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## Sutton County Agriculture/Horticulture Newsletter

### Upcoming Programs

#### Pesticide Applicator Training

With Spring not far away, it will soon be time to control unwanted vegetation. However, you should know that some chemicals are designated general-use pesticides and can be purchased “over-the-counter” while others are restricted-use pesticides and require a pesticide applicator license. So, if you’ve considered acquiring an applicator license, here are some things you should know.

Private applicator licenses are required in order to use or supervise the use of restricted or state-limited pesticides or regulated herbicides in the production of agricultural commodities.

For those seeking a pesticide applicator license, there will be a training opportunity on March 31st beginning at 9:00 a.m. at the Sutton County Extension Office. Call 325-387-3101 to enroll and order manuals.

This license is required for the purchase of restricted-use pesticides which cannot be purchased “over-the-counter”. This license is good for 5 years.

Call if interested so that manuals can be ordered for you. If attending, please order by March 23rd to allow time for delivery.

Cost for training & manuals is \$50.



#### Sonora Research Station 110<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration - Sat., April 25, 2026 - 8:30 a.m. - 3 p.m.

In celebration of 110 years of the Sonora Research Station and in recognition of the International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists, we invite you to join us for a special day of learning, connection, and discovery.

This milestone event will feature a mix of informative talks, guided tours, and hands-on exhibits exploring the past, present, and future of rangeland ecology and management.

After a welcome session and an update on new world screwworm, participants can explore a wide range of topics - from current livestock and wildlife management issues to predation management, prescribed fire, soil macro-organism webs, avian ecology, and the uses of medicinal and edible native plants.

With a "county fair" atmosphere, guests can enjoy a variety of engaging booths, local exhibits, and family-friendly activities throughout the day.

Whether you're a rancher, researcher, student, or member of the community, you'll find inspiration in the stories, science, and shared stewardship that define rangeland resilience.

Register at <https://agriliferegister.tamu.edu/website/93481/>

*See schedule details on next page*

## Saturday, April 25, 2026

TIME	SESSION
08:00 AM	Vendor/Exhibitor Arrival and Setup
08:30 AM	Coffee and Registration
09:00 AM	<b>Welcome and Orientation, Station History</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dr. Russell Jessup</li> </ul>
09:30-10:00 AM	<b>New World Screwworms and Current Veterinary Challenges with Livestock and Domestic and Exotic Wildlife</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dr. Sandra Leyendecker</li> </ul>
10:15 AM	<b>Field Tour</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Livestock Nutrition and Physiology Research Headquarters - Dr. Doug Tolleson, Dr. Erika Campbell</li> <li>Prescribed Fire Frequency and Season Research, Cusenbary Rd, Knight's - Dr. Morgan Treadwell, Dr. Charles "Butch" Taylor</li> <li>Soil Disturbances and Arthropod Communities - Dr. Camille Carey</li> <li>Avian and Wildlife Ecology and Conservation - Dr. Andrew Kasner</li> <li>Rangeland Management Research - Dr. Doug Tolleson</li> <li>Predation Issues - Grant Rogers</li> <li>Edible and Medicinal Plant Walk - Austin Kelly, Kim Ort</li> </ul>
12:45 PM	<b>Lunch and Keynote Speakers</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lani Cran Petrie (Kapapala Ranch) – Hawaiian (Big Island) cattle and goat producer</li> <li>Sharon Holman, President, Texas Sheep and Goat Raisers' Association</li> </ul>
01:15 PM	Q&A with All Presenters and Field Tour Speakers
02:45 PM	Wrap Up
03:00 PM	Head Home and Vendor/Exhibitor Breakdown

## Concurrent Sessions

TIME	CONCURRENT SESSIONS
10:00 AM - 2:45 PM	Games & Activities and Vendor Booths (TBD) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Wildlife tracks and scat</li> <li>Drone station</li> <li>NatGLC rainfall simulator</li> <li>Animals in pens/petting zoo</li> <li>Kids' activity</li> </ul>

# Where's the Beef?

LEGAL & ECONOMIC CONSIDERATIONS FOR DIRECT BEEF SALES

## ONLINE COURSE

The Where's the Beef? online course helps cattle producers successfully sell beef directly to consumers.

It covers legal requirements, labeling, permits, and selecting the right processing facilities to bring your product to market.



Over the past four years, direct beef sales have skyrocketed across the country. Many producers are now exploring new ways to sell their beef. Our course is here to help!

Learn about the licensing requirements, understand the economic factors to consider, hear how to manage risk, and identify various potential legal issues of which to be aware. There's other valuable information in this course.

### Who is this for?

- Cattle producers
- Ranchers
- Participants interested in direct selling

### What will you learn?

- Legal considerations for direct beef sales.
- Economic considerations for direct beef sales.
- Permitting requirements.
- Marketing avenues.
- Labeling considerations.

### Course Outline:

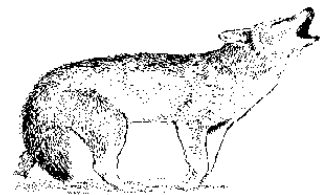
- Module 1: Farm to Plate.
- Module 2: Legal Considerations.
- Module 3: Economic Considerations.

Visit <https://agrilifelearn.tamu.edu> and search for "Where's the Beef?", Product Code AGEC-CO-032

### Sutton County Predator Management Association

If you are not a member, please consider joining the Sutton County Predator Management Association. If you are, there is also a reminder that it is time to pay annual dues.

Funds collected go towards support equipment for our county trappers. This includes the up-keep of such equipment (4-wheelers, radios, hog traps, etc.). A bounty is also paid on predator pelts. These can be bobcat, coyote, etc. However they must be from properties which have joined the trapping club.



