

April 2015

County Extension Agents

Fallon Foster
Family & Consumer Science

Christina Ritter
4-H/Youth Development

Office
409-882-7010



County Judge

Brint Carlton

Commissioner Precinct 1

David L. Dubose

Commissioner Precinct 2

Barry Burton

Commissioner Precinct 3

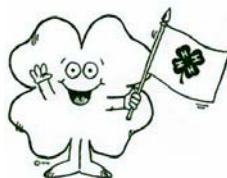
John W. Banken

Commissioner Precinct 4

Jody E. Crump



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



Pages 6-13

Orange County Offices Will Be Closed



Orange County Master Gardener's

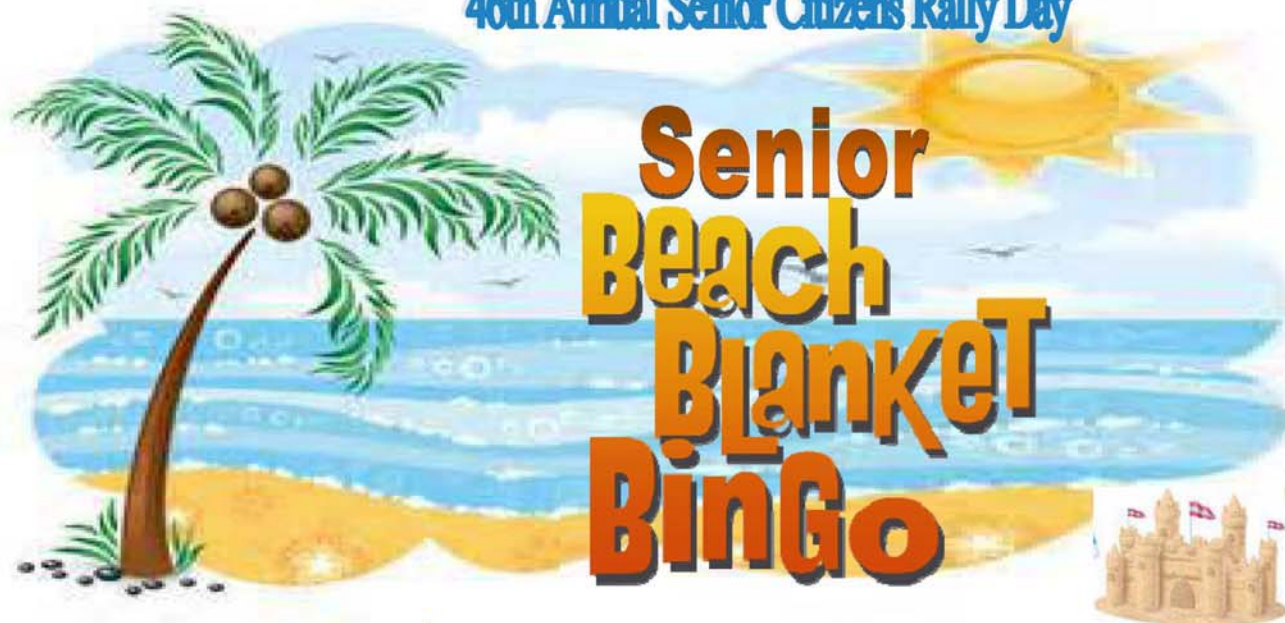
Annual Bloomin' Crazy Plant Fair



April 11, 2015
From 8 AM—1 PM
Jewel Cormier Park
8235 FM 1442, Orangefield
(Exit 869 S off IH 10)



46th Annual Senior Citizens Rally Day



Tuesday, May 5, 2015

Orange County Convention & Expo Center

11475 FM 1442 Orange



Days Events Include

Health Fair

Bingo

Door Prizes

Guest Speaker

Entertainment

Awards

Free Lunch



Doors will not open until

9 am

and the event will

last till

1 pm



Lions Eye Bank of Texas
will be accepting donations
of eye glasses.



