

Making A Difference

HARRIS COUNTY
QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

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TEXAS A&M
AGRILIFE
EXTENSION



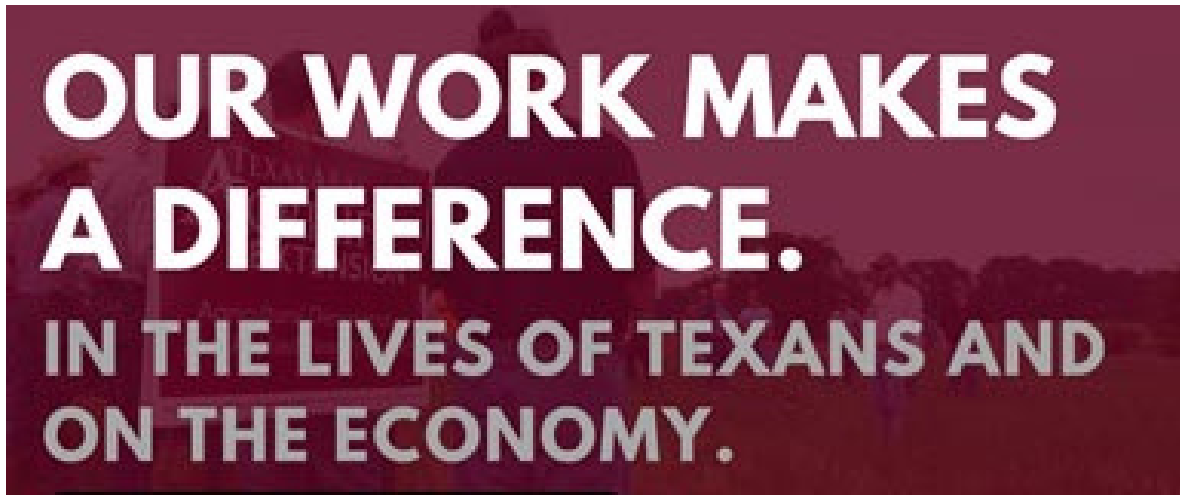
PRAIRIE VIEW
A&M UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE
AND HUMAN SCIENCES

Cooperative Extension Program



Extension Education in Harris County

Howdy and Welcome to Harris County!



MISSION STATEMENT:

“Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service works daily to make Texas better by providing innovative solutions at the intersection of agriculture, natural resources, youth, and health, thereby improving the well-being of individuals, families, businesses, and communities through education and service.”

VISION STATEMENT:

“Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service will be the leader in providing science-based information and solutions in agriculture and health to every Texan.”

SHARED VALUES:

“We value People, Programs, and Partnerships.”

LET'S TALK: A LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR



Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service - Harris County

Celebrating our Volunteers!

The beauty of volunteering is that people do it to help others. Many people start as community volunteers because they want to help those less fortunate than themselves. Once you start to help others, you instantly start seeing the benefits of volunteering in yourself and your life. These unexpected benefits include improving your emotional, social, and even physical health, not to mention your professional life. The benefits of volunteering are endless, so here are a few to start! Studies have shown that volunteer work is even more valuable than the work we do for monetary gain.

To directly engage with your community, start volunteering! When you volunteer, you not only build your community, but you build your social network and make countless valuable connections with new people as well. Many people create lifelong friendships with other people who volunteer. By volunteering and creating these meaningful, long-lasting relationships, you can combat any isolation or loneliness you may be experiencing socially as well.

Our team at Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service is proud of the work our volunteers provide to our communities in Harris County. Over the past year, our volunteers donated 12,875 hours of their time (\$327,411 in value) in support of our mission. It is evident that all volunteer work is valuable and makes a difference in the work that we do.

Respectfully,

David D. Wright
County Extension Director – Harris County
Urban Program Director
Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service



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WELCOME TO HARRIS COUNTY



STEPHEN SISLER

COUNTY EXTENSION AGENT - DISASTER
ASSESSMENT & RECOVERY

Stephen attended University of Kentucky where he graduated with a B.S. in Community Leadership & Development. Stephen is originally from Southern Ohio in the foothills of Appalachia. Before graduating from the University of Kentucky, he served in the United States Navy as a Seabee. Stephen is passionate about community development and volunteering. He enjoys traveling, looking for local activities, and hiking in his free time.



