

JANUARY 2024 ANR NEWSLETTER

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension - Limestone County

Upcoming Events:

BATTLEGROUND TO BREAKING GROUND

- Deadline to Pay Tuition is January 5, 2024
- Deadline to register for Boot Camp is January 12, 2024
- Boot Camp is January 22-26, 2024
- Cohort 15 Phase 2 runs January 22, 2024 - May 13, 2024
- Cohort 15 Phase 2 runs June 3, 2024 - December 16, 2024

FALCON LAKE CLASSIC 4-H & FFA PROSPECT SHOW - JANUARY 6-7, 2024

- Located at: Oswaldo & Juanita Ramirez Exhibit Hall, 23rd & Glenn St., Zapata, TX

KENDALL LIVESTOCK JUDGING CONTEST - JANUARY 7, 2024

- Located at: Kendall County YAE, 648 FM 289, Comfort, TX

BLACKLAND INCOME GROWTH - JANUARY 9-10, 2024

- Located at: BASE at Extraco Events Center, 4601 Bosque Blvd, Waco, TX 76710

FREESTONE COUNTY 4-H ARCHERY CLUB 3D SHOOT - JANUARY 13, 2024

- Located at: Case Robinson Memorial Range, 442 FM 833, Fairfield, TX 75840
- Online Registration available through January 9, 2024

TEXAS TOMATO LOVERS CONFERENCE - JANUARY 13, 2024

- Located at: Antique Rose Emporium Chapel, Independence, TX
- Registration is available.

RABBIT CLINIC - JANUARY 22, 2024

- Located at: Limestone County Fair Grounds Annex Building from 5:30-7 PM

BATTLEGROUND TO BREAKING GROUND



PROGRAM INFORMATION

The BattleGround to Breaking Ground Program is a 4 phase educational program available to veterans, active duty military, their families, and other beginning farmers and ranchers. The purpose of the BattleGround to Breaking Ground program is to enhance the sustainability and increase the number of farms and ranches in Texas & throughout the U.S., especially for military veterans.

LEARN MORE

txagrability.tamu.edu/bgbg-overview



APPLICATION INFORMATION

Tuition Waived Option

Through various USDA funded grants, the BGBG program is able to provide 15 tuition waived spots per cohort for veterans, active military, and a select number of other beginning farmers and ranchers. Applications for a tuition waiver are now open on a rolling basis.

- 15 spots per cohort
- Application Required
- Competitive process: Online application and 3 letters of support required
- In-person attendance to Basic Training & Graduation required; \$125 registration fee
- 100 hours of hands-on training required
- Only waives tuition for Phase 2; tuition waiver for Phase 3 based on performance in Phase 2

Tuition Paid Option

- 30 spots per cohort available
- Tuition is required; Phase 2 \$600 & Phase 3 \$900
- Available for veterans, active-duty military, and all other farmers/ranchers
- No application process
- In-person attendance at Basic Training & Graduation is optional

Core Program Outline

Phase 1	Phase 2	Phase 3	Phase 4
Online Course or In-Person Bootcamp includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rural Business Ideas • Business Planning Basics • Agriculture Resources • Funding Opportunities for Ag Operations 	Develop your ag business plan! <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 16 weeks of business planning courses • Individual Education Plan • Community of Practice 	Production Education <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mentorship • 100 Hours of Hands-On Training • Online Production Agriculture Classes 	Mentor Training Program <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For BGBG Phase 1-3 Graduates • Learn Mentorship Basics • Phase 4 graduates get paid to provide mentorship & training to Phase 3 participants
BGBG Skills Training Program Registered DoD SkillBridge Program for Active Duty Military Members 120 day program includes Phase 1 Phase 2 & Phase 3. Includes 500+ hours of hands-on training.			



