



SUMMER 2023

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HAY SHOW

OCTOBER 24TH



Cherokee County Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Office | PO Drawer B | 165 East 6th Street
#104 | Rusk, TX 75785 903.683.5416 | cherokee.agrilife.org | facebook.com/cherokeecottext

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CHEROKEE CO AGRILIFE NEWS



4-H Headlines



Kaitlyn Slover, Cherokee CEA 4-H/YD

kaitlyn.slover@ag.tamu.edu

Cherokee County had a very successful 2022-2023 4-H year with many members competing and succeeding at local, county, district, state, and national level events! The 2023-2024 4-H year is quickly approaching and I'm confident we will have even more success over the next year! Now is the time to start thinking of what projects you want to do and what goals you want to achieve within those projects! Kaitlyn

Cherokee County 4-H Summer Camps

Over the last several weeks many 4-H members have been attending day camps targeting 4-H projects they are interested in. From Duds to Dazzle to Food Show and Food Challenge, our members have really pushed themselves to learn more about these projects. They have gained more knowledge and skills that will help them in the upcoming year to be successful and represent Cherokee County 4-H and their local Clubs well! We still have a few more camps coming up that members can sign up for if interested! Email Kaitlyn at kaitlyn.slover@ag.tamu.edu for more information.

7/11 - Consumer Decision Making

7/18 - Photography and Photography Judging

7/25 - Entomology and Entomology Photography

8/1 - Livestock and Horse Judging Reasons



Calling all enthusiastic individuals who have a passion for youth development and community engagement! We are actively seeking dedicated adult volunteers to join our vibrant 4-H program. If you believe in empowering young minds, fostering leadership skills, and promoting hands-on learning, this is an excellent opportunity for you.

As a 4-H adult volunteer, you will have the chance to make a positive impact on the lives of local youth by engaging them in various exciting projects and activities. Your guidance and mentorship will help shape their character, cultivate their talents, and prepare them for future success. Contact Kaitlyn if you would like more information.

Upcoming Livestock Show Entry Deadlines

State Fair of Texas - Due to County Extension Office 8/11

East Texas State Fair - Due to County Extension Office 8/11

Other Contests - Do not have to be a 4-H member to enter!

State Fair of Texas

Creative Arts, Photography - 7/24 Online

East Texas State Fair

Photography, Creative Arts, Public Speaking - 8/18

SAVE THE DATE: 2024 Ignite by 4-H

Spark your imagination and passion! Ignite by 4-H, an inclusive teen event, returns March 13-17, 2024, to Washington, D.C. Join us for four days of inspiring and engaging panels, respected speakers, hands-on workshops, experiences, networking and connections. The summit will provide high school aged youth from across the country the opportunity to explore the best 4-H has to offer in STEM, Agriscience, Healthy Living, Career Readiness and Emotional Well-Being. Don't miss this opportunity to discover exciting career paths and create an actionable plan to ignite change in your community.





Texas Youth Livestock Ambassador - Cadence Ellis

Page 3

Congratulations to the newest Texas Youth Livestock Ambassador representing Cherokee County, Cadence Ellis! Cadence attended the Texas A&M University - Kingsville short course at the end of June where she learned about agricultural systems, animal science, and wildlife management from TAMUK professors and staff. The Texas 4-H Livestock Ambassador program strives to provide high school aged 4-H members the opportunity to develop and practice leadership skills related to mentoring other youth and to become advocates for animal agriculture. Over the next year she will contribute at least 40 hours of service in topics like ag advocacy, nutrition and selection, daily care and sportsmanship with others.

Salute to Excellence Award Winner - Brandee Wofford

"Selfless giver" is the phrase used time and again to describe Mrs. Brandee Wofford. Over a decade of consistent service and dedication to a single cause is a marathon achievement that few can claim. Bluebonnet 4-H has had the good fortune to have had exactly that in her.

Brandee takes her mission to grow leaders seriously! She brings out the best in her 4-Hers by convincing them to constantly move out of their comfort zones and to develop and refine new skills in order to find their true passions in life. While Brandee spends an inordinate amount of time with Bluebonnet, she is never selfish with her time and talents and gladly guides and mentors youth from all neighboring 4-H clubs when the need arises. Brandee has provided a great service to her community and to the world by developing our true leaders of tomorrow.



