

>>> AGRICULTURE NEWS <<<

August 2025



TOP NEWS OF THE MONTH

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Attracting wildlife to your property starts with providing water.

ATTRACTING WILDLIFE

POND OWNER SURVEY

>>> **PAGE 3**

Participate in a survey for current pond management practices.

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That's a wrap! 2024-2025 Feral Hog Abatement program has concluded.

FERAL HOG ABATEMENT

UPCOMING EVENTS

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Habitat at Home, Water Well Screening, Bennet Trust Women's Conference, Generation Next.



Attracting Wildlife

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One of the most effective ways to bring more wildlife to your property is also one of the most overlooked: providing water.

Birds, small mammals like rabbits and raccoons, and even white-tailed deer all depend on reliable water sources, especially during hot, dry months. Even if your land already offers food and cover, adding a clean, consistent water source can significantly increase wildlife activity.

Here are a few ideas to get started:

- Birdbaths and shallow trays work well for songbirds and smaller critters. Add stones or sticks so they can perch safely.
- Small troughs or modified tanks can attract deer and larger mammals. Just be sure to install escape ramps for any smaller animals that might fall in.
- Rainwater collection setups, like wildlife guzzlers, are low-maintenance ways to offer water even in more remote areas.
- Drip systems or slow bubblers help reduce mosquito breeding while keeping water fresh.

Water also encourages more diverse and frequent wildlife visits, turning your property into a key part of their habitat, even if you don't have hundreds of acres.

Want to learn what species you can realistically attract and support on your property and how to do it right?

Join us for the Habitat at Home workshop on Wednesday, September 24 at the Blanco County Fairgrounds, 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. See [page 5](#) for more details.

INPUT NEEDED

Closes
September 30th

POND MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension is gathering feedback from **private pond owners** and managers in **Texas** to better understand current practices, challenges, and information needs. Your participation **will help guide** the development of future **Extension resources** and educational materials aimed at supporting productive pond systems throughout the state.

This student-led research study invites adults (18+) who own or manage ponds in Texas to share their insights. The survey includes approximately **25 questions** and should take between **15-30 minutes** to complete. Participation is completely voluntary, and you may skip any question or exit the survey at any time without penalty. No personal information will be collected, although you may optionally provide your ZIP code for geographic analysis. All responses will remain confidential.

To complete this survey, please visit the link below or scan the QR code.

<https://tx.ag/PondSurvey>

If you have questions, contact Dr. Beth Silvy at bsilvy@tamu.edu



Feral Hog Abatement Program

Thanks to the support of Blanco County, \$10,000 was allocated to help landowners reduce the impact of feral hogs on our local landscapes. We are excited to share that all funds have now been distributed to participants who actively engaged in hog control efforts. A recent survey of program participants revealed that 11 respondents collectively represented over 18,000 acres. On average, feral hogs were affecting 22% of their property, highlighting the widespread nature of the problem across our county.

Thank you to everyone who took part in this round of the program! Your efforts are making a difference in managing this invasive species. We're looking forward to launching the next round of the program soon, stay tuned for details on how to get involved.



\$35

Early Registration
(ends 9/12/25)

\$45

Regular Registration

Habitat at Home

Bringing wildlife habitat and native
landscapes to your home and land

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Johnson City, TX

September 24, 2025

8am-3pm

Venue & Address:

Blanco County Fairgrounds
619 Hwy 281, Johnson City, TX 78636

Program Agenda

8-8:30am	Registration
8:30-9am	Welcome & Introduction to Wildlife Management
9-10am	Land Resource Inventory and Habitat Suitability Assessment
10-10:15am	Break
10:15-11am	Species at Scales: What Wildlife Can You Manage on Your Size Property?
11-11:45am	Managing Wildlife Habitat Within Land-Use Restrictions
11:45-12:15pm	Lunch (provided with registration)
12:15-1pm	Choosing Scale-Appropriate Wildlife Management Practices
1-2:30pm	Building Wildlife Management Plans
2:30-3pm	Building Communities of Conservation

Agenda and presentation titles subject to change

Information:

This program is designed to walk homeowners and landowners through the process of implementing wildlife habitats for properties of various sizes. From the home pollinator garden to homesteads and rural working lands, this series will focus on identifying which species can be appropriately managed on your property, implementing habitat management in urban/rural areas, and building a wildlife management plan.

Lunch and all course materials provided with registration

Register Online



<https://tx.ag/2025habitatathome/>

Questions about the program should be sent to chase.brooke@ag.tamu.edu. Partial refunds can be requested up to 7 days from the start of the program.

The Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service provides equal opportunities in its programs and employment to all persons, regardless of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, disability, age, genetic information, veteran status, sexual orientation, or gender identity. The Texas A&M University System, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the County Commissioners Courts of Texas.



Water Well Screening

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TEXAS WELL OWNER NETWORK

RESOURCES HELP LANDOWNERS PROTECT GROUNDWATER



The “Well Informed” Texas Well Owner Network (TWON) program is an educational program that gives well owners the opportunity to have their well water samples screened for common contaminants including total coliform bacteria, E. coli bacteria, nitrates and high salinity. The screening of the water samples is followed by a 1-hour explanation of the results, water well protection practices and focuses on wellhead protection and recommendations for remediating well contamination.

