

February 2022

# THE PANOLA EXTENSION

A Monthly Newsletter by the Panola County AgriLife Extension office



## Panola County AgriLife Extension Service

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[/PCAgriLife](https://www.facebook.com/PCAgriLife)

## UPCOMING EVENTS:

2/1: Entry deadline for Project Fair

2/1: Food Contest Workshop, 5:30pm, Sammy Brown Library

2/2-11: Late entries accepted for 4-H Project Fair (additional \$25 fee)

2/3: Market Rabbit Validation and Entry Forms due, 6-7pm, Expo Hall

2/3: Do Well, Be Well with Diabetes, 9:30am-12:00, Sammy Brown Library

2/10: Do Well, Be Well with Diabetes, 9:30am-12:00, Sammy Brown Library

2/17: Do Well, Be Well with Diabetes, 9:30am-12:00, Sammy Brown Library

2/18: Private Applicator Training, 8:00am, Davis Park, Carthage

2/18: Free Hardwood Seedlings, 10am-2pm, Carthage Civic Center

2/24: Do Well, Be Well with Diabetes, 9:30am-12:00, Sammy Brown Library

2/28-3/4: Panola County Junior Livestock Show, Expo Hall

3/1-4: First Annual 4-H Project Fair, Carthage Civic Center

3/1: Farm Bureau Scholarships Deadline

3/4: Do Well, Be Well with Diabetes, 9:30am-12:00, Sammy Brown Library

3/26: Panola County Roundup, 9:00am, Panola College

## In This Issue:

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- Weekend Gardening with Master Gardeners
- Prepare for Wildfires: Protect your Wildlands

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 Extension Service

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# February



## is American Heart Month!

By Clarissa Moon

Heart disease is the **#1** cause of death in the US! Show your heart a little more love this month with these tips from the American Heart Association:

- **Get 150 minutes of physical activity per week**- this means 30 minutes of activity for five days a week. You can break it up into two 15-minute chunks or any other “chunks” of time you’re comfortable with- it doesn’t have to be 30 minutes straight.  
**Do what you like!** I love to listen to audiobooks while I walk, or bust out my terrible dance moves while cleaning up the kitchen.  
**Make it social**- this can make exercise more enjoyable, and also hold you accountable to stick your plan.
- **Eat a healthy diet**- focus more on fruits and veggies which are rich in nutrients but low in calories. Watch the sodium, saturated and trans fats. These culprits contribute to hypertension and high cholesterol.
- **Know your numbers**: weight, blood sugar, cholesterol and blood pressure are all significant contributors to heart health.
- **Get your check-ups**, vaccinations and screenings- don’t put these off, even though Covid is still a concern!
- **Learn CPR**
- **Manage stress** and find ways to relax during daily life. Whether it’s 10 minutes of yoga in the morning or 30 seconds of deep breathing, your body will thank you for it.

President Lyndon B. Johnson issued the first proclamation for American Heart Month in 1964 to spotlight heart disease. Since then, US presidents have continued to honor heart health each February. I encourage each of you to care for your heart this month (and every month)!



\*All requirements listed apply to Standard Certification, see [heartcheck.org/requirements](http://heartcheck.org/requirements).

To Learn More, Visit  
[heartcheck.org](http://heartcheck.org)

## Check for the Heart-Check Mark

The Heart-Check mark is a simple tool to help you Eat Smart. When you see it, you can be confident that a product aligns with the American Heart Association's recommendations for an overall healthy eating pattern.

**This is some of what it takes to be Heart-Check certified\*:**

### Source of Nutrients -

**Beneficial Nutrients (naturally occurring):** 10% or more of the Daily Value of 1 of 6 nutrients (vitamin A, vitamin C, calcium, protein or dietary fiber)

### Limited in Bad Fats -

**Saturated Fat:** 1g or less per standard serving size and 15% or less calories from saturated fat; **Trans Fat:** Less than 0.5g per label serving size and per standard serving size. Products containing partially hydrogenated oils are not eligible for certification.