Cherokee County 4-H Clubs

(Rusk) Bluebonnet 4-H Club: This club meets at 6:00PM at the Cherokee County Electric Co-op Community Room on the second Monday of each month (Sept-May). The club also has its own Facebook page where a lot of discussion and communication takes place <https://www.facebook.com/groups/557544861033114/>. Feel free to contact the club manager, Brandee Wofford via email at ranchhandmemories@yahoo.com.

(Jacksonville) Lookout 4-H Club: This club meets at 7 PM in the Cherokee County Exposition Center (on the loop in Jacksonville) on the second Thursday of each month (Sept-May). This club also has its own Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Lookout-4H-Club/173164522776587?ref=ts&fref=ts>. Feel free to contact the club manager, Tonya Hazel via email at look-out4htx@gmail.com.

(Alto) Cloverleaf 4-H Club: This club meets at 4:00 PM in the Fellowship Hall of the Alto First Baptist Church on the third Sunday of each month (Sept-May). This club also has a Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Cloverleaf-4H-Club/318924631466867?ref=ts>. Contact Amanda Low for more information via email cloverleaf4hclub@gmail.com.

Wells 4-H Club: This club meets at 6:00PM on the second Monday of each month in the First Baptist Church in Wells. Their Facebook page can be found here: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Wells-4-H/265964240080484?ref=ts>. Feel free to contact the club manager, Brandie Hathorn, at hqhr@yahoo.com.

Iron Rails 4-H Club: This club meets at 3:45pm on the second Monday of each month at the meeting room at the Annex Building (County Extension Office). Contact Cynthia Stewart via email at cynstewart30@gmail.com for more information.

Cherokee County 4-H Shooting Sports Club: This club functions differently than community clubs. Its sole purpose is to allow its members to participate in shooting sports events (rifle, shotgun, pistol, black-powder & archery). This club too has a Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/c4hss/?ref=ts>.

Cherokee 4-H Clay Crushers Club: This club is a competition shotgun club and meets at either Rose City Flying Clays in Tyler or 5H Shotgun Range in Frankston. This club too has a Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Cherokee-County-4H-Clay-Crushers/598186273622227?ref=profile>. Feel free to contact the club manager, Austin Young at austin.young.jkgu@statefarm.com.



Aaron Low • Cherokee CEA-Ag/NR • arlow@ag.tamu.edu

Breakfast CEU Series

Those in need of CEUs for their TDA Pesticide License can join us each month for our Breakfast CEU Meetings. Each meeting will be a “Dutch treat” breakfast and those in attendance will receive one hour of pesticide CEU credit.

There will be a one-time \$10 fee for attending the yearlong Breakfast CEU Series.

The following dates, times and locations have been set.

(Please note the 7 a.m. start time for the May meeting.)

| | | |
|-------------|-----------|------------------------------|
| August 15th | 6:30 a.m. | Cherokee Co Ext Office, Rusk |
| Sept 19th | 7:00 a.m. | Miss Mollie’s Diner, Alto |
| Oct 17th | 6:30 a.m. | Beverly’s Café, Jacksonville |

NO JULY MEETING

Free Hay Testing-Cherokee County Hay Show

A great and easy way to get your hay tested for free is to enter either a square bale or a large trash bag full of hay in our annual Hay Show and Sale. You will be provided with a detailed analysis of your hay crop. Hay sample *must be produced in Cherokee County.*

Testing results will be given during the Annual Hay Show & Sale held on Tuesday, October 24th at the Cherokee County Exposition Center in Jacksonville. Dinner will begin at 6 p.m. and with the auction starting at 7 p.m. The Grand Champion and Reserve Champion hay along with the blue ribbon hay will be auctioned during this event. All proceeds of this event will go to benefit the youth of Cherokee County. The funds raised from the benefit auction will be used to support the Scholarship program, which benefits the youth of Cherokee County. To date over \$260,000 have been awarded to the youth of Cherokee County through the funds raised at the Cherokee County Hay Show and Auction.

