JANUARY 2023

HARRISON COUNTY TEXAS A&M AGRILIFE EXTENSION

Agriculture & Natural Resources

TEXAS A&M AGRILIFE EXTENSION

TOP 7 NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS

farmer style

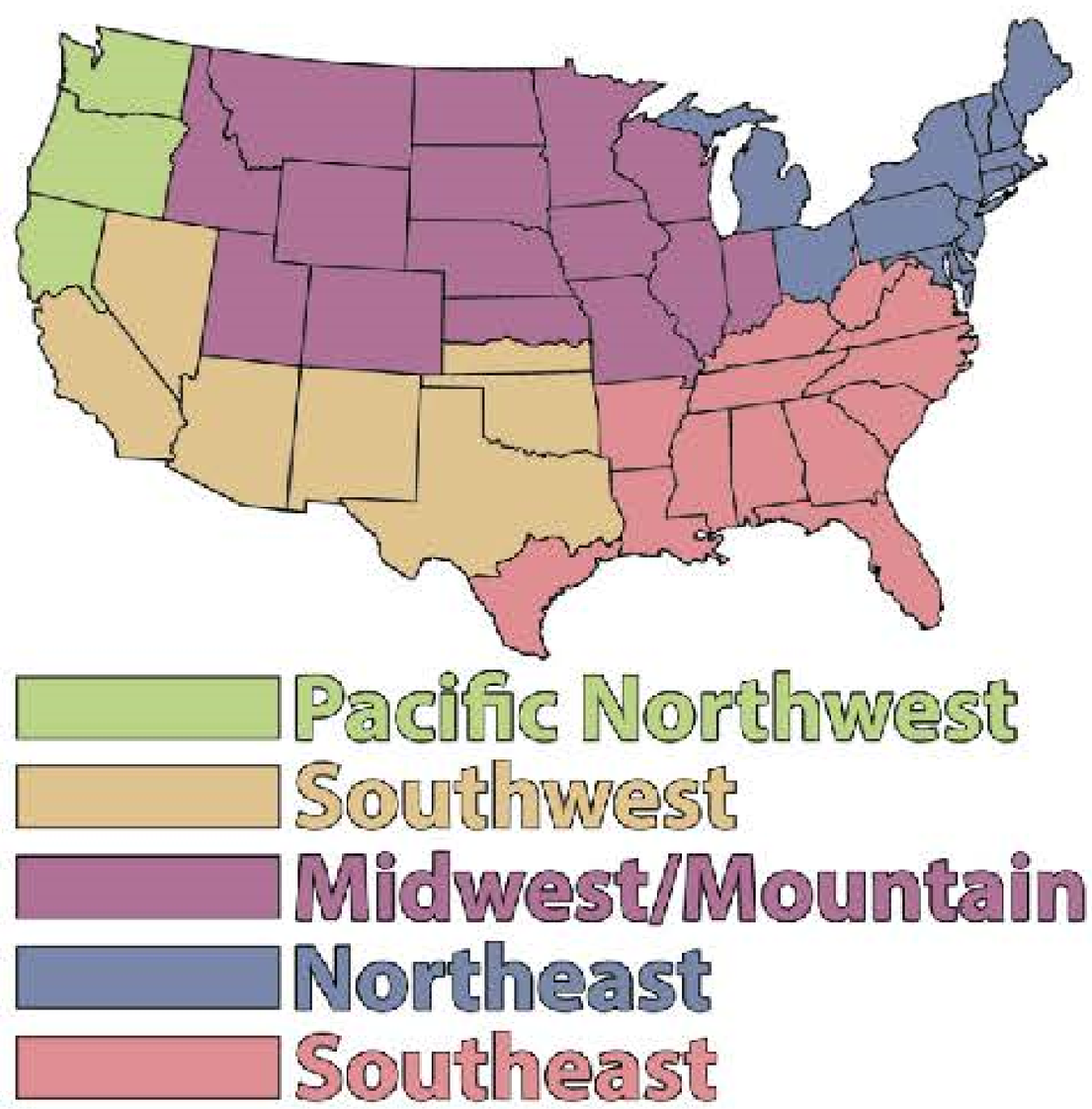
1. Find more uses for duct tape
2. Try not to cuss Mother Nature (as much)
3. Clean the pickup more often
4. Don't work in good clothes
5. Keep the feed room clean
6. Don't lose the pliers
7. Put the tools back

TEXASFARMBUREAU.ORG

GARDENING TIPS FOR JANUARY

MARSHALL, TEXAS

- Fertilize your houseplants with a water-soluble fertilizer and remember to water them. Be sure not to overwater, as that can lead to plant diseases.
- Start preparing your garden soil for spring planting. You can also prepare new soil for flower, rose, or shrub beds. Mix in organic material to give plants a healthy start.
- Control the weeds in your garden while they are young and tender, or before they sprout. Remove weeds before they seed, so you can avoid them in your garden.
- If there is a possibility that the temperature will drop to the 20s, you should protect your plants from frost damage.



- Test your lawn and garden soil for its pH levels. If your soil is too acidic, you have time to fix it before the growing season arrives.

