

County Extension Agents

Fallon Foster, M.P.H.
Family & Community Health
County Coordinator

Office 409-882-7010



County Judge
Dean Crooks
Commissioner Precinct 1
Johnny Trahan
Commissioner Precinct 2
Barry Burton
Commissioner Precinct 3
John Gothia
Commissioner Precinct 4
Jody Crump



Scan and go directly to our AgriLife website orange.agrilife.org

Orange County AgriLife Newsletter





Happy New Year



To our current Ag Agent Heston Henry. Heston has accepted a job in Ft. Worth and will be leaving us December 7th. Best Wishes.



Orange County
Texas A&M AgriLife Extension



Scan and go directly to our Facebook page

STAYING HEALTHY DURING

FLU SEASON



RUNNY NOSE

FEVER

The 2017-2018 flu season was the first season to be classified as high severity, hospitalizing 30,453 people and taking the lives of 185 children.

COUGH

HEADACHE FATIGUE



















AgrilifeExtension.tamu.edu (DC CDC.gov



Is it a cold or flu?



Must Be Flu Season	Symptoms	Influenza	Cold
	Symptom onset	Abrupt	Gradual
	Fever	Usual	Rare
I think I might	Aches	Usual	Slight
I don't feel good, Mommy	Chills	Fairly common	Uncommon
	Fatigue, weakness	Usual	Sometimes
Sani Hand My tummy hurts	Sneezing	Sometimes	Common
	Stuffy nose	Sometimes	Common
	Sore throat	Sometimes	Common
	Chest discomfort, cough	Common	Mild to moderate
	Headache	Common	Rare



Slow Cooker Chicken Stew

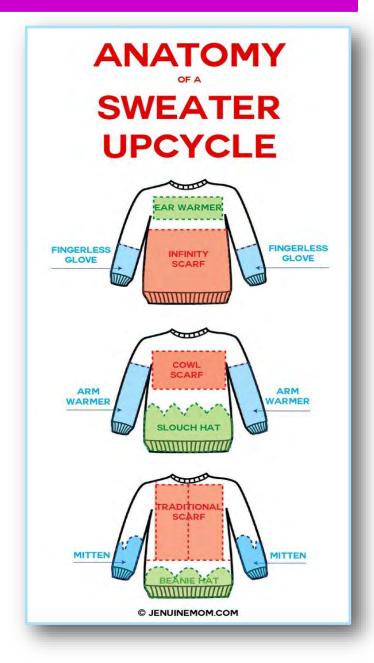
- vegetable oil cooking spray
- 3 4 ounce chicken breast boneless, skinless
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 teaspoon pepper
- 1 cup chicken broth fat-free, low-sodium
- 2 tablespoons balsamic vinegar
- 1 tablespoon fresh, minced garlic
- 1 medium onion chopped
- 1 large russet potato cubed
- 4 carrots chopped



- 1. Lightly spray the slow cooker with cooking spray.
- 2. Lay the chicken breasts on the bottom of slow cooker and add salt, pepper, and chicken broth.
- 3. In a small bowl, mix balsamic vinegar and garlic; set aside.
- 4. Add onion, potato, and carrots to the slow cooker.
- 5. Pour balsamic vinegar mixture on top and cook on low for 6-8 hours or until it reaches an internal temperature of 165 degrees Fahrenheit.

Nutrition Facts: 4 servings per container. Serving Size 328g. Calories 230; Total Fat 3g; Cholesterol 60mg; Sodium 370mg' Total Carbohydrate 25g; Dietary Fiber 4g; Total Sugars 6g, Protein 23g.

https://agrilifeextension.tamu.edu/browse/featured-solutions/healthy-dinner-ideas-for-families-kids/slow-cooker-chicken-stew/



RITZ Cheesy Meatballs



https://www.snackworks.com/recipe/ritz-cheesy-meatballs

- 2 frozen fully cooked bite-size meat balls
- 3 mozzarella cheese slices (0.7 oz. each)
- · 24 RITZ Crackers
- 1/4 cup warm spaghetti sauce
- 1 tsp. chopped fresh parsley

Instructions

- Place meatballs in single layer on microwaveable plate. Microwave on HIGH 45 sec. to 1 min. or until heated through. Cool slightly.
- Meanwhile, cut each cheese slice into 8 pieces; place on crackers. Top each with 1/4 tsp. spaghetti sauce.
- Cut meatballs in half; place, cut sides down, on crackers. Top with remaining spaghetti sauce and parsley.