Hay entry drop off locations are at the Extension Office in Rusk, Hicks Farm and Ranch in Alto, Hamman Farm & Ranch in Jacksonville, Steele’s Feed & Seed in Troup and Tri County Livestock Market in New Summerfield.

The deadline for entering hay samples is September 11th. For more information, contact Aaron Low at 903-683-5416 or arlow@ag.tamu.edu



Summertime Pond Management Requires Planning and Caution

Phone calls about out-of-control aquatic vegetation are a common midsummer occurrence.

Pond owners should be cautious during summer months when controlling or eradicating aquatic vegetation to avoid fish kills in ponds where fish are an important resource.

Thinning or eradicating aquatic vegetation can improve the overall environment for the pond and increase the pond’s utility for recreation, livestock watering and/or irrigation. However, in larger ponds managed for largemouth bass and appropriate forage species, some degree of aquatic vegetation coverage may provide beneficial habitat and harbor food items.

Because of potentially extensive coverage, there are dozens of native and invasive species of aquatic vegetation that cause ecological and economic impacts throughout Texas.

Positive identification is the key to successful control of aquatic vegetation. People can use the AgriLife Extension website <http://aquaplant.tamu.edu> for assistance in identification and control recommendations when needing help developing game plans for controlling pond weeds. There is a wealth of information on that website, available to help guide landowners. The site assists with identification including descriptions and photos and also provides treatment advice, such as whether biologic controls are available and gives multiple herbicide options, their effectiveness and how to calculate the area and volume of ponds for applications.

Landowners should treat ponds in stages if maintaining fish populations is important. Treating an entire pond with herbicides during the hotter months can create an oxygen debt, due to decomposing vegetation, especially algae and other submerged vegetation, and cause fish losses. This is typically a summertime problem because water at higher temperatures holds less oxygen than would be possible at cooler temperatures. If treatment is necessary during the heat of the summer, break the pond up into sections and treat only 15-20 percent of the pond at a time with one week in between treatments.

Lower water levels typically found in late summer can also aid landowners who want to renovate their ponds. Reduced volume of water requires fewer treatment chemicals to remove the existing fish population, which might include undesirable species, in order to establish and support fish species that offer better angling opportunities.

Landowners with unbalanced fish populations may also want to remove existing fish populations and start over, especially in smaller ponds less than one surface acre in size that lend themselves more for the management of single species that accept a pelleted ration, such as channel or blue catfish, hybrid stripers or hybrid sunfish.

Texas Farm Pond Management Calendar

Texas A&M AgriLife Publication EWF-003

Pond Renovation: Ponds that become imbalanced due to stunted fish populations and/or undesirable species should be renovated utilizing rotenone. Liquid or powder 5% rotenone at 10 pounds of powder or 1

gallon liquid/acre foot of water kills most problematic species. Treated water is safe for livestock.

Restocking is possible 3 weeks after treatment.

Best months: May—September when water temperature is above 70°F

Lime: Agricultural limestone applications are necessary in ponds with pH below 6.5 and/or total alkalinity below 20ppm. Waters in this category may limit fish growth and reproduction.

East Texas ponds in particular should be tested before stocking. Be sure to use the same lime as used on pastures & hay meadows. *Best months:*

November—January

Fertilization: Inorganic fertilizer can be utilized to increase fish production 2-6 fold by increasing the food supply. Apply granular 10-20-5 at 100 pounds/surface acre followed by one or two reduced rate applications of 35 pounds/surface acre as needed to maintain the bloom. Liquid fertilizer such as 16-34-0 is also utilized at 1-2 gallons/surface acre with reduced rate applications as needed. Apply water soluble fertilizers such as 10-52-4 at 6-10 pounds/acre with reduced rate applications as needed. Never fertilize and lime a pond at the same time. Fertilization should be continued on an annual basis. *Best months: Start in early April, end in September*

Aquatic Weed Control: Consider using tripod grass carp as a biological control treatment if plants they control are present. Initiate herbicide weed control when growth begins in the spring. Proper plant identification is essential to providing good control. Do not treat an entire pond with heavy weed infestations in the summer. Spot treat in hot weather to avoid oxygen depletion. Visit our aquatic weed website for help with plant identification and treatment options: <https://aquaplant.tamu.edu> *Best months: Start in April or May—spot treat only throughout summer as needed if fish are important*

