Community & School Gardens Newsletter

September 2026

The Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service and Prairie View A&M University Extension Program of Fort Bend County is dedicated to educating Texans in agriculture, youth/adult life skills, leadership, and community economic development. This monthly newsletter highlights local community and school garden programs, Extension resources, and opportunities for engagement. We hope that you will be inspired and empowered to grow healthy communities!

Garden Grant Writing Tips

Writing a grant for your garden for the first time? Follow these tips to organize your thoughts, focus your project goals, and craft a narrative for a stand-out application!

- Double check your eligibility
- Read the grant application guidelines in full
- Mark important dates on your calendar (submission deadline, award notification, reporting deadline)
- Review application portal FAQs
- Draft essay questions in a separate word document (copy/paste into portal when you're ready to submit)
- Prepare budget and supporting documents
- Ask 1-2 people to proofread your application

Agriculture Literacy for the Whole Family

Yippee! Fair season is right around the corner, so don't forget to visit the AgTivity Barn for a free, hands-on, family adventure. You'll be greeted by our hardworking Extension staff and 4-H members at our interactive livestock exhibit, which features live baby chicks hatching daily, dairy goats, rabbits, and more. On September 25th, the annual coloring contest winners will be awarded ribbons and cash prizes.

Each night of the fair features the following themes with live demonstrations and giveaways:

- **Vegetables**
- **Farm Machinery**
- **Bees & Honey**
- **Agriculture Careers**
- **Entomology**
- **Farm to Table Nutrition**
- **Wool & Natural Fibers**
- **Wildlife**
- **Pecans**

Visit this website to purchase fair tickets.

Upcoming Events

Sat., September 12, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Let's Salsa! Canning Workshop
1440 Band Rd, Rosenberg, TX 77471

Fri., September 25 - Sun. October 4
Fort Bend County Fair Opens
4310 Hwy. 36, Rosenberg 77471

Sat., September 26, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Brazoria County Strawberry Jamboree
901 S Downing St, Angleton, TX 77515

Sat., October 10, 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.
Fall Veggie & Herb Plant Sale
1330 Band Rd, Rosenberg, TX 77471

Thurs., October 15 - 16, 8 a.m. - 6 p.m.
Texas New Fruit Growers Conference
3825 TX-36 Rosenberg, TX

Sat., October 17, 8:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Scouts Plant Science Merit Badge Event
1440 Band Rd, Rosenberg 77471

4-H Enrollment open now!
Click here
for more information.

The **Norman Borlaug Youth in Agriculture Program** applications are open now through October 1st. Participants who successfully complete the program earn 3 Texas A&M University college credits and a $5,000 educational grant. Apply **here**.

Anna's Hummingbird

Hummingbird Plant Spotlight:

Sources: npsot.org and wildflower.org

Did you know migration season is happening now?

Ruby-throated Hummingbird

Quick Facts about Texas Hummingbirds:

- **18 species** of hummingbirds visit Texas annually
- **September** boasts the most hummingbird sightings
- Hummingbirds can fly up to **55 mph**
- The Ruby-tailed Hummingbird migrates nonstop for up to **600 miles** across the Gulf Coast, flying south to Central America for the winter

Hummingbird-Attracting Native Plants

Red Buckeye *(Aesculus pavia)*

Photo Credit: C. Sorenson

Coralbean *(Erythrina herbacea)*

Photo Credit: P. Montgomery

Cardinal Flower *(Lobelia cardinalis)*

Photo Credit: N. Flaigg

Indian Paintbrush *(Castilleja indivisa)*

Photo Credit: C. Sorenson

Texas Lantana *(Lantana urticoides)*

Photo Credit: J. Marcus

Celebrate Agriculture This Month:

National Food Bank Day
(*September 4*)

National Guacamole Day
(*September 16*)

National PawPaw Day
(*September 17*)

What to Plant in September:

- **Bean** (Lima, Bush/Pole)
- **Beet** & **Radish**
- **Swiss Chard**

- **Chinese Cabbage**
- **Collards** & **Mustards**

Grant Opportunities

→Lamar CISD Ed. Foundation Grant (due 9/18)
→Learning from the Ground Up Grant (due 9/21)
→Karma for Kara Foundation Microgrant (due 10/1)
→Toshiba America Foundation (due 10/ 1 for grades K-5)
→Waterwise Garden Grant (due 10/2)
→ALDI Community Gift Card Program (due 10/ 31)
→HEB Community Investment Program (rolling deadline)

"If at first you don't succeed, try try, again." - Unknown

Looking for garden volunteers? Sign up to co-host a ***Garden Gathering*** this fall. Click here to access the interest form.

Click here to view the Fort Bend Community and School Gardens Map!

Got Gardening Questions?
Master Gardener Help Desk is available Mon-Fri from 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.
Email: fortbendmg@fbmg.org or call 281-341-7068

Contact Us

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