JASMINE CAREY

EXTENSION AGENT - BETTER LIVING FOR
TEXANS

Jasmine attended San Diego State University where she received her B.A. in Interdisciplinary Studies. She moved to Texas to attend Texas A&M University and receive her MPH in health promotion. For the past 2 years, Jasmine has worked with seniors to provide in home care and assisted with the COVID-19 response for the county. Jasmine is passionate about helping the community reach their optimal health.



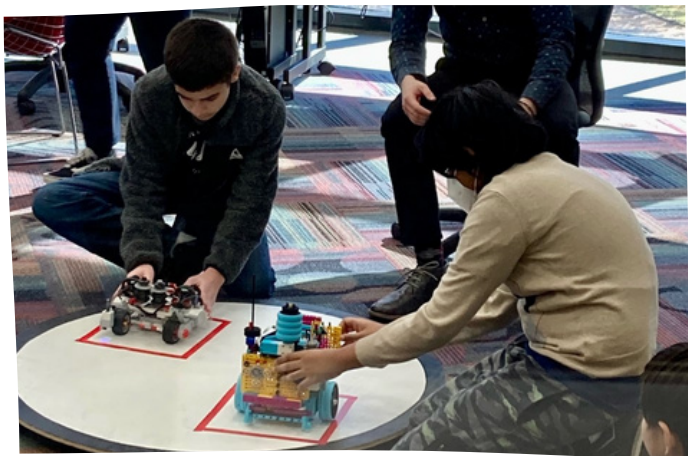
HATCHING IN THE CLASSROOM

by Jaden Kelly, Harris County 4-H & Youth Development Agent

Throughout February and early March of 2022, the Harris County 4-H department implemented the "Hatching in the Classroom" program with Davila Elementary School. This 5-week program provided an opportunity for youth in grades 3 – 5 to gain a heightened understanding of the chicken life cycle, embryology, egg anatomy, and careers relating to animal science.

Through hands on activities and experiments, the 142 participants improved their knowledge and confidence of these scientific topics that are essential in supporting our ever-growing county. Survey data from 99 participants showed significant increases in content knowledge, excitement toward the sciences, and a desire to have a career in science.

Thank you Davila Elementary for allowing Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Harris County to work with your young scholars who will become our future scientists and farmers!



Harris County 4-H Round-Up

by Zachary Giblin, Harris County Urban Youth Development Agent

Our Harris County 4-H Members started off the new year by preparing for and competing in the Harris County 4-H Round-Up, a two-weekend event where members compete in their project areas.

This year, we had 47 total participants in Public Speaking, Food Challenge, Food Show, Share the Fun, Consumer Decision Making, Fashion Show, Duds to Dazzle, Robotics, and Educational Presentation.

Next up, these 4-H members will be competing at the District level Contest April 23rd- April 30th!





Harris County 4-H

LIVESTOCK SHOWS

BY STEVEN FREDERICK, HARRIS COUNTY 4-H LIVESTOCK COORDINATOR



Kaylee Knowles - Humble 4-H



Becca Branch - La Porte 4-H



Jessica Donalson - Fairfield 4-H



Kacy Randall - Blue Ribbon 4-H



Grace Potter - Humble 4-H

Over the last three months, Harris County 4-H youth have traveled to participate in several major livestock shows in Texas. These shows included Fort Worth Stock Show and Rodeo, San Angelo Stock Show and Rodeo, San Antonio Livestock Show and Rodeo, Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo and Rodeo Austin. It was a record-breaking year with a total of 185 Harris County livestock families showing this year. Multiple youth had the opportunity to make the auction and gain scholarship money toward their next project or for future college funds. We would like to congratulate all youth who raised a livestock project this year through Harris County 4-H.

FAMILY AND COMMUNITY HEALTH

HEART HEALTH AWARENESS MONTH

BY SONJA DAVIS, HARRIS COUNTY FAMILY & COMMUNITY HEALTH AGENT

In recognition of February's Heart Health Month, Agent Davis and volunteers were busy implementing programs focused on Hypertension. Do Well Be Well with Hypertension 4-Week Series was conducted with Copperfield YMCA members and Cooking Well for Healthy Blood Pressure 3-Week Series was conducted at the Richard and Meg Weekley Community Center. Participants benefited from information on preventing and managing their blood pressure. A few topics discussed were identifying foods with high sodium levels (processed foods, canned goods and seasonings), healthy ways for preparing dishes and the DASH (Dietary Approaches to Stop Hypertension) Healthy Eating Plan. Healthy dishes were prepared weekly as part of the Cooking Well with Hypertension series. Some favorites were Salmon Patties and Zucchini Chocolate Chip Cookies.