@txagrability

Important Dates to Remember

- Deadline to apply for a Tuition Waiver is December 8, 2023
- Deadline to Pay Tuition is January 5, 2024
- Deadline to register for Boot Camp is January 12, 2024
- Boot Camp runs January 22-26, 2024
- Cohort 15 Phase 2 runs January 22, 2024 – May 13, 2024
- Cohort 15 Phase 3 runs June 3, 2024 – December 16, 2024



15th Annual

Falcon Lake Classic

4-H & FFA Prospect Show



January 6-7, 2024

Buckles for Grand and Reserve Champions & Showmanship

Oswaldo & Juanita Ramirez
Exhibit Hall
23rd & Glenn St.
Zapata, Texas

Banners for Breed Champions

**22 Buckles
to be Awarded**

Schedule of Events

Saturday, Jan. 6

Weigh-in & Classify

7 - 9 am Hogs

9 - 11 am Steers & Heifers



Hog Showmanship

10 am

Hog Show immediately following Showmanship
Breed Format: Duroc, Yorkshire, Hampshire,
OPB & Cross

Heifer & Steer Show

1hr after Hog Show

Division Format: American, British and Exotics

Cattle Showmanship

Heifer and Steer Participants- 1 buckle will be given to
winner of Cattle Showmanship

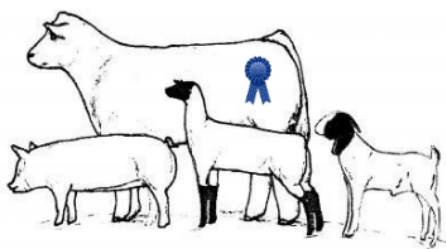


Heifer Show

Immediately after Cattle Showmanship

Steer Show

Immediately after Heifer Show



Lamb Showmanship

Sunday, Jan. 7

Weigh-in & Classify

7 - 9 am Lambs

9-11 am Goats

**Lambs and Goats may
move in Saturday Night*

10 am

Lamb Show immediately following Showmanship
Breed Format: Southdown, Fine
Wool, Cross & Medium Wool

Goat Show

1hr after Lamb Show



Goat Showmanship

Goat Show immediately following showmanship



Showmanship

Age Divisions: 9-11, 12-14 & 15-18

Showmanship Champion Buckle for Each Division

\$10 at the Gate

Winner Takes All!

Indoor Facilities

Generators Welcome

For Out of Town Exhibitors

Facilities Open 6 pm Friday

Entry Fees \$40

Pay entry fees on day of show
Checks payable to: Zapata
High School

Contact:

Fernando Rodriguez 956-763-1344
Jiovanna Sanchez 956-437-9922
Jesse Rodriguez 979-574-6510
Orlando Nava 830-776-9246

Kendall LIVESTOCK JUDGING CONTEST

JANUARY 7TH @ KENDALL COUNTY YAEC
Comfort, Tx
OPEN TO ALL 4-H & FFA MEMBERS!

Age Divisions: Schedule:

JUNIOR: GRADES 3RD - 5TH

INTERMEDIATE: GRADES 6TH - 8TH

SENIOR: GRADES 9TH - 12TH

8:00 A.M. - REGISTRATION

9:00 A.M. CONTEST

STARTS AWARDS TO
FOLLOW

Awards & Scholarships:

AWARDS FOR INDIVIDUALS
AND TEAMS IN EACH
DIVISION AND SPECIES

SENIOR SCHOLARSHIPS:

HIGH IND. OVERALL
2ND HIGH IND. OVERALL

ENTER AT JUDGINGCARD.COM

\$20.00 PER INDIVIDUAL ONLINE & ON SITE

Sponsored by:

Contest Location:

648 FM 289 - COMFORT, TX



For More Info:

Mary Rowe Foster: maryrowe96@hotmail.com or 210.633.4029

Brittni Cross : brittnishaecross@yahoo.com or 830.739.2930



BLACKLAND INCOME GROWTH

January 9-10, 2024

62ND CONFERENCE

held in conjunction
with the



BASE at Extraco Events Center

4601 Bosque Blvd
Waco, Texas 76710

Mid*Tex Farm & Ranch Show

Exhibitions are open

Tuesday 9:00 to 7:00

Wednesday 9:00 to 4:00

FREE to the Public!

