



What's Up, Doc?

Grayson County Ag and Natural Resources Newsletter

Vol 2: Issue 10 (Oct. 2023) by D. Chad Cummings & Zachary Downe

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Grayson County USDA crop report summary

September 18, 2023

Heat and drought persisted in the county in early September. Corn harvest is completed (some reports of very high yields >180 bushels). Soybeans in the county are harvested or in most cases rolled up for hay due to lack of pod fill. Grain sorghum harvest is complete, and stalks have also been rolled up for fodder. Livestock condition is fair to good. Some reports of hay supplement being initiated due to low quality or low production pastures, especially in the southwest quarter of the county. Minimal disease or insect pressure in any crop. Nuisance flies are still high population in the livestock species.

October 2, 2023

No wheat or oats have been planted currently. All other crops except cotton have been harvested. Livestock condition is fair to good. Pasture condition is improving some in the county - where they have received recent rainfall events. Other pastures are still fair to poor due to drought. No insect or disease issues to note currently.

D. Chad Cummings, PhD

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New Landowner 101: What to Do in October?

1. Fall and winter garden planting (for later planted biennials and perennials)
2. Cool-season grass and forb plantings (wheat, ryegrass, triticale, wildlife food plot mixes, wildflowers for Spring 2024 viewing)
3. Fence building and repair (<https://agriflifeextension.tamu.edu/asset-external/fence-law/>)
4. Assess weed populations (identification and density) for 2024 spring/summer herbicide needs (send photos to chad.cummings@ag.tamu.edu for id)
5. Individual plant treatment for brush and unwanted trees – herbicide basal stem applications (Remedy Ultra 20% + Diesel or Basal Oil 80%)
6. Limb trees, limb collection, brush pile building and upkeep (<https://cdn-de.agrilife.org/extension/departments/rwfm/rwfm-pu-124/publications/files/on-site-brush-pile-burning-in-texas.pdf>)
7. Improve ponds and stock tanks: rebuild edges, add depth, and dig out sediment with low water conditions (<https://fisheries.tamu.edu/pond-management/>) (Check out pages 6-8 for more information)

Introducing Zachary Downe, Grayson County AgriLife Extension ANR Intern for Fall 2023

Biography



Zachary Downe is from Gainesville (Era), TX. In December on completion of the internship he will be graduating from Tarleton State University with a bachelor's degree in Agricultural Services and Development. Previous work experience included working as an Ag assistant at NCTC and a TSU farmhand, where Zachary gained skills in livestock feeding and maintenance, equipment maintenance, livestock habitat improvement, and assisting with class instruction. He also works on the family cow/calf operation which includes 200 angus cows across southern Cooke County. He was

an eleven-year member in 4-H from a Clover kid to Gold Star Recipient. Zachary began his small animal project with 1 rabbit in the backyard to 300 rabbits in a climate-controlled barn housing 4 breeds. He also was heavily involved with the commercial steer and heifer programs. He was able to continue his 4-H activities and his FFA activities throughout high school. In high school, he earned the American FFA Degree and was a national finalist in the Small Animal Production and Care proficiency award. In addition to 4-H and FFA, he was also awarded the Eagle Rank in Boy Scouts of America, Gainesville Troop. After graduation he plans on becoming an Ag and Natural Resource County extension agent. Also, he plans on getting involved with the college group at First Baptist Gainesville.



Welcome Zachary!!

In the News.....

Texas wildlife dealing with drought and fewer water resources

Texas Crop and Weather Report – Sept. 26, 2023

Texas received rain at the right time for the crucial growing stages of 2023, so in spite of worsening drought conditions, wildlife populations have been able to survive, according to a [Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service](#) expert.



Deer populations

Dykes mentioned water availability is very important in drought conditions for all species of wildlife. Having vegetation is important for the deer population as it is where they get most of their water intake.

“During a drought year, not only do they not get food because vegetation isn’t growing, they’re also not getting water from vegetation like they typically do,” he said. “We got extremely lucky this year when we received rain in the late winter and spring.”

According to Dykes getting the rainfall said during the earlier months gave the bucks enough vegetation to give them the resources needed to recover from the rut and gave does the nutrition needed to support fawns, as well as created enough protective cover for fawns being born in late summer.

Dove populations

Landowners that have water resources readily available will benefit from last year’s dove hatch. Mourning and white-winged doves have increased greatly in the state compared to 2022 and is above the long-term average for both species.

“If you have water on your property, you’re in a good position to have doves,” Dykes said.

Assisting wildlife

“Good habitat management will lessen the severity of stress on wildlife,” Dykes said.

