

AG Monthly Digest

Webb County Agriculture & Natural Resources e-Newsletter



HESTER'S HAPPENINGS

Welcome!

In September I sent out a brief e-newsletter with a quick bit of information and introductions, but beginning this month my goal is to localize information and upcoming events that may be of interest to you. I would also encourage you to provide me feedback or event information that you may know of that could be included in these monthly e-newsletter editions.

Soil Amendments

Dr. Vanessa Corriher-Olson
Forage Extension Specialist

Soil additives are different from traditional fertilizers and soil amendments in that they usually have little or no nutrient content. There is no requirement for these products to have a guaranteed analysis label, as long as they make no claim(s) regarding fertilizer value (i.e. N-P-K). Many of these products state on the label that they are not a substitute for a fertilizer program, but enhance the effectiveness of fertilizer normally applied or make nutrients in the soil more available to the crop. They are claimed to improve soil physical, chemical, and biological properties to improve nutrient and/or water availability in the soil and



TEXAS A&M
AGRI LIFE
EXTENSION

Soil Amendments (cont.)

increase crop nutrient uptake.

Most traditional soil amendments and commercial fertilizers have been tested extensively through research trials to document both their benefits and limitations. The benefits from many of these non-traditional products have not been proven scientifically by independent research (McFarland et al., 1998: Non-Traditional Soil Additives). Sometimes crop yield can be reduced by some soil additives (Bauder, 1976), but often, no positive or negative effect can be substantiated. Therefore, be very cautious before making a decision to use these products.

The best advice that can be given to growers is to evaluate new products carefully and insist upon local or regional research data (not testimonials) demonstrating product effectiveness and value. Since there are so many products on the market, it is difficult for Extension personnel and university researchers to test all of the products. Nevertheless, Extension agents and specialist may still be able to give you some information based on their experiences with similar products.

Tis the Season...

Deer season is here! White-tailed deer, wild turkey, general hunts begin November 4, 2023.



Webb County
Texas Parks &
Wildlife

The 2023-24 Master Gardener Program is underway! If you haven't registered yet, there is still a little bit of time for you to do so! We will have classes on Thursday evenings beginning at 6:00 and running no later than 9:00. If you have any questions about the program, please reach out! If you're looking just to gain some garden knowledge, your attendance is certainly welcome!





WEBB SOIL & WATER
CONSERVATION
DISTRICT #337

TEXAS A&M
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Webb SWCD Field Day

November 2, 2023

8:30 A.M. — 1 P.M.

Location: East Slator Ranch, Aguilares, Webb County, TX

Speakers:

Darron Gaus, Senior Manager and Sustainable Ag Specialist for National Center for Appropriate Technology (NCAT)

Jose De La Luz "Pepe" Martinez, Grazing Land Specialist for USDA-NRCS and Grazing Lands Coalition (GLC) Coordinator for the South Texas Region

Buddy Earles, Texas Farm Bureau

Memo Benavides Z., Chairman, Webb SWCD #337

Flavio Garza Jr., District Conservationist, USDA-NRCS

Rick Walker, Owner, East Slator Ranch

Topics:

- Managing Practices, Monitoring Staying In The Right Direction
- Management Practices Used by Successful Cattle Producers
- USDA Conservation Programs
- Proposition 1—Right To Farm — November Ballot

**1 General CEU
Will be offered**

Lunch provided by Texas Farm Credit

Please RSVP by Tuesday, October 31st by calling (956)723-3222 ext.3

An Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact Webb SWCD at 956-723-3222, Ext. 3



SOIL FOR
WATER





Healthy Lawns and Healthy Waters

Rainwater harvesting and turf management training November 9 and 30, 2023

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service's [Healthy Lawns and Healthy Waters Program](#) will host a hybrid residential rainwater harvesting and turf management training November 9 and 30, 2023 for Duval and Webb Counties. The free event will be in person at the Duval County Groundwater Conservation District office in Benavides with the event being available virtually also from 6 p.m.-7:30 p.m. November 9 for the RWH portion. On November 30 the lawn care portion will be online on your computer or online at the Duval County Groundwater Conservation District office in Benavides.

Attendees can RSVP [online](#) and may contact John Smith, AgriLife Extension Program Specialist, Bryan-College Station, at john.smith@ag.tamu.edu or 979-204-0573 with any questions. Those who RSVP for the event will receive updates and materials including the link related to the training via email. Everyone attending needs to register online. The training is offered in collaboration with the Petronila & San Fernando Creek and Chacom Creek-Rio Grande Watershed Partnerships.

Attendees can submit a soil test by picking up soil test bags and dropping off their soil sample and Urban Information sheet at the AgriLife Extension offices in Duval and Webb Counties prior to or by one week following the meeting. The training will include information on how to understand soil test results and nutrient recommendations so residents can interpret results once the analysis is emailed to them.

RSVP to or Contact:

Jeffrey Hester, County Extension Agent – Webb County
956-523-5290
jeffrey.hester@ag.tamu.edu

Healthy Lawns
Healthy Waters

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EPA United States
Environmental Protection
Agency

Texas Water
Resources Institute
make every drop count






Funding for the Healthy Lawns and Healthy Waters Program is provided through a Clean Water Act, Section 319(h) Nonpoint Source Management grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency through the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality.



November

2023

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--------|--------|---------|-----------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| | | | 1 | 2 FALL Ranch Tour 8-1 | 3 | 4  DIA DE LOS MUERTOS Event @ North Central Park 1-10pm |
| 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | Rainwater Harvesting Webinar 6:00 | 10 | 11 |
| 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18  Farmers Market 11-3pm |
| 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23  happy thanksgiving | 24 | 25 |
| 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 Turfgrass Webinar 6:00 | | |

Upcoming Dates to Remember!

- December 9 Laredo Main Street Farmers Market 11-3pm
- February 7-10, 2024 Laredo Birding Festival


WHO YOU GONNA' CALL?



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