Well Informed Screening - October 6 & 7

Blanco AgriLife Extension Office: 200 N. Ave. G, Suite 7, Johnson City

- Samples should be collected in a new, unused 12-20 ounce water bottle
- Sample drop-off 8:30a.m. — 11:00a.m. Monday, October 6th at above location

(visit twon.tamu.edu for a printable version of collection instructions and sample information sheet)

Results & Interpretation meeting:

Tuesday, October 7th @ 9:00 a.m.
Community Resource Center
206 S Highway 281, Johnson City

The cost of each sample is \$15

Cash or check only

For more information, call or email Joel Pigg: 979-321-5946 | j-pigg@tamu.edu

TEXAS A&M
AGRI LIFE
EXTENSION

TEXAS STATE
Soil & Water
CONSERVATION BOARD


Texas Water
Resources Institute
make every drop count


RCAP
www.rcap.org

T W O N
T E X A S
Well Owner
NETWORK

Funding for the Texas Well Owner Network is through a Clean Water Act Section 319(h) nonpoint source grant provided by the Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. The project is managed by the Texas Water Resources Institute, part of Texas A&M AgriLife Research, AgriLife Extension and the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences at Texas A&M University.

Become a Master Gardener!



TEXAS A&M
AGRILIFE
EXTENSION

Join the Blanco County Master Gardeners!

We're looking for individuals:

- ✿ Passionate about plants & ecosystem
- ✿ Eager to share that passion and knowledge with the community

The Blanco County Master Gardener Intern Class offers comprehensive training in horticulture, empowering you to educate your community!

Topics include:

Botany
Soils
Trees
Diseases
Propagation
Vegetables & Herbs
Rainwater Collection
and More!



Information session:

October 9th 5:30 p.m.

Blanco County Community
Resource Center

206 US-281, Johnson City, TX
78636

Class will run

January - May

Online & in-person

Visit our [website](#) to learn more!





Live Webinar

Live Every Tuesday

12:15 - 1:00 PM

August 2025

Aug 5 - Soil Testing

Aug 12 - Plants of the hill country

Aug 19 - Preparing Go-Bags

Aug 26 - New World Screwworm



Available on Living in the Texas Hill
Country [Facebook](#) page and [Spotify](#).

Generation Next: Our Turn to Ranch Online Ag Business Start-up School



The **Generation Next** curriculum targets new landowners, those inheriting land, or those looking to start a new agricultural operation on an existing ranch. It is taught as an online school where participants will work towards developing a business plan with plenty of support from professionals who specialize in each field and topic.

Course Includes: 12 online classes of expert instruction with a complete business plan by the end of the course, and a Generation Next t-shirt and certificate.

Topics covered:

- How to start an agricultural business
- Understanding business taxes
- Insurance needs for your ranch
- Tracking your finances
- Evaluating your land resources
- How to set up grazing and wildlife management leases
- Basic ranch laws – fencing, water, etc.
- Land management techniques
- Alternative operations & direct marketing
- Setting goals with measurable objectives for success

[Read what graduates are saying about the course!](#)

NEXT ONLINE CLASS: AUG. 25 - NOV. 16, 2025

The course will require approximately

2 hours of your time (at any time!) per week, for 12 weeks. You only need access to a computer with internet capabilities.

For more information contact:

Dr. Megan Clayton

megan.clayton@ag.tamu.edu

830-988-6123

generationnext.tamu.edu

Registration Fee: \$300

Enrollment is limited to the first 100 people who register.

Registration Link:

[Generation Next: Our Turn to Ranch - Fall 2025 | Courses | AgriLife Learn \(tamu.edu\)](#)



Bennett Trust Women's Land Stewardship Conference

Preserving the Edwards Plateau
through land stewardship.

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Calling all women passionate about land stewardship! You're invited to the "Women Rising for Land Stewardship" Bennett Trust Women's Conference, presented by Texas A&M AgriLife Extension and the Bennett Trust.

Dates: October 6-7, 2025

Location: Inn on Barons Creek, 308 S. Washington Street, Fredericksburg

This conference is designed to equip you with valuable knowledge and practical strategies for managing your land effectively. Day 1 is packed with insightful presentations:

- Keynote Speaker: Rick Machen
- Pasture Management & Stocking Rate: Morgan Treadwell
- Rainwater Harvesting: Billy Kniffen
- Ag Laws for Texas Landowners: Tiffany Dowell Lashmet
- Texas Well Owner Network: Joel Pigg
- New Approaches on the Family Farm: Jessi Schur
- Basic Horses: Jennifer Zoller

...and more! Plus, enjoy a social and dinner to connect with fellow landowners

[Register Here](#)

**OUR WORK MAKES
A DIFFERENCE.
IN THE LIVES OF TEXANS AND
ON THE ECONOMY.**

TEXAS A&M AGRI LIFE EXTENSION



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