

**PRODUCERS**

# *Saturday Class Schedule*

**SPRING SEMESTER**

**11 a.m. to 12 Noon**

CEU CREDITS AVAILABLE FOR SOME CLASSES

## **A Word about our Saturday Classes...**

Our Seminar-style Ag Classes have become a popular proven feature of Saturdays in the fall and spring here at Producers! Classes will be taught by experts in the field, and are designed to be informational and educational, but with common sense approach.

The classes are always free and open to the public. No reservations are necessary. Classes always start at 11 a.m. on Saturdays and continue until 12 noon (we will stay and answer questions as long as necessary afterwards).

If you would like a reminder each week of our classes or other special events at Producers, please go to our website, [www.producerscooperative.com](http://www.producerscooperative.com) and enter your e-mail address under '**Newsletter and Announcements Sign Up**'. A day or two before the class, we will mass e-mail everyone with a reminder about that week's class. We will never sell your address to anyone, or fill your mail box with spam.

**ON THE NEXT TWO PAGES...** A detailed description of all the classes scheduled this spring can be found, along with who will teaching the class.

**ON THE LAST PAGE...** We've designed a condensed 'bulletin board' clipout for quick reference. Print it out!

***We hope you enjoy this spring's class lineup!***

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## Saturday Class Schedule SPRING SEMESTER 2010 11 am - Noon

### **March 6 - Spring Vegetable Gardening**

*This class will be taught by Dr. Joe Masabni. Dr. Masabni is an Extension Vegetable Specialist in the Texas A&M Department of Horticultural Science. He will be covering home gardening / small truck crops – getting your plot ready, variety selection, plant protection, (herbicides, fungicides and insecticides), soil amendments, etc. If you are asking yourself the following questions, Dr. Masabni may be able to help: Should I be going organic or non-organic? There are some exciting new varieties coming (especially tomatoes), can I grow them? Can I still garden in small spaces? What about irrigation (how often do I water?)? How do I fertilize different crops? Where can I go for information resources? *Please bring the kids – Producers employees will take them out to the Garden Center Pavilion, teach them some things about growing things themselves. We plan to let them get their hands dirty actually planting some things they can take home with them. **This class qualifies for a General CEU.****

### **March 13 - Berry Production in the Brazos Valley**

*This class will be taught by Mr. Monte Nesbitt, Texas Agrilife Extension Fruit and Pecan Specialist. Remember picking dewberries when you were a kid and bringing them home to Mom so she would make a dewberry cobbler (maybe with some Bluebell Homemade Vanilla ice cream on top)? What if you could grow your own right in the backyard – blackberries, strawberries or maybe blueberries? It is easier than you think if you arm yourself with a little basic knowledge on caring for them. Mr. Nesbitt will teach you about varieties we can be successful with locally, how they should be planted, pruned, irrigated, fertilized and protected from pests.*

### **March 20 - Spray Rig Short Course**

*This class will be taught by John Cagle, representative for Schaben/Ag Spray Spray Equipment. Maybe this is the time to get the spray rig out that you put up last fall, or perhaps it is time to consider buying a new rig. What should you consider to get your spray rig ready before you load it with a pesticide the first time? If you are buying a new rig, what should you be looking at in terms of size, delivery system, configuration and accessories? How can you avoid skips and overlaps in coverage? How can you best address spray drift concerns? How do you calibrate a spray rig? What about calibrating for spraying a soil sterilant on a fence line? Should you own a spot sprayer? Most of these questions can be addressed fairly easily with the right tools/information. You will walk away with resources to help you do just that. **This class qualifies for a General CEU.***

### **March 27 - Preparing for the Next Drought**

*This class will be taught by Dr. Larry Redmon, Texas Agrilife Extension State Forage Specialist. 2009 was really tough on livestock producers – it was hot and exceedingly dry through almost the entire growing season. When we finally got rain in the fall, there was very little time to put hay up. Many tanks/ponds dried up completely. Many of our pastures and hay meadows are in poor condition. What lessons can we learn from the drought and how do we handle the next one better with regard to our herds and forages (pasture rotation, cross fencing, insect & weed pest management, stocking rates, etc.)? One thing we can count on – there **will be** another drought. **This class qualifies for a General CEU.***

### **April 3 - Top Ten Mistakes Made by Gardeners and Yardners, and Landscape Maintenance Contractors in the Brazos Valley**

*This class is taught by Dr. Doug Welsh. Dr. Welsh is a Professor and Associate Department Head of Horticultural Sciences at Texas A&M as well as being a Texas Agrilife Extension Horticulture Specialist. He hosts the popular radio show *Garden Success!* on KAMU-FM. Dr. Welsh is back by popular demand. After a while working in a garden center or as an extension horticulture specialist, one begins to notice even experienced gardeners making common mistakes. Dr. Welsh has compiled his top ten and will talk about each in this class. Some you have perhaps thought of, but some may surprise you. This class can save you money, sweat and time. Copies of Dr. Welsh's book *Texas Gardening Almanac* will be available for autographs for his book purchases. **This class qualifies for a General CEU***

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### **April 10 - Herbicides /Weed & Brush Control – How They Work and the Symptoms They Cause**