Ranchers and livestock producers had to start supplemental feeding in early months of 2023 due to drought. Supplemental feeding programs can be beneficial to wildlife as well.

Supplemental feeding during the summer can provide extra nutrition when bucks are putting on final growth of on antlers and does are entering the late stages of gestation or beginning lactation to support fawns.

“Anything you can do to lessen the burden during stressful periods helps,” Dykes said. “Wildlife management is not just important during hunting season, it’s important all year long.”

To read more, visit: ([Texas wildlife dealing with drought and fewer water resources - AgriLife Today \(tamu.edu\)](#))

Winter Pond Inspection Checklist

Courtesy of Penn State University

There are several different areas that need to be addressed when doing inspections and observations:

Water Quality

Pond assessment should include routine testing of the pond water quality. Water tests are helpful to document existing problems and to monitor for important changes in water quality as well as aid in herbicide selection if needed. Visit Penn State's Agricultural Analytical services lab for [Pond Water Testing information](#).

Aquatic Plants

Properly identifying any nuisance plants are important, especially if any control measures are needed early in the season. Detailed information on plant ID and control is available in the [Pond Management section](#) of the Water Resources website. And can also be found on the Texas A&M website: <https://aquaplant.tamu.edu/>

Dam and Banks

The dam and any exposed banks should be checked to ensure that they have complete grass cover and no erosion. Grass, weeds, brush, and small trees should be occasionally cut from the dam and banks. Keep large, established trees in place as their roots can help to stabilize banks and dams.

Overflow Pipe

Inspecting the overflow pipe is important to remove any debris that is in or around the pipe. As they may result in water breaching the dam or continually flowing through any existing auxiliary spillway.

Pond Access

Be sure that any roads to the pond are maintained to allow access for safety vehicles. This is especially important if a dry hydrant exists to allow access for fire trucks.

Check for Signs of Leaks

Water levels in ponds should be regularly checked to monitor for early signs of leakage. Most ponds lose some water to underground seepage and evaporation. Losing more than a few inches of water, can result in a significant leak that might be visible as a wet area outside of the pond. To fix leaks, application of bentonite clay material may be required.

Pond Sediment

Depending on the source of water, ponds may fill up over time with sediment. As sediment fills in the pond, growth of aquatic plants and algae will generally increase, due to increased sunlight penetrating the shallower water. If sedimentation is noticeable, steps should be taken to reduce sediment entering the pond. This can be done by installing a sediment pond before the main pond or by using management practices like buffer plantings to help filter and control sediment runoff. You can find more information on buffers at: [Roadside Guide to Clean Water: Riparian Buffers](#).

