



Contact Your County Extension Service



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We are pleased to provide you with the information contained in this report. Current educational information is supported by Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service.

Included in this report are monthly updates from our different departments; 4-H & Youth Development, Agriculture & Natural Resources, Better Living for Texans, Family & Community Health, and Horticulture.

If you are interested in participating in any of the mentioned AgriLife Extension educational programs throughout the year, please feel welcome to do so.

All Extension programs are sponsored by AgriLife program area committees for anyone's educational benefit. We would like to acknowledge the Extension volunteer base, Extension Specialists, and cooperators who contributed to the planning of all educational information compiled in this educational newsletter.

AGRICULTURE & NATURAL RESOURCES

Zach Davis, Agriculture & Natural Resources Extension Agent

Our agent, Zach Davis, has been working hard to prepare for the upcoming spring and summer months, where we offer several events to connect with and educate our community. Below is a look at a few of the events we will be taking part in hosting in the upcoming seasons. For more information on upcoming events, check our website regularly for updates.

Northeast Texas Small Acreage and New Landowner CONFERENCE



Friday, May 31
8 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Farmersville Campus
 501 S. Collin Parkway, Farmersville, TX 75442

Whether you are a new landowner or a small landowner who wants to discover the latest agriculture techniques, you can find what you are looking for at this conference. Enjoy presentation tracks for beginning landowners and in-depth topics on land management, livestock, and specialty crop management. Join us for an industry trade show and learn from experts on topics including:

- Landowner 101/Land Trends
- Ag/Wildlife Valuation
- USDA FSA Funding
- Pest Management
- TAHC Livestock Traceability
- Regenerative Grazing Practices
- Earth Kind Soil Mgmt
- Hydroponics/GH Crops
- Infrastructure
- Cottage Food Law
- Animal Health

Pesticide Applicator License holders who register and attend the Continuing Education Unit (CEU) sessions can earn up to four CEUs.

Registration deadline: May 17
Cost: \$40 per person

Scan or [click here](#) to register.



For more registration information, contact the Denton County Extension Office at 940.349.2882



PRIVATE PESTICIDE APPLICATOR TRAINING

April 18th, 2024

1 PM - 5 PM
611 KIMBERLY DR,
Suite #151
DENTON TX 76201
Room 135

Cost of training is **\$60** all materials will be provided



• This three and a half-hour training will give participants the needed information to take the Private Applicator License test, which will be administered by the Texas Department of Agriculture.

• You are encouraged to participate if you need a Private Pesticide Applicator License. The Private Pesticide Applicator License is for agricultural producers and land owners who apply restricted use pesticides to their property.



Contact: Lauren Herrera @ 940.349.2894 OR LAUREN.HERRERA@DENTONCOUNTY.GOV

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS OF THE TEXAS A&M AGRILIFE EXTENSION SERVICE ARE OPEN TO ALL PEOPLE WITHOUT REGARD TO RACE, COLOR, ETHNICITY, SEX, NATIONAL ORIGIN, AGE, DISABILITY, SERVICE INFORMATION, OR RESIDENT STATUS. THE TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY SYSTEM, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURTS OF TEXAS COOPERATE. PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES REQUESTING ACCOMMODATIONS FOR EDUCATIONAL PARTICIPATION IN THE MEETING SHOULD CONTACT DENTON COUNTY AGRILIFE EXTENSION OFFICE BY LEAST A WEEK IN ADVANCE OF THE MEETING TO MAKE ARRANGEMENTS. VISUAL HEARING OR OTHER ASSISTANCES.

4-H & YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

Steven Baringer, 4-H and Youth Development Extension Agent

The Denton County Youth Fair was a resounding success this year, with 68 enthusiastic members from the Denton County 4-H program participating. The event showcased the hard work, dedication, and talent of these young individuals across various agricultural and homemaking projects. From livestock shows to creative arts and crafts, participants demonstrated their skills and knowledge in their respective areas. The fair provided an excellent platform for them to learn, compete, and interact with peers and mentors.

Overall, it was a rewarding experience for all involved, highlighting the vibrant agricultural community and the future leaders it fosters within Denton County. Denton County 4-H members were amongst the best of the best, receiving many top honors. Pictured below are a few of our 4-H members showcasing their banners and buckles that they brought home!



Our 4-H members proudly presenting their many awards at the Denton County Youth Fair!

