Calendar of Events

July 2014
4  Independence Day Observed – OFFICE CLOSED
7-28  Step Up & Scale Down Program (Mondays)
10  4-H Junior Leader Rally & Recordbook Judging
16  Forward Farming: Business 101
17  Professional yrU! Workshop
19  Raising & Managing Bees
21-23  Youth Leadership Program
23  Forward Farming: Marketing
30  TEExA Christmas in July
30  4-H Club Officer Training

August 2014
4-25  Step Up & Scale Down Program (Mondays)
15  4-H Awards Banquet
16  Insect Visitors in Your Garden
21  Practical Weed Control
23  District 4-H Conference
26  Leadership Advisory Board (LAB) Meeting

September 2014
1  Labor Day Observed - OFFICE CLOSED
13  Backyard Basics
26  Science of Ag Expo
In the Photography-Judging contest, the Intermediate team of Will Whitaker, Anna Swartz, Emily Swartz, and Kerstin McCauslin earned first place, with Will Whitaker being the second-place high individual.

The Travis County Senior Team, consisting of Sarah Johnson, Sofia Ramirez, Collin Warwick and Trent Warwick, took third place for the Leaders 4 Life Program. "Leaders 4 Life equips youth in conducting high quality leadership and parliamentary procedure training and service learning activities," Talley said.

She said six youths also competed in the Healthy Lifestyles Invitational where they learned the importance of physical activity, proper hygiene, dental care, healthy snacking, vaccinations, sleep and how to reduce disease and illness. The Intermediate team of Erica Masi, Martha Dolliver, Mason Kelley and Colby Warwick placed ninth in the invitational.

"All of these 4-H members did a great job of representing their clubs and of representing Travis County," Talley said.

In order to address the continuing need to conserve water in the home landscape, Extension in Travis County offered a series of five workshops, one per month from February to June, on Water Conservation in the Drought, said Daphne Richards, AgriLife Extension Horticulture Agent. Topics covered included Building and Maintaining Healthy Soils, Drip Irrigation, Rain Water Harvesting, Water Conservation in Lawns, and Alternative Irrigation Methods. Taught by Daphne Richards and Master Gardener experts, each program was two hours and offered extensive time for individual questions. A total of 101 people attended one or more classes in the series.

5

Water Conservation in the Drought

In an effort to provide better service for Texas, Agriculture Commissioner Todd Staples has announced convenience testing to certify agricultural applicators and workers and service technicians will soon be available at 22 sites across Texas.

The new exam system increases access for candidates who must pass a certification examination before being issued a pesticide applicator or service technician license.

TDA has contracted services with PSI Services LLC to administer exams necessary to license agricultural pesticide applicators and service technicians in 22 sites across the state. Additionally, examination sites will be open most days from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Exams will now be scheduled on a date and time that best fits the applicant's schedule.

"Extension officers will continue to offer the training, but will no longer provide the testing with a Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA) Inspector. Trainees will now take all pesticide exams at a contracted testing facility, PSI Exams. If you currently have your pesticide license, this won't affect you. However, if you don't obtain your CEU credits and let your license expire, you will have to re-train and take your exam at a PSI Exam Center in Austin or at another location," said Julie Ansley, Agriculture/Natural Resource Extension agent.

Pesticide applicators will not experience an increase in the cost to take an exam for the first time, and the fee for the service technician exam will actually decrease. Another benefit of this exam process is the automation of exam results, thereby improving turnaround time for an applicant to receive a license.

The new convenience exams will begin June 1, 2014. For more information, contact TDA at 800-TELL-TDA (800-835-5832). For exam sites go to the PSI Exam website: https://candidatetest.psiexams.com/