Stocking: Rates given are for new or renovated ponds only—no fish present

- Muddy ponds and all ponds less than 1 surface acre should be stocked with only flathead minnows (at 500/surface acre as supplemental forage) and catfish or hybrid sunfish or hybrid striped bass. Stocking rates range from 100 to 1,000 fingerlings per acre for these species depending in the frequency & quality of feeding. *Best months: March—May or October—December*

- Ponds larger than 1 surface acre are suitable for management of bass-bluegill or bass-bluegill-catfish. Occasionally, supplemental forage species (threadfin shad, fathead minnows, tilapia and/or redear sunfish) are stocked in addition to the bluegill. Stock twenty 6-8" bass and thirty 3" or larger bluegill per surface acre, if available. Do not stock hybrid sunfish in a bass pond. *Best months: October—December (bluegill); March—early July (bass)*

- If only 1-3" bass & bluegill are available, stock 500 bluegill/surface acre in the fall followed by 50 bass/surface area the next spring. Catfish stocked with bass-bluegill should be at least as large as the bass fingerlings

(stocking rate 50/surface acre). All stocking rates for bass-bluegill-catfish strategies can be doubled if a fertilization program is utilized. To maintain catfish populations in a bass pond, stock 25-50 8" or larger catfish/surface acre every 3 to 5 years.

Spawning: Catfish stocked alone should not be encouraged to reproduce by adding spawning habitat. However, when stocked with bass and bluegill, spawning cavities can be added to the pond to increase catfish reproduction. Bass initiate spawning in March (February in southern portions of Texas), with some females spawning more than once before summer. Bluegill are essential as bass forage because of their ability to

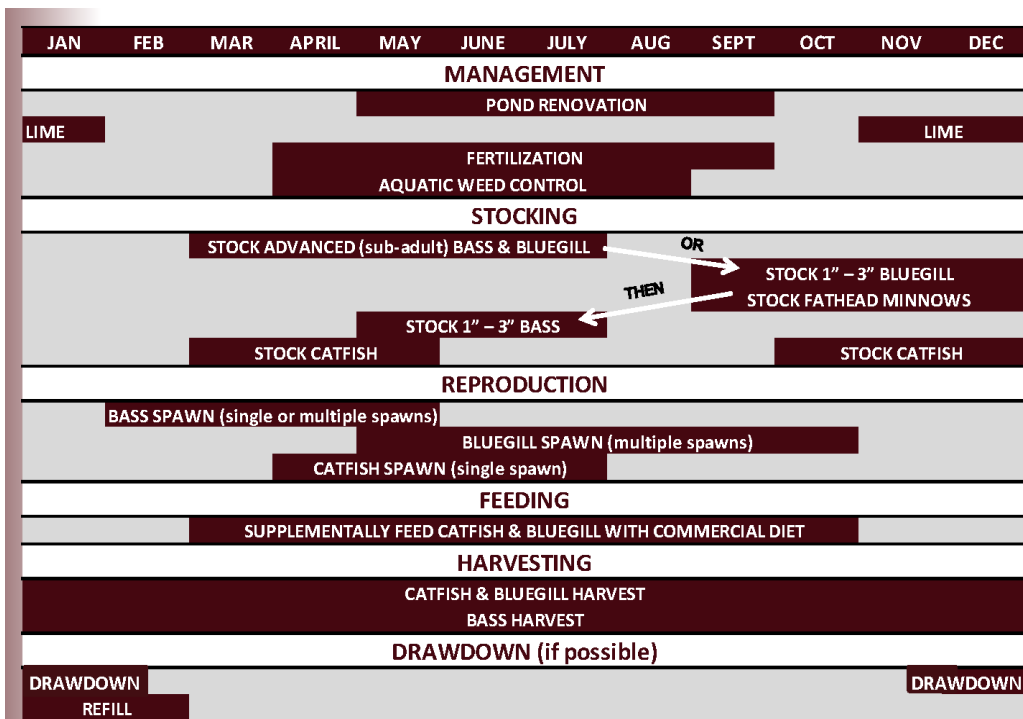
spawn throughout the summer (May-October), providing abundant forage for maintaining a bass population.