TEXAS A&M
AGRI LIFE
EXTENSION

If you would like to be a Vendor at the
Senior Citizens Rally Day contact the
AgriLife Extension office 882-7010.



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

Food Handlers class

Texas Department of State Health Services
accredited food handlers program
This class is recommended for all food service employees
to help promote the service of safe food



The class is a basic overview of food safety practices that are necessary to ensure you serve safe food at your establishment such as but not limited to:

- Good Personal Hygiene
- Cross Contamination
- Time and Temperature abuse

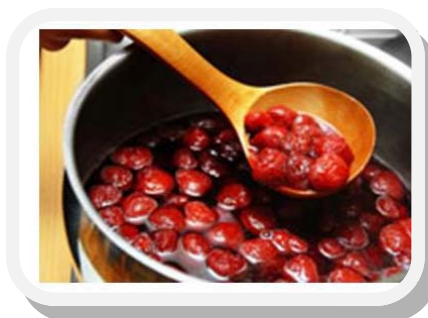
To PRE-REGISTER Call 882-7010

April 21, 2015
9 am to 12 pm
or
5 pm to 8 pm
\$20 per person/payable by check
or cash the day of the class

Classes will be held at the
Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service
Hwy 1442 Orange

Jelly Making Class

Learn how to
extract the juice
from the fruit
and turn it into
jelly!



\$20

Monday, April 27, 2015

10:00 am

Texas A&M AgriLife
Extension Office

11475 FM 1442 Orange

882-7010 *limited space,*

must call to reserve your spot.



Summer YOUTH COOKING Camp

Ages
8 to 14
Limited to 50 Kids

June 8th, 9th, 10th, 11th, and 12th

10 am to 2 pm

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension

11475 FM 1442 Orange

\$40 per child

(Fee covers snacks, apron, food, etc.)

Deadline to Register: May 22, 2015



Thursday we will be having a FOOD CHALLENGE.
(Our version of Master Chef)
Groups will be given ingredients and have
to prepare a dish.

If interested, call the Extension Office
409.882.7010



TEXAS A&M
AGRILIFE
EXTENSION



After a long, dark winter, spring's bright sun and warm winds are, well, a breath of fresh air, the only downside all that sunshine spotlights your leaf-filled gutters, cracked sidewalks and the dead plants in last year's flower beds. Dwight Barnett, a certified master inspector with the American Society of Home Inspectors, shared this checklist to help you target the areas that need maintenance so you can get your chores done quickly, leaving you time to go outside and play in the sunshine.

- Check for loose or leaky gutters. Improper drainage can lead to water in the basement or crawl space. Make sure downspouts drain away from the foundation and are clear and free of debris.
- Low areas in the yard or next to the foundation should be filled with compacted soil. Spring rains can cause yard flooding, which can lead to foundation flooding and damage. Also, when water pools in these low areas in summer, it creates a breeding ground for insects.
- Use a screwdriver to probe the wood trim around windows, doors, railings and decks. Make repairs now before the spring rains do more damage to the exposed wood.
- From the ground, examine roof shingles to see if any were lost or damaged during winter. If your home has an older roof covering, you may want to start a budget for replacement. The summer sun can really damage roof shingles. Shingles that are cracked, buckled or loose or are missing granules need to be replaced. Flashing around plumbing vents, skylights and chimneys need to be checked and repaired by a qualified roofer.
- Examine the exterior of the chimney for signs of damage. Have the flue cleaned and inspected by a certified chimney sweep.
- Inspect concrete slabs for signs of cracks or movement. All exterior slabs except pool decks should drain away from the home's foundation. Fill cracks with a concrete crack filler or silicone caulk. When weather permits, power-wash and then seal the concrete.
- Remove firewood stored near the home. Firewood should be stored at least 18 inches off the ground at least 2 feet from the structure.
- Check outside hose faucets for freeze damage. Turn the water on and place your thumb or finger over the opening. If you can stop the flow of water, it is likely the pipe inside the home is damaged and will need to be replaced. While you're at it, check the garden hose for dry rot.
- Have a qualified heating and cooling contractor clean and service the outside unit of the air conditioning system. Clean coils operate more efficiently, and an annual service call will keep the system working at peak performance levels. Change interior filters on a regular basis.



