

# >>> AGRICULTURE NEWS <<<

July 2025



## TOP NEWS OF THE MONTH

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### DISASTER PREP

Prepare for emergencies for your family and livestock.

### PASTURE & RANGELAND

>>> **PAGE 3-4**

Extreme rainfall after drought can lead to a hidden problem, and understanding grassland decline in a drying world.

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### MASTER GARDENER

Grow with us- become a Blanco County Master Gardener!

### UPCOMING EVENTS

>>> **PAGE 6-11**

5hr CEU & land management, wildlife, stewardship, Bennet Trust Women's Conference, Beef Cattle Short Course



# Preparing for Disaster

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We've been talking a lot about drought lately, and while recent weather has brought some much needed moisture, our hearts go out to those affected by this latest disaster.

The go-kit information below was originally shared in our March newsletter during wildfire season, but it's worth revisiting as a reminder to stay prepared for any emergency, including floods.

Texas A&M Forest Service offers excellent resources on disaster preparedness, especially if you have children or livestock. Their site includes checklists for evacuation go-kits, tips for preparing animals, and advice on how to talk to kids about emergencies.



# NITRATE LEACHING

## AFTER DROUGHT & EXTREME RAINFALL

Certain extreme weather events may synergize and result in nitrate-contaminated groundwater.

**HERE IS HOW IT HAPPENS!**



STAY UP TO  
DATE BY  
SCANNING  
OUR QR CODE!

①

Heavy winter rain after a summer drought

Excess nitrates from unabsorbed nitrogen fertilizer picked up by heavy rainfall

②

### IMPLICATIONS:

- Limit leftover nitrates in the crop's root zone after harvest
- Need for affordable, real-time soil nitrate monitoring tools

③

Nitrates wash through the root zone and are carried deep into the soil

Surface-to-ground water penetration can occur in as little as

**10 DAYS**

Nitrates may contaminate groundwater, exceeding 10 mg/L\* contaminant levels

④

\*the maximum contaminant level set by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency



Click this image to learn more about grassland decline!

# GETTING TO THE ROOT OF IT!

*Looking at the phases of grassland ecosystem response to aridification through belowground plant traits and their ecosystem functions.*

## 1. VEGETATION DECLINE

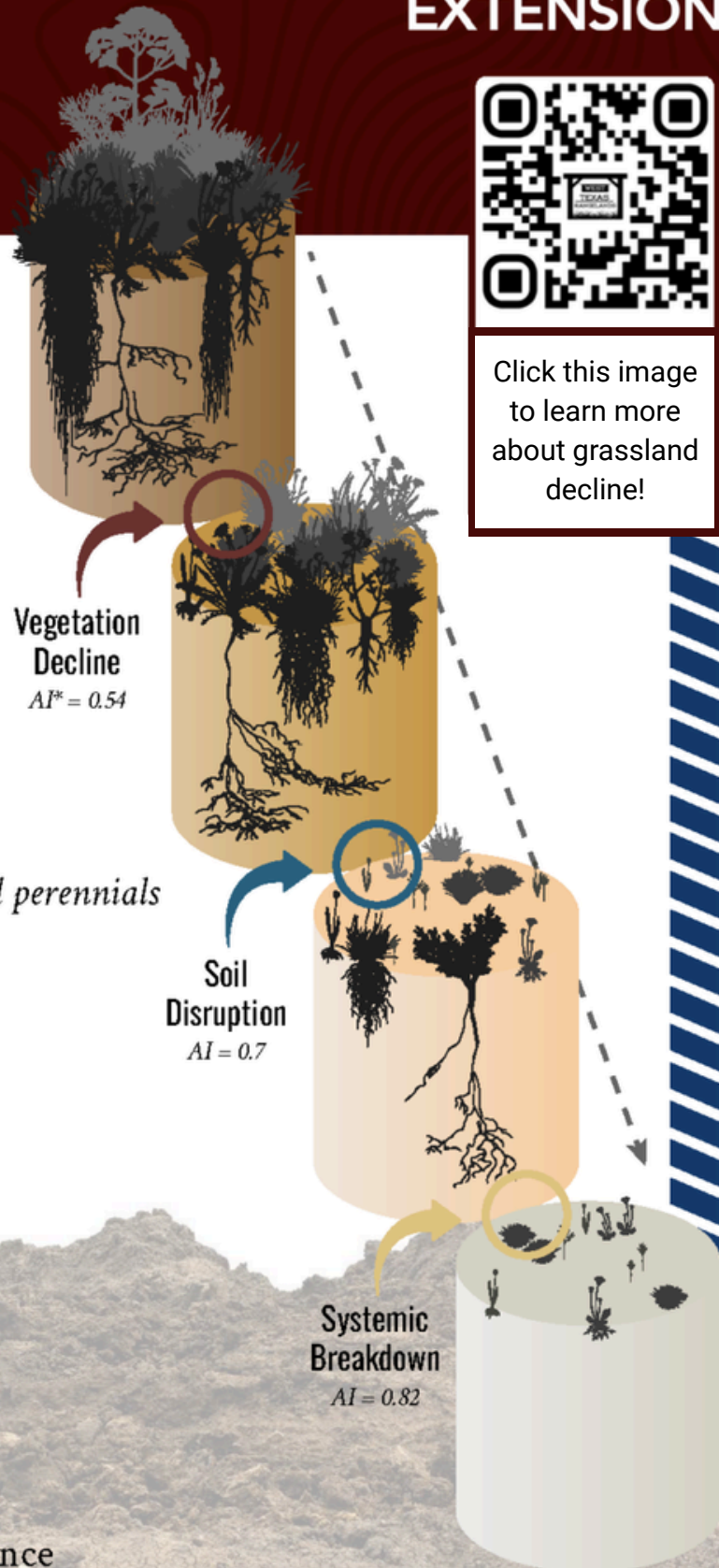
- Decreasing biomass production
- Increased drought adaptation
- Reduced below-ground lateral spread
- Increase in long-lived bud-bearing organs
- Fine roots still abundant