To protect yourself from heart disease and other cardiovascular diseases, check your blood pressure, cholesterol and A1C; reduce sodium; eat more fruits and vegetables; be physically active; don't smoke; and manage stress. To learn more about these classes contact your Harris County Extension office.



HOUSTON LIVESTOCK SHOW & RODEO FOOD CHALLENGE

BY SONJA DAVIS, HARRIS COUNTY FAMILY & COMMUNITY HEALTH AGENT

Harris County Extension staff members and volunteers served as Asst. Superintendent, judges, and volunteers during the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo Food Challenge Contest for 4-H and FFA members.

Food Challenge is a team of up to 4 youth who are given an ingredient to prepare a dish in 40 minutes. They have \$5 (challenge bucks) to purchase other ingredients to complete the dish in 4 randomly assigned categories (appetizer, main dish, side dish or healthy dessert). Within the 40 minutes the team also must prepare a presentation for the judges to share their knowledge of MyPlate, food safety, vitamins, nutrients, and cost per serving. Teams are also judged while preparing the dish to ensure they are working cooperatively and practicing food safety.

To learn more about the 4-H Food & Nutrition Project, contact your Harris County Extension office.

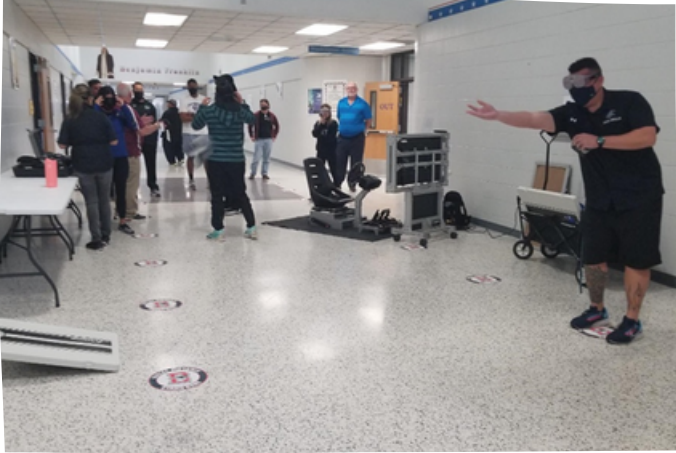
Watch UR BAC!

by Amanda Krippel, Harris County Family & Community Health Agent

On February 21st, Harris County FCH Agent Amanda Krippel and the Watch UR BAC team of Ben Smith and Nancy Winn conducted a one-hour Drug & Alcohol Awareness presentation to Pasadena ISD health teachers for their professional development and to further their knowledge of Extension Programs.

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service, through a grant from the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT), has a campaign, Watch UR BAC, to teach Texans about the dangers of alcohol and other drug misuse - including binge drinking, the understanding of alcohol poisoning as well as the dangers of impaired driving. The Watch UR BAC program is a free resource to Texas community groups, faith-based organizations, schools, and businesses.

All teachers tried out the marijuana goggles while others played the corn hole while “under the influence” and a few teachers experienced the driving simulators. Each teacher had a great learning experience and mentioned they will be booking a program for their students!



EXTENSION AGENT RECEIVES AWARD

Prairie View A&M Cooperative Extension Program
Family & Community Health Agent Alfredo
Alberto

Congratulations to Prairie View A&M Cooperative Extension Program Family & Community Health Agent Alfredo Alberto. Alfredo was recognized at the 2022 Circle of Excellence Criminal Justice Awards on Sunday, March 20, 2022. He received the Student Advocate Award for his contributions in helping foster the professional growth and achievements of students. The awards recognize individuals, public officials, organizations, celebrities, activists, and community leaders from across Texas whose exceptional efforts and outstanding service have led to positive changes in the criminal justice system.