Agriculture/Natural Resources

ORANGE COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS MONTHY MEETING Public Welcome

Monthly Meeting is held on the 2nd Thursdays of each month. Starting at 6 pm with a meal social till 6:30 followed by their business meeting and monthly presentation. The public is welcome to visit any of the meeting. The meeting is held at the Orange County Convention and Expo Center, 11475 FM 1442 Orange. If you have further questions about the Orange County Master Gardens contact the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Office at 409-882-7010.



Call or stop by the AgriLife Extension
Office

Tuesdays & Thursdays 10am-2pm
Or call and talk with our
Master Gardener on the MG Hotline,
409-745-9708,

You can also call the office Monday-Friday 882-7010 and leave a message for the Master Gardener.



WISH

YOU

WERE

HERE

Volunteer

@

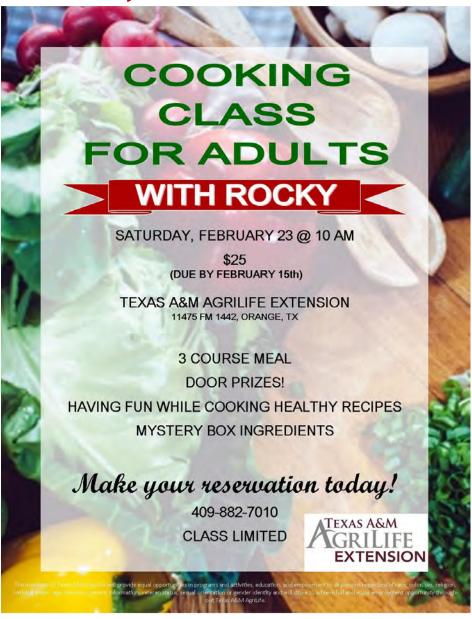
The Field of Plenty

2120 Wickard thefieldofplenty@gmail.com Email Us Today!



Although brown patch will clear up as the ground dries, here are some treatment options that will improve conditions:
-Shut off irrigation
-Avoid mowing wet turfgrass
-Remove objects causing excess shade
-Aerate to improve drainage and air circulation
-Order a soil test for deep insight on existing problems

How about an Adult fun day of cooking with friends and family then competing in a food challenge. If this sounds interesting to you, then reserve you spot for the Adult Cooking Class with Rocky listed below.



A Fresh Start to A Healthier YOU!

Better Living for Texans would like you to join us for a 4 week series on learning to save money while buying groceries, food safety and meal planning all to a Healthier you!

The class will be held at the Raymond Gould Community Center in Vidor in the evening from 6 pm to 7pm on the following Tuesdays, February 5th, 12th, 19th and 26th.

The classes are free to attend and everyone is welcome. Call the office to reserve your spot.

For additional information contact, Tommy Byers with the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Better Living for Texans, 409-882-7010.





Needing a yummy Christmas present or just some goodies? We have plenty of chocolate covered pecans, almonds, glazed pecans and almonds, Texas baskets with chocolate and white chocolate pecans, Mixed nut and fruit basket, specialty nuts and mixes, pecan topping and plain pecans.

Come see us at the AgriLife Office we are open Monday—Friday, 8 am to 12 noon and 1 pm to 5 pm. All proceeds go to our Orange County 4-H Office. Questions, give us a call at



Agriculture/Natural Resources

Poinsettia Facts

by Jennifer Buckner Director of Horticulture – Shangri La Botanical Gardens & Nature Center

Nothing says, "Get ready for Christmas!" more than a beautiful Poinsettia. But do you know the history behind the popular Christmas flower? The "Flor de Noche Buena" or Christmas Eve Flower, as Poinsettias are know in their native Mexico and Central America habitat, is a tropical woody shrub that can reach up to 10 feet tall. The Aztecs who used the bracts called them 'cuitlaxochitl', the colorful modified leaves surrounding the yellow flowers, for dye and the milky sap as a fever reducer.

