

Upcoming Events

- July 4: Office Closed for Independence Day Holiday.
- July 29-Aug 26—Green Thumb Series: Making Your Landscape and Lawn Beautiful. See page 9.
- August 5-September 2. Do Well, Be Well with Diabetes. Type 2 Diabetes education. See page 10.
- Texas Master Gardeners: 2nd Thursday of each month; 6:00 pm @ The Orange County Convention and Expo Center-DuPont Room. Open to Public
- Texas Master Naturalist: On even months the meeting is on the 3rd Thursday, 6:00 pm, The Orange County Convention and Expo Center-DuPont Room. Open to Public

Orange County 4-H Pecan Fundraiser!

We will begin taking orders mid-August for Thanksgiving Delivery. Contact one of our 4-h members or call the office at 882.7010 to place your order.



"Like" us on Facebook!

Look for us as
Texas A&M AgriLife
Extension—Orange County.

This page will keep you updated on the events and happenings of the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension programs and 4-H program in Orange County.



Orange County Master Gardener's Horticulture Help line



Sick Tree?
Questions about
flowers?
Brown spots in the
grass?
Etc...

Master Gardener's are available on Tuesdays
to answer horticulture questions
1 pm to 3 pm
Call 882-7010 and ask for the Helpline.

Garden Checklist for July –August



The Southern Garden

By Dr. William C. Welch

- By August many fall vegetable seeds and even small plants may be set out for later production. Be careful to give extra water, and a little shade, to these young plants while they are becoming established.

- Trim off faded flowers on crape myrtles and vitex to encourage later re-bloom.

- Caladiums require plenty of water at this time of year if they are to remain lush and active until fall. Fertilize with 21-0-0 at the rate of one-third to one-half pound per 100 square feet of bed area, and water thoroughly.
- Sow seeds of snapdragons, dianthus, pansies, calendulas, and other cool-season flowers in flats, or in well-prepared areas of the garden, for planting outside during mid-to-late fall.
- Plant bluebonnet and other spring wildflowers. They must germinate in late summer or early fall, develop good root systems, and be ready to grow in spring when the weather warms. Plant seed in well-prepared soil, one-half inch deep, and water thoroughly.
- Picking flowers frequently encourages most annuals and perennials to flower even more abundantly.
- Pick okra, peas and peppers often to maintain production.
- It is time to divide spring-flowering perennials, such as iris, Shasta daisy, oxeye, gaillardia, cannas, day lilies, violets, lirioppe, and ajuga.



- Make your selections and place orders for spring-flowering bulbs now so that they will arrive in time for planting in October and November.
- Don't allow plants with green fruit or berries to suffer from lack of moisture.
- A late-summer pruning of rosebushes can be beneficial. Prune out dead canes and any weak, brushy growth. Cut back tall, vigorous bushes to about 30 inches. After pruning, apply fertilizer, and water thoroughly. If a preventive disease-control program has been maintained, your rose bushes should be ready to provide an excellent crop of flowers this fall.
- It is not too late to set out another planting of many warm-season annuals, such as marigolds, zinnias, and periwinkles. They will require extra attention for the first few weeks, but should provide you with color during late September, October, and November.
- Establish a new compost pile to accommodate the fall leaf accumulation.



When Can My Child Ride in the Front?

We are all guilty of occasionally rewarding our children's good behavior with special indulgences. Think about the extra candy bar or the special trip to the fast food restaurant to be entertained with not so healthy treats. But perhaps the most dangerous reward parents give their children is letting the child ride in the front seat!

The truth is that the back seat is always a safer choice – not just for children but for everyone! Most crashes are frontal crashes, so just by virtue of being in the back seat you are further away from the point of impact. Children are not just small adults. Their bones and ligaments are still developing, and they are more vulnerable to crash forces than a full-grown adult. Studies have shown that restrained children in rear seats have the lowest risk of dying in fatal crashes. Even in side-impact crashes, properly re-

strained children in the back seat do better than children sitting in the front. Frontal air bags can also pose a danger to children, just as they can to small adults.