**PRAIRIE VIEW
A&M UNIVERSITY**
COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE
AND HUMAN SCIENCES

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BETTER LIVING FOR TEXANS

TEXAS A&M AGRILIFE EXTENSION



Lora Jorgensen

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Kristina Brown

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Jasmine Carey

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Learn, Grow, Eat, & Go! Train-the-Trainer Event



The Harris County Better Living for Texans Agents, in partnership with Park Lakes Elementary School in Humble and The Woodlands Church, facilitated a Train-the-Trainer event for the Park Lakes Elementary faculty and Woodlands Church Volunteers who will be delivering the Learn, Grow, Eat, & Go! (LGEG) program, which begins on March 1st.

Kristina Brown and Lora Jorgensen delivered a 2-hour training session to the enthusiastic educators, which included hands on activities from the youth curriculum such as a vegetable tasting exercise using carrots, and a MyPlate meal drawing activity. The school selected 18 first grade youth who attend their afterschool program to be a part of this roll out of LGEG.

The garden beds were repaired and prepped for planting last fall with the help of volunteers, and the youth will be planting seasonal vegetables in them on week 4 of the series. The students will then have the opportunity to maintain and harvest the beds while they continue the program, concurrently learning about the importance of eating nutrient dense foods.



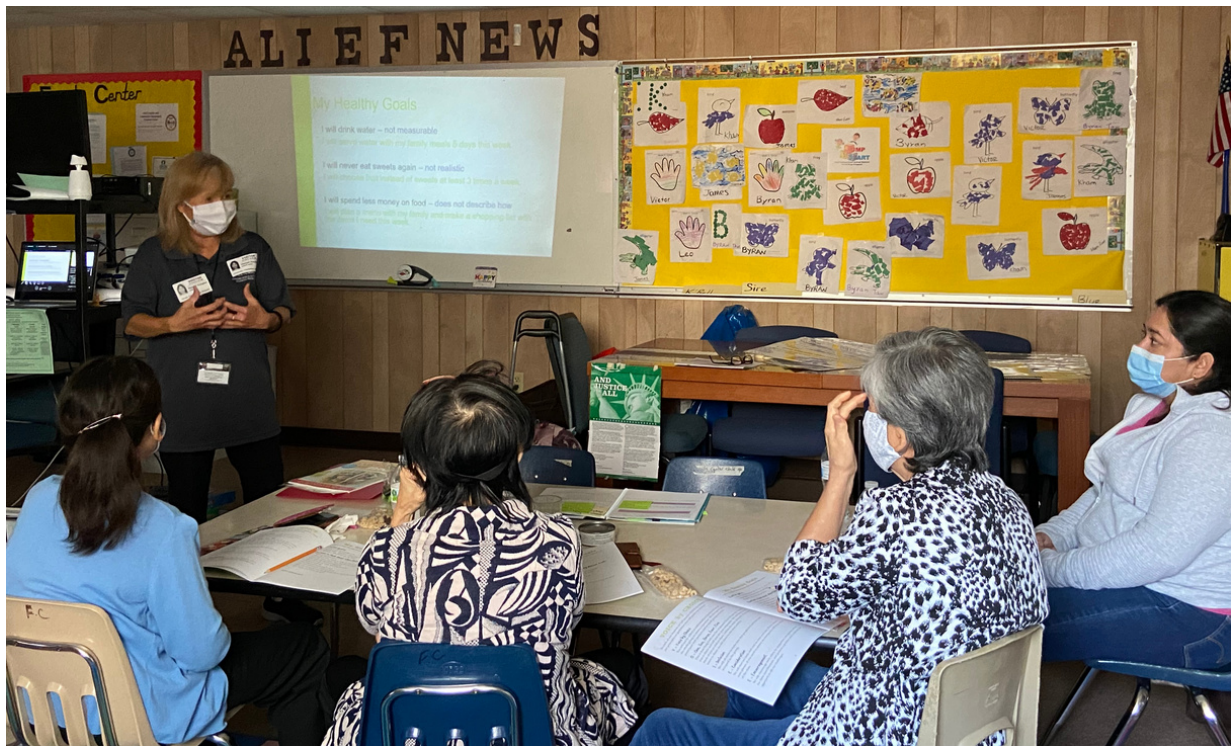
Diversity in EFNEP

by Harris County EFNEP Agent Khadija Ghaffar

EXPANDED FOOD AND NUTRITION EDUCATION PROGRAM

The Beauty of EFNEP are it's participants and their diversity! Our educators in Harris County are representative of the audiences we outreach. Our bilingual educators are our backbone, one such educator is Ms. Hannah Hungbui. She has been serving Harris County EFNEP for 35 years. Her ability to speak Vietnamese has connected her to the ever-increasing Vietnamese population in Harris County.

