

Brazos County Agriculture News and Events

By Chadd Caperton

Brazos County Extension Agent- Ag and Natural Resources

Winter Edition - 2024

Greetings from the Texas A&M Agrilife Extension office!

“Success is not final, failure is not fatal, it is the courage to continue that counts”. – Winston Churchill



“Do not be misled: 'Bad company corrupts good character.'”
1 Corinthians 15:33

In this Edition

- Ag Tax Exemption Renewal Time!
- Weed of the Week: Buttercup
- Texas Wine, What to Look for in 2024

Upcoming Events

- Brazos Horse Judging Contest, Jan. 13th @ Brazos Expo
- Equine Evening, January 16th @ the Brazos Expo
- Tri-County Winter Crops Program, January 16th
- Brazos Valley CEU Conference, January 26th - 5 CEU's
- Winter Land Management Program, February TBD
- Pond Management Field Days – See Flyer for details



LIKE us on Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/brazosagnr>

Check out our Website

<https://brazos.agrilife.org/>

See the detailed flyers below!

Brazos County Office
Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service
4153 County Park Court| Bryan, Texas 77802

Tel. 979.823.8129 | Fax. 979.775.3768 | <http://brazos.agrilife.org>

Educational programs of the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service are open to all people without regard to race, color, sex, disability, religion, age, or national origin. The Texas A&M University System, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the County Commissioners Courts of Texas Cooperating

SAVE THE DATE

BRAZOS VALLEY

CEU CONFERENCE

5 CEU'S PENDING TDA APPROVAL



JANUARY 26, 2024



CALDWELL, TX



979-567-2308

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, GENDER IDENTITY, OR ANY OTHER CLASSIFICATION PROTECTED BY FEDERAL, STATE, OR LOCAL LAW AND WILL STRIVE TO ACHIEVE FULL AND EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY THROUGHOUT TEXAS A&M AGRILIFE.

TEXAS A&M
AGRILIFE
EXTENSION

WINTER CROPS PROGRAM

HOSTED BY THE TRI
COUNTY CROPS
COMMITTEE

JANUARY 16TH, 2024

JRG FARMS OFFICE

8105 FM 50 CALDWELL, TX 77836

TO REGISTER, CALL:

979-823-0129

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TEXAS A&M
AGRILIFE
EXTENSION



THE BRAZOS EXTENSION HORSE COMMITTEE PRESENTS ITS ANNUAL

EQUINE EVENING

TUESDAY, JANUARY 16, 2024, 6:30 PM
BRAZOS COUNTY EXPO

5827 LEONARD RD, BRYAN

THIS EVENT IS **FREE** & OPEN TO THE PUBLIC
PLEASE RSVP TO THE BRAZOS COUNTY
EXTENSION OFFICE **AT 979-823-0129**

**MANAGING &
MINIMIZING VICES**
WITH DR. CHELSIE HUSEMAN



HORSE GENETIC DISEASE BASICS
WITH DR. MARTHA VOGELSANG



EQUINE DENTISTRY
WITH JENNA DUPREE



**CARE & TRAINING OF
THE YOUNG HORSE**
WITH SHARON WELLMANN

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TEXAS A&M
AGRILIFE
EXTENSION

BRAZOS COUNTY HORSE JUDGING CONTEST

HOSTED BY THE BRAZOS EXTENSION HORSE COMMITTEE

JANUARY 13TH, 2024

BRAZOS COUNTY EXPO CENTER, BRYAN, TX
5827 LEONARD RD, BRYAN, TX 77807

TEXAS A&M
AGRILIFE
EXTENSION



REGISTER THROUGH JANUARY 5TH ON JUDGINGCARD

CHECK IN: 8:00 AM

CONTEST START: 9:00 AM

DIVISIONS:

(AS OF 2023-2024 SCHOOL YEAR)

4-H JUNIOR (3RD-5TH GRADE)

4-H INTERMEDIATE (6TH-8TH GRADE)

4-H SENIOR (9TH-12TH GRADE)

FFA SENIOR (9TH-12TH GRADE)

ENTRY:

\$75/ TEAM

\$25/ INDIVIDUAL

AWARDS:

BUCKLES, RIBBONS, SCHOLARSHIPS, AND MORE!