### Limited in Sodium - ✓

**Sodium:** One of four sodium limits applies depending on the particular food category: up to 140 mg, 240 mg or 360 mg per label serving, or 480 mg per label serving and per standard serving size.\*

## Heart-Healthy Fruit Salsa & Sweet Chips

Trust me, it's delicious! It takes some time to cut up the fruit and prepare the chips, but I promise it's worth it! It's also kid-friendly and perfect for a Valentine's treat! Recipe from MayoClinic.Org

### FOR FRUIT SALSA:

3 cups diced fresh fruit, such as apples, oranges, kiwi, strawberries, grapes or other fresh fruit  
2 tablespoons sugar-free jam, any flavor  
1 tablespoon honey or agave nectar  
2 tablespoons orange juice



### FOR TORTILLA CRISPS:

8 whole-wheat fat-free tortillas  
Cooking spray  
1 tablespoon sugar  
1/2 tablespoon cinnamon



### DIRECTIONS

1. Heat the oven to 350 F. Cut each tortilla into 8 wedges. Lay pieces on two baking sheets. Make sure they aren't overlapping. Spray the tortilla pieces with cooking spray.
2. In a small bowl, combine sugar and cinnamon. Sprinkle evenly over the tortilla wedges. Bake for 10 to 12 minutes or until the pieces are crisp. Place on a cooling rack and let cool.
3. Cut the fruit into cubes. Gently mix the fruit together in a mixing bowl. In another bowl, whisk together jam, honey and orange juice. Pour this over the diced fruit. Mix gently. Cover the bowl with plastic wrap and refrigerate for 2 to 3 hours.
4. Serve as a dip or topping for the cinnamon tortilla chips



# WATCH FOR COLD STRESS IN CATTLE

By: Lee Dudley – CEA Ag & NR Panola County AgriLife Extension

With winter in full swing and the memory of Winter Storm Uri from 2021 still fresh on our minds, we must always keep in mind that the colder weather brings many challenges for beef cattle as well as producers. In this article, let's explore some of the potential causes creating stress during the winter which include cold, wind, snow, ice, rain, and mud. With the primary factor affecting beef cattle stress levels being temperature. All these factors alter the maintenance energy requirement and intake of beef cattle. Maintenance requirements can be defined simple as the nutrients required so that an animal's body condition is neither gained nor lost rather maintained. Research and producers' experiences tell us more feed is consumed during winter months and especially when we experience extreme cold and or wet conditions.

Just as important as feed, water is often another very important nutrient overlooked. If water is not supplied, cattle will reduce feed intake which will compound body condition loss. Daily dry matter intake of beef cows with respect to temperature intakes during extreme cold or during blizzards and storms may be temporarily depressed. The metabolic response to the stimulus of cold involves practically all the systems of the body. The striated muscles

shiver, the heart beats faster, breathing becomes deeper, urine flow is increased, and the sympathetic and pituitary-controlled systems are activated to elevate biological oxidations (energy expenditure or heat production) in all tissues. The result is an increase in the cow's requirements for energy. There is a range of temperatures where cattle are neither too hot nor too cold and their performance is optimal (approximately 32 to 77 degrees F). This temperature range is called the thermo-neutral zone. It is with in this range where the fewest nutrients are needed to maintain bodily functions.

During cold weather events, snow is preferred to a cold rain, for the simple reason that when cattle get wet, "air insulation" is lost versus those that are out in the snow. The air pockets between hair fibers are a source of insulation. This insulation is matted down in a cold rain, and thus the air insulation is lost. Numerous studies have shown that for every one degree below the critical temperature, a cow's energy requirement (TDN) increases 1%. It is also estimated that for every ten degrees below the critical temperature, the digestibility of the ration decreases by 1%. This means that when the temperature drops below the critical temperature, the cattle need additional supplementation. It may be that more or higher-quality hay needs to be provided.