Ms. Hannah's notable partner organizations include beauty schools, churches, and family engagement centers at schools. She has worked with numerous participants at Alief ISD Family Engagement Centers. She works hard to make and keep connections with her partner organizations resulting in continued programming year after year.



Picture: Teaching a session to diverse audiences
at Chancellor Elementary - Alief ISD



Texas Master Gardener Program

Join us as we celebrate National Volunteer Month! Volunteerism helps create better communities. Texas Master Gardeners across the county are committed to providing education, performing outreach and serving, from community garden projects to demonstration workshops.




TEXAS
MASTER GARDENER
TEXAS A&M AGRILIFE EXTENSION

Harris County


2021 Impact Spotlight

*Extension Volunteers...
Thank You!*





200 VOLUNTEERS
Contributed hours toward horticulture education.



12,309 HOURS
Were completed in Harris County in education and community programs



\$351,299
Worth of volunteer labor was contributed by Harris County Master Gardeners.

For more information on Harris County Master Gardeners, visit hcmga.tamu.edu

VALUE OF VOLUNTEERS

For every \$1 Texas A&M Agrilife Extension Service in Harris County Invests in the Harris County Master Gardener Program, \$5.52 is Returned to the Community Through the Service of our Volunteers!

FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT:
[HTTPS://HCMGA.TAMU.EDU/](https://hcmga.tamu.edu/)





Spring Time with the Master Gardeners

by Lilianna Bauerlein, Harris County
Master Gardener Volunteer Coordinator

Harris County Master Gardeners supported the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo with an “Ask a Master Gardener Table” after a two-year hiatus due to Covid-19. Tucked between the honeybee, parakeet, and sunflower seed planting stations, volunteers were situated ideally for school groups and families. Each day, volunteers spoke with over 100 children and adults. The three-week total was over 4,000 individuals!

Master Gardeners gave tips on gardening techniques, answered questions about all things horticulture, provided informational handouts, and gave away free seeds to encourage new gardeners, both young and old.



In addition, Master Gardeners have been busy with plant sales. So far, they have had 4 successful, hybrid sales (over 1,500 plants sold) and have 3 more in April and May covering both the northwest (Richard and Meg Weekley park in Cypress) and southeast side of Harris County (Master Gardener Demonstration Garden Genoa Friendship Gardens.) Only the best performers for Harris County's heat and humidity are offered. Plant sales are the primary fundraisers for the year that support Texas A&M AgriLife Extension in its mission to bring relevant, research-based information about horticulture to the public. At every sale there are certified



Master Gardeners to answer plant related questions. Their knowledge and expertise help county residents make the perfect selection for the garden or home. For more information on the remaining online sales and Master Gardeners, visit hcmga.tamu.edu/shop/

Pest Management for Golf and Sport Turf Superintendents

BY PAUL WINSKI, HARRIS COUNTY HORTICULTURE AGENT

The Pest Management for Golf and Sport Turf Systems is a one-day educational session presented by Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service in partnership with the South Texas Chapter of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA).

Pest management is an on-going battle in both golf course and sport turf fields. Golf course superintendents and athletic field managers need to stay up to date on the latest technologies and practices to provide a quality product for their customers/clientele. This program focused on trainings and strategies to aid in pest control management and offered 5 pesticide applicator TDA CEUs. The workshop included the following topics:

- Turfgrass Weed Management and Identification
- Demystify Take-all Root Rot Disease in Warm Season Turfgrass
- IPM Strategies for Promoting Healthy Winter Turf and Rapid Spring Greenup
- Pesticide Laws & Regulations Update
- Mighty Mites & Irksome Insects

The workshop was attended by 67 superintendents and golf course pesticide applicators from Harris County and neighboring areas. From the completed surveys, 80% anticipate that their operations will benefit economically as a direct result from the information provided at the program. Attendees also responded on average that 64% of them increased their understanding of the topics that were presented.