So what is the minimum age when a child can ride in the front seat? The American Academy of Pediatrics continues to recommend that children under 13 years of age sit in the back seat for the best protection. Children under 13 are always safer buckled up in the back seat in the appropriate car seat for their age or a seat belt if they are big enough to fit correctly.

Unfortunately, the law in Texas does not address seating positions. The law simply states that children under age 8, unless taller than 4'9", must be in a child safety seat according to manufacturers' instructions. The law is always the minimum. Parents and caregivers want the maximum safety for their children.

Fallon Foster, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service agent in Orange

County, reminds parents and caregivers to keep children rear-facing until age two or until the limit of their rear-facing convertible seat is reached, which is usually 35-40 pounds.

Also, children should stay in a 5-point harness system until they are mature enough to ride in a booster seat. Booster seats are for children who are at least age four and 40 pounds or more. Finally, keep children in a booster seat until the seat belt fits correctly. This is usually sometime between ages 8 and 12 years old when the child reaches 4'9" tall and the lap and shoulder belt fit correctly. The average child reaches 4'9" at age 11!

Next time you are thinking about rewarding your child, think about treating them like a VIP and keeping them in the back seat! Explain how the back seat is more protective, buckle them up correctly, and take them out for a healthy fruit smoothie!! Remember, children under age 13 are safest in the back seat buckled up on every trip!



The Texas-Sized Cicada Killer



One of the signs of summer in Texas, and throughout the eastern U.S., is the cicada killer. Over the past month or two you may have noticed dime-sized holes appearing in your yard or garden. While many insects (beetles and ants, for example) dig holes, few are so conspicuous as the cicada killer wasp, *Sphecius speciosus*.

Cicada killer wasps are easy to spot due to their large size; they are typically 1– 1/2 to two inches in length. The female cicada killer digs homes for her young in home lawns or in any sandy, bare, well-drained soil exposed to full sun.

Although female cicada killers can sting, they usually ignore people and are rarely aggressive. On the other hand, males are often territorial and may act aggressively. Here's the deal through. Males don't possess stingers and are completely harmless. Like some "guard dogs". Their bark is worse than their bite. The large number of nests and wasp activity can become a nuisance. Also the adult wasps, especially the males defending their territory, can be scary to both children and adults.

Why are they good? The adult species are peaceful nectar feeds and occasional pollinators. The females capture cicadas, helping keep the neighborhood a little quieter during the summer.

Generally cicada killers should be considered harmless and don't need to be controlled. If the nests cannot be tolerated, a small amount of insecticide dust, such as is sold for control of ants or ground-nesting wasp can be applied to each cicada killer burrow. In garden beds, if you are willing to wait out their summertime nesting season, consider covering the site with landscape fabric and mulch. This should prevent emergence next year and discourage adults from using the site again. For more information go to <http://citybugs.tamu.edu>

article by JFarmer



Juicy watermelon replaces tomatoes in this salsa that's simultaneously cool and spicy hot -- perfect for a summer barbeque. Serve it with tortilla chips, or use it as a topping for grilled chicken or fish.



Watermelon seems like just a big, fun, summer-loving guy. But don't think he's all fun and games. He brings a lot more than sweetness to the party. He has lots of these vitamins:

- Vitamin C– helps your immune system. That's the system that helps keep you from getting sick
- Vitamin A– makes your eyes strong.
- Vitamin B6– helps fight infections
- Vitamin B1– helps your body use food for energy.
- Lycopene= an antioxidant, may help prevent cancer

WATERMELON SALSA

3 cups chopped watermelon
1/2 cup chopped green bell pepper
2 tablespoons lime juice
2 tablespoons chopped fresh cilantro

1 tablespoon chopped green onions
1 tablespoon chopped jalapeno pepper
1/2 teaspoon garlic salt

Prep Time: 15 Minutes

Servings: 32

Directions

In a large bowl combine all ingredients, mix well and serve.



4-H NEWS

Interested in Horses??