Guest Speaker:
Dr. Jason Johnson



Associate Professor, TAMU
AgriLife Extension Economist,
Registered Investment Advisor,
and fifth generation Rancher

Onsite registration for Conference Classes are
\$25 (includes lunch), attendees have the
opportunity to participate in sessions
involving:

Classes:
Tuesday 1/9
8 am to 6 pm
Wednesday 1/10
8 am to 4 pm

- Beef
- Big Grains
- Cotton
- Forage
- Horticulture
- Landowner Management
- TDA CEU's available

Sponsored by:

TEXAS A&M
AGRI LIFE
EXTENSION

For more information, call (254) 974-9447 or visit

<http://stephenville.tamu.edu/blackland-income-growth/conference-information>



Freestone County 4-H Archery Club 3D Shoot



January 13, 2024
Case Robinson Memorial Range
442 FM 833 Fairfield, TX 75840
\$40 per bow



Age groups

Junior (3rd-5th grade)
Intermediate (6th-8th grade)
Senior (9th-12th grade)
Adult – Open shoot

Bow classes

Bare Bow
NASP/Unaided Compound
Aided Compound



8:30am - Check in
9:15am - Range safety meeting
9:30am - Shoot Begins - Sharp
Lunch included with each bow fee
Additional lunches \$8 each



Registration Deadline January 9th
Online registration
<https://forms.gle/pFLTcG9nwV4H7YCh6>



Club contact

Jerry Bonds 903-654-2228
Freestone4harchery@gmail.com



Texas Tomato Lovers Conference 2024

Date: Saturday, January 13th

Location: Antique Rose Emporium Chapel, Independence, TX

Join us in the Heart of Texas for the Texas Tomato Lovers Conference! Learn the secrets to growing the finest Texas Tomatoes in this comprehensive full day event.

REGISTRATION \$100
Limited Space Available

Reserve Your Spot:
☎ 254-848-9393 ✉ sally@texasgardener.com

4 Fantastic Speakers

Ship Richter, Patty Leander, Destin Noak, Rosanne Green

Join us in the birthplace of Texas for a fun filled day of tomatoes. Our friends at the An que Rose Emporium have graciously opened their grounds up for all of us that love growing tomatoes to come together and learn all we can about the most popular vegetable on the planet.

8:00 am: Gardens open. Join us for coffee and light breakfast

8:50 am – 9:00 am: Welcome: Jay White 9:00 am - 9:50 am: Rosanne Green –

Growing Tomatoes with, and for the Young Family 10:00 am -10:45 am: Session: Des n Noak –

Mastering Container Grown Tomatoes

11:00 am -12:00 pm: Pa y Leander– Know Before you Grow: Best Varie es for 2024 PLUS 8 Steps to

Gra ing Success.

11:00 am -1:00 pm: Lunch

1:00 pm – 1:45 pm: Kevin Ong – The Beauty of Diseased Tomatoes

2:00 pm – 3:00 pm: Skip Richter– 10 Commandments of Tomatoes

3:30 pm – Wrap up and final door prizes

Many Thanks to our generous sponsors!

The Anque Rose Emporium



Nelson's Plant Food



Medina Agriculture Products



LIMESTONE COUNTY

JANUARY 22, 2024

RABBIT CLINIC

LIMESTONE COUNTY ANNEX BUILDING
5:30 - 7:00 PM

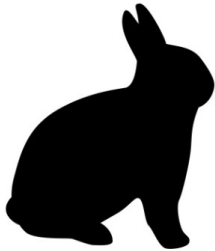
OPEN TO ALL WHO ARE INTERESTED IN RAISING
AND SHOWING RABBITS. GEARED TOWARDS 4H
AND FFA MEMBERS AND PREOSPECTIVE MEMBERS

TOPICS INCLUDE:

GENERAL CARE

HEALTH

SHOWMANSHIP



TO RSVP FOR THIS CLINIC,
CALL THE EXTENSION
OFFICE AT
254-729-5314



TEXAS A&M
AGRI LIFE

FOR ANY QUESTIONS, CONTACT
SARAH PETERS
SARAH.PETERS@AG.TAMU.EDU
254-729-5314

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension provides equal opportunities in its programs and employment to all persons, regardless of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, disability, age, genetic information, veteran status, sexual orientation, or gender identity.
The Texas A&M University System, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the County Commissioners Courts of Texas Cooperating

****PESTICIDE APPLICATOR LICENSE TRAINING IS STILL
AVAILABLE WITH SARAH PETERS IN THE LIMESTONE
COUNTY EXTENSION OFFICE. YOU CAN CALL (254) 729-5314
TO SCHEDULE AN APPOINTMENT.****