The partnership between South Texas GCSAA and Harris County AgriLife Extension allows us to provide pertinent pest control practices to a significant sector of the green industry.



Dr. Young-Ki Jo presenting research information on take-all root rot.



Dr. Chrissie Segars teaching integrated pest management (IPM) practices for golf course implementation.

2022 VEGETATION MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE

by Shannon Dietz, Harris County Agriculture & Natural Resources Agent

On January 14th and 19th, the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension - Harris County Agriculture and Natural Resources (ANR) Committee hosted the annual Vegetation Management Conference for current Texas Department of Agriculture private and non-commercial pesticide license holders. This annual event has been provided to the people of Harris County for over 20 years as an educational program.

The two host sites for this year's conferences were the Baytown Community Center and the Harris County Precinct 4 Service Center located in Tomball. The program attracted over 200 attendees from various businesses around Harris County, including Harris County and City of Houston employees. This program allows individuals to receive research-based information from AgriLife Extension and industry experts at a cost savings compared to other providers.

Speakers for this year covered the following topics: Feral Hog Management and Control Practices, Category 3a and Category 5 Requirements, Common Insects of Trees and Landscapes, Pesticide Laws & Regulations and Pesticide Policy Updates. A total of 5 continuing education units were provided to those in attendance.

Surveys of all attendees were conducted at the end of each workshop to gauge pre and post knowledge as well as to gather demographic information for reporting purposes. Harris County ANR committee members were on hand both days to volunteer at the event, checking in attendees, helping set up and take down, and distribute information provided by the speakers.

Thanks to Harris County Precinct 4 Commissioner R. Jack Cagle, Precinct 4's Assistant Director of Community Outreach Landon Reed, the staff at the Baytown Community Center, and the City of Baytown for all their assistance and help with being great hosts for our groups.



Baytown Community Center



Harris County Precinct 4 Service Center



L to R, ANR Committee Member Eugene Hinze, Harris County Precinct 4 Commissioner R. Jack Cagle, Harris County Precinct 4 Assistant Director of Community Outreach Landon Reed

UPCOMING EVENTS

Click on listings for more information.

Home Grown Lecture Series –
Home Butcher: Making Boudin
May 05 @ 10:00 am - 11:00 pm
Online/Microsoft Teams

[Click to Register Here](#)

2022 Texas Landowner Program
Educational Series
Starts May 23 @ 1:00 pm
Harris County Extension Office
13105 Northwest Fwy.
Houston, TX 77040

<https://txlandownerseries.eventbrite.com/>

2022 Private Pesticide Applicator
License Training
May 9 @ 1:00 pm - 5:00 pm
Harris County Extension Office
13105 Northwest Fwy.
Houston, TX 77040

<https://may2022pest.eventbrite.com/>

Home Grown Lecture Series – 10 Reasons
for Yellowing Leaves
June 02 @ 10:00 am - 11:00 am
Online/Microsoft Teams
[Click to Register Here](#)

Harris County Master Gardener
Perennial & Herb Sale
May 14 & 16 @ 9:00 am - 12:00 pm
HCMGA Demonstration Gardens
1202 Genoa Red Bluff Rd.
Houston, TX 77034

<https://hcmga.tamu.edu/plant-sales/>

Home Grown Lecture Series – Identifying
Pest & Disease Issues in the Garden
July 07 @ 10:00 am - 11:00 am
Online/Microsoft Teams
[Click to Register Here](#)

We provide programs, tools, and resources -local & statewide- that teach people how to improve agriculture and food production, advance health practices, protect the environment, strengthen our communities, and enrich youth.

IN COOPERATION WITH ...

Lina Hidalgo,
Rodney Ellis,
Adrian Garcia,
Tom S. Ramsey,
R. Jack Cagle,

Harris County Judge
Commissioner, Precinct 1
Commissioner, Precinct 2
Commissioner, Precinct 3
Commissioner, Precinct 4

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TEXAS A&M AGRILIFE EXTENSION SERVICE

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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..

TEXAS A&M AGRI LIFE EXTENSION



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[@HarrisCountyANR](#)

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