INHERITANCE OF COLOR IN CATTLE

Hair color can be a significant factor in price received for calves. Knowledge of what to expect from parents of various colors can be useful in planning breeding programs. Black is often said to be the dominant color. But that depends on how black a parent is, i. e., is it "pure" black (genetically homyzygous) or not (genetically heterozygous). All red cattle are "pure" (homyzygous for the red gene). When red parents are mated their calves will be red, so a pure-breeding population of red cattle can be achieved. But, because recessive, unexpressed red genes can exist in a population of black cattle for many generations, pure-breeding black cattle are harder to create.This may partly explain why there are not many black breeds of cattle worldwide. Also, black cattle are not as well adapted to the tropics and subtropics, where the majority of cattle are located in the world. So, why are so many cattle in the U. S. black? Probably because our two most numerous breeds are black (Angus) or with some black (Holstein). Also, in the U. S. many of the formerly red or red and white breeds (especially Continental breeds) have incorporated black color from Angus.Through modern genotyping, prediction of color can be simplified. General information on inheritance of all colors, not just black and red, can be accessed at

http://articles.extension.org/pages/72664/color-patterns-in-crossbred-beef-cattle .

JASON BANTA, PH. D

Time to Test Your Soil!

If your garden performed below expectations last year, or maybe things just didn't grow quite right, a few dollars invested in a soil test may be just the solution. A properly prepared and fertilized garden soil is the real key to successful gardening in most areas of Texas. You can't look at the soil, taste it, smell it, or feel it to tell whether your soil is low in nitrogen, high in phosphates, or maybe just right. One sure way to overcome the mystery, and avoid confusion when it comes time to purchase fertilizers, is to have your garden soil tested.

Why is it important to know how much phosphorus or nitrogen is in the soil, or what the pH of the soil is? The answer is simple. Vegetables don't do well in improperly fertilized soil, whether it be too fertile or not fertile enough.

The soil test report will tell you the level of nitrogen, phosphorus, potassium, calcium, and magnesium available to your garden plants. It will also indicate the pH (acidity or alkalinity) of your garden soil. For the most part, this is all you need to know to properly fertilize your garden soil, and insure a bountiful harvest.

To take a soil sample, make a hole about a foot deep in the garden with a spade or sharpshooter. Throw out the first spade-full of soil. Then, from the back of the hole, cut a slice of the soil 1/2 inch to 1 inch thick. Be sure the slice is at least 6 to 7 inches in depth, with fairly even width and thickness. Then place the soil slice in a bucket or tub. Repeat this procedure 4 to 6 times in different spots in the garden, depending primarily on the size of the garden. Thoroughly mix the composite of the soil, and mail it to the Soils Testing Laboratory. Visit the Harrison County Extension Office for soil test kits, with instructions.

If a soil sample is taken in late winter or very early spring, you should expect to get your results back within 2 to 3 weeks. If you wait until spring, then it may take considerably longer to get your results back. An adequate soil test, properly done and properly interpreted, will go a long way toward insuring a bountiful harvest from this spring's garden.

