

>>> AGRICULTURE NEWS <<<

November 2025



TOP NEWS OF THE MONTH

WINTER WATER PLANNING

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Providing and mapping winter water helps wildlife, livestock, and supports emergency responders.

Are you prepared for wildfires?

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WILDFIRE READY CHECKLIST

UPCOMING EVENTS

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Every Tuesday- Live webinar for new landowners

December 2- 5hr CEU, Fredericksburg

December 10- Private Applicator Training, Johnson City



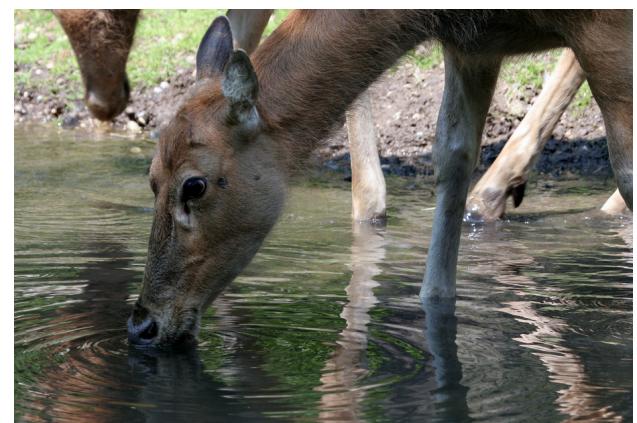
Winter Water Planning

During winter, providing reliable water sources becomes especially important for wildlife. As vegetation dries out, deer and other animals can no longer meet much of their hydration needs from plants alone. Natural seeps, draws, and small stock ponds can become less dependable in winter as rainfall drops and water levels decline. Ensuring that wildlife have access to clean, consistent water, whether through troughs, maintained ponds, or small guzzlers, can support animal health, reduce stress, and help maintain normal movement patterns during the harshest months of the year.

A helpful tool for landowners is [Texas A&M Forest Service's Map My Property](#), which allows you to mark and document the location of your water sources, access points, and infrastructure across your acreage. This is valuable not only for understanding how wildlife uses your land, but also for livestock management. Producers can easily visualize grazing rotations, water distribution, and areas needing maintenance.

In addition, mapped water sources are extremely useful to emergency responders [during a wildfire](#). Fire crews rely on ponds, tanks, and accessible water points for suppression efforts.

Having this information mapped in advance improves response efficiency and can make a meaningful difference in protecting both property and wildlife habitat.



WILDFIRE READY CHECKLIST

M.L. Russell¹

When wildfires are approaching your property or you see smoke on the horizon, the situation can become chaotic. Preparing for wildfire response ahead of time is one of the most important steps a landowner can take. Correctly identifying property at risk, resources available, and existing wildfire barriers can greatly enhance the effectiveness of first responders. Preparation can also improve overall communication when making critical fire decisions. The following are general recommendations for information you need to have ready before wildfire response teams arrive. It

can also be very helpful to discuss the questions below with your local volunteer fire department. However, this checklist is only a starting point. You should develop ranch guidelines and information for first responders that are specific to your property. The answers to the questions below will be instrumental in building operations, tactics, and general firefighting techniques. A carefully thought out wildfire ready checklist is an excellent foundation for improved communication and relationship building during wildfires.

Tactics	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▶ How do you manage your fine-fuel forage?▶ Are you ok with burnout operations to fight the fire?▶ Are there existing barriers, such as roads, fields, bladed areas, caliche pad sites, etc., from which to anchor firing operations?▶ Do you have any concerns about bulldozing the fire edge to bare mineral soil, displacing the top soil?▶ Are you a weed-free area or request that trucks be washed before arrival on your ranch?▶ Are you ok with any fence being cut or laid down?
Property at Risk	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▶ Are there any high-fenced areas that are prioritized?▶ Are grazing livestock near the fire or in the potential path of the fire?▶ Are there any aggressive exotic wildlife species?▶ Where are the structures located?▶ What is the priority of those structures?
Logistics	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▶ Do you grant permission to use on-site water to fight a fire?▶ What are the types of water sources?▶ What type of access is there to water sources?▶ What volume of water is available?▶ How deep are the water sources?
Support	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▶ What type of ranch equipment is available to use? (e.g. sprayers or heavy equipment)▶ Are there any personnel or neighbors available to assist responders?▶ Do you have hard copies of aerial imagery or maps with property roads and gate locations clearly marked?▶ Do you have gate lock codes? Are all gates on the property already open? If not, are you comfortable sending someone to facilitate emergency access?▶ Do you have your neighbor's contact information or gate lock codes?▶ Do you have absentee landowner neighbors? If so, have you made previous contact with them and exchanged information so that they can be notified and/or asked about access during an emergency?
Hazards	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▶ Are there oil and gas lines?▶ Any report of H2S or other toxic gases on the property?▶ Are there any rough roads not suitable for responding equipment?▶ Are there damaged cattleguards?▶ Are there any rested pastures with volatile fuel loads?▶ Are there any deer blinds with propane tanks in them?

¹Assistant Professor and Extension Range Specialist – Ecosystem Science and Management

New Website

Check out our new website!

