



2012 1st Quarter Agriculture Newsletter Collin County Extension Service



Agent Comments:

2011 has been a very unusual year for agriculture in Collin County and most of all for the state of Texas. We have experienced one of the worst droughts on record in the state this past year along with some of the hottest temperatures on record also. With the drought came very little in the way of hay production in Collin County and across the state. The drought depleted pastures for livestock and horses much earlier than normal which meant we had to start feeding hay earlier than usual. Our livestock watering ponds also became very low or dried up all together much earlier in the year. With this, livestock producers had to start culling their herds. The good news was that cattle prices continue to be very good.

Collin County grain crop farmers, on the other hand, had a fairly good year even though we were in the middle of a very severe drought. How did that happen? A mild spring with timely rainfall in March and May made for a better than average wheat and corn crop. Prices for these two grain crops were also very good in 2011.

The Collin County Extension Office, because of the severe drought, implemented timely water conservation and drought coping and recovery programs to help area agriculturists with management and maintenance options. These program topics were included in the *Winter Pasture Program* in September, the *North Texas Cattleman's Conference* in November and the *Continuing Education Units Program* in November.

Our educational focus for agriculture for 2012 will continue to implement programs that will assist county agriculture producers with management decisions that will help them continue to be productive with their respective operations into the future.

We hope that you enjoy this edition of the Agriculture Newsletter that will have updates and reports on programs conducted in 2011 and ones planned for 2012.

2011 Crop News



2011 Agriculture/Horticulture Ag Income Meeting and Awards Banquet:

The annual Agriculture Income Meeting for Collin County was conducted on Tuesday evening, December 6th at Myers Park and Event Center. Several area farmers and ranchers along with agribusinesses, other governmental agencies and Extension Master Volunteers were present to assist Greg and I with the 2011 agriculture income estimations for all agriculture commodities produced in Collin County. After the conclusion of the Ag Income meeting, an awards presentation was conducted to recognize certain key stakeholders and individuals that supported and assisted with implementing programs for 2011. The 2011 award recipients for agriculture and horticulture are listed below:

Will Bellis - Gebo's
D&L Ag Mart

Ken Jones - KHYI 95.3 FM "The Range"

Martha Cavazos-Fipps

Dean Oswald - Chambersville Tree Farm

The 2011 estimated agriculture/horticulture income for Collin County was calculated at \$68,101,290. For a complete 2011 agriculture income report, please email Greg (gtchurch@ag.tamu.edu) or myself (r-maxwell@tamu.edu) and we will send an electronic copy to you.

2012 Small Grains Field Day:

The annual “Small Grains Field Day” will be in the first or second week in May in Fannin, Grayson and Collin Counties. The field day specific location, date and time will be announced later as we get closer to the late springtime. The field day is sponsored together with Texas AgriLife Research and Texas A&M University-Commerce along with the Texas Wheat Board and various chemical and seed companies.

2011 Small Acreage Agriculture



Winter and Spring Small Acreage Programs for 2012:

Texas AgriLife Extension, Collin County will be conducting a **Small Acreage Production Training Course** that will begin on Thursday evening, February 2nd and will continue every Thursday evening for a six week period ending on March 8th. The program will be at the Myers Park and Event Center from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. Many agriculture and horticulture topics will be covered by Dr. Greg Church and Dr. Rick Maxwell along with other Extension specialists. Some of the topics covered will be “Marketing of Small Acreage Livestock and Crops”, “Agriculture Tax Exemptions”, “Livestock Breeds”, ”Livestock Diseases, Internal and External Parasites”, “Horticulture Crops for North Texas”, “Farm Pond Management”, and “Irrigation of Small Acreage Crops” just to name a few. For those interested in the courses, this will be a six week commitment to every Thursday evening.

2012 North Central Texas Basic Agriculture Field Day:

The North Central Texas Basic Agriculture Field Day will be in its 6th year this spring. Please mark your calendars for **Friday, April 27th** for the 2012 Basic Ag Field Day at Myers Park. The field day is a partnership program with the Samuel R. Noble Foundation, Ardmore, Oklahoma, and the surrounding counties' Extension offices which include Denton, Cooke, Grayson, Fannin, Hunt and Rockwall.

The field day this year will be bigger and better than ever before with a much larger trade show and many more educational presentations covering the areas of livestock, horses, wildlife, horticulture crops and youth programs. This year we are adding a youth component for area school children where they will be able to participate in an area of the trade show designed specifically for them with all forms of agriculture. We have also extended the time frame for the field day from 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. and the entire day will be come and go. Attendees can stay all day or just an hour or two, so make plans to attend this year and bring a friend or many friends. This year's program is going to be awesome!

