Ecosystem Science and Management Unit

Training Opportunities

Robert K. Lyons, Associate Department Head & Extension Range Specialist
1. Range herbicide update via Lync, etc.: spring, Lyons
2. Grazing management (stocking rate, grazing distribution, grazeable acres, grazing behavior): spring or fall, Lyons, Rector, Machen

Megan Clayton, Assistant Professor & Extension Range Specialist
Agent Training Opportunities (willing to teach anything, but these are planned trainings):
1. Plant identification contest/training – at Fall scheduling (District 12) and Agent Retreat (District 11)
2. Range Evaluation Contest Training – at 4-H Range Day (open to leaders as well) August 8th
3. Prescribed Burn Training – November 12-14, La Copita Ranch
4. Sustainable Agriculture Training – October 8-10th, San Antonio

James R. Jackson, Extension Program Specialist I
General Rangeland Herbicide Use
Provide training that is directed towards newer county agents that covers basic rangeland herbicide use.
1. Training would be hold at central location around Stephenville area.
2. Subjects matter would brush control equipment from backpack sprayer to discussing benefits of aerial application. Also would discuss herbicide rates, surfactants and application timing.
3. Training would be directed towards county agents in districts 8 and 3 looking to increase their knowledge of rangeland herbicides.

Safety of Rangeland Herbicides
Provided training for county extension agents regarding the safety of rangeland herbicides.
1. Training would be hold around the Stephenville area
2. Subjects would be history of common herbicide compounds used in rangeland management.
3. Why certain herbicides require a license private applicators license.
4. Length of time some compounds have been used for rangeland management
5. Active ingredient in rangeland herbicides
6. Length of time active ingredient remains intact in the environment.

Alyson McDonald, Assistant Professor & Extension Range Specialist
Full day in the field agent training to include basic grazing nutrition, body condition scoring, plant identification, forage sampling for analysis, toxic plant id, poisoning signs, & treatment, and choosing appropriate feed supplements. Oct. 2014 or Oct. 2015. Fort Stockton is centrally located but more than one may be offered if there are county clusters that would like a training closer to their respective counties. Bruce Carpenter, Beef Cattle Specialist, would be co-trainer with me.
Barron Rector, Associate Professor & Extension Range Specialist

1. Plant Identification

**Purpose:** Provide training for county extension agents on the observational identification of plants in the field or office with origin from rangeland, disturbed areas, and forestland. Provide agents with knowledge of resources that are available through Extension and on-line to assist with plant identification. Hands-on activities will include a plant walk, plant collecting and use of a plant press, practice with available plant identification books and the ESSM Extension plant identification web site and other sites, a practical plant identification test, ideas for teaching clientele about plant identification at local programs and how to get assistance in plant identification.

**Proposed Locations and options:** (1) The Ecosystem Science and Management Ecology and Natural Resource Teaching Area (Range Area) in College Station, (2) the Welder Wildlife Management Area at Sinton, (3) the Kerr Wildlife Management Area at Hunt, (4) Sonora Experiment Station or Experimental Ranch near Rocksprings, 5) Anahuac National Wildlife Refuge at Anahuac, 6) Blackland Research Facility at Temple and 7) Stephen F. Austin University “Boggy Slough” facility.

**Length of Training:** Depending on Agents time constraints, the training would last from 4 to 8 hours.

**Potential Speakers:**
- ESSM Range Area – Dr. Barron Rector, Dr. Bob Knight, Dr. Stephen Hatch, Dr. Megan Clayton, Dr. Jason Vogel
- Welder Wildlife Management Area – Dr. Barron Rector, Dr. Robert Lyons, Dr. Megan Clayton, Dr. Lynn Drawe, Dr. Wayne Hanselka
- Kerr Wildlife Management Area – Dr. Barron Rector, Dr. Robert Lyons, Mr. Jason Reitz, Mr. Joe Franklin, Mr. Bill Armstrong
- Sonora Experiment Station – Dr. Barron Rector, Dr. Robert Lyons, Dr. Butch Taylor, Dr. Mort Kothmann, Dr. Fred Smeins
- Anahuac National Wildlife Refuge – Dr. Barron Rector, Dr. Megan Clayton, Mr. Tyler Fitzgerald, Mr. Jaime Lopez
- Blackland Research Facility – Dr. Barron Rector, Mr. James Jackson, Dr. Charles Hart, Dr. Barney Lipscomb
- Stephen F. Austin Boggy Slough – Dr. Barron Rector, Dr. Jason Vogel, Dr. Aaron Sumrall, Dr. Bob Knight, Mr. Dale Kruse