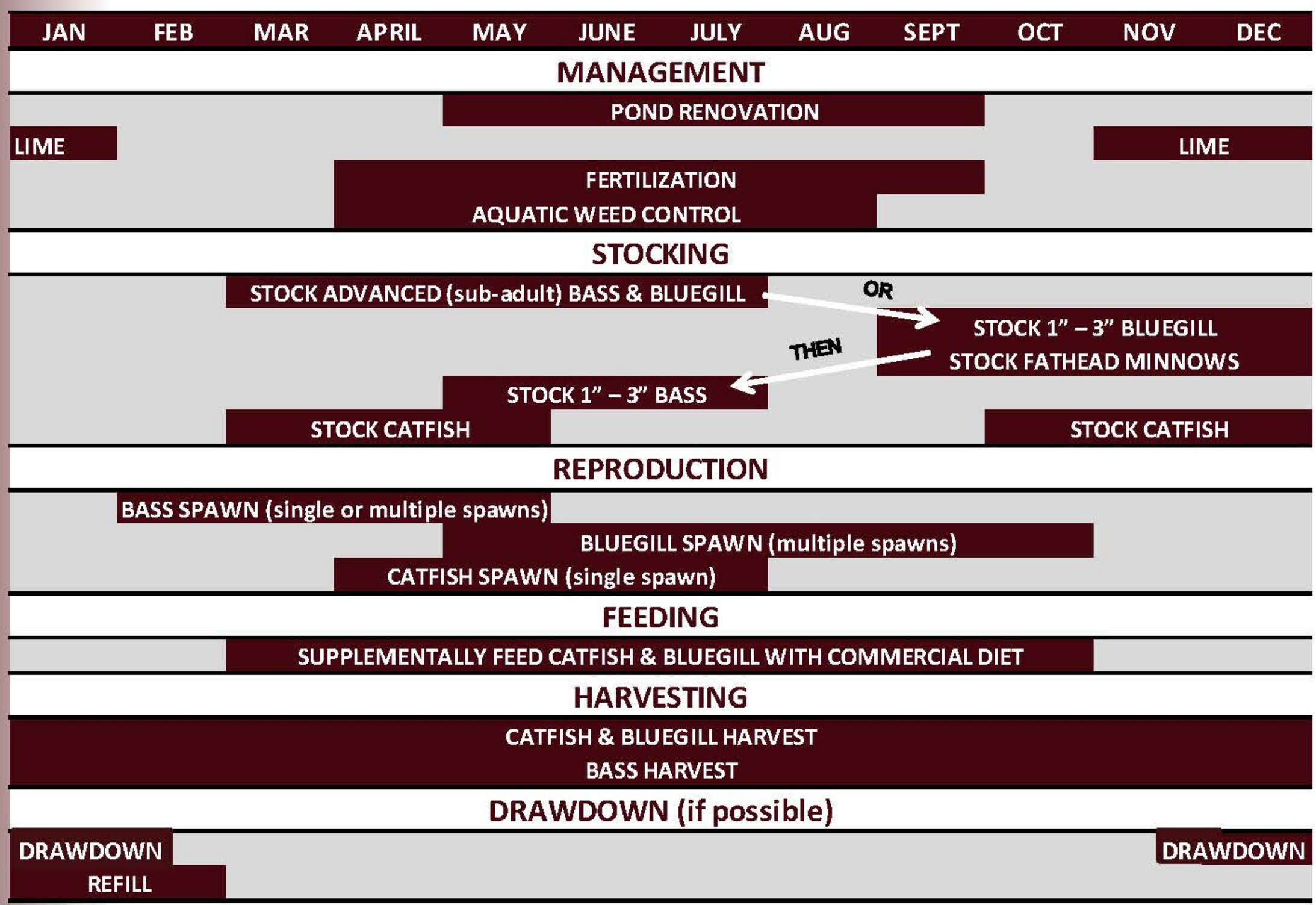
EWF-003
Revised May 2013

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension

TEXAS FARM POND MANAGEMENT CALENDAR

Billy J. Higginbotham
Professor & Extension Wildlife & Fisheries Specialist

Todd D. Sink
Assistant Professor & Extension Fisheries Specialist



- **POND RENOVATION** – Ponds that become imbalanced due to stunted fish populations and/or undesirable species should be renovated utilizing rotenone. Liquid or powder 5 percent rotenone at 10 pounds of powder or one gallon liquid/acre foot of water kills most problematic species. Treated water is safe for livestock. Restocking is possible three weeks after treatment.
  Best months: May-September (when water temperature is above 70° F).

- **LIME** – Agricultural limestone applications are necessary in ponds with pH below 6.5 and/or total alkalinity below 20 ppm. Waters in this category may limit fish growth and reproduction. East Texas ponds in particular should be tested before stocking. Be sure to use the same lime as used on pastures and hay meadows.
  Best months: November-January.

- **FERTILIZATION** – Inorganic fertilizer can be utilized to increase fish production 2-6 fold by increasing the food supply. Apply granular 10-20-5 at 100 pounds/surface acre followed by one or two reduced rate applications of 35 pounds/surface acre as needed to maintain the bloom. Liquid fertilizer such as 16-34-0 is also utilized at 1-2 gallons/surface acre with reduced rate applications as needed. Apply water soluble fertilizers such as 10-52-4 at 6 to 10 pounds per acre with reduced rate applications as needed. Never fertilize and lime a pond at the same time. Fertilization should be continued on an annual basis.
  Best months: Start in early April, end in September.

TEXAS FARM POND MANAGEMENT CALENDAR

TEXAS A&M AGRILIFE EXTENSION

● **AQUATIC WEED CONTROL** – Consider using triploid grass carp as a *biological* control treatment if plants they control are present. Initiate *herbicide* weed control when growth begins in the spring. Proper plant identification is essential to providing good control. Do not treat an entire pond with heavy weed infestations in the summer. Spot treat in hot weather to avoid oxygen depletion. Visit our aquatic weed website for help with plant identification and treatment options: http://aquaplant.tamu.edu
Best months: Start in April or May – spot treat only throughout summer as needed if fish are important.

● **STOCKING** – Rates given are for new or renovated ponds only (no fish present). Muddy ponds and *all ponds less than one surface acre* should be stocked with only fathead minnows (at 500/surface acre as supplemental forage) and catfish or hybrid sunfish or hybrid striped bass. Stocking rates range from 100 to 1000 fingerlings per acre for these species depending on the frequency and quantity of feeding.
Best months: March-May or October-December.
Ponds larger than one surface acre are suitable for management of bass-bluegill or bass-bluegill-catfish. Occasionally, supplemental forage species (threadfin shad, fathead minnows, tilapia and/or redear sunfish) are stocked in addition to the bluegill. Stock twenty 6-8" bass and thirty 3" or larger bluegill per surface acre, if available. Do not stock hybrid sunfish in a bass pond.
Best months: October-December (bluegill); March-early July (bass).
If only 1-3" bass and bluegill are available, stock 500 bluegill/surface acre in the fall followed by 50 bass/surface acre the next spring. Catfish stocked with bass-bluegill should be at least as large as the bass fingerlings (stocking rate 50/surface acre). All stocking rates for bass-bluegill-catfish strategies can be doubled if a fertilization program is utilized. To maintain catfish populations in a bass pond, stock 25-50 8" or larger catfish/surface acre every 3 to 5 years.