BETTER LIVING FOR TEXANS

Dusty Fife, Better Living for Texans Extension Agent

March was another successful month for our Better Living for Texans (BLT) Agent, Dusty Fife. Participants continued flourishing alongside the plants they planted in the Growing and Nourishing Healthy Communities Garden (GNHC) course at the Little Elm Library. Course offerings cover garden site location, soil, mulching and composting, raised beds and container gardening, maintaining your garden, diseases and insects, and crop harvesting. The class was held over six weeks and was a hit resulting in 14 program graduates. Likewise, Fife had an impressive showing at the Little Elm Senior Center last week when she started her second GNHC garden series.

As temperatures warmed up, two new Walk N Talks (WNT) series were launched. One was held at Central Park in Lewisville in partnership with the Lewisville Public Library. The other WNT is through the Pilot Point Library and has 18 participants walking together as a team to walk the distance across Texas (832 miles) over an eight-week period. Each week, Dusty leads participants on a 30-minute walk, followed by a 20-minute discussion about a specific fruit or vegetable. Participants then get to try that produce in a new, healthy recipe.

Another program called Walk Across Texas (WAT) was started last month with Ann Windle School for the Young. Agent Fife and Program Assistant Gina Steiner had the privilege of celebrating the 300 kids as they hit the midway point in their WAT program. We had six groups of 50 kids that we exercised and danced with for 20 minutes. Their principal, Dr. Chris Rangel, reported the staff, students, and families had already logged more than 4000 miles with four weeks remaining. We are incredibly proud of their progress and cannot wait to see how many miles they end up walking.

Our dedicated BLT Agent, Dusty Fife, continued making positive impacts in Denton County with relevant programs that promoted community involvement and fostered a sense of camaraderie among participants. The impact of these programs is evident in the participation and progress reported.



Agent Dusty Fife with participants at the Growing and Nourishing Healthy Communities Garden. We enjoyed connecting with the community at the Little Elm Senior Center!

FAMILY & COMMUNITY HEALTH

Chandani Kothari, Family and Community Health Extension Agent

March is not just a National Nutrition Month but also an Extension Living Well Month. Denton County Commissioners Court signed the proclamation, and it was with great honor that I presented the programs and initiatives we offer to improve the health and wellness of our residents.

We also wrapped up A Matter of Balance at THRIVE, Lewisville. Master Wellness Volunteer Lyn Ray has been instrumental in delivering this evidence-based program to improve the quality of life of the seniors in our county.

Lynda Harvey, a longtime volunteer, LAB member, and supporter of AgriLife accompanied me to the resource fair organized by Public Library Administrators of North Texas. We were able to provide a brief overview of all the outreach and educational opportunities that we offer to representatives from several city libraries from the DFW Metroplex.

I also visited 2nd,3rd, and 5th graders at Cross Oaks Elementary School during their College and Career Fair week. They learned about Texas A&M AgriLife Extension and how they can become future Extension Agents in one of the 250 county offices.



HORTICULTURE

2024 Garden Tour Preview
May 11, 2024

Flower Mound, Double Oak = Four Gardens + One Community Garden

Possum Creek is a garden on a 1.25-acre lot with mature oaks, elms, and cedars. During heavy rains, water flows through the creek beds and an adjacent neighborhood on its way to Grapevine Lake. From the beginning, water flows through the property and the need for erosion control has influenced the garden design. Creek beds with river rock and boulders are used extensively with French drains. The primary educational focus at Possum Creek is erosion control and drainage.

The garden has many personalities - manicured beds, native beds, natural areas, and recreational spaces: pool, basketball court, and turf areas for sports. Appropriate plant choices aid in the area of erosion control. Some of the owner's favorites are Dwarf Hortsman Blue Atlas Cedar, Rising Sun Redbud, Golden Spirit Smoke Tree, and Rostrata Yucca. Plants are chosen that are drought tolerant and some that thrive in shade



Keyhole Gardening, Mushrooms/Mycology, Erosion Control/Drainage, Drought-Tolerant Shade Plants, Designed within an HOA, Oak Trees, Native Plant Ecosystems, Pollinators, and Wildlife. Our Annual Garden Tour has it all.

Purchase tickets at <https://www.dcmga.com/connect/annual-garden-tour/>

UPCOMING EVENTS



April 11

Walk N Talk

at Thrive Recreation Center in Lewisville

11 a.m. to 12 p.m.

May 4

Denton County Master Gardeners Plant Sale

at Trinity United Methodist Church in Denton

9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

May 11

Garden Tour 2024

9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

June 15

Fruit, Vegetables, Herb & Flowers Show

at North Texas State Fair Grounds

9 a.m. to 1 p.m.



For more information on these programs go to
<https://denton.agrilife.org/>