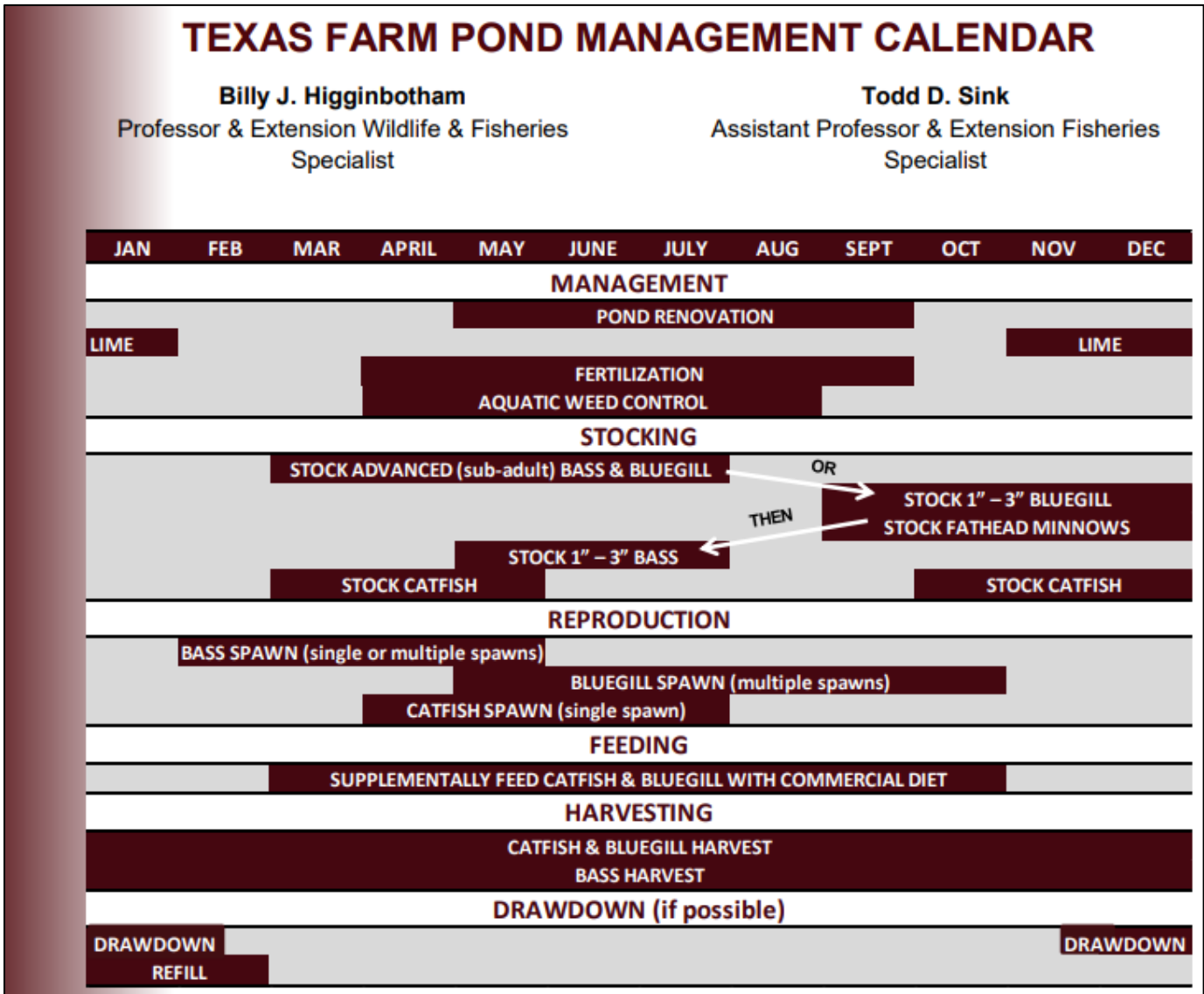
Safety Equipment

Ponds, like any body of water, attract both invited and uninvited people. As part of your pond inspection, consider safety features (warning signs) and equipment (life buoys) to protect visitors. Mark the swimming area and post safety rules for all permitted water uses.

To read more, visit: ([Winter Pond Inspection Checklist \(psu.edu\)](#))

Susan Boser

Extension Educator, Renewable Natural Resources, Penn State University



** Complete Calendar and recommendations can be found in the EWF-003, through the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Fisheries Unit.

Ranch Management University set for Oct. 23-27 in College Station

The Ranch Management University workshop is scheduled for Oct. 23-27 at Texas A&M University in Bryan-College Station, is open for registration with seating limited to the first 50 enrolled.



The workshop is a collaboration of the [Texas A&M College of Agriculture and Life Sciences Department of Soil and Crop Sciences](#), [Department of Animal Science](#) and [Department of Agricultural Economics](#) and the [Natural Resources Institute](#), NRI, and the [U.S. Department of Agriculture](#) Natural Resources Conservation Service.

During the five days, participants will learn about ranch management topics ranging from soil fertility to forage and weed management to livestock and wildlife management.

“The Ranch Management University is designed to give new or inexperienced ranchers and landowners a crash course on a lot of different subjects”, said Larry Redmon, Ph.D., Department of Soil and Crop Sciences associate department head and [Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service](#) program leader, Bryan-College Station.

