

# >>> AGRICULTURE NEWS <<<

January 2026



## TOP NEWS OF THE MONTH

**HERD HEALTH**

>>> PAGE 2

Why herd health matters

Updates to the 2026 Bounty program

PAGE 3 <<<

**FERAL HOG ABATEMENT  
PROGRAM**

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

>>> PAGE 5-8

February 18 - Herd Health Management

March 5- Tree Care Short Course

March 28 - Grazing & Forages

Upcoming events in Gillespie County



# Building a Resilient Herd

## Why Herd Health Matters

Maintaining a healthy herd is one of the most important responsibilities of any livestock producer. Good herd health management helps protect animal well-being, improve productivity, reduce long-term costs, and prevent the spread of disease within and between operations. Whether you manage cattle, sheep, or goats, having a proactive health plan in place can make a significant difference.

Herd health management goes beyond responding to sickness when it appears. It involves planning ahead, understanding disease risks, and using preventative tools to protect animal health. Regular observation is also critical. When producers understand what is normal for their herd, such as behavior, appetite, and movement, changes are easier to identify early, allowing for quicker intervention and better outcomes. Vaccination schedules, parasite control, and biosecurity practices all play an important role in maintaining herd health, especially as emerging threats like New World screwworm continue to be a concern.

To help local producers strengthen their herd health programs, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension will host a Herd Health Management Program on February 18. See the flyer on [page 5](#) for more details.

# Feral Hog Bounty

3



Blanco County will begin the 2026 Feral Hog Abatement Program on January 6, 2026. Frozen tails can be turned into the AgriLife Extension office located at 200 N. Avenue G, Ste. 7 Johnson City, TX on the first Tuesday of the month between 8:00 - 4:00. \$10 per tail will be paid to participants. To receive payment, hogs must be harvested in Blanco County and participants must be residents of Blanco County.

**Next collection date: February 3rd**

More details available on our website:  
[blanco.agrilife.org](http://blanco.agrilife.org)

# Livestock Parasites - Producer Survey

4

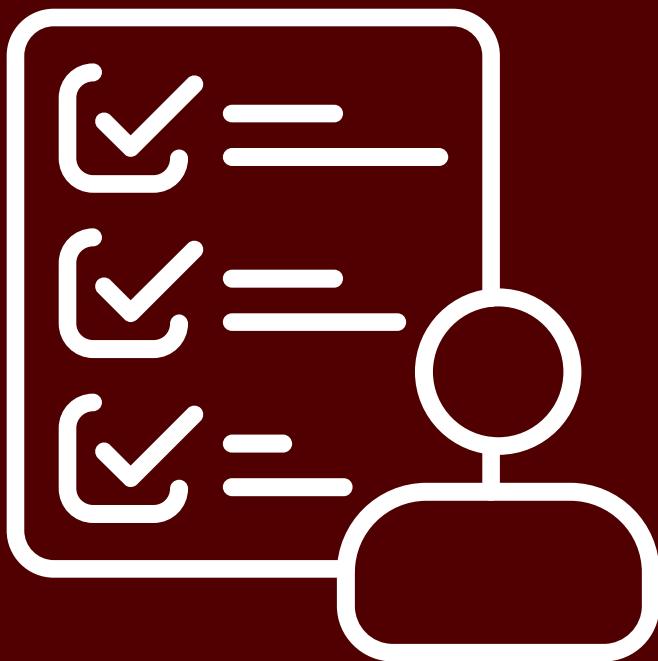
A research team from Texas A&M University is conducting a study focused on livestock producers in Central Texas and their experiences with flies, mosquitoes, and other biting insects that can impact animal health.

The project is being led by Texas A&M University undergrad and graduate students to look at producer knowledge, attitudes, and management practices related to insect pests and the diseases they may transmit.

The goal of this study is to help public health and livestock professionals better support producers through improved insect monitoring, management strategies, and educational outreach. Blanco County is included as part of the Central Texas region being surveyed.

They are requesting help sharing a short, anonymous, and completely voluntary survey with livestock producers. There are no right or wrong answers, and participation is optional. Your feedback would help guide future research and outreach efforts in our region.