Supplemental Feeding: Supplemental feeding greatly increases the pounds of catfish that can be supported in ponds & lakes. Bluegill also benefit from a regular feeding program. Use a floating ration containing at least 28% crude protein. Feed at 3% body weight or all that will be eaten by the fish in 10-15 minutes. DO NOT feed more than 15 pounds per day without supplemental aeration. Feed may also be offered once a week during the winter on warm, sunny days only. *Best months: March—November and during prolonged warm periods during the winter.*

Harvest: Hook & line harvest is encouraged as soon as catfish reach edible size. Catfish produced for income should be removed and sold (if appropriate) by the end of the growing season, November—December. However, since most pond owners simply raise catfish for their own recreation, carry-over of fish from one year to the next is common. Mature fish (3-4 years) may spawn and the resulting offspring stunt or the carrying capacity of the pond (maximum 1,000/pounds/surface acre with daily feeding) will be exceeded if the fish are not routinely harvested. Return all bass less than 15" long during the first three years after stocking. From the fourth year on, remove twenty-five 8-12" bass, return 12-15" bass, and keep or return those bass over 15". Do not remove more than 25 pounds of bass er acre per year to prevent overharvest. No limit should be placed on the number of bluegill harvested. *Best months: All year*

Catch Records: Anglers should maintain accurate records on the number and size of each species caught during each fishing trip. Harvest can then be monitored to determine when restocking and/or harvest restrictions become necessary for certain species.

Drawdown: Ponds larger than one surface acre containing bass & bluegill may benefit from annual drawdown of 1-3 feet. This technique concentrates forage (bluegill) and makes them more available to bass. Exposed shoreline areas can be planted with a combination of winter grasses following drawdown to provide nursery habitat for sportfish fingerlings the next spring. Winter drawdown can also serve to kill problematic weeds. *Best months: Drawdown in November, refill before bass spawning season (March).*





Garden of Learning

Cherokee County Horticulture Newsletter

Kimberly Benton, County Extension Agent—Horticulture

kim.benton@ag.tamu.edu

TEXAS A&M
AGRILIFE
EXTENSION

The strong heat we are getting at the start of summer means those summer veggies are coming on fast! If you have ever considered saving seeds from your own vegetables, but haven't quite been sure how to get started, then come visit with us on Sunday July 16th, here at the Annex Building in Rusk. I will be teaching a hands-on class about saving your own seeds from year to year. Discussing when and how to harvest seeds, as well as how to store them. The class starts at 2pm and we would love to have you join us!

Seed Saving Class—Sunday July 16th, 2pm, no charge to attend

Speaking of that heat—please remember that this is when mulch really earns its keep! Six inches of mulch creates a considerable temperature difference between the surface of the mulch and the surface of the soil beneath it. The plants get a break from the heat when you have them properly mulched! Mulch, mulch, mulch (but no volcanoes please!)

It has been a busy spring! Here is a quick glimpse of what has been happening in my Horticulture corner of Cherokee Co:



The Master Gardener Demonstration Garden at Ruth Nichols Arboretum is a labor of love CCMGA. They cultivate these raised vegetable beds and the produce grown here is donated to HOPE in Jacksonville.



The homeschool classes at Caddo Mounds SHS in Snake Woman's garden are always a delight!



Sandra Fry is our 2023 Master Gardener of the Year!

Master Gardener Fall Plant Sale

September 23, 2023, Ruth B Nichols Arboretum, Jacksonville

Digging Deeper Into Gardening

- July 16 2p.m.: Seed Saving Hands-on Fun: Come join us as we dig into saving seed from our favorites
 Sept 18 6:30p.m.: Juicy News on Pre-planting & Who Needs a Pollinator: Focus on blueberries and other East Texas fruit gems
 Oct 16 6:30p.m.: Fall Fun: Wildflowers (When & How to Plant) Amaryllis, Poinsettias & Christmas Cactus.
 Nov 20 6:30p.m.: Pruning: When, How, and Why

Programs will be held via zoom (except seed saving—no zoom for it). To register each month for the zoom, please click here: <https://agrilife.zoom.us/join/register/tJEkcumgpzwoGdwpWR4zzarADnsC-JsoVxil>