● **SPAWNING** – Catfish stocked alone should not be encouraged to reproduce by adding spawning habitat. However, when stocked with bass and bluegill, spawning cavities can be added to the pond to increase catfish reproduction. Bass initiate spawning in March (February in southern portions of Texas), with some females spawning more than once before summer. Bluegill are essential as bass forage because of their ability to spawn throughout the summer (May-October), providing abundant forage for maintaining a bass population.

● **SUPPLEMENTAL FEEDING** – Supplemental feeding greatly increases the pounds of catfish that can be supported in ponds and lakes. Bluegill also benefit from a regular feeding program. Use a floating ration containing at least 28 percent crude protein. Feed at three percent body weight or all that will be eaten by the fish in 10-15 minutes. DO NOT feed more than 15 pounds per day without supplemental aeration. Feed may also be offered once a week during the winter on warm, sunny days only.
Best months: March-November and during prolonged warm periods during the winter.

● **HARVEST** – Hook and line harvest is encouraged as soon as catfish reach edible size. Catfish produced for income should be removed and sold (if appropriate) by the end of the growing season (November-December). However, since most pond owners simply raise catfish for their own recreation, carry-over of fish from one year to the next is common. Mature fish (3-4 years) may spawn and the resulting offspring stunt or the carrying capacity of the pond (maximum of 1000/pounds/surface acre with daily feeding) will be exceeded if the fish are not routinely harvested. Return all bass less than 15" long during the first three years after stocking. From the fourth year on, remove twenty-five 8-12" bass, return 12-15" bass, and keep or return those bass over 15". Do not remove more than 25 pounds of bass per acre per year to prevent overharvest. No limit should be placed on the number of bluegill harvested.
Best months: All year.

● **CATCH RECORDS** – Anglers should maintain accurate records on the number and size of each species caught during each fishing trip. Harvest can then be monitored to determine when restocking and/or harvest restrictions become necessary for certain species.
Best months: All year.

● **DRAWDOWN** – Ponds larger than one surface acre containing bass and bluegill may benefit from annual drawdown of 1-3 feet. This technique concentrates forage (bluegill) and makes them more available to bass. Exposed shoreline areas can be planted with a combination of winter grasses following drawdown to provide nursery habitat for sportfish fingerlings the next spring. Winter drawdown can also serve to kill problematic weeds.
Best months: Drawdown in November, refill before bass spawning season (March).

For additional information and resources please visit our Extension websites at:
http://wildlife.tamu.edu and http://aquaplant.tamu.edu

Water for Wildlife

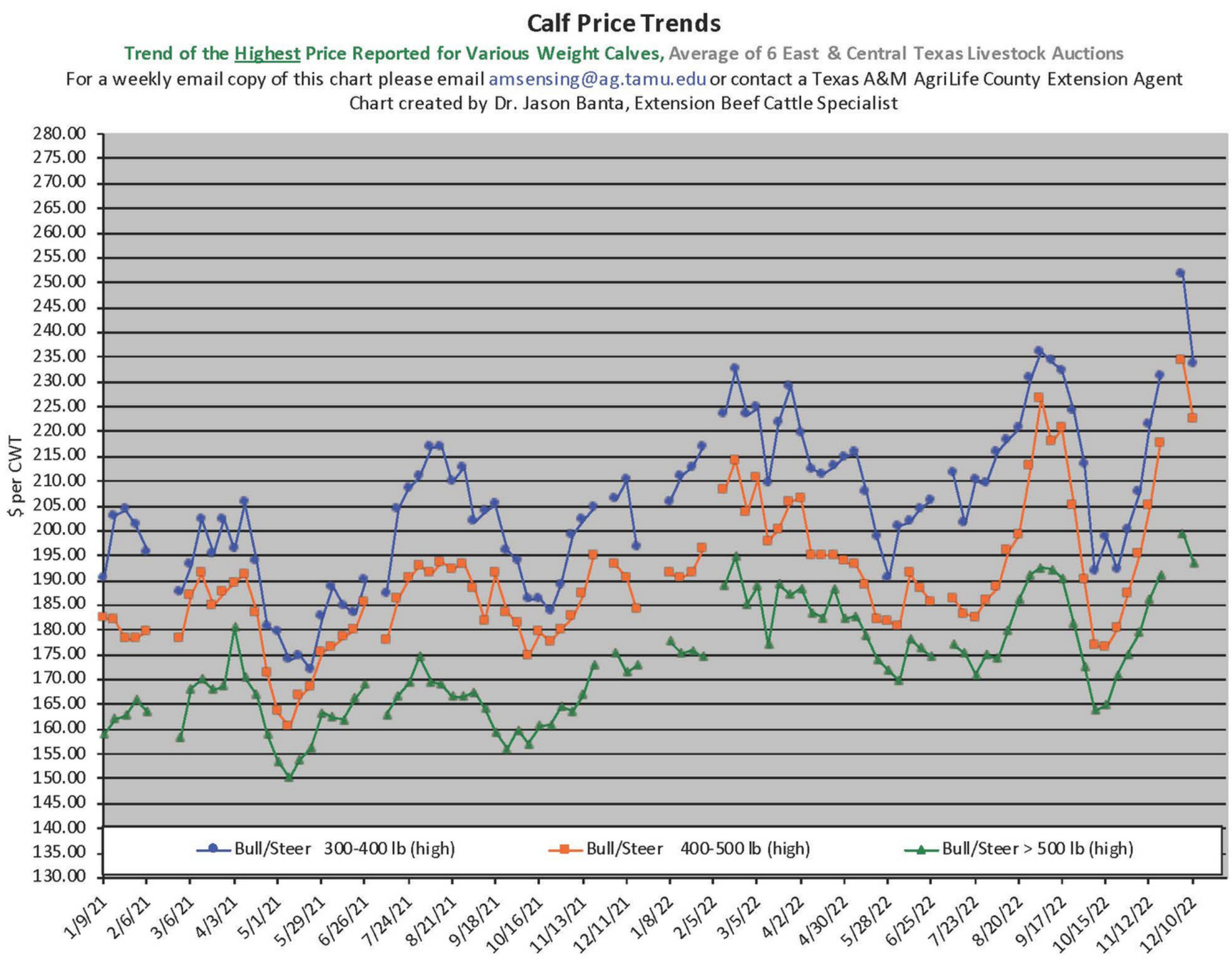
People are intrigued by wildlife and enjoy watching different species interact. Many Texans have been introduced to the outdoors through hunting and fishing, activities that have contributed an estimated $3.3 billion annually to the state's economy.