**Click the image below for the survey::**



# BUILDING A RESILIENT HERD

## TOPICS

- New World Screwworm Update
- Biosecurity
- Parasite Control
- Vaccine Schedules

**FEBRUARY 18, 2026**

**9 AM - 2:30 PM**

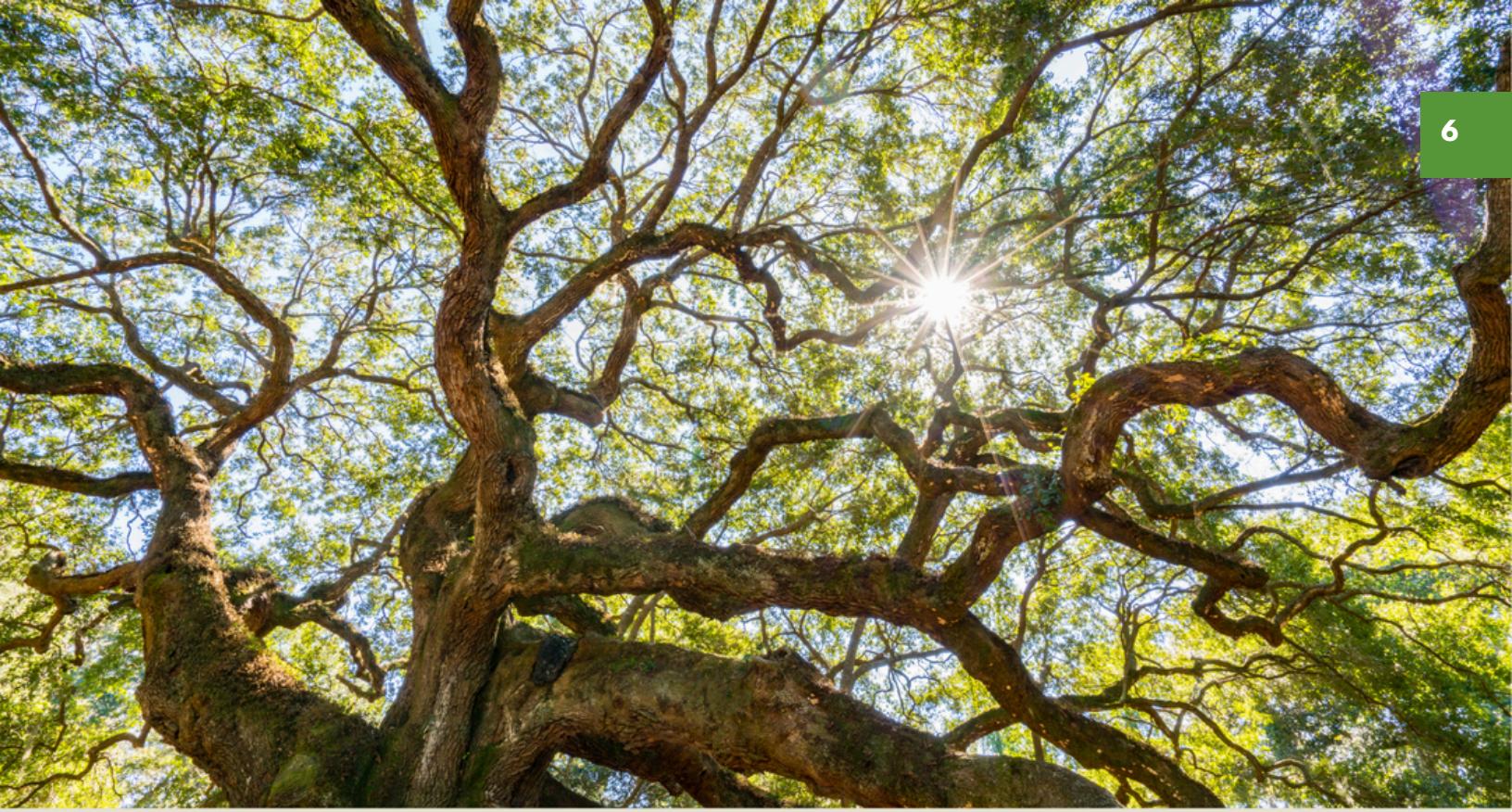
Blanco County  
Fair & Rodeo  
619 US 281 Johnson City, TX

Cost: \$10 Cash or Check  
Lunch provided

**RSVP: 830-868-7167**

**CARLEY.HOWELL@AG.TAMU.EDU**





# TREE CARE SHORT COURSE



Join us for an informative session on proper tree care. This course will cover planting and maintenance techniques, along with wildfire risk reduction practices to promote healthy, long-lasting trees.

