

# >>> AGRICULTURE NEWS <<<

March 2025



## TOP NEWS OF THE MONTH

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EMERGENCY  
PREPAREDNESS

Prepare for wildfires and other emergencies before it's too late.

RESTORING NATIVE  
GRASSES

>>> PAGE 4-5

Strategies for successfully restoring your pastures or property to natural grasses and habitats.

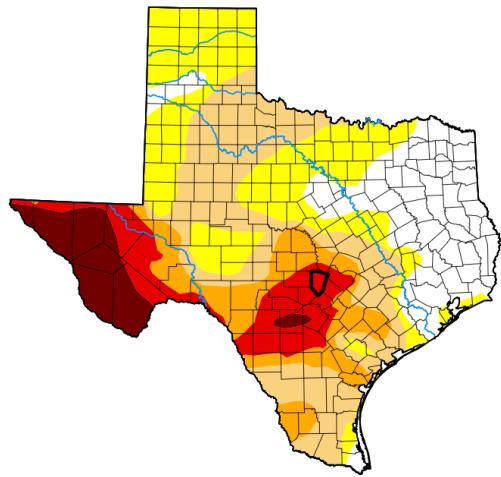
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March 15: Prescribed Fire Workshop.  
April 10-11: Bennett Trust Land Stewardship  
April 19: Blanco County Master Gardener Plant Sale  
April 30: Predator Management Workshop

UPCOMING EVENTS



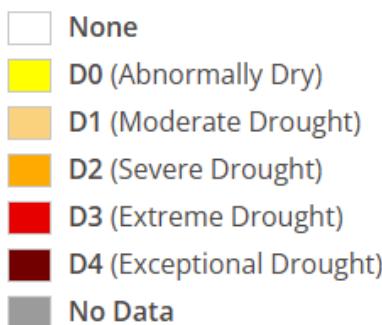
# Drought & Wildfires



Map released: Thurs. March 6, 2025

Data valid: March 4, 2025 at 7 a.m. EST

## Intensity



## Authors

United States and Puerto Rico Author(s):

[Curtis Riganti](#), National Drought Mitigation Center

Pacific Islands and Virgin Islands Author(s):

[Brad Rippey](#), U.S. Department of Agriculture

On Tuesday, March 4th, we experienced a wildfire just west of Johnson City due to dry conditions and high wind speeds, with similar condition predicted for later this week. Here are a few tips to stay prepared and prevent fires.

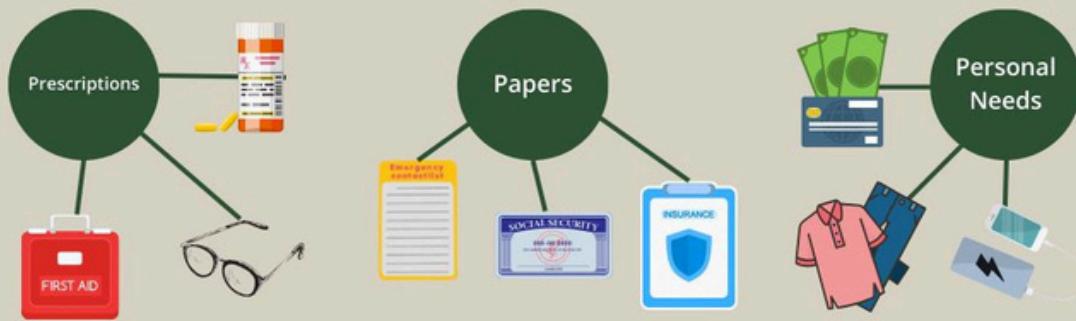
Prepare your family for any emergency by creating a **Go Kit**. Go Kit's should be kept in a location where the whole family can get to. When preparing your Go Kit, start with the 5 P's: People & Pets – plan for the whole family, including pets and livestock

- Prescriptions – Bring extra medication, eyeglasses, hearing aids and medical equipment including necessary batteries and power cords
- Papers – Pack hard and/or electronic copies of insurance information, phone numbers and other important documents
- Personal needs – Pack personal items including clothes, food, water, toiletries, first aid kit, cash, computers/tablets, phones, chargers and sanitation supplies
- Priceless items - Include items of sentimental value to you including pictures, heirlooms and irreplaceable memorabilia

Learn more about how to prepare for evacuations at [tfsweb.tamu.edu/evacuationresources](http://tfsweb.tamu.edu/evacuationresources)  
Stay up to date on local fires: [tfswildfires.com](http://tfswildfires.com)

# WILDFIRE EVACUATION GO KIT

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**Plan your kit using the 5 P's**



# Wildfire Safety

Keep vehicles off dry grass.

Avoid activities with open flames or sparks.

Avoid equipment that creates sparks.

Obey burn bans.

Evacuate if fire/smoke is headed your way.

Evacuate if asked to do so by local officials.

# Restoring Native Grasses: Where to Start and What to Know

Restoring native grasses benefits both rangelands and residential landscapes by improving soil health, supporting wildlife, and creating a more sustainable environment. However, successful restoration requires careful planning and management. Dr. Megan Clayton, Professor & Extension Range Specialist with Texas A&M AgriLife Extension, shares expert advice on how to get started.

## 1. Define Your Goals

Before starting, decide what you want from your land. Some landowners prefer a diverse mix of grasses and wildflowers for pollinators, while others want a low-maintenance native turf. Looking at nearby undisturbed areas can provide inspiration for what naturally thrives in your region.