## 2. SOIL DISRUPTION

- Loss of rhizomatous species
  - Shift towards short-lived plants and deep-rooted perennials
  - Increased soil erosion vulnerability
- Fine roots decreasing
  - Loss of mycorrhizal fungi

## 3. SYSTEMIC BREAKDOWN

- Annuals become dominate vegetation
  - Biomass varies widely year-to-year
  - Leads to a generally unprotected soil that can be easily eroded by wind and rain
- Sparse plant cover
- Alternative state: deep-rooted shrub dominance



*\*The Aridity Index (AI) is a numerical indicator that measures the degree of dryness of a climate.*

# 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 9<sup>th</sup> 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!



# Land Management Workshop

TEXAS A&M  
**AGRI LIFE**  
EXTENSION



Johnson City *Bank*  
P.O. Box 426  
Johnson City, Texas  
830.868.7131 [www.jcbank.com](http://www.jcbank.com)



**July 30, 2025**

REGISTRATION 8:30-9:00

WORKSHOP 9:00-4:00

Blanco County Fairgrounds  
619 US-281, JOHNSON  
CITY, TX 78636

ENTRY FEE

**\$35**

## Topics:

New World Screwworm

Insect control

Wildlife & pesticides

Unrestricted pesticides

Picolinic acid (for Invora use)

**5hr CEU**

For private applicator  
license holders

1 GEN

3 IPM

1 Law & Reg

Lunch included.  
\$5 discount for  
families of same  
household.



**REGISTER BY JULY 18, 2025**  
**CALL 830.868.7167 TO REGISTER**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT**  
**CARLEY.HOWELL@AG.TAMU.EDU**

**\$35**

Early Registration  
(ends 9/12/25)

**\$45**

Regular Registration

# Habitat at Home

Bringing wildlife habitat and native landscapes to your home and land

**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](mailto:chase.brooke@ag.tamu.edu). Partial refunds can be requested up to 7 days from the start of the program.

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TEXAS  
**RREA**  
RENEWABLE RESOURCES EXTENSION ACT



LIVING IN THE

*Texas Hill Country*

# Live Webinar

**Live Every Tuesday**

**12:15 - 1:00 PM**

Get practical tips for managing your land and livestock in the Texas Hill Country.

This free, weekly series, led by AgriLife experts, is designed for landowners with 5-50 acres and focuses on practical solutions tailored to our unique environment.

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



# CENTRAL TEXAS

TEXAS A&M  
**AGRI**LIFE  
EXTENSION

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## STEWARDSHIP SUMMIT

This summit is to educate landowners on stewardship practices for the natural resources on their property!

### Topics Include:

Oak Wilt

Water Outlook

Wild Pig Management

Brush Management

Pasture Reclamation

Climate Outlook

Cost \$50.00 at the door  
lunch included



**Friday**

August 8th, 2025



**Time**

9:00 a.m - 4:00 p.m.



Burnet County AgriLife Building  
607 N. Vandever  
Burnet, TX 78611



512-756-5463



[kelly.tarla@ag.tamu.edu](mailto:kelly.tarla@ag.tamu.edu)

3 CEU's

**RSVP BY  
AUGUST 5**



# 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](#)



Join producers from across the state at the Texas A&M Beef Cattle Short Course, August 4–6, 2025 in College Station. This premier event offers three full days of expert-led education, hands-on demonstrations, a large trade show, and great networking opportunities. Registration is \$300 and includes meals, a prime rib dinner, and course proceedings. Virtual access is available for \$160.

Topics include:

- Animal health and nutrition
- Reproduction and genetics
- Forage and range management
- Beef marketing and business strategies

Learn more and register at [beefcattleshortcourse.com](https://beefcattleshortcourse.com).

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

# TEXAS A&M AGRI LIFE EXTENSION



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