

>>> AGRICULTURE NEWS <<<

March 2025



TOP NEWS OF THE MONTH

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

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

RESTORING NATIVE GRASSES

>>> PAGE 4-5

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

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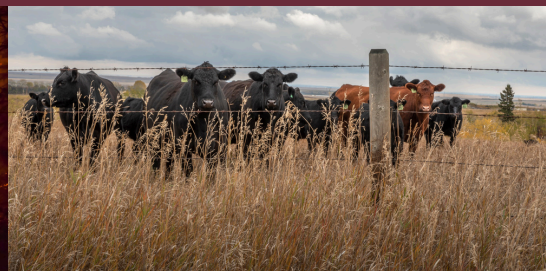
UPCOMING EVENTS

March 15: Prescribed Fire Workshop.

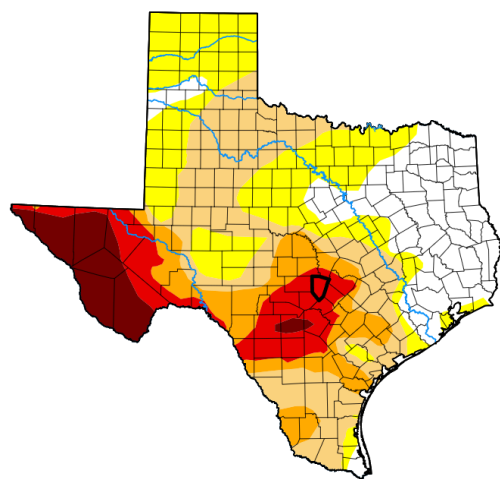
April 10-11: Bennett Trust Land Stewardship

April 19: Blanco County Master Gardener Plant Sale

April 30: Predator Management Workshop



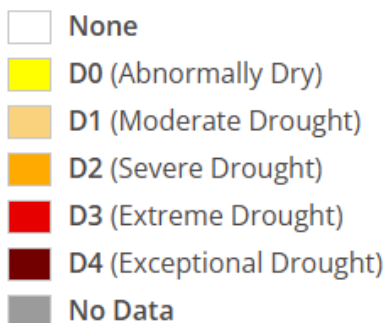
Drought & Wildfires



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
Stay up to date on local fires: tfswildfires.com

WILDFIRE EVACUATION GO KIT



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.



**WILDFIRE
AWARE**



**TEXAS A&M
FOREST SERVICE**

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

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

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PREDATOR MANAGEMENT

Workshop

TEXAS A&M
AGRILIFE
EXTENSION

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

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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>



More information:
bennetttrust@ag.tamu.edu



Phone:
979-204-5206

NEW

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

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



Register today
for free!

OUR SPONSORS:



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
AGRI LIFE
EXTENSION



TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY
Rangeland, Wildlife
& Fisheries Management

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

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TEXAS A&M **AGRI**LIFE EXTENSION



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Agriculture & Natural Resources

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