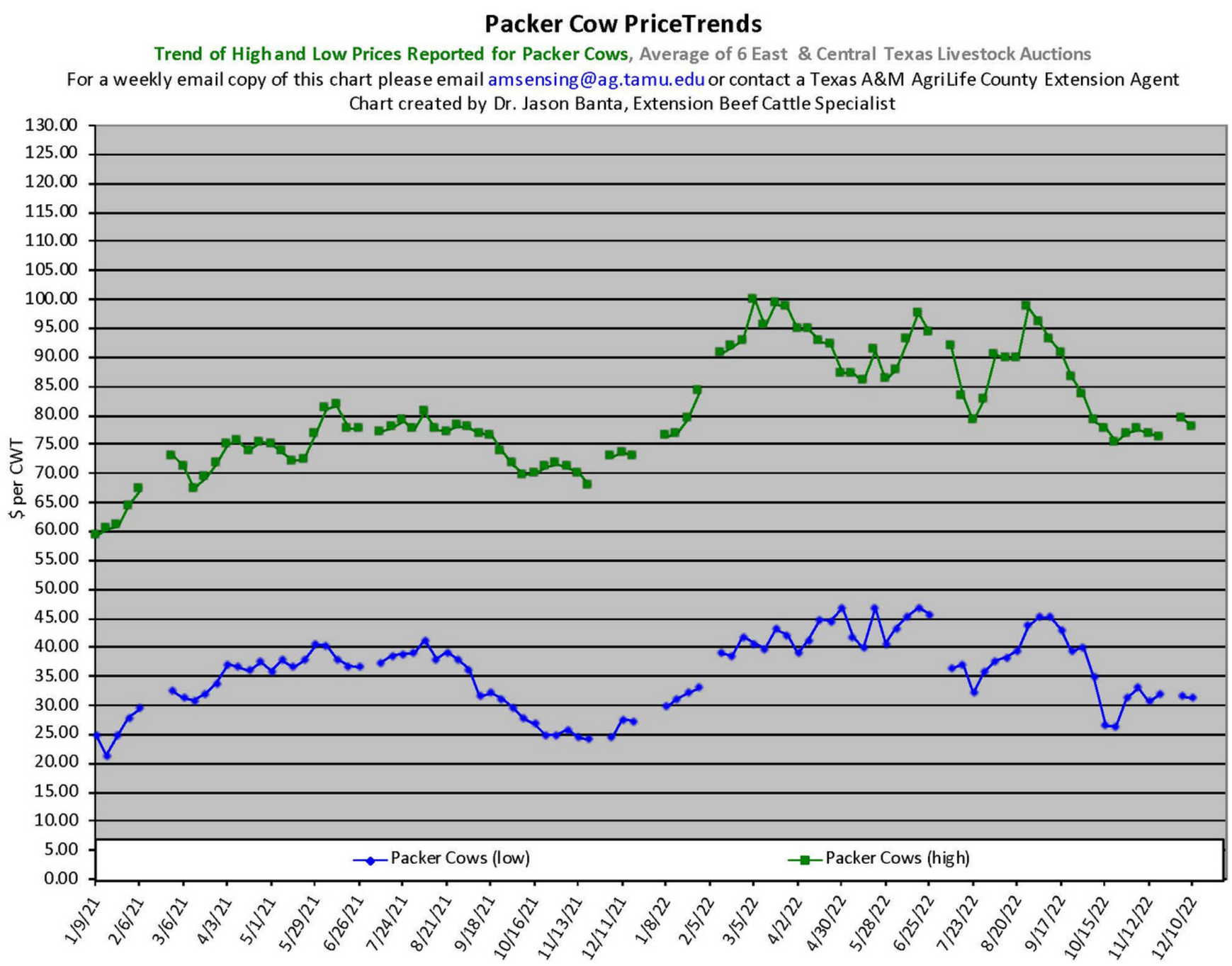
With increased enthusiasm for wildlife comes a growing economic potential for landowners to offer nature-based tourism. To attract wildlife—and in turn, people—to their properties, land managers have worked to improve the habitat on their properties by using management techniques such as shallow disking, prescribed burning, and livestock grazing.

