

Reference Guide for Wilson County Landowners

This document is meant to help guide new landowners towards topics, concepts, and information that are pertinent to new landowners in Wilson County, Texas. While we make every effort to be thorough and cover all pertinent topics, this document is not meant to cover every publication over all topics. Rather, we hope that this guide will be a starting point for gathering information, and where to go with any questions.



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Information and Funding Resources in Wilson County

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension - Wilson County

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension has offices that cover all 254 counties in Texas, and provides relevant, research-based information to landowners and residents across the state. In Wilson County, our office provides educational programs on a variety of topics covering 4-H, family and community health, and agriculture & natural resources.

Website: <https://agriflifeextension.tamu.edu/counties/wilson-county/>

Phone: (830) 393-7357

Address: 1420 3rd Street, Suite 300, Floresville, Texas 78114

Texas A&M Forest Service

The Texas A&M Forest Service is responsible for conserving and protecting the resources and lands of Texas. They help property owners maintain forests and natural resources for the future and are one of the lead wildfire agencies in the State. They offer funding, technical guidance, and information for landowners across Texas.

Website: <https://tfsweb.tamu.edu/>

Funding Programs: <https://tfsweb.tamu.edu/landownerassistance/Stewardship/>

Plan my Land Webtool: <http://tfsfrd.tamu.edu/planmylandoperation/About.html>

Forestry & Land Management Contacts:

<https://tfsweb.tamu.edu/directory/?county=Wilson&programArea=Forestry+and+Land+Management>

Wilson County Soil and Water Conservation District

The Wilson County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD #301) is a subdivision of the State dedicated to combating soil and water erosion to improve water quality and quantity.

Website: <https://tsswcb.texas.gov/swcnds/301>

Funding Opportunities: <https://www.tsswcb.texas.gov/programs/water-quality-management-plan>

Phone: 830-393-3555

Address: 108 Veterans Dr, Ste B. Floresville, Texas 78114

US Department of Agriculture

Farm Service Agency (FSA)

The Farm Service Agency works to provide farmers, ranchers, and landowners access to technical assistance, funding, and programs to improve their operations. Their programs include low-interest loans, commodity price support, disaster assistance, and conservation incentives.

These programs are available to all eligible producers, including beginning or underserved farmers and ranchers, veterans, and other groups in the county.

Website: <https://www.fsa.usda.gov/state-offices/Texas/index>

Phone: (830) 393-3411 Ext 2

Address: 108 Veterans Drive, Floresville, TX 78114

Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

The NRCS works with landowners to improve and protect soil, water, and other natural resources. Their specialists partner with landowners to provide technical assistance and implement conservation programs to reduce erosion, improve water quality, and promote sustainable agriculture. They do this through a variety of programs.

Website: <https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/site/tx/home/>

Funding Opportunities: <https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/contact/find-a-service-center?state=48&county=493>

Phone: 830-393-3555

Address: 108 Veterans Drive, Floresville, TX 78114

Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA)

The Texas Department of Agriculture is responsible for managing pesticide licenses, supporting Texas agriculture, and has grand and loan programs for new and established farms and ranches. Their offices are regional, and the nearest one to Wilson County is in San Antonio.

Website: <http://www.texasagriculture.gov>

Funding Opportunities:

<http://www.texasagriculture.gov/GrantsServices/GrantsandServices.aspx>

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD)

Texas Parks and Wildlife provides a number of services in Wilson County. Aside from their law enforcement functions, they have landowner assistance programs that help private landowners implement Wildlife Management Plans, conduct prescribed fire, and other habitat management operations. They also have grants and other funding that may be applied for if the landowner qualifies. To find the relevant personnel for Wilson County, please follow the web link below.

Website: <https://tpwd.texas.gov/landwater/habitat-management/find-a-wildlife-biologist/wilson/>

Wilson County Appraisal District

The WCAD is the agency responsible for determining property values and qualifications for the 1-D-1 Open Space Valuation (aka: the Ag Exemption). They make the final determinations for agricultural intensity of use and qualifying activities.

Website: <https://wilson-cad.org/>

Phone: (830) 393-3065

Address: 1611 Railroad Street, Floresville, TX 78114

Publications and Topics of Interest on Property Management

Purchasing a tract of land, regardless of size, is making a commitment to being a good steward of your property. This section will provide free, publicly available literature recommendations to help improve your understanding on topics you may be interested in. This is not an exhaustive list of every publication or topic, but is rather a list of publications that target common questions and agricultural operations for the county.