Poinsettias began their association with Christmas in the 17th century when Franciscan friars included them in their Christmas celebrations. The star-shaped patterns of the leaves symbolize the Star of Bethlehem and the red color represents Jesus' blood sacrifice.

The popularity of the plant in the United States is due to one man, Joel Roberts Poinsett, the Poinsettia's namesake. Poinsett was the first U.S. Minister to Mexico as well as a botanist and physician He was intrigued by the winter flower and brought it back to his South Carolina greenhouse for cultivation in the 1830's.

Caring for Your Poinsettia All Year

During the Christmas Holiday:

- Keep your Poinsettia in a bright, indirect lit location inside
- Water when potting mix begins to feel dry to the touch
- Keep away from hot or cold drafts
- Begin fertilizing after color begins to fade
- Protect from temperatures below 50°f

After the Christmas Holiday to Early Autumn:

- Place Poinsettia in a sunny indoor location and keep soil barely moist
- Trim to about 8" tall after leaves fall in the Spring, keep watered and fertilized
- When new growth appears repot and take outside, fertilize weekly and give morning sun
- Pinch a quarter of the tips of the Poinsettia back to encourage branching
- Bring indoors when night temperatures fall below 50°F

From October 1 to December 15:

- Place in a dark place from 5PM to 8AM. Make sure absolutely NO light breaks this dark time
- Give 6-8 hours for sun per day
- After bracts start to color, discontinue long nights and fertilizer
- Place poinsettia in its final holiday location!

Enjoy you Poinsettia!

Fact 10. True or False. The poinsettia is a poisonous plant. If you answered false, you're correct. The plant has been tested repeatedly and cleared of this charge by authorities such as the National Poison Center in Atlanta, Georgia, and the American Medical Association. However, this doesn't mean that poinsettias are meant to be eaten. If ingested, this plant can cause stomach irritation and discomfort. Cats and children also may choke on the fibrous parts, so be sure to keep these plants out of their reach. The sticky white sap also may cause skin irritation for some people.



4-H/Youth Development



Thursday, December 20th
6 pm to 8 pm
Grange County Convention \$
Expo Center

All family members are invited to join the Christmas Party. We will have fun games for all age groups.

We are asking each family to bring a food dish of your choice, (casserole, veggles, finger foods, salads etc.)

Gingerbread
House
Competition for
Youth & Adults



Community Service:

Collecting Non-Perishable items for Military Care Packages for our Troops. Snacks such as beef jerky, protein bars, hard candies, cough drops, local seasonings, men and women toiletries.

Nothing with electronics or GPS.

Monetary donations for shipping cost.

Questions: Call the 4-H Office 409-882-7010



Major Show Dates

Fort Worth Livestock Show & Rodeo

January 18th-February 9th

San Antonio Livestock Show & Rodeo

February 7th-February 24

Houston Livestock Show & Rodeo

February 25th - March 19th

OPEN SHOP DEADLINE JAN. 2ND

South Texas State Fair—Beaumont

March 21st-March 31st

RABBIT ENTRY DEADLINE FEB 4th

SHOW DATES

Lamb & Goat Show—March 21st

Poultry Show-March 22nd

Rabbit Show-March 23

Swine Show & F-! - March 24th

Steer Show-March 26th

AUCTION

Poultry & Rabbits-March 27th

Lambs, Goats, F-1 & Steers-March 28th



4-H Members. It's time to start preparing for District 9 Roundup in Conroe. You have many choices of participation to choose from. Last year we had members participate in fashion storyboard, food show, educational presentation, and fashion show. We are looking forward to another exciting year in Conroe.

