gender identity

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

Commercial products and trade names are used for information purposes only.

Kendall County 5 Hour CEU Program

For anyone needing CEUs, Kendall County is offering a Pesticide Applicator Continuing Education (CEU) Program on **December 4, 2018**.

The program will be held from 7:45 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at the Patrick Heath Library located at 451 N Main Street in Boerne, Texas. This program will offer **5 hours** of CEUs. To register for this event or for more information please call the Kendall County Extension Office at 830-249-9343.



Kerr County Ag Day

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Kerr County will be hosting an Ag Day on **December 10th** at the Kerr County Youth Event Center. The program will begin at 8:00 a.m. with registration and will conclude at 3:30 p.m. with evaluations. The program will include topics on forage management for hay production, update on range and brush chemicals, calibration of equipment, lawn and garden pest management, mountain lion update and laws and regulations.

Speakers will include Dr. Larry Redmon, Extension Forage Specialist; Dr. Bob Lyons, Extension Range Specialist; Mrs. Molly Keck, Bexar County Extension Entomologist; Mr. Michael Bodenchuk, Texas Wildlife Services; and Mr. Roy Walston, Kerr County Extension Agent. **5 hours** of CEUs for pesticide applicators will be offered, including 1 CEU in Laws and Regulations and 4 General CEUs.

Lunch will be included and preregistration is required in order to get a good count for lunch. Registration and payment for this program **prior to December 5th** and the cost of the program will be \$35 per individual or \$50 per couple. Registration and payment **after December 5th** and the cost is \$45 per individual and \$60 per couple. To RSVP please call the Kerr County Extension Office at (830) 257-6568.





Fields of Orange

Fall is here and so are the abundance of crops that come with it! While Texas is known for its ability to produce crops such as cotton, corn, and wheat, we often forget that Texas has its own pumpkin growing capital in Floydada, located on the high plains of the Llano Estacado in West Texas.

According to Texas A&M University's Aggie Horticulture, Texas is the fourth leading state in commercial pumpkin production, generating \$2.4 million for farmers which equates to an economic impact of \$7.4 million in the state. Approximately 90% of the 5,000-8,000 acres of pumpkins planted in Texas each year is done in the West Texas region, or more so, in areas with monthly average temperatures of 60-80°F and low humidity. AgriLife Extension Service's Vegetable Specialist, Russell Wallace, Ph.D., helps harvest 2,500 acres of pumpkins by hand in late September, and said this often yields 15 to 30 tons per acre.

In addition to the impact that pumpkins have on the economy, they are also good for your health and contain many nutrients. According to Dr. Jenna Anding, professor and extension specialist for Texas A&M's Department of Nutrition and Food Science, pumpkins are a good source of dietary fiber and high in a powerful antioxidant known as Beta-carotene. Consuming this antioxidant can help reduce the risk for several chronic diseases including heart disease and certain types of cancer. Nutrition facts from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) for ½ cup of unsalted pumpkin can be found below:

- 1.10g of protein
- 2.7g of fiber
- 0.17g of fat
- 0g of cholesterol
- 8.09g of carbohydrates
- 3.6g of dietary fiber
- 60mg of vitamin C
- 19065 IU Vitamin A (which includes Beta-carotene)
- 42 total calories



Aerial Control Impact on Wild Pig Populations

As of 2012, there were an estimated 2.6 million wild pigs in Texas. Population modeling based on this median estimate indicated that as of 2018 there could potentially be between 3-5 million wild pigs in Texas. Research suggested that approximately 66% of the wild pig population must be harvested annually to maintain current numbers (Timmons et al. 2012). Harvest rates in excess of 66% would then theoretically begin to reduce populations. Previous research conducted in Australia found that aerial control can potentially reduce wild pig abundance, with documented removal rates ranging from 65% - 80% (Hone 1990; Saunders 1993). However, research also showed that the efficacy of this practice can become diminished by lower relative abundance of wild pigs within a given area (Choquenot et al. 2009). Repeated harassment of wild pigs by helicopters has been shown to lead to modified behavior and avoidance (Saunders and Bryant 1988), despite research indicating that wild pigs do not generally readily disperse from aerial harvest areas (Dexter 1996). Provided this technique is used in areas without excess canopy cover and is enacted at appropriate times of year, aerial gunning can be an effective control method and should be used as part of a combined approach to control exotic invasive feral swine.



Research indicated that 2 out of every 3 wild pigs in Texas would need to be harvested annually to maintain current numbers. Aerial gunning is a method capable of achieving removal rates high enough to reduce wild pig populations. When it comes to enacting aerial control for wild pigs in Texas, landowners and wildlife managers have options. Making informed decisions is an important component of private lands stewardship, and the results incurred on the landscape can benefit native species, water quality as well as overall habitat. In the end, landowners must choose the appropriate management tools to implement, as well as who will use those tools that best fit their situation. Just as any other tool, aerial gunning has its benefits and limitations that must be considered when applying control measures for expanding populations of wild pigs.

(The previous information is an excerpt from the Wild Pig Newsletter. We are emailing a copy out to everyone on our Top of the Windmill Newsletter list. If you would like to continue receiving a copy of the Wild Pig Newsletter please call or email our office at kerr@ag.tamu.edu)

Kerr County Feral Swine Bounty – Kerr County is offering a \$15 bounty for tails from Feral pigs harvested in Kerr County. Tails must be turned into the Kerr County Animal Control Center.



Feral Swine Corral Traps– Kerr County has two corral traps with remote technology gates that are loaned out to assist landowners in trapping large sounders. For more information regarding these traps, contact the Kerr County Extension office at 830-257-6568.

Gillespie County 5 Hour CEU Program

Gillespie County AgriLife Extension will host a **5 Hour CEU Class** on **December 11, 2018** at the Gillespie County Extension Office, located at 95 Frederick Road in Fredericksburg. The program will begin at 8:00 a.m. and end at 2:45 p.m..

This class is for Structural and Ag; Non-Commercial and Commercial Pesticide Applicator License holders who need **5 hours** of CEUs each year to renew their license. Individuals with a private pesticide applicator license can attend if needing CEU hours. Speakers will cover insect and deer damage control in landscapes using sustainable methods, mosquito control and prevention, dealing with termites and other wood boring insects, managing turf/ landscape weeds and diseases and laws and regulations regarding pesticide use.



The cost for the class is \$75, which includes lunch and morning refreshments. To register please call the Gillespie County Extension Office at 830-997-3452. When you pre-register, please let us know if you want steak bites or catfish for lunch. Please pre-register by **December 7th**. Payment can be made ahead of time or at the door.

If you would like to receive an email version of this newsletter please go to our website and sign up for the Top of the Windmill Agriculture newsletter.



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