



Agriculture and Natural Resources Newsletter

September 2020 Edition

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FALL IS FOR HERBS

Herbs are plants that are used as flavoring in foods. The common herbs used in cooking are referred to as culinary herbs. Mild or savory herbs impart a delicate flavor to food, while the stronger or pungent herbs add zest. Herbs are also planted for their ornamental value.

When considering to plant herbs, select a sunny, well-drained location. At planting time, you should apply a slow release fertilizer at the rate of 2 pounds per 100 square feet.

Herbs can be annuals (live only one season) or perennials (grow back from their root systems each year). Annual herbs can be planted in an annual flower bed or vegetable garden. Plant perennial herbs at the side of the garden where they will not interfere with next year's soil preparation.

Care for the herb garden is the same as for a vegetable or flower garden.

Watering: Water as necessary during dry periods. Generally, herbs need about 1 inch of water per week, either from rainfall or from irrigation. Mulch will help conserve moisture as well as reduce weed growth.

Harvesting: The leaves of many herbs, such as parsley and chives, can be harvested for fresh seasonings. Gradually remove a few leaves from the plants as you need them. Never remove all the foliage at one time! With proper care, these plants will produce over a long growing period.

Drying: After harvest, hang the herbs in loosely tied bundles in a well-ventilated room. You can also spread the branches on a screen, cheesecloth, or hardware cloth. Cover the herbs with a cloth that will keep dust off but will allow moisture to pass through.

For more information on herbs, and getting your garden ready for fall, please click on the link:

[Fall Vegetable Gardening Guide for Texas](#)



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LIP (The Livestock Indemnity Program)

Joshua A. Coleman, County Executive Director
United States Department of Agriculture Farm Services Agency

The Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP) provides assistance to eligible producers for livestock deaths in excess of normal mortality caused by adverse weather, disease and attacks by animals reintroduced into the wild by the federal government or protected by law.

LIP compensates livestock owners and contract growers for livestock death losses in excess of normal mortality due to adverse weather, including losses due to hurricanes, floods, blizzards, wildfires, extreme heat or extreme cold.

For disease losses, FSA county committees can accept veterinarian certifications that livestock deaths were directly related to adverse weather and unpreventable through good animal husbandry and management.

For 2020 livestock losses, eligible livestock owners must file a notice within 30 calendar days of when the loss is first apparent.

Participants must provide the following supporting documentation to their local FSA office no later than 60 calendar days after the end of the calendar year in which the eligible loss condition occurred.

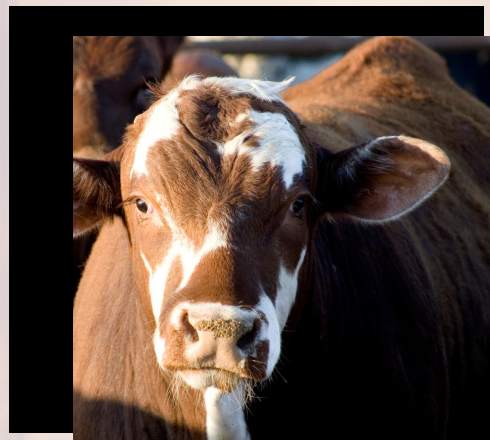
- Proof of death documentation
- Copy of grower's contracts
- Proof of normal mortality



USDA has established normal mortality rates for each type and weight range of eligible livestock, ie; Adult Beef Cow = 1.5% and Non-Adult Beef Cattle (less than 250 pounds) = 3%. These established percentages reflect losses that are considered expected or typical under "normal" conditions.

In addition to filing a notice of loss, producers must also submit an application for payment by March 1, 2021.

Additional information about LIP is available at your local FSA office or online at: www.fsa.usda.gov





Fire Ants



Enlarged photo of fire ants

description

Fire ant colonies contain the queen(s), winged males and females, workers (wingless, sterile females) and brood (eggs, larvae and pupae).

infestation

Fire ants create mounds up to 18" tall. They prefer open sunny areas such as lawns, pastures, parks and disturbed areas, and often nest under sidewalks, slabs or at the base of trees.

problems

Fire ants can be a problem year round but are most prevalent in the spring and fall. Fire ants don't injure turfgrass but mounds become unsightly; ants are aggressive and cause painful stings that may become infected. They can invade electrical equipment and cause short circuits.



Fire ant mound

Least Toxic Solutions

- Before treating, properly identify pest as fire ants - many other species of ants occur in Texas and some are predators of fire ants; call the Extension office at 854-9600 for details, or visit <http://fireant.tamu.edu>
- Carefully pour a large pot (about 3 gallons) of boiling water on each mound. This will kill a mound about 60% of the time; this works best after a rain
- Introduce nematodes (*Steinernema carpocapsae*), the small round worms that attack fire ant larvae, grubs, and other soil-dwelling larvae. They work best when applied to moist soil at dusk

If you must use a pesticide...