Morgan Russell, Assistant Professor & Extension Range Specialist

1. Agent Professional Development Opportunities
   a. Prescribed burning: Sonora or San Angelo, late fall 2014, 1-2 days, Dr. Butch Taylor, Ray Hinnant, Keith Blair, Nick Garza
   b. Setting up a Range Contest: San Angelo, late fall 2014, winter 2014, 1 day training, with speakers Morgan Russell and James Jackson

Timothy Steffens, Assistant Professor & Extension Range Specialist

1. Ranch and grazing management; Soil health and integration of grazing livestock and cropping systems. Locations and dates would be flexible if dates can be arranged.
Grants Involving Agents

Robert K. Lyons, Associate Department Head & Extension Range Specialist
All unit members are involved to varying degrees in herbicide applied-research through chemical
companies. This work involves agents heavily in cooperator and site selection and project establishment
and evaluation. For example, I currently have sites in the following counties: Menard, Llano, Gillespie,
Bandera, Medina, Kinney, Uvalde, Caldwell, Guadalupe, Gonzales, Bastrop, Atascosa, and Wilson. Other
unit members have similar involvement.

Megan Clayton, Assistant Professor & Extension Range Specialist
SARE Professional Development Grant Committee:
- Nelson Daniels, Associate Administrator, Prairie View A&M University
- Monty Dozier, South Region Program Director, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service
- Ginger Easton-Smith, Aransas County Extension Agent, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service
- Kara Matheney, Colorado County Extension Agent, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service
- Omar Montemayor, Starr County Extension Agent, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service
- Kelvin Neal, Washington County Extension Agent, Prairie View A&M Cooperative Extension
- Dale Rankin, Atascosa County Extension Agent, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service
- Vidal Saenz, Hidalgo County Extension Agent/Farm Advisor, Prairie View A&M Cooperative Extension
- Scott Willey, Fayette County Extension Agent, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service

James Jackson, Extension Program Specialist I
Herbicide applied-research

Alyson McDonald, Assistant Professor & Extension Range Specialist
Guidelines for Successful Pipeline Reseeding in West Texas USDA-NIFA RREA grant. Counties involved:
Ector, Crane, and Midland
Herbicide applied-research

Barron Rector, Associate Professor & Extension Range Specialist
Cactus Moth Project
Herbicide applied-research

Morgan Russell, Assistant Professor & Extension Range Specialist
1. Grants involving agents:
   a. RREA Grant ‘Living with Texas Fire’ (Dr. Morgan Russell PI; $17,500)
   b. RREA Grant ‘Generation Next: Our Turn to Ranch’ (Dr. Megan Clayton PI; $21,890)
2. Herbicide applied-research

Tim Steffens, Assistant Professor & Extension Range Specialist
Herbicide applied-research
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Faculty Member</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Phone</th>
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<th>Primary Geographic Area Served</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
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<td>P.O. Box 1849, Uvalde, TX 78802</td>
<td>(830) 278-9151</td>
<td><a href="mailto:rk-lyons@tamu.edu">rk-lyons@tamu.edu</a></td>
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<td>General plant identification, range and natural resource management, ecosystem management, principles of ecology, rangeland toxic plants, invasive rangeland plants (some animals), brush and weed ecology and management, watershed management, impact of human management, 4-H and youth programming for range and natural resource management</td>
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<td><a href="mailto:morgan.russell@ag.tamu.edu">morgan.russell@ag.tamu.edu</a></td>
<td>Rangeland management, prescribed burning, brush control and management, drought recovery, grazing management, and livestock management</td>
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