- Check your gas- and battery-powered lawn equipment to make sure it is ready for summer use. Clean equipment and sharp cutting blades will make yardwork easier.



4-H NEWS

Orange County 4-H Lock-In

Come join us for 4-H activities (quiz bowl, food challenge, gardening etc.) games, crafts, food, movies and much more.

Each 4-H member attending may bring ONE friend

Doors will be locked at 9 PM and will not be opened again until 8:00 AM. This is to maintain the safety of all attending.

**RSVP BY
MAY 13th!**

**Friday, May 22-
Saturday, May 23**

**Fun Starts at 8 pm
And Ends at 8 am**

**Location: Orange County Convention & Expo
Center Ball Room –North Door Entrance
11475 FM 1442 Orange TX, 77630
4-H Office 409-882-7010**



Don't Forget to Bring your Pillow & Blanket just in case you get sleepy.

Clover Kids

Youths Ages 5—8



Adventures



August 3rd, 4th & 5th
1 pm to 4 pm
Texas A&M AgriLife Extension
4-H Office

11475 FM 1442 Orange
Registration Fee of \$15 per
child due by July 27, 2015



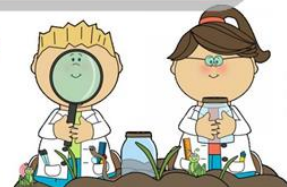
Come experience the fun of what 4-H has to offer for the 4-H clover member. Some of the fun things we will be doing are Gardening, Animals, Sewing, Fitness, Food and FUN, FUN, FUN!



TEXAS A&M
AGRI LIFE
EXTENSION

If you would like to be a part of our exciting camp, call the 4-H office

882-7010.



Pinehurst Nursing and Rehabilitation

4-H Community Service

Pinehurst Nursing and Rehabilitation is in need of some help. They are wanting to redo their garden, plant flowers and repaint their courtyard white. 4-Hers we hope to see you out there. Bring your gloves, caps, water, sunscreen, shovels, rakes and watering tools. (Let the 4-H office know if you will be helping out)

Time: 5:00 pm

Date: April 9, 2015

Location: Pinehurst Nursing and Rehabilitation, off of 28th street (3000 Cardinal St, (off 28th) Orange, TX 77630 (409) 883-5727)



Orange County 4-H Leadership Series

April 7th at the 4-H Office,
@ **6:00 PM** (1st Tuesday of each month)

Join us each month for games, food, leadership activities and comradery. Learn new skills, learn about careers and much more!!!!!!

Come experience the world of 4-H!!!!

**All 4-Hers
Welcome!!**

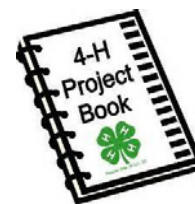


**Bring a
Friend!!**

4-H NEWS

4-H Club Charters due in May

Orange County Recordbooks Due June 1st in the 4-H Office



Club manager and project leader meeting May 7, 2015 6 pm @ the 4-H Office

REMINDER:

Livestock Tag Orders

Please refer to the email/mail Kim sent



A great reference and resource is the Texas Youth Livestock and Agriculture website (texasyouthlivestock.com), which provides youth and adults with information on upcoming events, working with the media and various project-related topics.

42nd Annual Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service 3 Day Summer Horsemanship School

Program of Texas A&M Equine Specialist Teri Antilley

A Great, Affordable, Hands-On Opportunity for Building a Strong Foundation and Advancing Your Horsemanship Skills



Orange Sheriff's Posse Arena, Orange, Texas

June 29, 30, and July 1, 2015

Registration Fee: \$100 per horse and rider

Registration, Waiver, Coggins Papers and Payment Deadline: June 1, 2015

Limited to 20 Participants

Participants will receive 24 hours of instruction on basic, intermediate and advanced horsemanship skills and maneuvers, and have the opportunity to practice these with guided instruction.

