

FIELDS AND FLOWERS

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Howdy,
We are Lexi & Jeanette, your local
Agriculture & Horticulture Extension Agents.



What's new in Agriculture...

We will be having a multi-county Native Grazing Grasses and Drought Management seminar in April. More details to come. Auxin Training will be on March 16, 2022 at 8am at the Midland County AgriLife Extension Office. This training is needed in order to buy Dicamba or 2-4, D. For more information, call (432) 686-4700. The last Spring program that will be held is the 2022 Commodity Prices and Managing the Input Price Squeeze, presented by Extension Economist Dr. Justin Benavidez. This will be held on April 12, 2022 at the Midland AgriLife Extension Office.

Horticulture question of the week

- What can you do for pollinators?
- Create a pollinator-friendly garden habitat in just a few simple steps.
 - Design your garden so that there is a continuous succession of plants flowering from spring through fall. Check for the species or cultivars best suited to your area and gradually replace lawn grass with flower beds.
 - Plant native to your region using plants that provide nectar for adults plus food for insect larvae, such as milkweed for monarchs. If you do use non-native plants, choose ones that don't spread easily, since these could become invasive.

Start looking for the Texas Well Owners Water Quality flyers in mid-late April. The dates will be May 24-26, 2022.

If you missed our last Private Applicator's Training and would like to obtain a license, our next training will be in June 2022. Be looking for a flyer in the next couple of months. If you are wanting a pesticide license but aren't sure which one you need, here are some basic descriptions of each:

Private Applicator -- A person who uses or supervises the use of restricted-use or state-limited-use pesticides for the purpose of producing an agricultural commodity on property owned or rented.

Commercial Applicator -- A person who operates a business or is employed by a business that applies restricted-use or state-limited-use pesticides to the property of another person for hire or compensation.

Noncommercial Applicator -- A person required to use restricted-use or state-limited-use pesticides but who is not a private applicator or commercial applicator.

Noncommercial applicators are generally government employees who apply restricted-use or state-limited-use pesticides in the course of their employment or persons employed by businesses applying such pesticides on their own property.

- Select old-fashioned varieties of flowers whenever possible because inbreeding has caused some modern blooms to lose their fragrance and/or the nectar/pollen needed to attract and feed pollinators.

- Install 'houses' for bats and native bees. For example, use wood blocks with holes or small open patches of mud. As little as 12 inches across is sufficient for some bees.

- Avoid pesticides, even so-called "natural" ones such as *Bacillus thuringiensis* (Bt). If you must use them, use the most selective and least toxic ones and apply them at night when most pollinators aren't active.

- Supply water for all wildlife. A dripping faucet or a suspended milk carton with a pinhole in the bottom is sufficient for some insects. Other wildlife need a small container of water.