Besides cold weather affecting cattle performance, producers have another thing to consider during winter – mud. It is less clear what effect mud has on a cow's energy requirements, but it is estimated that it can increase the maintenance requirement from 7% to 30%. If cattle must deal with mud, then their ration should also be improved. Another tool producers must help determine if what they are feeding is adequate, besides forage testing, is body condition scoring. In the last trimester of pregnancy, a cow should have a score of 5, 6 or 7 on a 1-9 scale. If a cow is going down in BCS, then the ration is inadequate and should be improved

Another concern for producers over the winter period is for newborn calves. Many producers schedule calving in the late winter months, so it is very important the newborn calves don't get chilled, or they could die. Move chilled calves out of the weather, rub the animals down with a towel to stimulate circulation and use a heat lamp, if necessary, to help the calves recover. For more information about cattle production, contact your Panola County AgriLife Extension Office at (903)693-033 Ext 161



## Private Applicator License Training and Testing

By Lee Dudley

There will be a private applicator license training and exam starting at 8:00 a.m. on Friday February 18, 2022, at the Davis Park Community House located at 200 Community Drive, Carthage, TX. As regulated through the Texas Department of Agriculture, a producer must obtain a private applicator license to purchase and use restricted-use herbicides and insecticides. The training will begin at 8:00 a.m. and run through the lunch hour.

This is an opportunity to obtain the required training for producer and or landowners seeking a Private Applicators. Training only, testing will not be offered. It should be stated that effective June 1, 2014, the Texas Department of Agriculture no longer offers paper exams. New testing procedures will be explained during the training.

The training is required for all Private Applicators. Study materials are available for purchase, including the Private Applicator General Manual, the Texas Department of Agriculture's Laws and Regulations Manual, and all the handouts/worksheets needed for this training. These materials should be purchased for review in advance of the training.

It is highly recommended that all study materials be ordered prior to you attending this training. Study materials can be orders by going to the following website. <https://agrilife.org/aes/files/2021/10/TDA-PA-order-form-revised-10.8.21.pdf>

For further information or to reserve a seat for this training contact the Panola County Extension office at 903-693-0300 Ext 160.

# February



# 4-H MEETINGS!

## 4-H Council

Feb. 7 | 5:45pm | Expo Hall

## ALPA

Feb. 7 | 6:30pm | Expo Hall

## Beckville 4-H:

4th Monday of the Month  
6pm | Beckville Sunset Elementary  
Brandy Dudley (903) 690-1108

## Carthage 4-H:

4th Tuesday of the Month  
6pm | Expo Hall  
Tara Harris (903) 754-4245

## Fairplay 4-H:

2nd Monday of the Month  
6pm | Allison Chapel in Fairplay  
Eric Pellham (903) 754-2582

## Gary 4-H:

3rd Monday of the Month  
6pm | Gary ISD Cafeteria  
Jennifer Whitby (903) 692-1729

## Shooting Sports 4-H:

4th Monday of the Month  
6:00pm | Expo Hall  
Sabrina Scott (903) 930-9836

## Stillwaters 4-H

3rd Monday of the Month  
6:30pm | Stillwaters Church  
Corie Young (903) 692-7737



**Come Support the  
Youth of Panola County**  
*at the 2022*

**Panola County Junior  
Livestock Show**  
*& 1st Annual*  
**4-H Project Fair!**

**FEBRUARY 28 - MARCH 4**  
*Schedules on next 2 pages*

# MARKET RABBIT VALIDATION



Entry forms due at validation  
on February 3, 6-7pm, at the  
Panola County Expo