*This class will be taught by Dr. Paul Baumann. Dr. Baumann is a Professor and Extension Weed Specialist with Texas A&M University.* While we have done classes before on herbicide selection with an emphasis on pasture and range, this class will be a bit different. Various pasture / range herbicides work in different ways on or within the plant. They vary in terms of selectivity, efficacy, activity, translocation, mode-of-action and residual among other things. Knowing how your herbicide behaves helps you understand which herbicide may be best for the job. It may help you know when weather conditions may be helpful or harmful to its performance or when various growth stages of plants are more susceptible. Feel free to bring in weed samples for identification and herbicide recommendations. *This class qualifies for a General CEU.*

### **April 17 – Garden Integrated Pest Management (Vegetable & Fruits)**

*This class will be taught by Dr. Grady Glenn. Texas Agrilife Extension Program Specialist (in) and Entomologist. Dr. Glenn works with the Texas Agrilife Extension Office of Agricultural and Environment Safety / Pesticide Safety Education Program.* Producing your own vegetables and fruits (including truck crops) can be fun and rewarding. It can also be very frustrating if your hard work and money goes to some insect pest instead of on your table. There are over 30,000 species of insects in Texas (most of which are beneficial). Large agricultural operations frequently use integrated pest management techniques – using biological controls, pest resistant plants, as well as environmental and cultural practices first and resorting to chemical pesticides only when necessary. You can do the same thing in the home garden if you arm yourself if insect ID resources and know a few simple principles. Dr. Glenn can help prepare you with that information. *This class qualifies for an Integrated Pest Management CEU.*

### **April 24 - Aquatic Weed Control in Farm Ponds**

*This class will be taught by Dr. Michael Masser, Associate Department Head and Extension Program Leader in the Texas A&M University Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Extension Unit.* A return of one of our most popular classes - successful control of aquatic weed and algae growth first depends on correct identification of what you want to be rid of. We will cover how to correctly identify aquatic weed species and how to best control them. You will be given access to resources to help you with identification and control after you get home to your own pond. In addition to controlling aquatic weeds, we will cover weed prevention. It is cheaper to prevent them than to control them later (and some methodologies offer strong fish production incentives). Feel free to bring in weed / algae samples from your own pond for identification (in water please). *This class qualifies for a General CEU.*

### **May 1 – Brush Control in the Brazos Valley**

*This class will be taught by Dr. Barron Rector, Associate Professor in Texas A&M University Range Ecosystem Science and Management and Texas Agrilife Extension Range Specialist.* Successful brush control consists of a number of essential components. Correctly identifying what (and perhaps if) you want to remove from your place is a good place to start. One needs to know what methodology (herbicides, mechanical, cultural or biological) is best for taking it out. What will the control method cost? If I chose herbicides, what delivery methods make the most sense? What time of year, climatic conditions and stage of growth should I consider? Which methods require that I have an applicator's license? *This class qualifies for a General CEU.*

### **May 8 - Electric (Power) Fencing**

*This class will be taught by Mr. Ty Harris, representative for Patriot and Speedrite Power Fencing Products.* Power fencing is getting more popular all the time but the equipment is often misunderstood and misused. This class will cover how to pick the most appropriate power unit for the job you want to do, as well as how to best construct grounds, the numbers of hot / ground wire sets to use, and building and using corners, gates and cut-out switches. He will also cover testing accessories, troubleshooting and construction to address predators and nuisance animals. The class will include the opportunity to go outdoors to examine some sample fencing products and watch construction techniques.

**May 15 – Interpreting Grazing Behavior**

*This class will be taught by Dr. Robert K. Lyons, Professor and Extension Range Specialist from the Texas A&M University Extension and Research facility in Uvalde.* The amount and quality of forage consumed by your livestock are important factors in determining animal performance. Grazing behavior in livestock is fascinating and if one understands it, one can influence that behavior to our advantage. Quite a number of factors influence what plants the animal eats and in what quantity. How do grazing animals eat? How do they learn what to eat and what not to eat? When do they graze and when do they not? How do they know where to graze? What do they want to eat? What is my forage availability? How does that availability affect grazing? What is patch grazing? How does supplemental feeding affect grazing? How does weather affect grazing? What are some recommendations to follow? Come sharpen your powers of observation with this class.

**May 22 – Natural Horse Instincts and Why Horses Spook**

**This class will be taught by Dr. Doug Householder, Rafter H Horse and Rider Educational Services, retired Texas Cooperative Extension Professor and Horse Specialist, College Station, Texas.** Horses are very unpredictable. When right-brained, horses can hurt owners, themselves, and tear up tack, trailers, equipment and facilities. Owners can prevent most horse accidents by learning this left-brained development technique and then taking ½ day to de-spook their horses. Presentation includes 5 parts: Natural Horse Instincts and Why Horses Spook. 2. How to Earn A Horse’s Trust /Respect. 3. How to Put Together a De-spooking Kit. 4. How to Use the Kit in A Systematic Ground De-spooking Exercise. 5. How to De-spook Your Horse By Leading/Riding Over Selected Obstacles. **This class will be the only class held at a different location. Since we will be using a live animal, we will conduct this class “under the old live oak tree” across Texas Avenue next to the Producers Fuel Center.**

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Mar 27	Preparing for Next Drought	May 8	Electric (Power) Fencing
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Apr 10	Herbicides: How They Work & the Symptoms They Cause	May 22	Natural Horse Instincts & Why Horses Spook