

TEXAS A&M
AGRILIFE
EXTENSION



February
2020

SAVE THE DATE

March 10, 2020 Livestock and Forage
Spring Expo, Fletcher Warren Civic
Center, Greenville

5:30 p.m. Visit Vendors

6:00 p.m. Meal

RSVP to NET Farmers Coop 903.455.6365

May 16, 2020 Hunt Co Master Gardener
"Garden Tour"

June 24, 2020 Summer Pesticide
Applicator CEU Training, Fletcher Warren
Civic Center, Greenville

SEMINAR SCHEDULED

Hunt County AgriLife
Extension is partnering
with the NET Farmers
Coop to host a Spring
Expo the evening of
March 10, 2020 at the
Fletcher Warren Civic
Center in Greenville.
Complete details will be
included in the March
issue.



Hunt County Texas A&M
AgriLife Extension

[Explore Our Favorite Websites](#)
[Online Web Soil Survey](#)

**Leaking Ponds - What
are the Options?**

Pesticide Applicator License Renewal Requirements

Licensed private applicators are required to re-certify (renew) their license every five years. The main requirement for re-certification is to obtain 15 continuing education credits (CEU's), including two (2) credits in laws and regulations and two (2) credits in integrated pest management (IPM), prior to expiration of the license.

Water loss from a pond is a serious problem. For the farmer, it can mean little or no water for fish, irrigation or cattle. For the homeowner, a leaking or empty pond is unattractive and detracts from the landscape. Leaky ponds also increase water use, reduce fertilizer effectiveness, and can pollute groundwater.

Leaking ponds are usually caused by one or more of the following problems:

Poor initial compaction

Areas of high seepage

Too little clay

Pond bottom soil layer too thin

Aggregated soil structure

AFTER identifying the problem solutions can be established. There are many choice including spot treatments, compaction, use of bentonite to seal the pond and more.

Proper site selection and pond construction methods will help prevent pond leakage.

To learn more about leaking ponds view the full publication on the subject [Renovating Leaking Ponds](#) **HERE**

These hours can be acquired by attending in-person or online trainings throughout the license period. At each training a Certificate of Completion will be distributed. It is the licensee's responsibility to KEEP the certificates.

Certificates of completion must be maintained **by the applicator** for a period of 12 months after the most recent renewal of their license or certificate. The department may audit CEUs during an onsite inspection or by requesting copies of certificates of completion be mailed to the department.

If you have not received your renewal invoice, TDA can send a duplicate to you.

To request a duplicate renewal, call (877) 542-2474 or email license.inquiry@texasagriculture.gov.

The Texas Administrative Code (rule 7.20) requires all licensees to notify the department within 30 days of any change in the information provided as part of the application for a license. So if you have moved or have a new address, be sure to notify TDA.

Tool for Small & New Landowners to Identify Resources

An extremely common question we receive at the AgriLife Extension Office comes from Small and New landowners. The question is this: "I have 'xx' number of acres, and I want to know what I should do for it to be profitable?" While we can offer suggestions and advice for moving forward, landowners should consider their interests and resources first and foremost when deciding on an agricultural enterprise.

Ag producers use resources such as land, labor, machinery, breeding stock, management skills and financial capital to produce commodities for sale. An

accurate inventory of these resources is important for the evaluation of the current health of the operation and planning. This is where a Resource Inventory comes in handy. A Resource Inventory can help to:

- Create a Balance Sheet;
- Provide a summary of collateral that can be used for a loan;
- Identify problems with the condition of your assets; and
- Provide information that can be used to evaluate options for growth and diversification.

A complete guide to Creating a Resource Inventory can be found [HERE](#). Use this guide as a starting point for determining what you want to do with your farm or ranch!



Gluten - What you need to know

When walking down the aisles of the grocery store it is very plausible to find foods with five or more different health claims on the packaging. One claim has been growing in popularity: gluten-free. But what does the label actually represent? Who is

this label for? Here we will answer 5 questions people have about gluten-free.

What is gluten?

Gluten is a protein that can be found in different types of cereal grains. It is responsible for giving structure to baked goods and thickening foods. It is most commonly found in wheat, barley and rye.

Who does gluten affect?

According to the Celiac Disease Foundation, people who have celiac disease have a negative reaction when gluten is ingested. Celiac disease is an autoimmune disorder that causes the body to attack the small intestine when gluten is consumed.

People who don't have celiac disease but do have a negative response to gluten may have non-celiac gluten sensitivity. People with this sensitivity experience similar symptoms as celiac disease but don't suffer from the same intestine damage.

Are gluten-free foods healthier?

While a gluten-free diet is necessary for the health and well-being of those with celiac disease and gluten sensitivity, some people are jumping on the diet for perceived health benefits. This can actually be nutritionally detrimental to your health, as these foods provide fiber and important vitamins and minerals.

Going gluten-free can result in nutritional deficiencies. Fortified breads and cereals are a main source of Vitamin B in American

diets. Fiber deficiency is also a concern in gluten-free diets.

What foods have gluten?

There has been a surge in labeling foods gluten-free in the grocery store and many restaurants have gluten-free options. This is very beneficial for people who need to avoid the protein. In August of 2013, the FDA issued a ruling that defined the term gluten-free for voluntary label use in foods. Food products that bear the a gluten-free claim on the label must meet the rule's requirements.

What foods can be labeled gluten-free?

According to the FDA, foods may be labeled if they meet the definition of gluten-free. The FDA defines gluten free as food that is either inherently gluten free or does not contain an ingredient that is a gluten containing grain.

Since foods that are inherently gluten-free may be labeled as such you are only paying more for the label. For example meat label gluten-free is a label on a food item inherently gluten-free. Some foods that are inherently gluten-free may be labeled to provide confidence in consumers who want to avoid gluten. It would be advantageous for those consumers to recognize the foods in which gluten is found.

When it comes to a healthy lifestyle, everybody has to choose the best diet for themselves and their families.



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