# PCJLS Reminders

~~~~~ By Lee Dudley

With this year's Panola County Junior Livestock Show quickly approaching us, it is very important that we keep an eye on the development of our animal projects making sure that they met the weight requirements as well as looking their best come show day. Just as a friendly reminder, the weights for each division are as follow; Steer must weigh 900 lbs. minimum, barrows 200 - 290 lbs., goats 60 lb. minimum, lambs have a 100 lb. minimum, poultry have a 3 lb. minimum, and rabbits have a 3.5 lb. minimum and 5.5 lb. max. Remember even with this time left we can make a big difference in the appearance of our animals, whether that is to increase their weight gain or to start a holding diet slowing the gain down. Without routinely, weighing your animals we cannot determine an average daily gain, not allowing us to predict their weight by show time. Without this crucial information we go into the show ring a step behind the game. Currently there are several sets of small animal scales around the county available for use by any member of Panola County 4-H. If you are wanting to weigh your child's livestock project and would like the location of a scale close to you, or simply want to set a time for me to come out and check the progress of your project contact us at the Extension office at 903-693-0300 Ext 160.

Clipping of the animal projects for this year's county show will be done as follow. Parents, if you are wanting help with the clipping of your children's cattle project, you must contact me at the County Extension office before February 10 to schedule a time. On February 24, from 1-5 p.m. I will be at the Expo to assist anybody with clipping their Lambs and Goats. On March 1, from 2-7 p.m. pens will be at the county Expo for clipping any barrows at that time. It is very important, that if you plan on bringing your animals to the Expo on either of these days for clipping, they must be clean. We will not clip any projects that come into the barn filthy simply because the dirt and oil build up in the animals' wool or hair will dull our clipper blades decreasing the number of animals, we can clip with one set. For any more information, please give us a call in the extension office at (903)693-0300 Ext 160.

# REASONS TO ENTER 4-H PROJECT FAIR

By Clarissa Moon

You've probably (hopefully!) heard about our new event this year that coincides with the Livestock Show- the FIRST Annual 4-H Project Fair! Some of you may be wondering why we created this event and why you should consider entering. There are so many answers to both of those questions, and I will try my best to give you a few reasons and convince you to enter!

## WHY have this event?

4-H is so much more than just livestock! We don't want people to think they can't be in 4-H if they don't have animals. There is something for everyone who's in 4-H regardless of where you live and how many animals you have. I loved my beef project just as much as the next kid, but the other projects in 4-H like art, food and photography is where I found my spark. Plus, I got to be much more independent and creative with these projects. I wasn't always seen as "Amy's little sister" when I was in different projects than she was. I got to be Clarissa.

## WHY should YOU enter?

You might find something you enjoy! It's good to try new things every once in a while. If all you ever do is fish you may get really good at fishing, but you may also miss out on other things like how to cook the fish you catch or how to redecorate your room with a fishing theme!

You're probably already doing the "work". If you ever take pictures of things (even if it's just with a phone!) or do art projects for school; those are projects you can enter! You don't have to go out and buy new things or learn new skills in order to exhibit in the project fair. Once you figure out what you really like, then you can put more time and money into what you want.

Ribbons and other cool awards. Just like many other 4-H contests, you get a ribbon for every exhibit you enter. Champions will get rosettes and other awards like one-on-one learning sessions with area professionals in the photography/sewing/food businesses. Clover Kids will get ribbons too, of course!

As you know, this is the first time we are having this event. We're hoping and planning to continue it each year and grow over time to showcase more exhibitors and project areas. We're keeping everything pretty simple this year- there are less rules than at many other contests and the entry fee is cheaper too. If the fee is too much for you, just talk to me (Clarissa). We don't want anyone to miss out. For more info on Project Fair rules, schedule, fees, etcetera visit [panola.agrilife.org/4-h/](https://panola.agrilife.org/4-h/)

You can also talk to your 4-H Club manager or Corie Young, Tara Harris, or Bridget Twomey who are helping plan the event! Thanks for reading and we hope to receive your entry soon! Late entries are accepted until February 11.



## FIRST ANNUAL PROJECT FAIR

LATE ENTRIES ACCEPTED UNTIL  
**FEBRUARY 11**

**ENTER HERE:**  
<https://panola.agrilife.org/4-h/>