4-H/Youth Development

Adult Leaders Association
2nd Monday @ 7 pm
4-H Office

Clay Busters Shooting Sport

Meetings—3rd Tuesday 6 pm 4-H Office Tuesdays Shooting practice 6 pm Orange County Gun Club Robert Caffey 409-767-6222 robert.caffey@kodiakgas.com

Dusty Trails 4-H & Clover Kids Club

1st Tuesday 6pm @ 4-H Office Chesley Walters 409-781-0946 Tommy Byers 409-216-9865

Mighty Pirates 4-H

2nd Tuesday @ 7 pm, Vidor Junior High Cafeteria Tammy Glawson 409-474-2811 Franny Woods 409-330-7024

Boots & Bridles 4-H Horse Club

3rd Monday 6 pm @ T2 Arena Nicole Kepley 409-779-5521

All Hearts 4-H Homeschool Club

3rd Monday 1 pm @ 4-H Office Tammy Swindell 409-239-6026

County Council

4th Monday @ 4-H Office 6:30 pm

My 4H project

PLEASE NOTE SOME OF THE CHANGES IN THE PROJECT DATES

Recordbook

Will meet again in January 6 pm @ 4-H Office

Livestock Judging

Meeting dates will vary
6 pm @ 4-H Office
Contact the 4-H office for dates
(Do not have to own an animal to participate)

Dog Project

2nd Monday @ 6pm 4-H parking lot—bring dogs along with a water bowl 2nd Thursday @ 6 pm Classroom - no dogs 4-H Office

Food & Nutrition

3rd Tuesday 6 pm @ 4-H Office

Clothing & Textiles

4th Tuesday 6 pm @ 4-H Office

Beginners Robotics Will Not Meet Until January 6 pm @ 4-H Office



4-H/Youth Development

December 2018 4-H Calendar

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 Livestock Extravaganza
2	3	4 Dusty Trails 6pm	5	6 Dog Project 6pm	7	8
9	10 Dog Project 6pm ALA 7pm	11 Mighty Pirates 7	12	13 4-H CHRISTMAS PARTY	14	15
16	17 All HEART 1 Boots & Bridle 6	18 Food & Nutri- tion 6pm Clay Busters 6pm	19	20	21	22
23	24 Office Closed	25 MERRY CHRISTMAS Office Closed	26	27	28	29
30	31					

January 2018 4-H Calendar

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 Hans	2 Ofc Deadline for Houston Open Show	3 Dog Project 6pm	4	5
6	7	8 Mighty Pirates 7pm	9	10	11	12
13	14 Dog Project 6pm ALA 7pm	15 Food & Nutrition 6 pm	16	17	18 Ft. Worth Begins	19
20	Office Closed All HEART 1pm? Boots & Bridles 6pm	22 Claybusters 6pm Sewing 6pm	23	24	25	26
27	28 County Council 630pm	29	30	31		

Agriculture/Natural Resources

Easy to Grow Houseplants for Beginners



Aloe Vera – A medicinal plant that is ideal for growing in-doors. It prefers a lot of light with well-drained soil. A plus is if you have a burn, pinch off a leaf and coat your burn with the gooey gel from inside the leaf.

Spider Plant – Requires well-drained soil and indirect sunlight. Will produce "spiderette's" hanging down from the mother plant



Snake Plant or Mother-in-law Tongue – Very easy to grow, not requiring much light or water. This is a great plant as it removes toxins from the air.

Pothos – Devil's Ivy and Marble Queen – Each can do well in low light and look amazing in hanging baskets or on a trellis.





Hoya – this plant is one that takes very little water or sunlight to get it to bloom. It may take a couple of years before you see your first blooms but it will give you a nice show for years after with its waxy flowers. The leaves

also will change color if it gets a little more light and looks great in a hanging basket.

Ponytail Palm – Is in the succulent family and will grow for years. It takes very little water, as it is use to growing in arid regions. I got mine when it was about 6" tall and now it is over 7 feet tall and probably about 40 years old.



Arrowhead Ivy – Another vining plant that will have to be pruned it kept indoors unless you train the long vines. If you keep it trimmed it will stay compact and full. It does well in any kind of light and likes well-drained soil.





ZZ Plant – This plant is almost indestructible. It can grow in drought conditions and any type of lighting and still look great. You see this plant in a lot of businesses, as it is so easy to maintain.

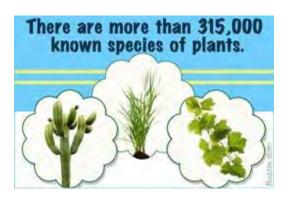
Closet Plant/Peace Lily – Another elegant looking plant that only need moderate water and light. Plant in well-drained soil.





