

>>> AGRICULTURE NEWS <<<

February 2026



TOP NEWS OF THE MONTH

PASTURE MEALY BUG

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Dying hay fields can be the result of this pest.

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PROGRAM FEEDBACK

What are you most interested in learning about?

UPCOMING EVENTS

>>> **PAGE 5-11**

February 18 - Herd Health Management

March 5- Tree Care Short Course

March 28 - Grazing & Forages

Upcoming events in Gillespie County



Pasture Mealy Bug

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The pasture mealybug (*Heliococcus summervillei*) is an invasive insect pest now confirmed in Texas and newly reported in the United States. It's a tiny, soft-bodied bug with a white, waxy coating that feeds on the sap of pasture and forage grasses. As the immature mealybugs feed and excrete sugary honeydew, they weaken plants, promote sooty mold growth, and inject toxic saliva that can lead to "pasture dieback", which is a condition where grass turns yellow or red, weakens, and eventually dies in patches across pastures and hayfields.

This pest is important because it has the potential to seriously reduce forage productivity in grasses such as bermudagrass, Bahia, bluestems, and others that are critical to cattle grazing and hay production in Texas. Producers are encouraged to monitor for early signs of infestation and report suspected cases, as current management options are limited and research is ongoing. For more details, management tips, and pictures to help with identification, please visit the [Texas A&M AgriLife Extension page on pasture mealybug](#).



Even if it feels like “it’s not time,” everyone should have a flight plan in place. A flight plan is simply a central, organized collection of important personal, financial, and business information that allows family members or trusted individuals to act quickly and confidently if something unexpected happens.

A basic flight plan may include estate planning documents, insurance policies, retirement and bank account information, passwords, lock combinations, debt and payment details, identification documents, real estate records, and business assets such as livestock, crops, insurance policies, and key professional contacts. Once gathered, this information should be stored in a secure location, and at least one or two trusted individuals should know where it is and have access. While creating a flight plan can feel overwhelming, it provides peace of mind, reduces stress for loved ones, and saves time and money by making future estate planning more efficient.



AGEC PU 996
June 2024

Do You Have a Flight Plan?

Tiffany Dowell Lashmet*

What is a flight plan and why do people need one?
The term “flight plan” is derived from the song “I’ll Fly Away,” where the lyrics suggest that when someone passes on, they will fly away. Having a plan for when this occurs is something everyone should take the time to create.

A flight plan is simply a folder that contains important documents and key information that heirs may need to access upon someone’s death, hospitalization, or other incapacitation. Taking the time to gather important documents and critical information is one of the best things that a person can do for their family.

What should be included in the flight plan? Here are some ideas to help get started:

- Current estate planning documents (wills, powers of attorneys, and advanced directives)
- Retirement plan information (IRA/401K/pension)
- Copies of life insurance policies
- Copies of health insurance policies
- Burial plot locations and funeral instructions
- Various account, email, computer, and phone passwords
- Bank account information (where and how accounts are held and account numbers)
- Safety deposit box information (location and who can access)
- Payment information such as payees, due dates, and payment amounts for important debts and bills (i.e., mortgages, land payments, and operating notes)

Lock codes or combinations (gates and gate locks, gun safes, in-home safes, and barns or buildings)

Identification documents, including copies of driver’s licenses, birth certificates, social security cards, marriage licenses, and military discharge papers

Documents related to real estate, including deeds, titles, registrations, leases, royalty documents, surveys, and water permits

Lists of assets (real property, personal property, and business assets)

Lists of owned land, livestock, stored crops, and marketing contacts


Crop insurance policies and USDA program contracts

List of all key business relationships (attorneys, accountants, bankers, insurance agents, and commodity buyers)

Once this information is gathered, it needs to be placed somewhere safe. It is also critical to let someone else know where this information is located and to ensure that someone has access. For example, if the flight plan is going to be stored in a safety deposit box, it is important to ensure that at least two other people know the location of the plan and have access to the safety deposit box on the signature cards.

This may seem like a daunting project. It is time-consuming, and it is never enjoyable to think about one’s own death. By taking the time to prepare a flight plan, a person empowers family members to act when something happens without having to search for information. Additionally, having this information collected will be helpful for additional steps in the estate planning process. It will likely allow more efficient use of an attorney’s time and the client’s money when it is time to make an estate plan and draft documents like wills, trusts, LLCs (limited liability companies), or other necessary documents.

*Associate Professor and Extension Specialist, Agricultural Economics, Texas A&M University



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AGRI LIFE EXTENSION, TAMU.EDU

Click the image to
view the full factsheet



We Want Your Feedback!

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What do you want to learn about?

Blanco County AgriLife Extension is planning future programs and educational opportunities, and your input helps guide what we offer. Please take a few minutes to complete this [3 question survey](#) and let us know what topics you're most interested in and how you prefer to hear about upcoming programs. Your feedback is anonymous and will help us better serve our community and tailor programs to your interests. Thank you for taking the time to share your thoughts!

[Survey Link](#)



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

TEXAS A&M
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TEXAS A&M
FOREST SERVICE

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



FIREWISE

8



Helping homeowners assess wildfire risk, educate building professionals on fire-resilient construction, and promote Firewise practices in HOAs and neighborhoods.

MARCH 10, 2026 | 5:30 - 7:30 PM

Round Mountain Volunteer Fire Department

8480 US-281, Round Mountain, TX 78663



Contact Us
830-868-7167



carley.howell@ag.tamu.edu



FIREWISE USA®

Residents reducing wildfire risks



TEXAS A&M
FOREST SERVICE



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EXTENSION

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TEXAS

MASTER GARDENER

TEXAS A&M AGRILIFE EXTENSION

Blanco County

PLANT SALE

Saturday, April 18, 2026

9:00am — 4:00pm

Old Blanco County

Courthouse Square

300 Main Street,

Blanco, TX

Annuals & Perennials

Native Plants

Herbs

Wildflowers

Succulents

Houseplants & More!!!!





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.



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!

To register call
(830) 997-3452 or visit
gillespie-extension-inc.square.site
A small processing fee applies to credit cards

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TEXAS A&M
AGRI LIFE
EXTENSION

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
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

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Upcoming Events Nearby

Visit gillespie.agrilife.org for
more details or to register for
the events.

TEXAS A&M
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EXTENSION



\$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
WALK INS ARE ACCEPTED

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Bennett Trust Land Stewardship Conference

Protect, educate, sustain

This signature program provides practical, research-based education to support landowners in the unique Edwards Plateau region of Texas. Designed for both new and seasoned landowners, the program equips participants with the tools and knowledge needed to make informed decisions about natural resource management.

With a focus on long-term sustainability, this two-day event brings together AgriLife Extension experts and regional professionals to address key land stewardship topics through real-world examples, hands-on demonstrations, and interactive sessions.

The Topics:

- Disaster Assessment and Recovery (DAR)
- Geology and Hydrology of the Edwards Plateau
- Water Law
- Texas Well Owner Network
- OSSFs
- Rainwater Harvesting
- Fireproofing the Ranch

To learn more about this program, visit bennetttrust.tamu.edu or contact us at bennett-trust@ag.tamu.edu or 979-321-5908



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CONNECT WITH US

Webinar POND 365: TIMING OF POND PRACTICES



**FEB
17TH**



**6:00
PM**

**TO REGISTER FOR THIS
WEBINAR, PLEASE
VISIT THE LINK BELOW
OR SCAN THE QR CODE.**

TX.AG/POND365



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CAN. DO.

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

TEXAS A&M AGRI LIFE EXTENSION



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Blanco County Extension Agent
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