INDIVIDUAL, TEAM, & OVERALL

HIGH POINT

CLASSES:

THERE WILL BE A COMBINATION OF
HALTER AND PERFORMANCE CLASSES
TO MAKE UP 8 CLASSES

REASONS AND QUESTIONS:

4-H JUNIOR- HALTER REASONS *OPTIONAL*

4-H INTERMEDIATE- HALTER REASONS
REQUIRED

4-H SENIOR- HALTER AND PERFORMANCE
REASONS *REQUIRED*

FFA SENIOR- 2 SETS OF QUESTIONS
REQUIRED

FOR MORE INFO CONTACT:

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BRAZOSHORSE@GMAIL.COM

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Brittany Chesser
Aquatic Vegetation
Management Extension
Specialist



Todd Sink
Aquaculture
Extension
Specialist

5 CEUs
1 IPM
3 General
1 L&R

2024 CEU Pond Field Days

Washington Co. April 12, 2024 | Grimes Co. May 11, 2024

8AM - 4:00 PM

Topics include:

Guide to Identifying Aquatic Vegetation
Strategies and Regulations on Aquatic Vegetation Management
Using Herbivorous Fish as IPM Strategy
Pond Site Selection for Better Water & Vegetation Management
Fish Stocking Strategies
Fish Management Strategies
Pondside Electrofishing and Vegetation Demonstrations



PROGRAM QUESTIONS: CONTACT BRITTANY.CHESSER@TAMU.EDU OR TODD.SINK@TAMU.EDU

Reminder: Agriculture tax exemption holders need to renew their numbers now

DECEMBER 18, 2023

Renewal only rolls around once every four years, so the [Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service](#) is reminding all agriculture producers that the Agricultural and Timber Exemption numbers they currently hold will expire on Dec. 31.



Agriculture operators are reminded to renew their Agricultural and Timber Exemption tax numbers prior to Dec. 31. (Texas A&M AgriLife photo)

The Texas Comptroller's Office states: You must renew your number to continue to claim an exemption on qualifying agriculture and timber purchases made after that date. The Comptroller's Office mailed out renewal letters in August, but if the renewal hasn't been completed, the time is short.

"This is one of those housekeeping items that is easy to overlook," said Tiffany Lashmet, J.D., AgriLife Extension agriculture law specialist, Amarillo. "Everyone involved in agriculture in Texas should take the time to ensure they have updated their Agricultural and Timber Exemption registration numbers so they do not run into any issues in the new year."

Agriculture and timber producers in Texas are exempt from paying sales taxes on certain items used exclusively to produce agriculture and timber products, Lashmet said. Tractors, seed, fertilizer and medication for livestock are all examples of items exempt from sales tax for producers with a valid agriculture and timber exemption number.

Qualifying activities

Lashmet said the following activities qualify for agriculture tax exemptions: farming, ranching, fiber production, timber production/contract logging, operating feedlots or fish farms, beekeeping, custom harvesting, crop dusting, growing plants for commercial nurseries, veterinary businesses making farm or ranch calls, FFA or 4-H projects, and those teaching an agricultural course.

Those activities that do not qualify for a sales tax exemption include rodeos, horse boarding, training, racing, and trail rides, hunting and fishing operations, those with companion animals, wildlife management and conservation, and kennels and other animal boarding businesses.

For a complete list of who qualifies, what activities qualify and what you need to do to apply, visit the [Comptroller's Office website](#).

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Kay Ledbetter is communications coordinator for Texas A&M AgriLife. Additionally, she is responsible for writing news releases and feature articles from science-based information generated by the agency across the state, as well as the associated media relations.

Weed of the Week: Buttercup

Posted on [December 15, 2023](#) by [vanessa.corriher](#)

Buttercup (*Ranunculus* species): One of the many yellow flowering weeds that we fight in pastures and hay meadows. Buttercup is a winter annual that thrives in weak or thin pastures. There are several species of this winter annual. They differ mainly in leaf shape and growth, but all produce characteristic bright yellow blossoms. March to early April is the best time to kill buttercup. The goal is to spray buttercup before bloom.



Buttercup Seedling



Buttercup growing in a ryegrass pasture in East Texas.

Fertilizing and liming to soil test recommendations and efficient utilization of pastures or hay fields are the primary ways to decrease weed pressure.

Select Herbicide Options:

Weedmaster

2, 4-D Amine

GrazonNext HL

Grazon P+D

Duracor

Chaparral (for bermudagrass pastures, will destroy bahiagrass)

Pastora (for bermudagrass pastures, will destroy bahiagrass)

REMEMBER: THE LABEL IS THE LAW! Always read the pesticide label before using.