Jade Plant –This is actually in the succulent family and can handle drought conditions and high and low amounts of sun. It also does well in humid areas.

Most all of these plants will be available at the Orange County Master Gardeners Annual Bloomin' Crazy Plant Fair on March 23, 2019 at Cormier Park. Watch our website https://txmg.org/orange for more information



sotruefacts: #177

Plants that are not cared for will cry for help. A thirsty plant will make a high-pitched sound that is too high for us to hear.

sotruefacts.com

Simple recipe alterations can make holiday foods healthier

COLLEGE STATION – Holiday meals can be healthier and baste the turkey in its own juice, or use a defatted broth." taste just as good by using basic recipe substitutions or alterations, said an expert in the nutrition and food sciences department of Texas A&M University, College Station.

"The sugar, fat or sodium content of many holiday recipes can be reduced without a noticeable difference in taste,' said Dr. Jenna Anding, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service specialist, College Station.

Anding said reducing sugar, salt and fat content as well as watching the amount eaten are effective ways of making the holidays healthier.



"For example, if a recipe calls for a cup of sugar, try using threefourths or two-thirds of a cup," using one-third cup."

Facts label on the food package and select options that have lower amounts of sodium.

"Speaking of salt, don't immediately reach for the salt holiday meals, Anding noted. shaker before you taste the food," she said.

Anding suggested using reduced-fat or non-fat cheese, milk, cream cheese, cottage cheese, vogurt or mayonnaise instead of their higher-fat counterparts.

"For mashed potatoes, try using defatted broth instead of butter to reduce both fat and calories," she said.

Anding said modifying more complicated recipes may not always produce the desired texture, so it's best to test the recipe individually or on a few friends or family members before going "all in" on the revised recipe.

"Also, many traditional holiday foods can be healthy and nutritious choices, so long as they are prepared properly and not 'embellished' in ways that take away from that nutritional value," she noted. "For example, she said, if cooking a turkey leave the skin on to contain the flavor, but then remove it afterward to reduce the fat content. Or

For holiday vegetable dishes, the healthiest method of cooking is either steaming or roasting the vegetables using a small amount of oil or cooking spray, Anding said. And adding herbs and spices can enhance flavor without adding fat or calories.

"One holiday favorite, the sweet potato, contains fiber as well as vitamins A and C. A medium-sized baked sweet potato contains about 100 calories," she said. "The problem is when you embellish them with added sugar, butter and other ingredients. A baked sweet potato with a little bit of brown sugar and cinnamon is a far healthier option then one topped with butter and lots of marshmallows."

Anding said another popular holiday food, cranberries, she said. "If it calls for a half-cup contains phytonutrients and has anti-inflammatory propof oil, shortening or other fat, try erties that can promote health and may reduce the risk for disease.

For those who are watching their "Adding fresh cranberries to salads and baked items such sodium intake, Anding advises as muffins, cookies and pies is a good way to sneak in some consumers read the Nutrition extra nutrition and flavor," she said.

> Even with healthier ingredients and preparation techniques, it's important to remember to exercise restraint at

> "Because holidays provide more opportunities to eat due to social gatherings, office parties and other festivities, try to plan accordingly so you can keep your calorie intake in check," she said. "And don't forget about scheduling in

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Contact: Dr. Jenna Anding, 979-847-9228, ianding@tamu.edu

regular physical activity to help burn off those extra calories and relieve some of the stress often associated with the holidays."

For more food and nutrition information and resources, visit the Extension Food and Nutrition YouTube channel at https://bit.ly/2ORn2qc or go to https://fch.tamu.edu/.

Did You Know?

3,500 Calories = 1 lb, of Fat

1 gram of Protein = 4 Calories

1 gram of Fat = 9 Calories

Recommended daily intake of water = 64 oz.

1 gram of Carbohydrates = 4 Calories

Healthy weight loss is 1—2 lbs. weekly



The beauty of Christmas is not in the presents but in His phesence.