Prior zoom recordings are available on YouTube at: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/tLDiejSMklRiygECJiLig>

Best Homegrown Tomato Contest



Great response to the new location for the TomatoFest Best Homegrown Tomato Contest! Lots of delicious entries! Here are the winners:

- Biggest: 1st place Jack Sheridan (18.5 oz Kellogg's Breakfast) 2nd Place Patti Perron
- Best Plate of 3: 1st place-Jenifer Babyak, 2nd Christ Davis
- Best Plate of 3 Heirloom: 1st place Jack Sheridan, 2nd Mark Walley
- Most Unusual: Joseph Davenport
- People's Choice: Mark Walley
- Best Tasting: 1st place Johnathon Guinn (Red Morning variety), 2nd Chris Davis
- Commercial Biggest: 1st place Johnathon Guinn (22.7 oz Red Morning), 2nd David Claiborne
- Commercial Best Plate of 3: 1st place Johnathon Guinn, 2nd David Claiborne





Stephanie "Amy" Walley

Cherokee Family & Community Health Agent

stephanie.walley@ag.tamu.edu

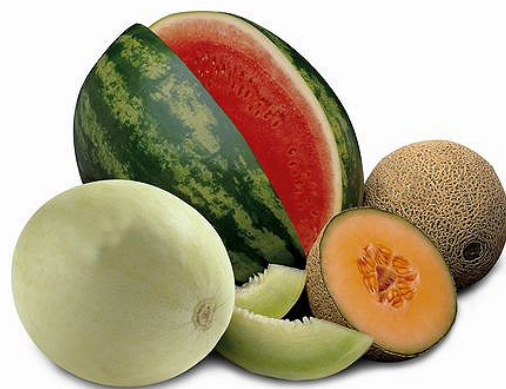


Summer Melons

Watermelon, cantaloupe and honeydew melons are treats on hot summer days.

Did you know?

- They are full of water and help satisfy our thirst. In fact, they are more than 92% water.
- The cantaloupe is a rich source of vitamins A and C, fiber and potassium.
- One cup of cantaloupe has 50% of the vitamin A and 100% of the vitamin C that you need each day.



Use your nose when choosing a cantaloupe. A ripe cantaloupe will smell sweet and delicious. Avoid strong smelling melons that are too ripe. Cantaloupes should be firm without soft spots.

Cantaloupe-Banana Slush

2 cups cantaloupe chunks

2 cups banana chunks

2 cups orange juice

Combine cantaloupe, banana and juice together in a blender. Blend until smooth and serve.

What's Cooking in Your Kitchen?

165 East 6th Street, Suite 102 | Rusk, TX 75785

With our "Fun in the Kitchen", we take what's in the box and explore new recipes, ways to preserve and plan menus. Menus with a twist adding a little pizzazz to your table. This class meets on the 2nd & 4th Thursday of the month at 10:30am in the Courthouse Annex meeting room. This program is made possible through a partnership with Rusk Good Samaritan Food Pantry. Come join us! Coming up next Blueberries and Walnuts.

Upcoming Dates:

July 13th & 27th

August 10th & 24th

September 14th & 28th

CHOPPED SPINACH AND AVOCADO SALAD

Ingredients (6 Servings)

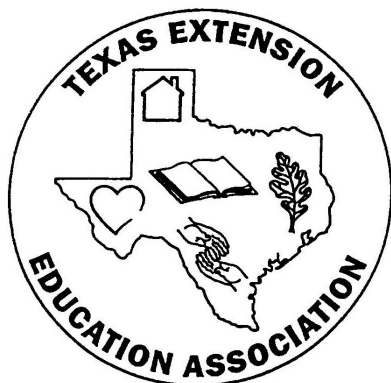
- 1 can (15 ounces) black beans, drained and rinsed
- 1 can (15 ounces) whole kernel corn
- 1 jalapeño pepper, seeded and finely chopped
- 1 large red bell pepper, seeded and chopped
- 1 tablespoon Garlic paste
- 3 tablespoons Dried Cilantro
- 2 cups baby spinach, chopped
- 1 medium avocado, peeled, seeded and chopped
- 1 small lime, juiced
- 3 tablespoon olive oil



Preparation:

1. Mix black beans, corn, bell pepper and jalapeño in large bowl. Stir in Lightly Dried Cilantro and Garlic Paste.
2. Add spinach and avocado. Toss with lime juice and olive oil. Serve immediately.

