

**Gregg County Extension Office**  
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<http://gregg.agrilife.org/>

## ***Oil Belt Farm & Ranch Club Newsletter...*** ***Electronic Version***

**February - 2019**

**TO: Oil Belt Farm & Ranch Club Members**

**BY: Randy Reeves, Gregg County Extension Agent – Agriculture**

### **Pond Management Chores – Late Winter & Early Spring...**

**LIME** - Agricultural limestone applications are necessary in ponds with pH below 6.5 and/or total alkalinity below 20 ppm. Waters in this category may limit fish growth and reproduction. East Texas ponds should be tested before stocking. Be sure to use the same lime as used on pastures and hay meadows.

Best months: November-January.

**STOCKING** – Rates given are for new or renovated ponds only (no fish present). Muddy ponds and all ponds less than one surface acre should be stocked with only fathead minnows (at 500/surface acre as supplemental forage) and catfish or hybrid sunfish or hybrid striped bass. Stocking rates range from 100 to 1000 fingerlings per acre for these species depending on the frequency and quantity of feeding. Best months: March-May or October-December.

Ponds larger than one 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 and bluegill are available, stock 500 bluegill/surface acre in the fall followed by 50

# TEXAS FARM POND MANAGEMENT CALENDAR

Billy J. Higginbotham

Professor & Extension Wildlife & Fisheries  
Specialist

Todd D. Sink

Assistant Professor & Extension Fisheries  
Specialist

JAN	FEB	MAR	APRIL	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUG	SEPT	OCT	NOV	DEC
<b>MANAGEMENT</b>											
<div> <div>LIME</div> <div>POND RENOVATION</div> <div>FERTILIZATION</div> <div>AQUATIC WEED CONTROL</div> <div>LIME</div> </div>											
<b>STOCKING</b>											
<div> <div>STOCK ADVANCED (sub-adult) BASS &amp; BLUEGILL</div> <div>OR</div> <div>STOCK 1" – 3" BLUEGILL</div> <div>STOCK FATHEAD MINNOWS</div> <div>STOCK 1" – 3" BASS</div> <div>STOCK CATFISH</div> <div>STOCK CATFISH</div> </div>											
<b>REPRODUCTION</b>											
<div> <div>BASS SPAWN (single or multiple spawns)</div> <div>BLUEGILL SPAWN (multiple spawns)</div> <div>CATFISH SPAWN (single spawn)</div> </div>											
<b>FEEDING</b>											
<div> <div>SUPPLEMENTALLY FEED CATFISH &amp; BLUEGILL WITH COMMERCIAL DIET</div> </div>											
<b>HARVESTING</b>											
<div> <div>CATFISH &amp; BLUEGILL HARVEST</div> <div>BASS HARVEST</div> </div>											
<b>DRAWDOWN (if possible)</b>											
<div> <div>DRAWDOWN</div> <div>REFILL</div> <div>DRAWDOWN</div> </div>											

***AG Policy & Marketing – Oil Belt Farm & Ranch Club February Program***



**February 26, 2019, 6:00 pm**

## **Peach Tree Pruning Workshop Set...**

Harrison and Gregg County Extension offices have teamed up once again to hold a “Hands-On” peach pruning demonstration that will once again be held at GY Ranch west of Marshall. Topics to be covered will include;



- Why Prune
- Proper Pruning
- Fruit Thinning
- Insect & Disease Management

Be sure to bring pruning tools with you, for this will be a “hands-on” program! Plans are to also offer two CEU’s toward your TDA pesticide re certification requirements as well. for more information, for more detailed information, go to; <http://counties.agrilife.org/gregg/files/2018/12/19peach.pdf>

## ***Sneak a peek at Next Month...***

### **Annual Spring Master Gardener Conference... March 2, 2019**

**Tim Hartmann**, Earth-Kind program specialist with the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service, will present program topics for this year’s Master Gardener Spring Conference in Longview. Hartmann earned his Bachelor of Science in horticulture with an emphasis in fruit and vegetable production and his Master of Science in plant breeding and horticulture from Texas A&M University in 2009 and 2013, respectively. He is currently pursuing a doctoral degree in horticulture.

Originally from Blanco, Texas, Hartmann developed a passion for horticulture while working for a commercial greenhouse operation and while also operating a home-based nursery business in high school. He began working for the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service in 2014, focusing on water conservation in home landscapes.

Aside from daily tasks, Hartmann’s responsibilities include delivering educational presentations to homeowners and Master Gardeners, conducting statewide plant trials and developing printed and Web-based materials for the Earth-Kind Landscaping Program. Additionally, he has special interests in propagation, exotic fruits and in incorporating well-adapted edible plants into residential landscapes for both food and aesthetic value.

*Door prizes will be awarded throughout the morning during the conference. We will also have a wide variety of vendors for you to visit as well.*

***The event will be held at the First Methodist church here in Longview. Registration will start at 8:30 am program at 9:00 and will conclude at 12 Noon.***

#### ***Tim’s Earth-Kind Topics:***

- Water & Irrigation of Plants
- Herb Trials
- Kiwi & Peach Production

**Tickets are \$10.00 in advance or \$12.00 at the door the morning of the conference. Tickets can be purchased from any Master Gardener or the Gregg County Extension office here in Longview.**

**Basic Soil Testing & Soil Fertility Program - Oil Belt Farm & Ranch Club March Program**

The Oil Belt Farm & Ranch Club will be hosting their monthly program on March 26th with Dr. Vince Haby as their featured speaker for the evening. Dr. Haby will be talking about basis soil testing as well as soil fertility in our East Texas soils. The evening meal will be sponsored by Rozell Sprayer Manufacturing of Tyler, Texas. The program will also feature one (1) credit hour toward any TDA pesticide license if you are seeking credit hours for re-certification needs.

Be sure to park in the back-parking lot and enter the building through the west end door. For more information and a copy of the program flyer, go to;

<http://counties.agrilife.org/gregg/files/2018/10/soil.pdf>

*Randy Reeves*

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*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.*