2012 Spring Pasture Establishment Program and Method Demonstration:

The spring **Pasture Establishment Program and Method Demonstration** will be conducted on Thursday, March 22 at Myers Park and Event Center from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. This year, we will have speakers presenting information on summer perennial pastures for North Texas, as well as Soil Fertility and Weed and Brush Control. After the presentation, we will then go outside for a demonstration on how to plant summer pasture grasses. CEU's will be offered for those attending that have a Texas Private Applicators License. Please make plans to attend.

2012 Spring Pesticide Applicator Training and Testing:

The spring 2012 Pesticide Applicator Training and Testing, for those wanting to obtain a license to purchase and apply restricted and limited use pesticides and herbicides on their own property, will be conducted at Myers Park and Event Center on **Thursday, March 15th from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.** If you would like to attend this training, there are two study books (General Applicators Manuel and a Laws and Regulations Manuel) that will be available in early February at the Collin County Extension office. The cost for the two books is \$50 and the registration fee to attend the class is \$20. Please mark the date on your calendar if you plan on attending. An informational flyer for the training will be sent out in late January or early February 2012.

Horse Care and Management:



2012 Spring Horse Industry Tour:

The 2012 Lone Star Equine Council “Horse Industry Tour” will be held on **Saturday, April 14th** this year. This is an all day tour from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. We leave the Extension Office and proceed to 3-4 horse farms or horse related businesses in the North Texas area. We will be taking a tour bus which limits our attendance to the capacity of the tour bus (55), so mark this date on your calendars if you want to attend this year. The Lone Star Equine Council will be meeting in December to plan the tour stops for 2012, so call the Extension Office or one of the Equine Council members if there are certain places you would like to go on the tour. The tour schedule will be made available in January 2012.

2012 Spring Horse Herd Health Clinic:

The Lone Star Equine Council will be sponsoring a **Spring Horse Herd Health Clinic** on **Thursday evening, May 17th** at Myers Park in the Show Barn. Services offered at a reduced cost will be annual vaccinations including West Nile, dental care (teeth floating), hoof care (shoeing and trimming), equine chiropractic and permanent identification (freeze branding). Please mark this date on your calendar as it will be a good opportunity to make sure your horse enters the summer months in good health.

2012 Summer Hay Quality, Selection and Nutritional Benefits Program:

In the summer of 2012, we are planning a **Hay Quality, Selection and Nutritional Benefits Program**. The program will be in the evening of **Thursday, July 12** at a local hay producer's farm. The program will instruct horse owners on selecting and identifying hay based on an appraisal of visual appearance as well as forage sample nutritive analysis. More information on the hay program will be available as we get closer to the date of the program.

Livestock and Forage News:



2012 Basic Agriculture Field Day – Cattle/Sheep and Goat Programs:

The Basic Ag Field Day will have several livestock topics this year that will include beef cattle, sheep and goats. The field day will also have forage establishment and management topics presented by Extension and Noble Foundation specialists covering subjects such as fertilization and weed control, pasture grasses and planting techniques.

2012 Summer Hay Quality, Selection and Nutritional Benefits Program:

The **July 12** Hay Program mentioned in the horse section is also for all livestock producers as well. Make plans to attend as we will hear from local hay producers and Extension Forage Specialists on hay quality.

2012 North Texas Cattleman's Conference:

The annual **North Texas Cattleman's Conference** will be held in late October or early November 2012. The conference is a multi-county Extension program with Denton, Grayson, Cooke and Fannin Counties. We hope to offer some of the latest news and topics in the beef cattle industry with some of the best cattle minds in the state. Please make plans to attend the conference next fall as we always have not only good topics and speakers, but also good food and an excellent trade show.

Wildlife/Conservation News:



Collin County Feral Hog Programs:

This year Collin County has submitted intent to apply for the Texas Department of Agriculture's "Hog Out" grant program. The grant program is an incentive for all counties in the state to have an opportunity to start a feral hog eradication program. Each county that submits an application for the grant will achieve points based upon the number of feral hogs killed or trapped during the reporting period of October 1 – December 31, 2011. Counties will receive five points for every ten hogs taken by trapping or shooting. Counties can also accumulate points by providing feral hog educational programs during the reporting period. For educational programs, one point is given for every attendee of the programs.

Collin County, through Texas AgriLife Extension, conducted 4 educational programs that had feral hog topics. The programs were held on October 27, November 4, November 10 and November 17 with a total of 178 attendees. Three check points were established for hunters and trappers to report hogs taken in the county for the purpose of reporting to the grant program.

During the reporting period from October 1 – December 31, 2011, a total of 158 hogs were reported as taken by hunting or trapping in Collin County.

The grant application for Collin County was submitted to the Texas Department of Agriculture on January 11, 2012.

For more information about the Collin County Feral Hog program or to receive information on future programs and meetings, please contact the Collin County Extension Office at (972) 548-4233 or email Rick Maxwell at r-maxwell@tamu.edu.