Join us at our
4-H Horse Project Meeting

Friday, July 11

@ 9 am



Gathering at Stable Spirit
295 Flamingo Lane (Off Old U.S.
90) Rose City (Vidor)

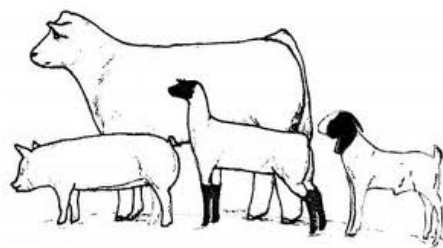
For more information call the
extension office

Livestock Judging

Informational Meeting for youth
and adult volunteers will be held

Friday, August 15

2 pm at the 4-H Office



For more information call the
extension office

SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL 4-H



Mighty Pirates 4-H will be having a BBQ Fundraiser Saturday, July 19 starting at 10 am. They will be set-up in the Crossroads Shopping Center Parking Lot in Vidor. Bring your appetite for some pulled pork and link sandwiches, drinks and chips. Sandwiches are \$3 and a meal is \$5.



Calling all Orange County 4-H Officers!!!!!!



If you are a 4-H club officer or a County 4-H Council officer, then you are invited to attend the first officer training of the year!

- *When: July 23, 2014 @ 1:00 pm*
- *Where: Orange County Extension office (11475 FM 1442 Orange, TX)*

Get the tools and practice you need to lead your club for the new 4-H year"

Snacks and drinks will be provided!

4-H NEWS

Orange County Livestock Show

October 10-11, 2014

Reminders:



- Tag-In: July 12 at livestock show barn in Mauriceville from 8 am-12pm
 - Chicken pick up: August 14 at Vidor High School (ag building) from 4pm-6pm
 - Rabbit entry deadline: September 12
 - Entry forms and rules and guidelines are now available at the extension office



Are you planning on showing chickens at the Orange County Livestock Show?

All 4-H'ers who are interested or think they may want to show poultry at the Orange County Livestock Show in October must contact the 4-H office. Minimum order of 10 chickens at \$20 (\$2 each). Additional chickens are ordered in increments of 5. You will not be purchasing your chickens now but we do need to know your amount by July 12.

2014-2015 Texas 4-H/FFA Heifer Validation Program

NEW!!!

This information will soon be
communicated to you and your
club.

Ownership deadline for spring shows:
November 1, 2014

Physical validation dates forthcoming

Ownership deadline for fall shows: Ju-
ly 1 2014

Physical validation dates forthcoming

Junior Master Gardener Training

Coming August 1, 2014



A flyer with more information will
be available at the extension office
next week.

4-H NEWS

2014 District 9 4-H Horse Show

June 24—26, 2014

Bryan, TX

Congratulations to

Bailey Manning & Kelsey Jordan

Of Dusty Trails 4-H for their

Accomplishments!!!!

Bailey received

10th in Reining

12th in Stock Horse

Pleasure

12th in Stock Horse Trail

14th in Horsemanship



Kelsey received

1st in Working Cow Horse

3rd in Stock Horse Trail

9th in Reining

10th in Stock Horse Pleas-
ure

4th in Horsemanship



Both Bailey and Kelsey are advancing to the
Texas 4-H Horse Show in Abilene. Good Luck Girls!

4-H NEWS

Vidor FFA Booster Club Summer Spectacular Prospect Show

Saturday, July 26 at the Mauriceville Fairgrounds off Hwy 62 in Mauriceville with check in starting at 6:30 am with show at 9 am. Steers shown by weight and breed, heifers shown by age and breed. Carey Hester will be the Judge. Belt buckles will be given for Overall Grand Champions and Overall Reserve Champions. Showmanship belt buckles for Senior and Junior showmanship in each division. Entry fee is \$20 per animal and will be accepted the day of the show. Questions about the show contact Vidor FFA Advisor Tim Singleton 409-679-0675 or Tommy Harrington 409-504-5210.