- Choose baits over contact products; baits are safer to use because they are ant-specific and formulated with very small percentages of the active ingredients
- For less than five fire ant mounds per 1/4 acre, treat mounds individually
- For more than five mounds per 1/4 acre, spread ant BAIT products over the entire lawn once or twice a year, mid-April and September (fall application reduces spring infestations)
- Apply baits when ants are foraging (toss a potato chip next to an active mound in the yard and check back in 15 minutes to see if ants are feeding)
- In hot weather, apply baits in evening when temperatures are cooler
- Use fresh bait—opened containers may last only a few months
- Share excess bait with a neighbor before it goes stale; it can help lengthen the time between infestations
- Avoid application before rain (at least 8 hours)
- Use insecticides only where recommended on the product label — for instance, do not use them in the vegetable garden unless specified
- Make sure to apply the proper amount of bait (many baits are applied 1-1.5 pounds per acre) and use a hand-held spreader set on the lowest setting. Walk in a criss-cross pattern for good coverage of the whole area
- DO NOT USE GASOLINE OR DIESEL FUEL TO TREAT MOUNDS

If you must use a pesticide...

- Use the least toxic pesticide first
- Read and follow label directions

Neighborhood Ant-Out!

Organize your neighbors to treat fire ants at the same time - you share the cost of the bait and control the pests rather than driving them from yard to yard. For more information about fire ant control visit: <http://fireant.tamu.edu>

If you have unwanted or banned chemicals (Dursban or Diazinon) in your garage, please take them for safe disposal to a household hazardous waste facility. For residents of Harris County please contact: (281) 560-6200
Harris County Hazardous Waste Facility
6900 Hahl Rd, Houston TX 77040

Did you know?...

Agriculture Laws

Landowner Liability Protection

Featuring:
Tiffany Dowell Lashmet
Extension Specialist - Agricultural Law

TEXAS A&M
AGRI LIFE
EXTENSION



Hosted by:
Fort Bend County Extension

Join us online September 9, 2020

Program: 9:00 AM – 10:30 AM

Via Zoom - All preregistered attendees will receive meeting details including the link to attend

Program Topic:

Online Pre-Registration ONLY
<https://liabilityprotection.eventbrite.com>

FREE TO ATTEND

5 Steps to
Landowner Liability Protection

For additional information, please contact Brandy Rader, Administrative Assistant ANR, by phone 281-342-3034 or by email brandy.rader@ag.tamu.edu

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 AgriLife. The Texas A&M University System, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the County Commissioners Courts of Texas Cooperating. Persons with disabilities who plan to attend this event and who may need auxiliary aids or services are required to contact Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service at 281.342.3034, five working days prior to the meeting so appropriate arrangements can be made.

New Texas hunting, fishing licenses on sale now

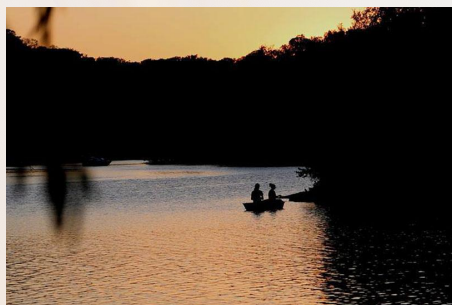
All current hunting and fishing licenses, except the year-from-purchase all-water license, expire at the end of August, and new licenses for 2020-2021 are on sale now.

[>> Click to read more](#)

Take a bite out of a Texas club

Join the club. The sandwich club, that is! Because August is National Sandwich Month. See how Texas farmers stack the flavors in each bite on Texas Table Top.

[>> Click to read more](#)





"So Many Classes So Little Time"...



September 01-02, 2020 - [Hemphill County Beef Conference](#)

September 01-03, 2020 - [Texas Groundwater Summit](#)

September 09, 2020 - [Texas Grass Gathering/Texas Gathering](#)

September 10, 2020 - [How to Submit a FY 20/21 RCPP Classic Proposal/RCPP Portal](#)

September 15-16, 2020 - [Cattle Raisers Convention and Expo](#)

September 15-18, 2020 - [Gulf Coast Land Conversation Conference](#)

September 16-17, 2020 - [Greater South Texas Conference for Women in Agriculture](#)

September 21-22, 2020 - [Texas Fruit Conference](#)

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[Harris County Extension](#)

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[Texas Department of Agriculture](#)

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For questions please contact us at:

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13105 Northwest Freeway, Suite 1000
Houston, TX 77040
(713) 274-0976

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 formation, veteran status, sexual orientation or gender identity and will strive to achieve full and equal employment opportunity throughout Texas A&M AgriLife. Individuals with disabilities who require an auxiliary aid, service, or accommodation in order to participate in this meeting are encouraged to contact the County Extension Office prior to the meeting to determine how reasonable accommodations can be made.