One underused method for attracting wildlife is the installation of watering devices to provide a supplemental source of water for animals. Land managers are also harvesting rainwater to better distribute water on the landscape, thus increasing the amount of usable space for wildlife.

Rainwater can be captured using several kinds of devices and management techniques. To make the best choice for a specific property, land managers should consider many factors, including the sources of water used by animals, the number and diversity of wildlife on the land, differences in mobility for various species, rainfall patterns in the area, and options available for harvesting, storing, and conveying rainwater.

Cattle Price Trends





Cattle price trends for the week ending 12/10/20. The graphs show the average of the highest prices reported for 6 livestock auction markets located in East and Central Texas.

Does a New Year Mean a New Hay Pasture/Meadow?

It's always best to initiate the planning process the year prior to actual planting. So start planning in 2021 to plant in 2022. Instead of planning in 2021 to plant in 2021.

- Evaluate the farm's forage needs. Consider how the forage will be used (grazing vs. hay), what species are better adapted to your area (season, soil type, rainfall) and what resources (equipment, money, and time) are available. Reestablishment should be considered when less than 40% of the desirable species exist.
- For exclusive hay production:
    1. Take visual appraisal of meadow. Bald spots may fill in with time, fertilization and weed control. Or bald spots may be filled in with sprigs or seed.
    2. Determine if you have seen a reduction in production (quantity produced). If hay production has been reduced considerably reestablishment may be desirable.
    3. Determine if other forage species and/or broadleaf weeds have invaded the field. They may be easily controlled with herbicide.
- Collect soil samples, have samples analyzed and correct any soil deficiencies.
- Select species adapted to your area. Visit with county extension agents or forage specialist to determine options based on your location (soil type and rainfall distribution).
- In late summer the year prior to planting (for warm season forages), destroy existing perennial grass vegetation.
- Implement the correct planting method (seeding vs. sprigging) and rate.
- Implement a weed control program.
- Use proper management to maintain a productive stand.

Keep in mind a newly established pasture/hay meadow may not be very productive the year of establishment. Therefore, be prepared to have other forage options for livestock during that season.

Feel free to contact your local Extension Office with any forage questions

TEXAS MASTER GARDENER

TEXAS A&M AGRILIFE EXTENSION

Interested in joining Master Gardeners?

Come to there Master Gardener Intern Informational Meeting. No RSVP needed.

January 25, 2023 @ 5:30PM
Harrison County Extension Office
2005 Warren Drive
Marshall, TX 75670

EAST REGION AGRILIFE CONFERENCE & EXPO
CROSS BRAND COWBOY CHURCH
11915 FM 2015
TYLER, TEXAS 75708
JANUARY 13, 2023

Times	Topics and Speakers
7:15 AM - 8:00 AM	**Registration and Visit Vendors**
8:00 AM - 9:00 AM	**Termite Identification & Control** - *Janet Hurley* (***SPCS License holders only***) *Senior Extension Program Specialist - IPM Texas A&M AgriLife Extension - Dallas*
9:00 AM - 9:15 AM	**Break and Visit Vendors**
9:15 AM - 10:15 AM	**Pest Identification & Control Strategies** - *Bryant McDowell Extension Program Specialist - Urban IPM Texas A&M AgriLife Extension-Dallas*
10:15 AM - 11:15 AM	**Pesticide Laws and Regulations Update-** *Dr. Mark Matocha Associate Professor & Extension Specialist Texas A&M AgriLife Extension - College Station*
11:15 AM - 12:15 PM	**Pesticide Safety** *-Dr. Mark Matocha Associate Professor & Extension Specialist Texas A&M AgriLife Extension- College Station*
12:15 PM - 1:15 PM	**Lunch and Visit Vendors**
1:15 PM - 2:15 PM	**Disease in Turf and Bermuda Grass-** *Dr. Chrissie Segars Assistant Professor & Extension Turfgrass Specialist, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension - Dallas*
2:15 PM - 2:30 PM	**Break and Visit Vendors**
2:30 PM - 3:30 PM	**Water X Weeds: An Approach to Integrated Weed Management** *Dr.Becky Bowling Assistant Professor & Extension Urban Water Specialist, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension - Dallas*

How to Register:
Go to the Website or scan QR code below

smith.agrilife.org/erace

Online registration is $10.00 per person when you register by January 12, 2023 by 3:00 pm

On-site registration $ 20.00 per person

Online registration will accept credit/ debt card

(If you need assistance registering online stop by your local County Extension Office)

On-site will accept Cash/Check and Credit/Debit Card.