For more information, contact association secretary, Patti Prather, at [scpma.sonora@outlook.com](mailto:scpma.sonora@outlook.com).

**Range Plant Spotlight– Three-flowered Melic (*Melica nitens*)**



A rhizomatous, cool-season grass usually found in part-shade in savannahs and open woodlands. This perennial grass offers good grazing for livestock and habitat improvement for wildlife.

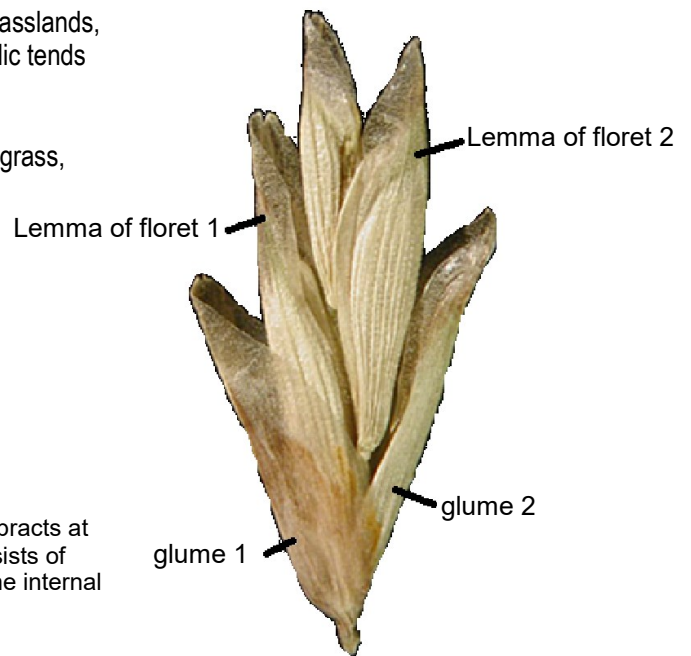
Threeflower melicgrass can be found from Pennsylvania to Kansas, and south to Texas. In Texas, it's distribution is throughout the Cross Timbers and Prairies, Edwards Plateau, Rolling Plains, High Plains, and Trans Pecos ecoregions (Gould 1975). It does not appear to be suited to south Texas conditions where it will survive but does not thrive or produce seed.

In its northern range, it is called Three-Flower Melic, because its florets, appearing in spring, are in groups of 3. Further south (including in Texas) the florets are most often in groups of 2. Regardless, the florets are white and notable above the green foliage of spring. By summer, the grass has gone to seed, turning tan with the hot months.

It is usually found in open woods, in canyon bottoms, and on rocky grasslands, as well as along streambanks, and along roadsides. Three-flower melic tends to prefer partial shade, and calcareous or sandy loam soils.

Other names for this grass include Tall melicgrass, Threeflower melicgrass, and Melicgrass.

\*\*In the grass family, a spikelet consists of two (or sometimes fewer) bracts at the base, called glumes, followed by one or more florets. A floret consists of the flower surrounded by two bracts, one external (the lemma) and one internal (the palea).



## March Horticulture Tips

### Prune:

Pruning of evergreens and summer flowering trees and shrubs should be completed in early March. DO NOT prune spring flowering trees or shrubs until after they bloom.



REMEMBER, DO NOT TOP TREES!!! Severely pruning trees reduces the life of that tree and allows large entry points for diseases and insects.

### Fertilize:

Fertilize pecan trees with 21-0-0 or similar high nitrogen fertilizer early in the month and repeat after 30 and 60 days. Begin zinc sprays at bud break on pecans also.

### Be On The Lookout:

Beware of close-out sales on bare-root trees and shrubs. The chance of survival is rather low on bare-root plants this late in the season. Your best bet at this time of year is to depend on container-grown or balled and burlapped plants for landscape use. Look for black spot and powdery mildew on roses and apply fungicide at 10 day intervals. Be on the look out for fire blight on

plants in the rose family and pears, apples, Indian Hawthorn and other susceptible plants. Protect while in full bloom with spray of agricultural streptomycin.

**Miscellaneous Chores:** Prepare beds for planting flowers and vegetables. You may want to rent or buy a garden tiller to speed up the process. If you have a strong back, the old fashion way of using a gardening fork and shovel still does an excellent job. Our soils in West Texas, have very little organic matter. A good rule of thumb is to add about 4 inches of matter to your beds in the form of peat moss, compost, or shredded pine bark. The organic matter helps to hold water and improves soil texture.

This is an excellent time to have your soil tested. Pick up a soil test kit at the County Extension Agent's office. The cost of testing is about \$12.00. Knowing the nutrient levels in your soil will help you determine the kind and the amount of fertilizer to apply to your flower beds and lawn.

The window to apply pre-emergent weedkillers to prevent germination of crabgrass, grassburs and other summer weeds in your lawn is closing . Use broadleaf weedkillers to eliminate dandelions, clover, henbit, chickweed, plantain and other non-grassy weeds in turf areas. Follow label directions carefully.

## Parting Thoughts.....

Most people quit because they look how far they have to go, not how far they have come.~ Ziad K. Abdelnour

But as for you, be strong and do not give up, for your work will be rewarded. ~ 2 Chronicles 15:7

If I had to select one quality, one personal characteristic that I regard as being most highly correlated with success, whatever the field, I would pick the trait of persistence. Determination. The will to endure to the end, to get knocked down seventy times and get up off the floor saying, "Here comes number seventy-one!" ~ Richard DeVos



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**Check us out on the web!**  
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