Soil

Soil Properties and Quality

[E-534 - Testing Your Soil; How to Collect and Send Samples](#)

[Soil Moisture Management](#)

[Managing Soil Salinity](#)

Soil Conservation

[Soil and Vegetation Management: Keys to Water Conservation on Rangeland](#)

[Know Your Texas Soils](#)

Water

[Texas Watershed Steward Handbook - For Purchase](#)

[Rainwater Harvesting](#)

[Keep Pesticides out of Texas Water Supplies](#)

Wells and drinking water

[Texas Well Owner Network: Well Owner's Guide to Water Supply](#)

[Texas Commission on Environmental Quality Publication GI-432 - Disinfecting Your Private Well](#)

[Texas Commission on Environmental Quality Publication GI-433 - How to Sample Your Private Well Water](#)

Wastewater and Septic Systems

[On-Site Water Treatment Systems: Homeowner's Guide to Evaluating Service Contracts](#)

[On-Site Water Treatment Systems: Operation and Maintenance](#)

Ponds and Pond Management

[Texas Farm Pond Management Calendar](#)

[Aquatic Herbicide Selection Tables](#)

[My Fish are Dying](#)

[A Landowner's Guide - Aquatic Site Visits](#)

Vegetation

Pasture Management

[Forage Species for Texas \(course for purchase\)](#)

[Forage Bermudagrass - Selection, Establishment, and Management](#)

[Warm Season Annual Forage Grasses for Texas](#)

[Cool Season Annual Grasses](#)

[Hay Production in Texas](#)

[Forages for Beef Cattle](#)

[Restoring Native Grasslands](#)

[Reading the Landscape to Sustainably Manage Livestock & Wildlife](#)

Brush and Weed Control

[Weed Identification - Using the Plant as a Key](#)

[Brush Control for Small Acreages](#)

[Weed Control in Pastures and Forages](#)

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension has a great website for their **Brush Busters** program: <https://texnat.tamu.edu/about/brush-busters/>. *This resource covers a multitude of methods to control brush and other noxious species of plants.*

Farming

[High Tunnels for Crop Production in Texas](#)
[Cost of Constructing a Metal Hoop High Tunnel](#)
[Installing a Subsurface Drip Irrigation System for Row Crops](#)
[Soil Solarization](#)

Livestock

[Choosing Livestock Operations and Stocking Rates](#)
[Livestock for Small Acreage Landowners](#)
[Stocking Rate Decisions](#)

Livestock Management, Nutrition, and Health

Cattle

[Buying vs Raising Replacement Heifers](#)
[Recognizing and Managing Common Health Problems for Beef Cattle](#)
[Managing External Parasites of Texas Cattle](#)
[Drought Management for Texans: Livestock](#)
[Seven Management Techniques That Move Cow-Calf Producers Toward Profitability](#)

Sheep & Goats

[Monitoring Internal Parasite Infection in Small Ruminants](#)
[Biosecurity for Sheep and Goat Producers](#)

Horses

[Nutrition and Feeding Management of Broodmares](#)
[Forage Evaluation for Horses](#)
[Best Management Practices for Equine Disease Prevention](#)
[Selection and Use of Hay and Processed Roughage in Horse Feeding](#)
[Mature, Senior, and Geriatric Horses: Management, Care, and Use](#)
[Horse Theft Awareness and Prevention](#)

Poultry

[Poultry Pest Management](#)
[Common External Parasites in Backyard Poultry](#)
[The Small Laying Flock](#)

Swine

[Artificial Insemination in Swine](#)
[Biosecurity for Swine Producers](#)

Beekeeping

[Purchasing & Installing Bees](#)

[Honey Bee Hives - General Maintenance](#)

[Creating a Pollinator Garden](#)

Wildlife

[Texas Comptroller - Guidelines for Qualification of Agricultural Land in Wildlife Management Use](#)

[TPWD -Agricultural Tax Appraisal Based on Wildlife Management](#)

The Wildlife and Fisheries Science Department at Texas A&M have a great website with information on wildlife management at <https://wildlife.tamu.edu/new-landowners/>

Feral Hogs

[AgriLife Extension Feral Hogs Website: https://feralhogs.tamu.edu/](https://feralhogs.tamu.edu/)

Ranch Maintenance and Operations

Infrastructure, Fences, and Structures

[Five Strands: A Landowner's Guide to Fence Laws in Texas](#)

Operating a farm/ranch business

[Business Entity Planning](#)

[Strategic Planning for Landowners](#)

[Basic Business Structures](#)

[Business Plans for Agricultural Producers](#)

[Limited Liability Companies and Corporate Business Structures](#)

[Developing a Marketing Plan](#)

The Agricultural Economics Department with AgriLife Extension maintains a website with a number of helpful tools ranging from crop profitability analyzers to budget sheets. Website: <https://agecoext.tamu.edu/>

Property Taxes

[E256 - Texas Property Taxes](#)

[E-584 - Understanding Texas Taxes](#)

[E-143 - Agriculture Taxes in Texas](#)