Vanessa Corriher-Olson

Forage Extension Specialist

Soil & Crop Sciences

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Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service

Texas A&M University System

This entry was posted in [Uncategorized](#). Bookmark the [permalink](#).

Wine trends to watch in 2024

Department of Horticultural Sciences head shares outlook for the new year

JANUARY 2, 2024

While most consumers will have popped champagne to ring in the new year, 2024 will be a time to watch trends in wine and winemaking. The art of wine grape growing and winemaking is full of history and tradition, yet it is constantly innovating and evolving through science.



Winemakers continue to craft niche developments in the winemaking process while also focusing on sustainability. (Texas A&M AgriLife photo by Michael Miller)

Amit Dhingra, Ph.D., head of the [Department of Horticultural Sciences](#) in Texas A&M's [College of Agriculture and Life Sciences](#), shares upcoming trends in the wine industry for the new year.

Wine trends rising as far as the eye can see

The wine industry is booming across the country, and Dhingra said the connection between wine and agritourism is expected to spark increased consumption of domestic and Texas-made wines.

Texas is seeing major growth in the wine industry, due to market changes and an influx of people in the state, he said.

“More people are moving into different regions across Texas,” Dhingra said. “And wine consumption is increasing in these places.”

Sustainability practices improving winemaking

On a global scale, there is a large push in the wine industry for winemakers to practice sustainability. With new, niche developments in the winemaking process to bring out flavors and aromas, Dhingra said sustainable practices will be driven by innovation.



Research in the Department of Horticultural Sciences looks into furthering the sustainability of the wine industry while also teaching students the art of winemaking. (Texas A&M AgriLife Marketing and Communications photo by Michael Miller)

There are many ways winemakers can experiment with sustainable technologies that are in accordance with the regulations of the [International Organisation of Vine and Wine](#).

“I recently learned about a technology where the barrels are made of stainless steel,” Dhingra said. “And to age them and promote flavor, they add blocks of oak and other woods to bring out unique characteristics.”

This is a sustainable alternative to using oak or wood-based barrels that utilizes fewer trees.

Dhingra said one Texas winery is using cryo-maceration, a technology that uses very cold temperatures to break down grape cells to release the pigment, flavor and tannins in their wines.

Niche wines could be the new normal

Historically, the U.S. wine industry has grown the major red and white varieties, especially along the West Coast. There is now an emerging trend to try lesser-known varieties and to experiment with varieties from around the world.

Dhingra said Sagrantino, an Italian grape, is an up-and-coming niche wine that is grown by a few wineries in the country. There are several wineries in Texas that also make this wine, and Texas growers in the High Plains are finding the microclimates in that region are perfect for the variety.

Dhingra said orange wine is another niche product on the market that could really catch on. Orange wine is made through a process where seeds and skins are left in contact with the juice during fermentation to produce an orange hue. Between whites, reds and rosés, diversification in the wine industry can produce positive outcomes for new varieties.

While a Cabernet Sauvignon is still the king of the wine market, Dhingra said boutique wineries and a growing desire for unique tasting experiences is pushing wineries across the country to produce standout wines.

Consumers can also expect to see an increase in low-alcohol and non-alcoholic wines, Dhingra said. Between the “dry January,” a trend to give up alcohol in the first month of the year, and an increase in young adults choosing a low- or no-alcohol lifestyle, Dhingra said the industry is diversifying product to support customer demand.

The wine industry is bigger in Texas, too

Texas continues to experience major growth within the national wine industry. The state now ranks No. 5 in the country for wine production, and there are increasingly positive trends that could make Texas No. 2 in the not-so-distant future.



"The economic impact of the [Texas wine industry](#) has jumped from \$13 billion in past years to \$20.35 billion, and the number of wineries has increased to nearly 900," Dhingra said.

Wine grape production, winemaking and the subsequent agritourism to vineyards has also increased around the state due to the variety of ecoregions and soil types in Texas. The [Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau](#) of the [U.S. Department of Treasury](#) has designated eight [American Viticultural Areas](#), AVA, in the state's 11 distinct regions so far, with two new AVA's pending final approval.

"Texas has a diverse foundation for what we can grow here," Dhingra said. "We can cater to different interests, palates or backgrounds, allowing for consumers to make connections to other parts of the world."

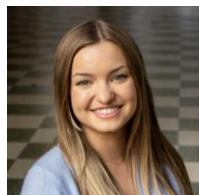
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