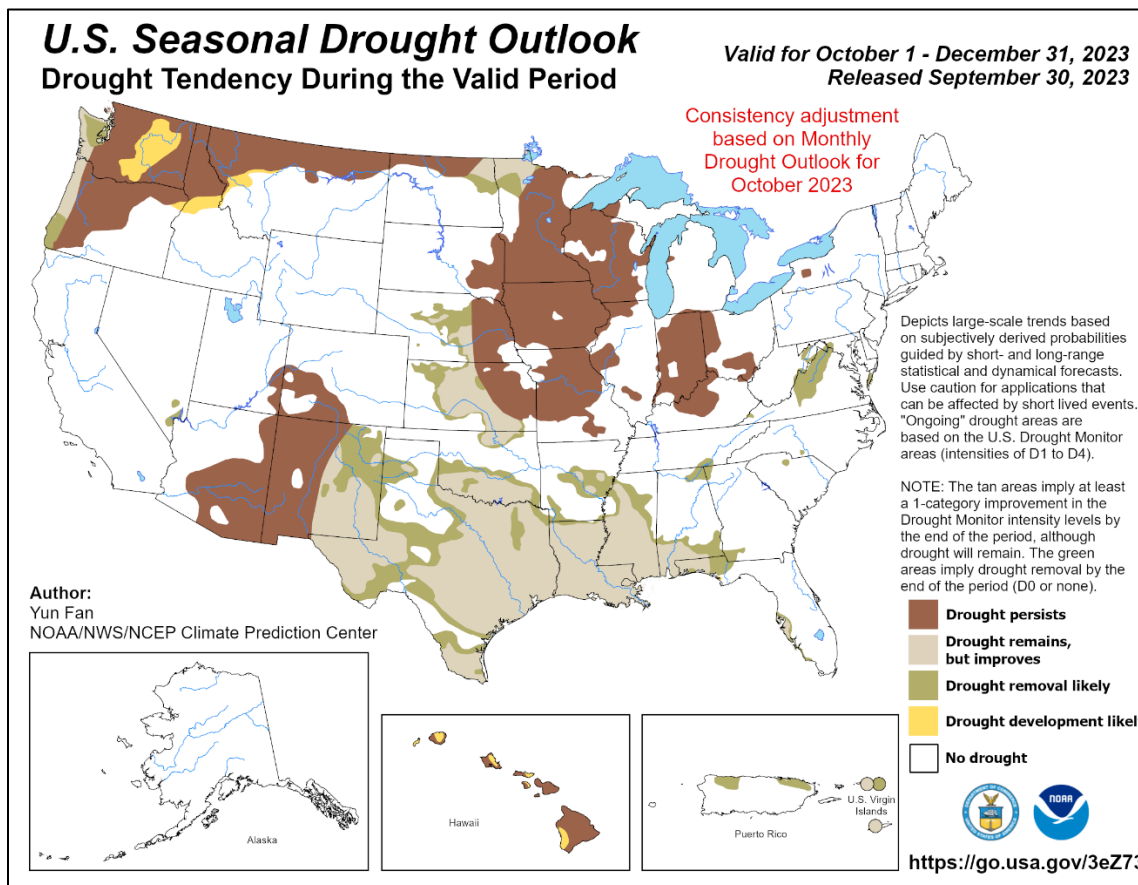
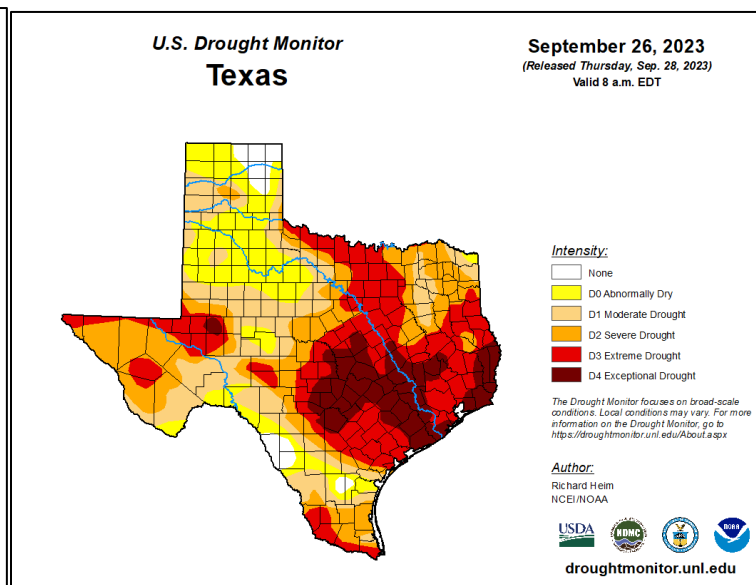
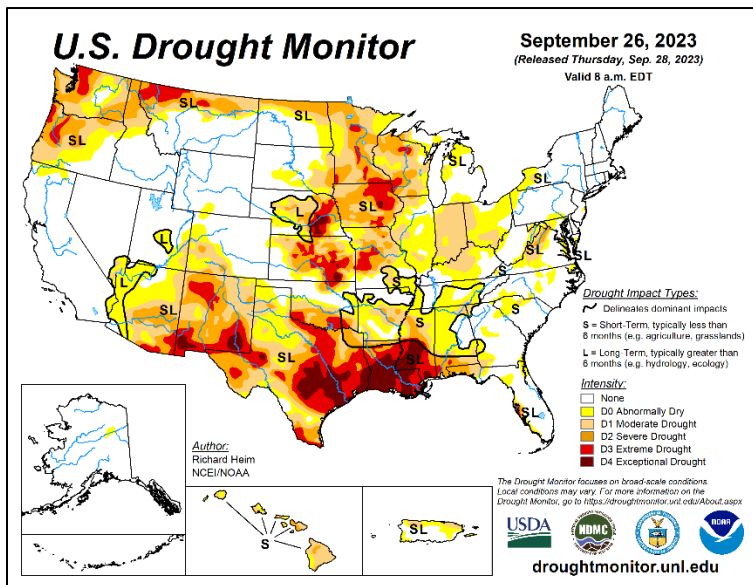
Registration is \$625, and the deadline to register is Oct. 13. [Register online](#), or for more information, go to [Texas A&M University Ag Program Forages](#). To see if space remains, contact Linda Francis at linda.francis@ag.tamu.edu.