## 2. Choosing the Right Native Grasses

If your soil is poor, such as caliche, amending small areas with topsoil may help establish grasses. The Web Soil Survey can guide plant selection based on your land's historical vegetation.

## 3. Managing Weeds

Weeds thrive in bare ground, so the best way to prevent them is by establishing desirable grasses. For existing weeds:

- Annual weeds (like broomweed) should be treated early, before they exceed six inches in height.
- Thistles should be sprayed in their rosette stage before they bolt.
- Perennial weeds require treatment when they have enough leaf surface to absorb herbicide effectively.

**Thistle**



Provided by foragefax.tamu.edu

# Restoring Native Grasses: Where to Start and What to Know

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## 4. Herbicide Selection

Choosing the right herbicide depends on the target species. Helpful resources include:

- Quick Reference for Common Rangeland and Pasture Herbicides (lists approved herbicides, trade names, and restrictions).
- ERM-1466: Chemical Weed and Brush Control Suggestions for Rangeland (guides when and how to apply herbicides).
- Brush Busters and Weed Busters Series (species-specific herbicide recommendations).

These can be found on the South Texas Rangelands website under the Publications tab, or [click here](#).

## 5. Fertilization: Is It Necessary?

Native grasses rarely require fertilization, and adding nutrients can favor invasive species over native plants. However, if restoring highly degraded land, such as former farmland, a soil test can determine if amendments are needed before planting.

## 6. Setting Realistic Expectations

Some landscapes naturally support specific vegetation, and forcing change may not be sustainable. Steep, rocky slopes may always favor juniper, and removing them completely may not result in successful grass growth. The Web Soil Survey can help landowners determine realistic goals based on historical land use.

## Final Thoughts

Restoring native grasses is a long-term commitment, but with proper planning, it can create a healthier, more resilient landscape.

**Want to learn more? Grab a copy of the next newspaper to read the full article!**

# Upcoming Events

## PREDATOR MANAGEMENT

### Workshop



Breakfast provided by:



### AGENDA

9:00	Livestock Guardian Dogs
10:00	Predator Control
10:45	Trap demonstration
11:15	Thermal Optics

First Methodist Church  
105 Lbj Dr, Johnson City, TX 78636

**APR 30** | **9:00 - 12:00** | **\$10**

**RSVP [eileen.brown@ag.tamu.edu](mailto:eileen.brown@ag.tamu.edu)**



# PLANT SALE

Saturday, April 19, 2025

9:00am — 4:00pm

Old Blanco County  
Courthouse Square  
300 Main Street,  
Blanco, TX

Annuals & Perennials  
Native Plants  
Herbs  
Wildflowers  
Succulents  
Houseplants & More!!!!



# Upcoming Nearby Events



**BENNETT TRUST LAND  
STEWARDSHIP**

**APRIL 10-11, 2025 LA QUINTA HOTEL  
MARBLE FALLS, TX.**

Join us in the beautiful Edwards Plateau  
for the Spring 2025 Bennett Trust Land Stewardship Conference

**GUEST SPEAKERS**



**Robert Mace**  
Keynote Speaker



**Tiffany Dowell Lashmet**  
Extension Ag Law



**Morgan Treadwell**  
RWFM



**Dandy Kothmann**  
NRCS



**Joel Pigg**  
Extension TWON



**Leanne Wiley**  
Extension LSHS



## Key Discussions & Insights

- Surface Water & Livestock
- Woody plant encroachment & how that affects water in the aquifer
- Ag Laws for Texas Landowners
- Ground Water & Water Wells



## REGISTRATION

<https://agriliferegister.tamu.edu/scsc-ev-044>

**NEW**

Offering Realtor CE's  
Day 1 - 7 CE's      Day 2 - 3 CE's



More information:  
[bennetttrust@ag.tamu.edu](mailto:bennetttrust@ag.tamu.edu)



Phone:  
979-204-5206

# PRESCRIBED FIRE WORKSHOP

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UBarU Gillespie/Kerr County

Saturday, Mar. 15, 2025 | 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM

Meet with fire experts and learn  
about prescribed fire!

## The Program Will Include:

- Prescribed burning overview
- Legal & safety considerations
  - Practical aspects
  - Equipment
- Prescribed burn associations

## OUR SPONSORS:



Register today  
for free!

Workshop held at U-Bar-U  
277 U-Bar-U Drive, Mountain Home, TX 78058

Questions - <https://www.ubaru.org/prescribed-fire-workshop>

This workshop made possible through a grant from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, with support from USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service.

<https://www.pbatexas.org/>

<https://agrilife.org/westtexasrangelands/files/2023/03/on-site-brush-pile-burning-in-texas.pdf>



# PRESCRIBED BURN SCHOOL

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Monday, July 7 - Wednesday, July 9 | 2025

8:00 AM - 5:00 PM

General Registration: \$200

Field Day & Exam Only: \$100

Texas A&M Agrilife Research and Extension Center at San Angelo

7887 N US Hwy 87 North | San Angelo, TX 76901

- TDA 24 Hour Curriculum
- CIPBM Qualifying Exam
- TDA 6 Hour CFTS
- Prescribed Burn Field Experience

Any individuals who have completed the online Prescribed Burn School are welcome to attend the field day training and complete the exam. If conditions allow, the in field component will be held in the general San Angelo area each day of the school. Lunch and beverages will be provided each day.



TEXAS A&M  
UNIVERSITY  
Rangeland, Wildlife  
& Fisheries Management

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

TEXAS A&M  
**AGRILIFE**  
EXTENSION



# TEXAS A&M **AGRILIFE** EXTENSION



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