**SCHEDULE (FEB 28 - MARCH 4, 2022)**

Tuesday-Wednesday: Check In Exhibits

Wednesday: Closed Judging

Thursday: Open for public viewing

Friday: Open for public viewing in morning, check out exhibits in afternoon

**FOOD & NUTRITION**

**ARTS, CRAFTS, & FIBER ARTS**

**CLOTHING & FASHION**

**PHOTOGRAPHY**

**CLOVER KIDS**



# 75th Annual Panola County Junior Livestock Show Event Schedule



## February 28th March 4th

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Monday<br>February 28, 2022                                                                                                                                                                                                      | 5:30 - 6:00 pm Weigh-In for all PCJLS Steers & Bill Whitaker Rate of Gain Contest.<br>Held at Carthage Veterinary Hospital                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| Tuesday, March 1, 2022                                                                                                                                                                                                           | 5:00 pm Ag Mechanics Projects in place & Checked-in                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| Wednesday, March 2, 2022                                                                                                                                                                                                         | 9:00 am Pen of Heifers Check-In<br>10:00 am Pen of Heifers Judging<br>1:00 pm Pen of Heifer Sale (All Heifers removed from barn following conclusion of sale)<br>2:00 - 4:00 pm Weigh-In Barrows<br>3:30 pm Market Broiler Check-In<br>4:00 pm Market/Breeding Rabbit Check-in<br>4:00 pm Market Broiler Show Followed by Market Rabbit and Breeding Rabbit Show<br>4:30 - 5:00 pm Weigh-In Market Lambs and Goats |
| <b><u>Pictures are to be taken immediately following judging of each species</u></b>                                                                                                                                             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| Thursday, March 3, 2022                                                                                                                                                                                                          | 7:00 am Breeding Swine in place and Checked-in<br>8:00 am Judging Begins Market Barrows followed with Breeding Gilts<br>1:00 pm Judging Begins Market Lambs followed by Market Goats<br>2:00 pm Ag. Mechanics Judging Begins<br><b>All Breeding Swine must be removed from the premises by 6:00 pm</b>                                                                                                             |
| Friday March 4, 2022                                                                                                                                                                                                             | 6:00 am <b>All Breeding Heifers and Market Steers in place and Checked-in</b><br>8:00 am Ag. Mechanic Silent Auction Begins<br>8:00 am Judging Begins Pre-Junior Mini Herefords<br>8:30 am Judging Begins of Market Steers followed by Registered Heifers<br>10:45 am Buyers Lunch<br>1:00 pm Sale of Champions Starts<br>3:00 pm Ag. Mechanics Silent Auction Ends                                                |
| <b>Beef Showmanship to follow Conclusion of Heifer Show</b>                                                                                                                                                                      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| <b>Showmanship to follow Conclusion of each species</b>                                                                                                                                                                          |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| <b>All Market Animals Must be in Barn by 4:00 pm</b>                                                                                                                                                                             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| <b>PCJLS Sale Order:</b><br>Sale of Champions<br>Steers<br>All 1st placing Barrows, Lambs, Goats, Rabbits and Broilers<br>All 2nd placing Barrows, Lambs, Goats, Rabbits and Broilers<br>Etcetera through all remaining placings |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |

# FIGHTING STICKERS

By Lee Dudley