Matthew 1:23



Cranberry Pistachio White Chocolate Bark 8 ounces white chocolate, melted and cooled to room temperature 1/3 cup dried cranberries

1/3 cup pistachios, roughly chopped 1/2 cup mini dark chocolate chips

- combine the melted white chocolate and half of the dried cranberries and pistachios. Spread this onto a baking sheet lined with parchment paper. Scatter the remaining dried cranberries and pistachios onto the surface and gently press down so they stick to the chocolate.
- 2. Place the baking sheet in the freezer for 20-30 minutes or until the chocolate has fully set. Bread the chocolate into your desire



Purge Checklist

Bedroom

- outgrown clothing
- outdated shoes
- _torn clothing
- _old hats
- shoe boxes
- old blankets
- _clutter in drawers

Hayroom

- _outgrown toys
- _incomplete games
- _toys w/o a match
- _outgrown furniture
- _broken electronics
- _outgrown costumes
- _organize/rotate

- Ganage broken equipment
- _dirty/ripped rags _expired chemicals
- _combine cleaning liquids
- trash
- _dried out paint cans
- unneeded paint cans
- _unwanted holiday decor _dried out pens
- _old items/car seats
- empty boxes
- _broken tools

Bathrooms

- _old bath toys
- _empty bottles
- _old brushes
- _trash
- _ripped towels
- bath mats/replace
- expired medicine
- _old hair ties/bows
- _expired sunscreen

Ritchen

- _no lid tupperware
- _cracked plates
- _chipped glasses
- mismatched sets
- _expired canned foods
- stale pantry food
- _expired fridge foods
- _combine cleaning liquids
- _unused appliances
- _scratched pans
- _bottles w/o lids
- unneeded cookbooks

Office

- _shred documents
- old keys
- _old chords/adapters
- _old business cards

GOAL-SETTING WORKSHEET

with Lisa Jacobs

WHAT DO I WANT TO CHANGE?

- Financial:
- Spiritual:
- Mental:
- Physical:
- Relational:

MAIN OBJECTIVES:

- 1. Break outworn patterns
- 2. Change what's not working
- 3. Create better results

Apply each goal to the following list:

MAKE IT HAPPEN:

1. What do I really want?

- 2. Why is it important?
- 3. How will I get it?
- 4. What is preventing it?
- 5. How will I know it worked?

It's a New Year for a New You.

GREAT NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION IDEAS

- * Get Fit and Healthy
- * Lose Weight
- * Drink More Water
- * Quit Smoking
- * Spend Less Money
- * Be More Positive
- * Pay Off Debts
- * Get Organized
- * Have more Patience
- * Go on a Vacation
- * Spend less time on the Phone
- * Drink Less Soda
- * Eat Less Fast Food
- * Get More Sleep
- *Volunteer More * Get a Hobby
- * Advance Career
- * Quit Procrastinating
- *Watch Less TV
- * Keep New Year's Resolution

Thekeeperofthecheerios.com



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Oatmeal Cookies

Serves 30-Serving Size 1 cookie

1 cup whole wheat flour1 teaspoon baking powder

1/2 teaspoon baking soda 1/2 teaspoon cinnamon

3/4 cup packed brown sugar

1/2 cup applesauce

2 tablespoons oil (canola or vegetable)

1 egg

11/2 cups oats

Optional: 1/2 cup coconut, dried fruit, or white chocolate chips.

- 1. Combine flour, baking powder, baking soda, and cinnamon in a small bowl.
- Combine sugar, applesauce, oil and egg in a large bowl. Add the flour mixture and stir until combined. Stir in the oats and optional ingredients, if desired. Refrigerate for 30 minutes.
- 3. Preheat oven to 375° F. Spray a cookie sheet with nonstick cooking spray.
- 4. Drop the batter by rounded teaspoonfuls on the greased cookie sheet. Make sure they are 2 inches apart. Bake for 8-10 minutes or until golden brown. Let stand on the baking sheet for 4 minutes. Then remove onto wire racks or paper towels to cool.
- 5. Store in an airtight container

Nutrition Facts: Calories 60, Total Fat 1.5g, Cholesterol 5mg, Sodium 40mg, Total Carbohydrate 12g, Dietary Fiber 1g., Total Sugars 6g, Protein 1g.

Spendsmart.extension.iastate.edu