

**April 2026**

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## **Sutton County Agriculture/Horticulture Newsletter**

### [Upcoming Programs](#)

#### [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.

Registration and schedule details at <https://agriliferegister.tamu.edu/website/93481/>

#### [9<sup>th</sup> Annual AgriLife LGD Field Day](#)

May 1<sup>st</sup> at the AgriLife Center in San Angelo from 8 am - 4 pm.

Workshops and presenters:

- **Virtual Fencing** – Dan Macon, UC Davis Cooperative Extension Livestock Advisor, Amador, CA
- **LGD Economics** – Dr. Jeffery Wright, AgriLife Extension Specialist, San Angelo, TX
- **GPS Tracking Technology** – Thomas Remmert, Lone Star Tracking, San Marcos, TX
- **LGD Bonding and Training** – Bill Costanzo, AgriLife LGD Program Specialist III, Washington, TX
- **The Texas Livestock Guardian Dog Association: Information and Updates** – Debbie Clifton, Texas LGD Association Director at Large, Brady, TX.
- **Texas Sheep & Goat Predator Management Board: Information and Updates** – Curry Campbell, Board Member, Rocksprings, TX

Vendors and LGD breeders will also be on site that day. We will have a tour of the AgriLife LGD bonding facilities as well. Morning refreshments and lunch is provided. Registration is only online this year. Registration is \$40 a person before April 10th. After that date, the cost is \$50. The last day to register is April 24th.

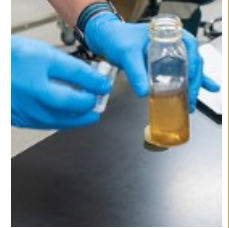
Please use this link to register. <https://agriliferegister.tamu.edu/ansc-ev-095>



### Well Water Screening

The Texas Well Owner Network (TWON) program is an educational training offered by the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service in cooperation with the Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board (TSSWCB) and other partner agencies and organizations. The TWON program is for Texas residents who depend on household wells for their drinking water needs. Well owners who want to become familiar with Texas groundwater sources, water quality, water treatment, and well maintenance issues should consider upcoming courses.

The Texas Well Owner Network will provide water screenings and results for residents in Sutton and Kimble counties on May 21. ....*Watch for details*



### Pesticide Applicator Training

If you missed the opportunity in March, call us so that we can schedule the next one. 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. 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 325-387-3101.

## Current Topics

### Agricultural Production Resource Opportunity (AgPro) Grant Program

The Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA), on behalf of the Texas Agricultural Finance Authority (TAFA), is pleased to announce that the **Agricultural Production Resource Opportunity (AgPro) Grant Program** is now open for applications.

AgPro, administered by the Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA), under the direction of the Texas Agricultural Finance Authority (TAFA), provides funding to help Texas producers improve, expand, and strengthen their agricultural operations through strategic investments in equipment, infrastructure, and efficiency.

#### **Application Timeline**

- Application Opens: April 1, 2026
- Application Deadline: May 14, 2026 at 5:00 PM Central Time

#### **Funding Overview**

- Award amounts range from \$5,000 to \$500,000
- Grant Applications are competitive
- Cost share (match) is required and varies by award amount
  - \$100,000 or less: 10% match
  - \$100,000.01 – \$250,000.00: 20% match
  - 250,000.01 – \$500,000.00: 30% match

Funding is provided on a cost-reimbursement basis

#### **Who May Apply**

Eligible applicants must be agricultural producers directly engaged in production (such as farming, ranching, forestry, aquaculture, or nursery operations) and must be domiciled in Texas. Additional eligibility requirements apply and are detailed in the RFGA.

Applications must be submitted through TDA's online grants system (TDA-GO). Applicants are encouraged to begin early to allow sufficient time to complete all required components.

Please note that applications must be fully submitted by the deadline. The system will automatically close at 5:00 PM CT, and late submissions cannot be accepted.

The full Request for Grant Applications (RFGA), including detailed eligibility, requirements, and evaluation criteria, is available on the TDA website, <https://texasagriculture.gov/Grants-Services/Rural-Economic-Development/Texas-Agricultural-Finance-Authority/Texas-Agricultural-Grant/AgPro>

For more information, please contact the TDA Grants Office at [Grants@TexasAgriculture.gov](mailto:Grants@TexasAgriculture.gov) or 833-380-8282.

**Plant Spotlight: Chalk Woolly White***Hymenopappus tenuifolius*

Native; biennial upright forb; can grow to height of 24 in.

Winter rosette of lobed leaves is covered by dense fuzz, giving the leaves a silver color. As the flower stalk begins to elongate, new leaves lack the dense fuzz and silver color and are much smaller.



Flowering is from late spring through late summer

Found in dry prairies, pastures, right-of-ways, chalk hills; prefers sandy, rocky soils.

The plant is eaten by sheep, goats, white-tailed deer, and sometimes cattle.

The abundance of this and numerous other forbs on roadsides and their scarcity in adjacent pastures indicates their use by livestock.

**April Horticulture Tips****PLANT:**

Transplants of warm season vegetables such as tomatoes and peppers can be set out now. Any transplant must be acclimated before being planted into the garden. The way to acclimate your transplants is by moving the plants outdoors, out of the direct sun and wind for a few days. Next, move them into partial shade. Complete these steps gradually over the course of a week, then move them into full sun.

**FERTILIZE:**

Roses have high fertilizer requirements. Use a complete fertilizer for the first application just as new growth starts. Then use ammonium sulfate every 4 to 6 weeks, usually just as the next growth cycle starts following a flowering period.

Apply a 2-1-1 or 3-1-2- analysis fertilizer to your warm season grasses. Use the same high nitrogen fertilizer for shade



trees, evergreens and ground covers. Add iron later this month for plants that show chlorosis (yellowing leaves with dark green veins). Sweep iron products off any surface that could be stained.

**BE ON THE LOOKOUT:**

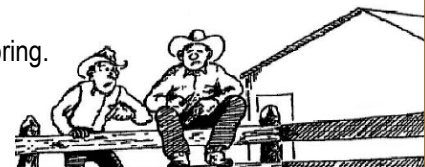
- Continue to spray rose varieties susceptible to black spot using a spray containing a general fungicide. Use as directed on the label.
- Check new tender growth for aphids on annuals and perennials.

**MISCELLANEOUS CHORES:**

- Flower and vegetable seeds left over after planting the garden can be saved for the next season by closing the packets with tape or paper clips and storing them in a sealed glass jar in the refrigerator until needed.
- Check garden hoses and replace them if they're leaking. Sharpen garden tools, oil pruners and loppers.

**Parting Thoughts..... About April**

- The name "April" comes from the Latin word "aperire," which means "to open," referring to the opening or blossoming of flowers and trees.
- April is known for the April showers, which bring May flowers, symbolizing the transition to spring.
- The full moon in April is often called the "Pink Moon".



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Check us out on the web! <https://sutton.agrilife.org>



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