Grassbur, is a summer annual grassy weed that can be found in home lawns, sports fields, parks and along roadsides across the state of Texas and beyond. This weed is especially adapted to dry, sandy soils but can be found growing in other types of soils as well. The big problem with this weed is the sharp, spiny burs that are part of the reproductive system. Grassburs generally start germinating in late spring and will continue to germinate until late summer or early fall months. This weed continues to grow until the first hard frost occurs in the fall. Grassburs are generally not a problem in well maintained turfgrass areas. With proper fertilization, mowing and irrigation, you can produce a turf that is dense enough to prevent grassburs from becoming a problem. However, if they do become a problem there are effective herbicides that can be used to control this weed. The most effective chemical for control is a pre-emergent herbicide containing Balan. In East Texas apply application by Mid-February. During mild winters, in the East Texas area, grassburs can start breaking dormancy, germinating as early as March. In these cases, a pre-emergent herbicide applied to late in the year will not be effective in controlling these plants but will work on any of the seeds that try to germinate. To ensure complete control of

germinating grassburs in heavily infested areas, extend the residual of herbicide barrier in the soil and thus extend the length of control period by making applications of the pre-emergent herbicide EVERY SIX WEEKS through the month of September. In areas with a light infestation of grassburs, two applications that are six weeks apart should control seed germination. As always, the pre-emergent application needs to be watered in thoroughly. Not applying enough water after application of a pre-emergent herbicide is one of the main reasons for failure to effectively obtain control of the annual grassy weeds such as grassburs.

Remember, the burs are the seeds of the plants. When they die, there is no way to get rid of the existing burs, other than to do so manually, either with a lawn vacuum or by dragging burlap bags filled with some type of lightweight ballast over the area, an old piece of carpet can be used. Carefully remove the bag with the burs and put in plastic bag and dispose of in the garbage. Getting rid of the grassburs is not an easy process and could take a couple of years to rid your yard of all of them. For additionally information pertaining to this or any other topic contact your Panola County AgriLife Extension Agents at (903)693-0300 Ext: 161 or 217.

## FREE HARDWOOD SEEDLINGS

10am-2pm | February 18 | Carthage Civic Center | 1702 S. Adams St.

Drive Through Pick-Up Only | Limit 30 Seedlings

*For more information contact the*

**Texas A&M Forest Service (903) 693-6865**



**TEXAS A&M**  
**FOREST SERVICE**

# Weekend Gardening with **MASTER GARDENERS**

By Lee Dudley

Gardening can mean goodness and joy to all who engage in it. Gardening is fresh air and healthful exercise leading to a feeling of satisfaction and accomplishment at day's end as well as a form of "medicine" for both body and soul, relieve frustration and tension and replace the need for aspirin and tranquilizers. Gardening can mean a more beautiful, less polluted outdoor environment for all to enjoy. It can help beautify your neighborhood, city, and country. Gardening can do so many things for you that no other hobby or pastime can. What better place to garden than Panola County, where it can be a year-round outdoor experience where soils are good and plant choice and types are wide and versatile.

Successful gardening may be accomplished on a windowsill, among rocks, in pots and pans, in water, in sun or shade, where its hot, and where it is cold. Each situation calls for somewhat of a new set of gardening rules and practices. For the unknowing and new gardener, advice is abundant; yet, to select the best gardening information is often difficult. Local gardeners must select gardening books and magazines which are written and adaptable to their growing area. It is of little practical value to learn the



culture of the Northern Maples or White Birch when they demand the cold of more northern areas and are not at all adaptable to Panola County. The advantage of buying plants from local nurseries is to be assured of adaptable plants for a given area, as well as some good, free, and practical advice of how to grow the plant.

The Texas AgriLife Extension Service, a branch of the Texas A&M University system, is represented in Panola County and has a vast amount of gardening information as well as a network of Master Gardeners. These local resources have years of knowledge on nearly every aspect of gardening and ornamental horticulture and can be reached in our office Monday through Friday 8 am - 4:30 pm by calling (903)693-0300 or simply just stop by the office, I am always glad to visit with you about the steps to having a successful garden. Additionally, the Panola Master Gardeners Association meet monthly on the Second Friday of each month from 12:00 pm – 1:00 pm at the Panola County Expo Center where the group shares plants and information as well as having an educational program for each meeting. All meetings are open to the public and if you would like to attend fill free to drop by meetings cost \$5 for all non-Master Gardeners. Additionally, if you are interested in becoming a member of the Panola County Master Gardeners Association this is an excellent opportunity to visit with current members.



## *Prepare for Wildfires:*

# PROTECT YOUR WILDLANDS

By Texas A&M Forest Service