Virtual Volunteer Workshops



Each workshop is designed to get you pumped up to make the best better for the youth of Texas. The virtual conferences will consist of:

- Teaching Public Speaking
- Wildlife Habitat Education Project (WHEP)
- 4-H Summer Camp Opportunities
- Robotics
- Share-the-Fun
- College Readiness
- 4-H'ers...Start Your Engines (Rallies & Sign-up Nights)
- Social Media
- Leaders 4 Life
- 4-H Roundup
- Livestock Judging Basics
- How to Train 4-H Food Challenge Teams
- How to Judge 4-H Recordbooks

Join the 4-H Agent for a day full of 4-H workshops, July 31 from 8:00 am-3:00pm at the extension office. There will be snacks and drinks provided. Bring your friends and let's learn about 4-H!!!!



To view these workshops and many more visit the Volunteer Conference website at:

http://texas4-h.tamu.edu/volunteer_conference



4-H NEWS

Texas 4-H Youth and Development 2014 Salute to Excellence Honoree

Kathy Hester
Orange County



Mighty Pirates 4-H - Vidor

4-H NEWS

Calling all kids to join our

TEXAS A&M
AGRI LIFE
EXTENSION

4-H

clover

Kid

camp

Dates:

August 7th
&
August 8th

Limited to 50

Kids
so register
fast!!!

Call the 4-H office at
409-882-7010

to register or with any
questions

You do not have to be a
4-H member to attend.

Free to Kids

Ages: 5-8 Years

Time:

1:00p.m.

to

4:00p.m.



-August 7th Activities-

- Beautiful Butterflies
- Fun with Penguins
- Who Created What?
- The Old West
- Health and Fitness

-August 8th Activities-

- Edible Art
- Super Scientist
- Bug Mania
- Animal Tracks
- Safe is Safe!

4-H NEWS



If you are interested in becoming
a 4-H Volunteer we would be
happy to hear from you!!!



Let's go



Let's Grow



Orange County

4-H



4-H NEWS



**Clay Buster 4-H Club had
9 kids attending the
Orange County Clay Buster
Ducks Unlimited Shoot**



**Congratulations to
Wyatt Neely who won
Youth HOA
with a score of 81 out of 100**

Rainwater harvesting 'soaking in' as way to conserve Texas' water resources

After along dry period, many parts of the state have finally received some badly needed rain, and those with rainwater harvesting systems have been reaping the rewards of this belated gift from Mother Nature, said Texas A&M AgriLife water resources experts.

"Rainwater harvesting is a time-tested and effective means of water conservation and irrigation," said Bill Kniffen, retired Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service statewide water resource specialist and past director of the American Rainwater Catchment Association. "And with drought affecting much of Texas, interest in rainwater harvesting from industry, various levels of government and homeowners is increasing. People in general become more receptive to implementing these practices.

As a long-time AgriLife Extension agent and water resource specialist, Kniffen has been involved in the planning, design and/or implementation of dozens of large – and small-scale rainwater catchment systems for offices, schools, community centers, libraries, hospitals and other facilities throughout Texas. Several of him



many projects have been in his home county of Menard, with one notable example being the Menard Public Library.

Kniffen, along with Texas Master Gardener and Texas Master Naturalist volunteers, helped install a 2,500-gallon galvanized tank, along with drip irrigation and a rain garden to capture water runoff.

"One inch of rainwater dripping from a 1,500-square-foot roof can easily catch 600 gallons of water," Kniffen noted.

Another section of the library captured water using "storm chamber" that stores and gradually releases water into the surrounding landscape.