We're excited to share that our new Blanco County AgriLife Extension website is now live. The updated layout is better organized, easier to navigate, and designed to help you find resources more quickly, whether you're looking for upcoming programs, agriculture and wildlife information, or 4-H updates. Click the picture to see the website.

TEXAS A&M
AGRILIFE
EXTENSION

ABOUT NEWS & EVENTS PROGRAMS & SERVICES EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS EXTENSION TOPICS COUNTY OFFICES

i Get the latest information on New World screwworm
Access fact sheets, news and videos from Texas A&M AgriLife Research and Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service experts at our [New World screwworm web page](#).

County Offices / Blanco County

AgriLife Extension Service Office
BLANCO COUNTY

Welcome to Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service – Blanco County which serves the needs of Blanco County residents. We have dedicated staff for 4-H and Youth Development, Family and Community Health, and Agriculture and Natural Resources. Connect with an AgriLife Extension representative in your area to explore the wide range of educational resources, programming and activities available to you.

PROGRAMS IN BLANCO COUNTY

AgriLife Extension offers key programs across the state that are organized and supported at the county level. Click the links below for more information about local programming or contact your county office.

Family and Community Health

[Enroll in online childcare courses through the AgriLife Learn website.](#)
[Do You Have a Fright Plan?](#)
[Getting End-of-Life Documents in Order](#)

Agriculture and Natural Resources

[Soil, Water, and Forage Testing](#)
[Texas A&M Forest Services](#)
[Apple Horticulture](#)
[New Landowner Podcast](#)

BLANCO COUNTY

Contact Us

200 N. Ave. G, Ste. 7
Johnson City, TX 78636
(830) 868-7167
blanco-tx@tamu.edu

Staff Directory

Carley Howell
County Extension Agent
County Coordinator
Agriculture and Natural Resources

Gretchen Sanders
County Extension Agent
Family and Community Health

Eileen Brown
County Secretary
Support Staff



PESTICIDE APPLICATOR TRAINING COURSE

Individuals seeking to obtain their TDA license for the first time are welcome to join our Pesticide Applicator Training. This program is designed to support producers and landowners who need to apply restricted-use pesticides on their properties and require training to obtain their license. Upon completing the training, participants will be eligible to take the certification test.

DATE: DECEMBER 10TH 2025

TIME: 1-5PM

**LOCATION: BLANCO COUNTY
COMMUNITY RESOURCE CENTER
206 US-281, JOHNSON CITY, TX 78636**

**COST: \$60 FOR COURSE & MATERIALS
CASH OR CHECK ACCEPTED**

RSVP REQUIRED BY DECEMBER 2ND

(830) 868-7167 eileen.brown@ag.tamu.edu

Become a Master Gardener!

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!



Applications due December 1, 2025.

Return application and \$200 to the AgriLife Extension office.

200 N Ave G Ste. 7
Johnson City, TX 78636

Class will run January - May
Online & in-person
Visit our [website](#) to learn more!



830-868-7167



blancocmg2016@gmail.com

5 HOUR CEU PROGRAM

Tuesday, December 2, 2025

8:00 am - 2:45 pm

Cost: \$75

Donuts and a Fajita Lunch Included

5 Structural CEU's:
1 Weed, 1 Termite,
1 Pest, 1 General- Safety,
1 Lawn & Ornamental

5 Ag Applicator CEU's:
1 Laws & Regs,
2 General, 2 IPM

REGISTRATION DEADLINE NOVEMBER 25

Topics

- Flies of Public Health Importance
- Common Turf Weeds & Methods of Control
- Pesticide Safety
- Termites
- Maintaining Tree Health in Urban Settings
- Screwworm Update



Location:
Gillespie County AgriLife
Extension Office
38 Business Court
Fredericksburg, TX 78624



For more information
contact Beth McMahon at
elizabeth.mcmahon@ag.tamu.edu



Visit Gillespie-Extension-Inc.Square.Site
to register online.
A small additional fee applies to credit
card payments.
Call the Extension Office at
(830) 997-3452 to register if paying by
cash or check.

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

To read what graduates are saying about the course, visit generationnext.tamu.edu

**NEXT ONLINE CLASS:
JAN. 26 - APR. 19, 2026**

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:

[RWFM-CO-001 Generation Next:
Our Turn to Ranch — Spring 2026](http://RWFM-CO-001_Generation_Next:_Our_Turn_to_Ranch---Spring_2026)





LIVING IN THE

Texas Hill Country

Live Webinar

Every Tuesday 12:15 - 1:00 PM

**Nov. 18 - Preparing for new
livestock**

**Nov. 25 - What is a Master
Gardener?**

Dec. 2 - Exotic wildlife

**Dec. 9 - Winterizing your
property for livestock**



↗ Click the icon to access the page!

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

TEXAS A&M AGRILIFE EXTENSION



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Blanco County Extension Agent
Agriculture & Natural Resources

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Johnson City, TX 78636
Email: carley.howell@ag.tamu.edu
Contact: 830 868 7167

Extension programs of Texas AgriLife Extension Service are open to all people without regard to race, color, sex, religion, national origin, age, disability, genetic information, veteran status, sexual orientation, gender identity or any other classification protected by federal, state or local law. The Texas A&M University System, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the County Commissioners Courts of Texas Cooperating.