**SAVE THE DATE!**

**3.5.2026**

9:00 A.M. - 12:30 P.M.

COST: \$10 PAYABLE BY CASH OR CHECK

**BLANCO COUNTY  
FAIR & RODEO**  
619 US 281 JOHNSON CITY, TX 78636

**RSVP by 2.19.2026**

830.868.7167

CARLEY.HOWELL@AG.TAMU.EDU



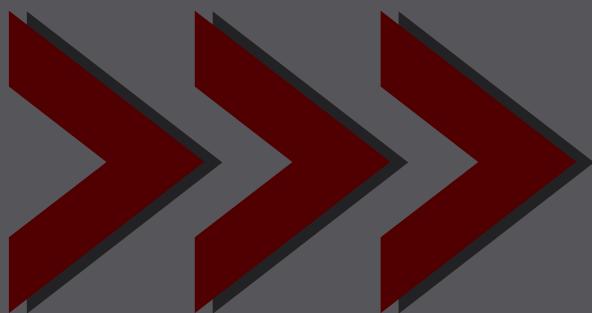
# Save the Date!

7

## March 26- Grazing Workshop

Save the date for a follow-up herd health workshop on March 26, where we'll take a deeper look at grazing management and forage selection and how they directly impact livestock health and performance.

More details coming soon! See all events on [blanco.agrilife.org](http://blanco.agrilife.org)



# PLANTASTIC

## Vegetable Gardening Seminar

February 27, 2026

8:30-3:30

**Location:**

Gillespie County Extension Office  
38 Business Court  
Fredericksburg, TX 78624

**Pre Registration:**

Deadline: February 24  
Cost: \$45 with Lunch  
\$35 without Lunch

**Day of Program:**

Cost: \$35 without Lunch

For more information, please call  
the Extension Office at  
(830) 997-3452.

To register call  
**(830) 997-3452** or visit  
[gillespie-extension-inc.square.site](http://gillespie-extension-inc.square.site)

A small processing fee applies to credit cards



### General Sessions

- Locally Adapted Vegetable Varieties
- Top Vegetable Garden Mistakes



### Breakout Sessions

- Green Manure
- Gardening 101
- Attracting Insects Using Flowers
- Eat Your Landscaping
- Salsa Gardening
- Garden Propagation: A Seedy Presentation



### Test Your Vegetable Identification Knowledge

Test your vegetable identification knowledge at the seeding table!

# Upcoming Events Nearby

Visit [gillespie.agrilife.org](http://gillespie.agrilife.org) for  
more details or to register for  
the events.

# Grow It Cook It Preserve It

LEARN HOW TO GROW, PREPARE, COOK AND  
PRESERVE THE FRUIT/VEGETABLE



BLUEBERRIES  
January 23



TOMATOES  
February 6



SWEET CORN  
April 17

**Grow It Cook It**

12:00-1:00 PM

\$25 For The Series  
or  
\$15 Per Class

**Preserve It Class**

1:00-3:00 PM

\$65 For The Series  
or  
\$25 Per Class  
Price includes finished product.

To register call  
**(830) 997-3452** or visit  
[gillespie-extension-  
inc.square.site](http://gillespie-extension-inc.square.site)

A small processing fee applies to  
credit cards

**Preserve It Class**

**RSVP Deadline:**  
Blueberries- Jan 16  
Tomatoes- Jan 30  
Sweet Corn- Apr 10

**Location:**  
Gillespie County  
Extension Office  
38 Business Court  
Fredericksburg



**\$15**  
A SMALL  
PROCESSING  
FEE APPLIES  
TO CREDIT CARDS

# FRUIT TREE CARE

**JANUARY 16 | 1:00-3:00 PM**  
**GILLESPIE COUNTY EXTENSION OFFICE**  
**38 BUSINESS COURT, FREDERICKSBURG, TX**

**Program Topics:**

Pruning  
Insect & Disease Control  
Conventional & Organic Methods Will Be Discussed

One IPM pesticide applicator will be given.

**TO PRE-REGISTER**

CALL **(830) 997-3452** OR VISIT  
[GILLESPIE-EXTENSION-INC.SQUARE.SITE](http://gillespie-extension-inc.square.site)  
WALK INS ARE ACCEPTED

# TEXAS A&M AGRILIFE EXTENSION



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Blanco County Extension Agent  
Agriculture & Natural Resources

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