(5 % convenience fee when using credit/debit cards)

6 Structural (SPCS)
1 Termite
1 Pest
2 Gen
1 L&O
1 Weed

5 TDA
(Private/Commercial/Non- Commercial)
2 Gen
1 L&R
2 IPM

Presented by:
Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service from the following counties: Anderson, Cherokee, Gregg, Henderson, Kaufman, Panola, Rains, Rusk, Smith, Upshur, Van Zandt and Wood

EAST TEXAS FRUIT, NUT, & VEGETABLE CONFERENCE

JANUARY 13, 2023

Cross Brand Cowboy Church
11915 FM 2015
Tyler, Texas 75708

8:00 am Registration

8:30 am Growing Figs in Texas
Dr. David Creech, Professor Emeritus-
Stephen F. Austin University

9:30 am Muscadines and Bunch Grapes
Michael Cook Viticulture Program Specialist
II-North Texas, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension
Service

10:30 am BREAK

10:45 am Feeding a Family from a Home Vegetable Garden: Greg Grant, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Agent- CEA Horticulture Smith County

11:45 am LUNCH

12:30 pm Four Generations of Selling Fruits, Nuts, and Vegetables in East Texas
Andrew King, King's Nursery

1:30 pm BREAK

1:45 pm Growing Peaches and Plums
Dr. Tim Hartman, Assistant Professor
& Extension Specialist - Fruit Crops

How to Register: Website or Scan QR code below

https://smith.agrilife.org/fnvc/

TEXAS A&M AGRILIFE EXTENSION

Online registration is $25.00 per person when you register by January 12, 2023 by 3:00 pm

Late registration $ 35.00 per person

Online registration will accept credit/debt card

(If you need assistance registering online stop by your local County Extension Office)

On-site will accept Cash/Check and Credit/Debit Card.
(5 % convenience fee when using credit/debit cards)

Presented by Texas A&M AgriLife Extension- Gregg, Harrison, Marion, Upshur and Cass Counties

PINEYWOODS CEU CONFERENCE

JANUARY 27, 2023
REGISTRATION BEGINS AT 8 AM
PROGRAM BEGINS AT 9 AM

MUST RSVP BY 1/20/2022

REGISTRATION- $35

CALL THE GREGG COUNTY EXTENSION OFFICE TO REGISTER (903) 236-8429

Gopher Damage and Control

Darren Rozell, Rozell Sprayer Manufacturing Company

Managing Herbaceous Weeds with Prescribed Fire

Dr. Megan Clayton, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Range Specialist

PROGRAM TO BE HELD AT HARRISON COUNTY GOLD HALL
101 ELM ST
HALLSVILLE, TX
75650

Pesticide Applicator Record Keeping and Compliance

Dr. Mark Matocha- Assisstant Professor and Extension Specialist with Texas A&M AgriLife Extension

Wild Pig Biology and Control

Derrick Banks, Prarieview A&M Wildlife Management Specialist

Fall Army Worm Control Options

Kyle McKinely, Rozell Agri-Tech

LUNCH PROVIDED BY LEGACY AG CREDIT
5 CEUS AVAILABLE (1 LR, 1 IPM, 3 GEN)

TEXAS A&M AGRILIFE EXTENSION

ANNUAL
CORNBREAD & BEAN LUNCHEON

WEDNESDAY
FEBRUARY 1, 2023
11AM - 2 PM

HARRISON COUNTY EXTENSION OFFICE

~(NEW LOCATION)~
2005 WARREN DRIVE
MARSHALL, TX 75670

$10.00 DONATION

SPONSORED BY:
HARRISON EXTENSION EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

The members of Texas A&M AgriLife will provide equal opportunities in programs and activities, education, and employment to all persons regardless of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, age, disability, genetic information, veteran status, sexual orientation, or gender identity and will strive to achieve full and equal employment opportunity throughout Texas A&M AgirLife. The Texs A& M University System, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the County Commissioners Courts of Texas Cooperating. Individuals with disabilities who require an auxiliary aid, service accommodation in order to participate in this meeting are encouraged to contact the County Extension Office (903) 935-8414 prior to the meeting to determine how reasonable accommodation can be made.

PRIVATE APPLICATOR TRAINING

Friday, February 03, 2023
Cotton Belt Building
1517 West Front Street Suite 116A
Tyler, Texas 75702
8:30 am to 12:00 pm

An opportunity to obtain the required training for Private Applicators. ***Training only, testing will not be offered during this training.*** The Texas Department of Agriculture no longer offers paper exams. ***Testing procedures will be explained during the training.***

