

# Eastland County

## Agriculture & Natural Resources Newsletter

February 2021

# TEXAS A&M AGRI LIFE EXTENSION



## Potassium = Persistence

We rely heavily on bermudagrass pastures and hay fields, often disappointed with production, thinning stands, or disease like symptoms. We quickly blame weather. However, there are often other problems that we need to address. **Potassium (K) Fertility:** A deficiency in K will result in poor stress tolerance, reduced winter hardiness, decreased disease resistance, and reduced rhizome and stolon production. To determine if K deficiency is causing the problem, a soil analysis will be imperative. More soil testing information can be located at: ([soiltesting.tamu.edu](http://soiltesting.tamu.edu)). Potassium deficiency may occur during periods of water stress so, even if the soil test indicates adequate levels of K, drought can reduce the amount of K available to the plant. **Soil pH:** Toxic levels of soluble Al can occur in soils where the soil pH has dropped too low, burning root hairs and preventing root growth. Low soil pH also reduces the availability of other nutrients such as P, Mg, Ca, and others. Ultimately, low soil pH starves the plant of water and nutrients. **Leaf Spot:** Leaf spot is associated with bermudagrass decline by attacking grass stands where K levels are low. **Ryegrass:** When bermudagrass is breaking dormancy, an abundance of ryegrass can out-compete bermudagrass for water, nutrients and light. Heavy ryegrass populations can deplete large amounts of K from the soil by reducing the amount of K available to the bermudagrass. To avoid this problem, avoid late applications of N to ryegrass and utilize as much ryegrass forage as possible by grazing. **Drought:** Bermudagrass is quite drought tolerant, however, drought combined with other stressors such as K and pH stress, drought can be challenging for bermudagrass. Maintain soil fertility during good growing conditions so if drought does become an issue bermudagrass will be better prepared. **Poor Nutrient Management in Hay Production:** Bermudagrass can be an excellent hay crop if properly managed. High rates of nitrogen fertilization with no attention to depletion of other plant nutrients (especially K) can lead to low soil potassium and associated problems as listed above. Annual soil testing and special attention to K levels with help alleviate these problems.



## DIGITAL WILD PIG ABATEMENT PROGRAM



Join us for an online Wild Pig Abatement Program. This program will include information about county efforts in wild pig abatement, trapping strategies, research based information, and MORE!

Adam Henry- Texas Wildlife Services- Abatement Strategies  
Ronald Barlow- Texas A&M AgriLife Extension- Sabine County- County Abatement Programs  
Robert Speight- Northeast Texas Municipal Water District- Impact of Wild Pigs on Water Quality  
Josh Gaskamp- Nobel Research Institute- Research in Wild Pig Abatement

**FEBRUARY 18, 2021  
6 PM**

**TO REGISTER: 903.756.5391  
JESSICA.RYMEL@AG.TAMU.EDU**

The members of Texas A&M AgriLife will provide equal opportunities in programs and activities, education, and employment to all persons regardless of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, age, disability, genetic information, veteran status, sexual orientation or gender identity and will strive to achieve full and equal employment opportunity throughout Texas A&M AgriLife. If you need any type of accommodation to participate in this program or have questions about the physical access provided, please contact Jessica Rymel by phone at 9037565391 at least 2 weeks prior to the program.

**Also:** Sign-up continues for the Farm Bill Feral Swine Eradication Program. Program is cost-free to landowners in Eastland, Comanche, & Erath Counties. Contact USDA Wildlife Technician Brianna Graham at 830-326-1429 for more information about the program.

## It's Not Too Late To Have Soil Samples Analyzed

Soil Test! Soil Test! If you have not done so for this year, consider obtaining a soil test now. There is not much that can be done about high cost of fertilizer, but there is much we can do regarding how efficiently we use fertilizer. The soil test is the first step in efficient fertilizer use and improved forage production. Samples should be collected annually for hay meadows and every 2 to 3 years for grazing pastures. For soil forms and bags contact our County Extension Office or visit <http://soiltesting.tamu.edu>. You may want to see the Testing Your Soil publication that describes how to obtain a soil sample for analysis too. The form for submitting soils samples can be obtained at our office or online.

Keep up to date with program announcements and follow Eastland County AgriLife Extension on Facebook @AgriLife Extension-Eastland County or check our website at [eastland.agrilife.org](http://eastland.agrilife.org)

---

If you are not on our email list give me a call at (254) 629-2222 or email [tj.cummings@ag.tamu.edu](mailto:tj.cummings@ag.tamu.edu)

Help Extension prepare programs relevant to issues in Eastland County by taking the survey at: [tx.ag/texaspeaks](http://tx.ag/texaspeaks)



### \$15 LADY Landowners Program

Join us for a program designed to empower female landowners. This will be a digital program, held in 2 sessions.

<b>Session 1</b>	<b>Session 2</b>
Ag Valuations and Tax Exemptions	Resources Available to Landowners
Basics of Land Leasing	Land Use and Stocking Rates
Water Rights and Mineral Rights	Pesticides, Herbicides, and Licensing
Question and Answer Session	Herbicide Calculations and Sprayer Calibration

<b>February 23, 2021</b>	<b>February 25, 2021</b>
<b>6-8 pm</b>	<b>6-8 pm</b>

**To Register:**  
<https://agriliferegister.tamu.edu/Landowner>  
**903.756.5391**

The members of Texas A&M AgriLife will provide equal opportunities in programs and activities, education, and employment to all persons regardless of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, age, disability, genetic information, veteran status, sexual orientation or gender identity and will strive to achieve full and equal employment opportunity throughout Texas A&M AgriLife. If you need any type of accommodation to participate in this program or have questions about the physical access provided, please contact Jessica Rymel by phone at 9037565391 at least 2 weeks prior to the program.

**T.J. Cummings CEA Ag/NR**  
[tj.cummings@ag.tamu.edu](mailto:tj.cummings@ag.tamu.edu)  
Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service  
Eastland County  
102 N. Lamar Suite 307  
Eastland, Tx, 76448  
(254) 629-2222

TEXAS A&M  
**AGRI LIFE**  
EXTENSION