Reducing vegetation on your property—or on a larger scale to protect a subdivision or community—can dramatically decrease the spread and intensity of wildfire and increase the chances for firefighters to control the fire. Help stop or slow down the spread of wildfire by thinning, trimming trees and removing ladder fuels including immature trees, shrubs and dead or downed branches which can carry a fire into the tops of trees. Below are different types of fuels treatments for fire management. See our pamphlet on Vegetation Management in the Wildland Urban Interface or read below for more information.

A fuel break is the thinning of vegetation, or fuels, over a specific area of land. They are most used to surround a community and slow the spread of a wildfire. By decreasing the amount of vegetation, the fire must travel through, you are significantly reducing the risk of extreme fire behavior.

Follow these helpful tips when creating a fuel break:

- Follow a natural fire break or contour lines
- Prune large trees to 10 feet from ground
- Remove ladder fuels such as tall brush and small trees
- Thin trees to create a crown spacing of 25 to 30 feet
- Break up thick areas of brush
- Maintain a minimum width of 60 feet on flat land and 100 feet on slopes

A fire break is a break in vegetation. In some cases, it may be a gravel road, a river or a clearing made by a bulldozer. A 'green' fire break uses grasses with high moisture content, such as winter rye or winter wheat to provide a break in the continuity of the fuel. If wide enough, a fire break will stop the spread of direct flame. However, embers can still be lofted into the air and travel across the line.

A mechanical treatment removes fuels by cutting shrubs, small trees and ladder fuels that make up the understory of a forested area. Materials are either taken from the site or chipped into smaller pieces. Fuels are selected for removal based on how they would contribute to a wildfire. For example, a thick patch of cedar could readily ignite and release significant heat and embers. This fuel type contributes to the rapid spread of a wildfire and would need to be removed. The objective of mechanical treatment is to reduce the intensity of wildfire. If there is less fuel to burn the fire stays low to the ground giving firefighters a safer condition in which to work

A mulching operation is intended to break fuels into smaller pieces and spread them within the fuel break. While the smaller pieces will still carry fire, they will significantly reduce the intensity of it. The goal is to reduce ladder fuels like tall brush that could carry a ground fire into the top of a tree. Mulching equipment is classified as either traditional mowers or mulchers that grind the material. Heavy duty mowers are useful when fuels are small enough to be pushed over. However, for sites with an established woody mid-story, or ladder fuels, other equipment may be needed.

Herbicides are used to control invasive species of plants that will “take over” an area. Invasive plant species can also be reduced with mechanical thinning. The effectiveness of herbicide treatments depends on existing vegetation, topography and other local restrictions. Thick underbrush may require mechanical treatments prior to the use of herbicides.

Prescribed or controlled, burning is the most commonly used tool for managing hazardous fuel buildups because of its relatively low cost per acre. Prescribed fire improves natural habitats and reduces heavy fuels. It is important to use a certified prescribe burn manager to improve fire safety and reduce smoke management issues

Fuel breaks are most effective when placed along a natural fire break like a road. Choosing a site along a road also allows easy access for equipment. Regular maintenance of breaks increases their effectiveness in preventing wildfires. The use of herbicides as a follow up treatment to mulching will help reduce the amount of weed sprouts. Grazing is also an option to maintain a fuel break. For more information about timber management and prevention of wildfires, contact your Panola County AgriLife Extension Office at (903)693-0300 Ext 161



# Panola County 4-H ROUNDUP

Public Speaking | Educational Presentations  
Share the Fun (Dance, Music, Other Talents) | Fashion Show

March 26 at Panola College



Sign up by March 11

## TEXAS FARM BUREAU SCHOLARSHIPS DUE MARCH 1, 2022

Panola County Farm Bureau Scholarship: **\$500**

Texas Farm Bureau Scholarship: **\$1,000-\$1,500**

## PANOLA COUNTY JR. LIVESTOCK SHOW SCHOLARSHIP

Must be postmarked by

**APRIL 1, 2022**

**FIND ALL APPLICATIONS UNDER THE 4-H TAB ON OUR WEBSITE!**



# — THE PANOLA EXTENSION —

## Panola County AgriLife Extension Service

**Address:**

110 S. Sycamore St.  
Room 104  
Carthage, Texas 75633

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**Facebook:**

 [/PCAgriLife](https://www.facebook.com/PCAgriLife)

**LEE DUDLEY**

Agriculture & Natural Resource, County Coordinator

**CLARISSA MOON**

Family & Community Health, 4-H Coordinator

**LANI WEST**

Support Staff - Secretary

TEXAS A&M  
**AGRI LIFE**  
EXTENSION