Source: <https://www.gourmetgarden.com/en-us/recipes/salads/chopped-spinach-and-avocado-salad>



So what's TEEA? The mission of the Texas Extension Education Association, Inc. is to work with the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service to strengthen and enrich families through educational programs, leadership development, and community service. Below you'll find where and when to meet for your area along with the name of the director for that group.

Please contact our office for more information: 903-683-5416

District 5 Director
Susie Blackmon

Dogwood Patch Club, meets in Rusk every 4th Thursday of the month at 10:30 a.m.

Ponta Club, meets in Jacksonville every 1st Tuesday at 12:00 p.m.

Central High Club, meets in Alto every 3rd Wednesday at 10:30 a.m.

Helping to educate families in self reliance through food and home educational programs since 1912.

Helpful Links:

<https://www.facebook.com/TEEA.State.Page/>

<https://teea.tamu.edu/>



Calendar of Events

July

- 11 4-H Workshop—Consumer Decision Making, County Ext Office, 9am—12pm
- 13 Fun in the Kitchen Series, County Ext Office, 10:30am
- 16 Seeding Saving Workshop, County Ext Office, 2pm
- 18 4-H Workshop—Photography & Photography Judging, County Ext Office, 9am—2pm
- 19 Central High TEEA Club Meeting, Alto, 10:30am
- 25 4-H Workshop—Entomology Collection & Photography, County Ext Office, 9am—12pm
- 27 Fun in the Kitchen Series, County Ext Office, 10:30am
- 27 Dogwood Patch TEEA Club Meeting, Rusk, 10:30am

August

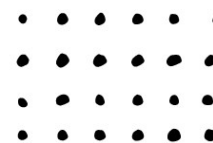
- 1 4-H Workshop—Livestock & Horse Judging Oral Reasons, County Ext Office, 9am—12pm
- 1 Ponta TEEA Club Meeting, Jacksonville, 12pm
- 10 Fun in the Kitchen Series, County Ext Office, 10:30am
- 15 Breakfast CEU Series, County Ext Office, 6:30am
- 15 4-H Online Early Enrollment Opens
- 16 Central High TEEA Club Meeting, Alto, 10:30am
- 24 Dogwood Patch TEEA Club Meeting, Rusk, 10:30am
- 24 Fun in the Kitchen Series, County Ext Office, 10:30am

September

- 1 2023-2024 4-H Year Begins
- 5 Ponta TEEA Club Meeting, Jacksonville, 12pm
- 11 Hay Show Entries Due
- 14 Fun in the Kitchen Series, County Ext Office, 10:30am
- 18 Digging Deeper Into Gardening Series, ONLINE Zoom Meeting, 6:30pm
- 19 Breakfast CEU Series, Alto—Miss Mollie's Diner, 7am
- 20 Central High TEEA Club Meeting, Alto, 10:30am
- 23 CCMGA Fall Plant Sale, Jacksonville—Ruth B Nichols Arboretum
- 28 Dogwood Patch TEEA Club Meeting, Rusk, 10:30am
- 28 Fun in the Kitchen Series, County Ext Office, 10:30am

HANDS ON

Seed Saving



We will be discussing methods for harvesting the seeds, drying vs fermenting first, and best practices for storage. The focus will be on garden veggies but we will discuss flowers as well.

SUNDAY, JULY 16TH

2:00 PM

CHEROKEE CO AGRILIFE EXTENSION OFFICE

165 EAST 6TH STREET | RUSK

FREE

Persons with disabilities needing accommodations for effective participation in the meeting should contact Cherokee County AgriLife Extension office at least a week in advance of the meeting or event to request mobility, visual, hearing or other assistance.

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension provides equal opportunities in its programs and employment to all persons, regardless of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, disability, age, genetic information, veteran status, sexual orientation, or gender identity. The Texas A&M University System, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the County Commissioners Courts of Texas Cooperating.



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