Youth and adults will have the opportunity to join in the fun of riding their own horse, enjoying good fellowship with like-minded people, and learning from Aggie instructors.

Bring your horse, and anything else you or your horse might need (buckets for watering, all tack, riding boots- not tennis shoes, caps, sunscreen, snacks), and your English or western saddle. **No overnight stalling will be available on the grounds.**

Concessions will be available

For more information, contact
Christina Ritter, County Extension Agent, 4-H/Youth Development
christina.ritter@ag.tamu.edu or call 409-882-7010

Registration with required documents due by June 1, 2015, no late registration accepted

More information about the Program can be found at:
<http://animalscience.tamu.edu/academics/equine/summer-horsemanship/>

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2015 Texas 4-H Horse Validation



NOW!!!!!!Open on 4-H Connect

March 1 – April 15 - \$10 per horse

April 16 – May 1 - \$20 per horse

ALL HORSES MUST BE APPROVED BY

COUNTY OFFICES BY:

MAY 6, 2015

**ALL PAYMENTS MUST BE RECEIVED IN THE
TEXAS 4-H FOUNDATION BY:**

MAY 31, 2015

**(ANY VALIDATED HORSE UNPAID BY MAY
31st WILL BE DEACTIVATED, CONSIDERED
NOT VALIDATED, AND BE INELIGIBLE TO
SHOW AT DISTRICT OR STATE 4-H HORSE
SHOWS.)**

**All horses must be vali-
dated or re-validated
with payment each
year, to be eligible to
show at District and
State 4-H Horse Shows.**

District 4-H Photography Contest

Entries Due: March 29, 2015

**[http://d94-h.tamu.edu/eventsandcontests/
bigtime/photography/](http://d94-h.tamu.edu/eventsandcontests/bigtime/photography/)**





Big Time in D9

May 1 & 2, 2015 Alvin Texas

Alvin Community College

Register by April 12 on 4-H Connect

4-H Members

Are you interested in participating in one of the categories listed below?

Let Christina know and we will get you ready for Big Time in D9. District Roundup is open to all ages of 4-H members from 8-18. Orange County is one of the 18 counties that make up District 9.

4-H Feud—designed to let 4-H'ers show off what they know about 4-H and anything else kids talk about

4-H Pit Master—Burger, Beans, Brisket, Spare Ribs and Chicken. Teams must provide their own electricity/water

4-H SET— (Research Poster Contest) 4-H'ers apply scientific method to their 4-H project experience

Ag Products ID—4-H'ers identifies 20 ag products, each w/a multiple choice questions pertaining to the product

Consumer Decision Making—apply knowledge and experience in consumer education by analyzing consumer situations.

Ed Presentations/Public Speaking—planned talks where 1 or more 4-H'ers teach others about a project or activity

Duds to Dazzle—redesign and re-purpose discarded garments into new, viable consumer products

Fashion Show—exhibit skills of wardrobe selection, clothing construction or comparison shopping, fashion interpretation, style, good grooming and poise in front of others, modeling an presentation

Fashion Story Board—poster board display of original designs using illustrations, such as fabric swatches, patterns and photos

Food Challenge—demonstration of culinary knowledge and skill

Food Show—showcase culinary skills, including presentation

and interview; participate in 1 of 4 categories

Tablescaping—create display of place settings for one, consisting of appropriate dishes, flatware, glassware and napkins

Healthy Lifestyles—competitive event utilizing knowledge/ skills gained through participation in 4-H Healthy Lifestyles programs

Leaders 4 Life—competitive event designed to challenge county 4-H council teams in leadership skills, parliamentary procedure and service learning