2012 Blackland Prairie Master Naturalist Volunteer Program:

The Mission: To develop a corps of well-informed volunteers to provide education, outreach, and service dedicated to the beneficial management of natural resources and natural areas within their communities. Many communities and organizations rely on such citizen volunteers for implementing youth education programs; for operating parks, nature centers, and natural areas; and for providing leadership in local natural resource conservation efforts. In fact, a short supply of dedicated and well-informed volunteers is often cited as a limiting factor for community-based conservation efforts.

To become a Texas Master Naturalist, each volunteer:

- Goes through an approved training program with at least 40 hours of combined field and classroom instruction, plus 8 hours of approved advanced training
- Donates 40 hours of volunteer service back to the state and community. Trainees can complete their 40 hours of volunteer service and 8 hours of advanced training within a year after their initial training.
- Completes another 8 hours of advanced training and donates 40 hours of volunteer service every year after the first year.

Interested in joining? **The Blackland Prairie Master Naturalist Chapter of Collin County** will begin their training classes in February. The classes will begin on Wednesday evening, February 8th from 6:00-9:00 p.m. at the Heard Center near McKinney. For more information visit the Blackland Prairie Master Naturalist website at <http://txmn.org/bpc/> or call the Collin County Extension office (972) 548-4233.

North Texas Ag Show on KHYI 95.3 The Range and KXEZ 92.1 The Possum:

Greg and I would like to invite everyone to come and join us every Saturday morning at 9:30 a.m. on KHYI 95.3, The Range, or KXEZ 92.1, The Possum, for the **North Texas AG Show**. We are hosting this radio program to bring North Texas and Southern Oklahoma the latest agriculture and horticulture news on Extension programs and research, as well as having special guests from time to time to discuss different areas of agriculture production. Dr. Blake Bennett, Extension Agriculture Economist, brings us an Agriculture Market report every week and Greg and I address a question or two on agriculture and horticulture that has been asked during that week at our office. So please join us each Saturday at 9:30 a.m. for 30 minutes of **The North Texas Ag Show**.

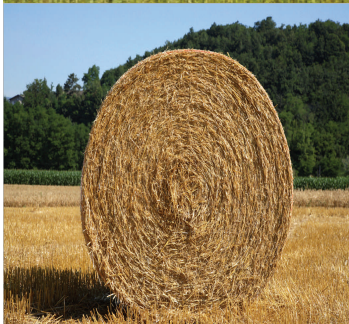
March 22, 2012 Pasture Establishment and Management Program



Texas AgriLife Extension Service Collin County, the Collin County Extension Livestock and Forage Committee and Myers Park and Event Center are sponsoring a **Pasture Establishment and Management program on Thursday, March 22nd from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.** The program will consist of the following topics concentrating on **drought recovery**.



- **North Texas Soils**
- **Nutrient Management**
- **Improved Pasture Establishment and Management**
- **Native Pasture Establishment and Management**
- **Applied Research and Demonstrations of forages at Myers Park**



Two CEU's will be offered for attending to those that have a Private Applicators License. Lunch will be provided. **Registration will be required prior to the program.**



There will be a **\$30 registration** fee to attend the event and we ask that you pre-register for the event by calling the Collin County Extension office at 972-548-4233 on or before Friday, March 16.

You may come by our office or send your cash or check to:

**Texas AgriLife Extension, Collin County
825 N. McDonald, Suite 150,
McKinney, Texas**

Please make checks payable to: COLLIN AG SUPPORT FUND.

Texas AgriLife Extension Service,



Date: 03/06/2012

Time: 8:30 a.m.—2:30

Collin County Spring 2012 Pesticide Applicator Training Private Applicators Only



When: Tuesday, March 6th

Where: Myers Park and Event Center

Texas AgriLife Extension, Collin County will be hosting a Pesticide Applicator Training and Testing on **Tuesday, March 6th at Myers Park and Event Center (7117 County Road 166, McKinney, TX 75071-7317), from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.** This training and testing is for agriculturists to obtain a private applicators license, through the Texas Department of Agriculture, to purchase and apply restricted use herbicides or pesticides on crop or pasture land they own or operate.

The cost for attending the training will be \$20 and will include lunch. Study materials, which consist of the “General Manual”, the “Laws and Regulations Manual”, and Worksheet Questions, **(total cost for both books \$50)**, should be purchased before the training. For information on how to obtain these manuals, please call the Extension Office at (972) 548-4233. A pencil and small pocket calculator will also be needed for the training. After the training is completed, a representative from the Texas Department of Agriculture will administer the licensing test.

To reserve a seat for the March 6 training/testing, call the Collin County Extension Office at (972) 548-4233 on or before Friday, March 2nd.



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