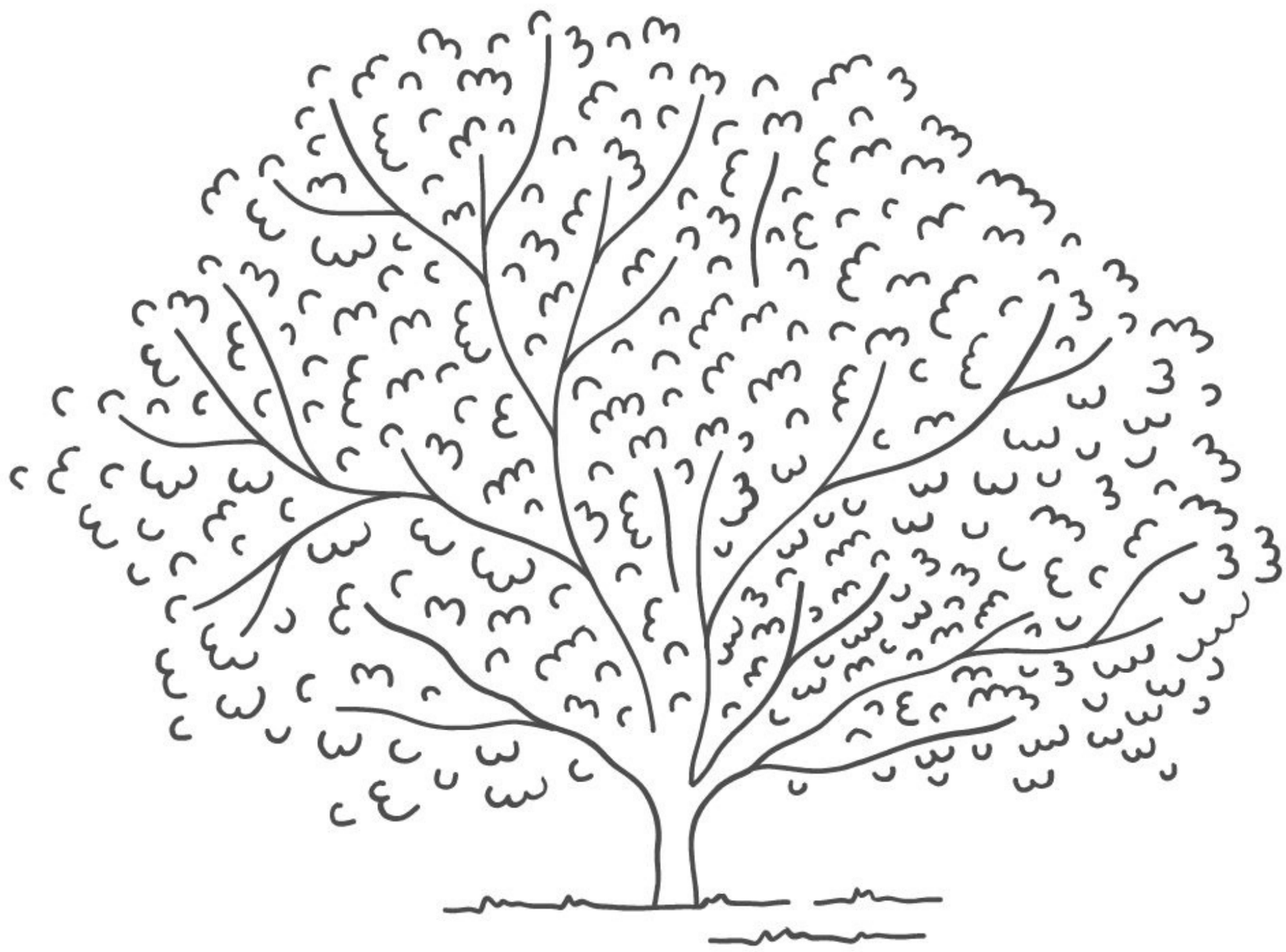
The training is required for all Private Applicators. Study materials are available for purchase for $50 including the Private Applicator General Manual, the Texas Department of Agriculture's Laws [and Regulations Manual, and all the handouts/worksheets needed for this training. These materials can be purchased ahead of the class for review or the day of the training. A $10 Registration fee will be charged for a total of $60.00 for this training course. **Cash, Credit Card, or check** made payable to the Livestock and Forage Committee.

Contact:
*To register for Training and/or to purchase study materials call
(903) 590-2980

Anyone needing special assistance at an Extension program should contact the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Office at (903) 590-2980 at least one week prior to the program or event.

HARRISON COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS

& THE TEXAS A&M FOREST SERVICE



ANNUAL TREE GIVE-A-WAY

FEBUARY 4, 2022 @ 8:00AM-UNTIL GONE

HARRISON COUNTY MASTER GARDENER GREENHOUSE

1309 WARREN DRIVE MARSHALL, TX

Harrison County Food Show Challenge Contest

Saturday, January 21, 2023
Registration starts at 9:00AM
Contest begins at 10:00AM
Entry form due by Friday, January 13, 2023

Harrison County Extension Office (New Address)
2005 Warren Drive
Marshall, TX 75670

Harrison County Food Show Challenge Contest

Entry Form 2023-Due Friday, January 13, 2023

Name:_____

Age Division: Clover Kid ◯ Junior ◯ Intermediate ◯ Senior ◯

Food Challenge

(Team must consist of 3 or 4 members of the same grade division.)

Team Division: Clover Kid ◯ Junior ◯ Intermediate ◯ Senior ◯

Team Member 1:_____

Team Member 2:_____

Team Member 3:_____

Team Member 4:_____

If an auxiliary aid or special accommodation is required call 903-935-8414 or email LDMcDonald@ag.tamu.edu

We have moved!

Phone numbers and emails are still the same.

903-935-8413

matt.garrett@ag.tamu.edu