Photography—demonstrate skills in composition, light, story line, posing and awareness

Quiz Bowls—demonstrate critical-thinking abilities and reasonings

Beef
Food & Nutrition
Horse
Swine

Share the Fun -Individual or team performance in 1 of 7 categories

Celebrate 4-H
Choreographed Routine
Musical/Instrumental
Solo/Bank Performance
Poetry/prose
Vocal
Dramedy

Wildlife Challenge—demonstration of appreciation and understanding of the natural world with emphasis on sports fishing, hunting/wildlife, forestry, entomology and wildlife habitat evaluation

4-H NEWS

Orange County Spring Bash Old Timers Showmanship



Our 4-H Agent
Christina Ritter
and Dusty Trails
Club Manager
Leisa Miller
showing their
skills. Thank you,
Les Daigle for
the pictures.



Vegetable Gardening in Containers

By Joseph G. Masabni

If your vegetable gardening is limited by insufficient space or an unsuitable area, consider raising fresh, nutritious, homegrown vegetables in containers. A window sill, a patio, a balcony or a doorstep will provide sufficient space for a productive mini-garden. Problems with soilborne diseases, nematodes or poor soil conditions can be easily overcome by switching to a container garden. Ready access to containers means that pest management is easier. Container vegetable gardening is a sure way to introduce children to the joys and rewards of vegetable gardening.

This complete can be view and downloaded at http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/vegetable/files/2010/10/E-545_vegetable_gardening_containers.pdf Or call the Extension office for a copy, 882-7010.



In Your Lawn



A beautiful and healthy lawn is good for our environment. It can resist damage from weeds, disease, and insect pests. Pesticides can be effective, but need to be used according to the directions on the label and should not be relied on as a quick-fix to lawn problems.

Here are some tips to follow:

Develop healthy soil. Make sure your soil has the right pH balance, key nutrients, and good texture. You can buy easy-to-use soil analysis kits at hardware stores or contact your local County Cooperative Extension Service for a soil analysis.

Choose the right grass for your climate. If your area gets very little rain, don't plant a type of grass that needs a lot of water. Select grass seed that is well suited to your climate and other growing conditions such as the amount of sunlight and rain your lawn receives. Overseed your lawn each Fall by spreading seeds on top of the lawn. A thicker lawn helps to crowd out weeds. Your local County Extension Service can advise you on which grasses grow best in your area.

Longer is Better. Make sure the lawn mower blades are sharp. Grass that is slightly long makes a strong, healthy lawn with few pest problems. Weeds have a hard time taking root and growing when grass is around 2½ to 3½ inches for most types of grass.

Water Early. It is time to water if footprint impressions stay in the lawn and do not spring back. Water early in the morning and only for short periods for time so the soil may absorb the water. Longer grass has stronger roots and retains water better.

Correct thatch buildup. Thatch is a layer of dead plant materials between the grass blades and the soil. When thatch gets too thick, deeper than ¾ of an inch, water and nutrients are prevented from getting into the soil and reaching the roots of the grass. Overusing synthetic fertilizer can create heavy layer of thatch, and some kinds of grass are prone to thatch buildup.

Recycle grass. Don't pick up the grass clippings after you mow. Clippings will return nutrients and moisture to the soil. Consider buying a mulching lawn mower. This will cut the grass clippings finer and blow them into the lawn.

Let your lawn breathe. Once a year, remove small plugs of earth to allow air and water to aerate the grass roots.

Invite a few weeds and insects into your garden. Think of your lawn as a small piece of nature where pests have their place. Often, nature provides its own pest control in the form of birds or other insects that feed on the insects we consider nuisances.

Use manual tools. Tools that don't require electric or gasoline engines are especially handy for small yards or small jobs. There are hand tools available that will meet a wide variety of lawn and garden needs, like lightweight, quiet, easy-to-use reel push mowers that generate no emissions.