To read this complete article by Paul Schattenberg go to <http://today.agrilife.org/2014/06/02/rainwater-harvesting-feature/>

Rainwater harvesting publications by Texas A&M System experts are available for cost at the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Bookstore website, <http://agrilifebookstore.org>. Enter the word "rainwater" into the search field on the home page. Also, additional information on rainwater harvesting, events and training can be found at <http://rainwaterharvesting.tamu.edu>



Green Thumb Series

Making Your Landscape and Lawn Beautiful



**\$30 per person
per series covers all
classes and materials**

**Tuesdays
July 29, Aug 5, Aug 19, Aug 26
10 am
Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Office**

**Anyone interested in
attending the series
needs to contact the
Extension Office
882.7010**

Topics:

**Soil and Plant Nutrition, Fertilizers and Soil Testing, Lawn Care and EarthKind Landscaping, Landscape Design,
Pruning Landscape Plants & Planting Trees**



Healthy Summer Treat

Take sliced blueberries and/or strawberries place on a baking sheet. Spread organic vanilla yogurt (or any kind) over the top of the fruit and freeze. When frozen cut up like bark and place in a freezer safe container and store in freezer. Grab a piece for yourself or the kids when they are wanting a snack.

Note: placing saran wrap down first on baking sheet makes it easier for lifting and cutting.



Check out the "Dinner Tonight!" program which focuses on healthful recipes and family mealtime. The program is a statewide initiative of the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service to promote healthy eating and family togetherness.



Every Monday, a new video demonstration is released by one of the Dinner Tonight! Statewide agency member.

You can find over 250 free video webcast of east to prepare, nutritious recipes available at <http://healthyliving.tamu.edu> under the Dinner tonight! Tab.

The program encourages people to eat healthier foods and to incorporate more fruits and vegetables into their family's food intake.

Contact the Extension Office 882.7010 if you would like to be on our Dinner Tonight! Email list.



Next class session will be held...

August 5th—September 2nd

5 pm to 7 pm

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Office

11475 FM 1442 Orange

2 hour sessions will be held once a week for 5 weeks. The classes are for people with Type 2 Diabetes, their spouses and caregivers. It is important to attend all classes to receive the full educational benefit. Session cost \$20 per person and scholarships are available. Please call 882.7010 to register so we can be sure to have enough materials for everyone.

Strawberry Jam Canning & Vegetable Canning

Classes



TEXAS A&M AGRILIFE EXTENSION
11475-A FM 1442
Orange, Tx 77630
Phone: 409-882-7010
E-mail: orange-tx@tamu.edu

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Educational programs of the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service are open to all people without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, disability, genetic information or veteran status. The Texas A&M University System, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the County Commissioners Courts of Texas Cooperating

TEXAS A&M AGRILIFE EXTENSION



IN THE JULY ISSUE:

- Garden Checklist for July-August
- When Can My Child Ride in the Front?
- The Texas-Sized Cicada Killer
- Watermelon Salsa
- **4-H News: Pages 5-12**
- Rainwater harvesting 'soaking in' as way to conserve Texas' water resources
- Green Thumb Series: Making your landscape and lawn beautiful
- Healthy Summer Treat
- Dinner Tonight
- Do Well, Be Well with Diabetes
- Strawberry Jam & Vegetable Canning Classes

Chicken Salad with Bacon, Lettuce and Tomato

INGREDIENTS:

- | | |
|--|---|
| • 3 cups chopped cooked chicken breast | • 2 tablespoons chopped green onion |
| • 5 slices bacon | • 1 teaspoon lemon juice |
| • 2 stalks celery, chopped | • 1 dash Worcestershire sauce |
| • 1 cup chopped fresh tomato | • salt and pepper to taste |
| • 3/4 cup mayonnaise | • 12 leaves romaine lettuce |
| • 1 tablespoon chopped fresh parsley | • 1 avocado - peeled, seeded and sliced |

DIRECTIONS:

1. Place bacon in a large, deep skillet. Cook over medium high heat until evenly brown. Drain, crumble and set aside to cool.
2. Prepare the dressing by mixing together the mayonnaise, parsley, green onions, lemon juice, Worcestershire sauce, salt and pepper.
3. In a medium bowl, stir together the chicken breast, tomatoes and bacon. Pour dressing over chicken mixture and toss well to coat. Refrigerate until chilled; serve over lettuce leaves and garnish with avocado slices.

***Allrecipes.com