For more information see:

Your Yard and Clean Air (PDF 2pp, 16K, [About PDF](#)) - small engines, fuel safety, maintenance, and more.

Healthy Lawn, Healthy Environment (PDF 19pp, 1.7MB) - environmentally friendly lawn care.

Green Landscaping - designing and maintaining beautiful yards, gardens, and larger landscapes that are friendlier to the environment and natural habitat.

Backyard Conservation - bringing conservation from the countryside to your backyard, with tip sheets about creating backyard habitat, pest management, and more, from USDA.



Jam Shortbread

1 1/2 cups all-purpose flour
 1/3 cup sugar
 Pinch of salt
 10 tablespoons unsalted butter, at room temperature
 6 tablespoons preserves (any flavor)

Preheat the oven to 375 degrees F. Line an 8-inch-square baking dish with aluminum foil, leaving an overhang. Whisk the flour, sugar and salt in a bowl. Work in the butter with your fingers to make a crumbly dough.

Refrigerate 2 tablespoons of the dough for topping. Press the remaining dough into the baking dish; freeze until firm, about 10 minutes.

Bake the crust, 15 minutes. Spread the preserves on top, leaving a 1/2-inch border; crumble the reserved dough on top. Return to the oven and bake until the edges are golden brown, 25 more minutes. Let cool 20 minutes, then lift out of the pan and cut into squares.

Yields 6 servings



Spring Pasta Salad

Dressing:

1/3 cup extra-virgin olive oil
 2 teaspoons Dijon mustard
 1 teaspoon honey
 1 clove garlic, grated
 1 lemon, zested and juiced
 Salt and freshly cracked black pepper

Pasta:

12 ounces cavatappi pasta, cooked to package instructions and shocked under cold water
 4 ounces asparagus, blanched and thinly sliced on the bias
 1 box frozen peas, defrosted
 One 12-ounce jar roasted yellow peppers, chopped
 1 pint grape tomatoes, halved
 1 shallot, minced
 1/2 cup fresh dill, chopped
 Ricotta salata, for garnish

For the dressing: In a small bowl, whisk together the olive oil, Dijon mustard, honey, garlic, lemon zest and juice, and season with salt and pepper.

For the pasta: Toss the pasta with the asparagus, peas, roasted peppers, tomatoes, shallots and dill. Pour the dressing over the salad, tossing to coat. Let the salad hang out for a bit to soak up the entire flavor.

When ready to serve, bowl it up and shave some ricotta salata over the top to seal the deal.

Yields 6 to 8 servings

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

Non-Profit Org.
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Return Service Requested



Fruit Salsa with Cinnamon Crisps

Cinnamon Crisps

10 flour tortillas (10")
Cooking spray
1/3 cup sugar
1 teaspoon cinnamon

Fruit Salsa

2 granny smith apples
1 lemon
2 kiwis
2 lb raspberries
1 tablespoon brown sugar
3 tablespoons preserves of choice

Instructions

Cinnamon Crisps

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Combine cinnamon & sugar. Set aside
2. Working with 3 tortillas at a time, spray both sides of the tortilla and sprinkle each side lightly with cinnamon sugar.
3. Stack 3 tortillas and using a pizza cutter, cut tortillas into 12 wedges. Place on a backing sheet and bake 8-11 minutes or until crisp.

Fruit Salsa

1. Zest the lemon and set aside. Peel and finely chop apple, squeeze 2 teaspoons lemon juice over apples and mix well to combine.
2. Finely chop strawberries and kiwis. Gently combine all ingredients, the raspberries will break apart a bit but that's what you want. Allow to sit at room temperature at least 15 minutes before serving.

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USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer. This material was funded by USDA's Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program -- SNAP.

The Better Living for Texans and Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) provides nutrition assistance to people with low income. It can help you buy nutritious foods for a better diet. Educational programs of the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service are open to all people without regard to race, color, sex, religion, national origin, age, disability, genetic information, or veteran status.