To read more, visit: ([Ranch Management University set for Oct. 23-27 in College Station - AgriLife Today \(tamu.edu\)](#))

Kay Ledbetter

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Current US drought monitor & 3-month climate prediction



Plants, insects, and diseases active now

Plants

Warm season weeds like crabgrass, foxtail, woolly croton (doveweed), ragweed, johnsongrass, and pigweed are mature due to the season of year and drought conditions. Vegetation in general has droughted off across most of the county.

Insects

Web worms and other tree pests are still increasing across the area. Low grasshopper populations are increasing in some areas with the dry weather, but populations are still lower than normal. No armyworm or cutworm issues have been reported area wide, although with the recent rain it is important to scout your lawns and pastures for fall armyworms. Horn fly and stable fly infestation levels are on the rise for humans and livestock.

Diseases

No real disease issues currently in any crops.

D. Chad Cummings, PhD

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2024 North Texas Pest Mgmt CEU Conference

Mark your calendars for Tuesday, January 23, 2024

Where: The conference will be in Sherman, TX at the Municipal Ballroom.

When: Tuesday January 23, 2024; 8:30 am to 4:00 pm

What: Bulk CEUs and expertise including:

- 5 structural CEUs and 5 Ag CEUs will be offered (pending TDA approval)
- Expert speakers on the structural and ag topics, including Dr. Don Renchie, Dr. Janet Hurley, Dr. Sonja Swiger, and Mr. Brad Voss
- Laws and Regs, IPM, Weed, Termite, Lawn and Ornamental, and General CEUs included (pending TDA approval)
- Catered lunch and light breakfast included in the registration cost.

The fee will be **\$100** per person for the conference. **Registration will open later this fall.**



2024 North Texas Pest Management Conference

Tuesday, January 23, 2024

Municipal Ballroom, Sherman, TX

8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. Registration opens at 8:00 a.m.

Event Highlights:

~5 CEU's Structural (pending approval by TDA)

~5 CEU's Agricultural (pending approval by TDA)

***For structural, commercial and non-commercial applicators**

***Catered lunch, light breakfast items**

***Expert Presentations over ag and structural pest issues**

***\$100 all inclusive fee**



Pre-registration is requested: Please mail the attached conference registration form and fee of **\$100** to:

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service

**Attn: Pest Conference
100 W. Houston St.
Courthouse A-G-1
Sherman, TX 75090**

For more information call Chad at 903-813-4202 or email chad.cummings@ag.tamu.edu

The Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service 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.



2024 North Texas Pest Management Conference

Vendor Registration Form:

Please complete the following and mail with \$100 registration fee to the address at the bottom.

Company/Business: _____

Representative: _____

Email: _____

Mail Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ FAX: _____

What services does your company perform? What are you promoting? _____

Checks payable to: **Educational Activity Committee**. Mail to: **Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service —Grayson County, Attn: Pest Conference, 100 W. Houston St, Courthouse A-G-1, Sherman, TX 75090**. Please register no later than January 16, 2024. Credit card payments can be made through Grayson County Treasurer office: http://www.co.grayson.tx.us/page/tre.payment_invoice You should put NTPMC2024.



District IV 4-H Shooting Sports Coaches Certification

Saturday - October 21 & Sunday - October 22, 2023

Disciplines Covered: Shotgun, Rifle, Archery, and Pistol

Opening Program
Bowie County Courthouse

Discipline Trainings
Local Ranges

**Complete Registration Packet
can be found on the
District IV 4-H Website at
<https://d44-h.tamu.edu/>**

Registration in
4H Online

Opens: Sept. 20
Closes: Oct. 9



- Online Green Injection Module Prior to the Training
- In-Person Classroom and Range Training

2023 FUR, FEATHER, & FRIENDS SHOW

Hosted by Grayson County 4-H Livestock Coalition



SATURDAY, DECEMBER 16TH

Loy Lake Show Grounds
Denison, Texas 75020



REGISTRATION OPENS NOVEMBER 1ST



<https://grayson.agrilife.org/furandfeathershow>

Includes: Breeding Rabbit & Cavy Show, Poultry Show, Dairy Goat Show, Showmanship,
Photography Contest, Breed ID, Contest, Crowing Contest, & Costume Contest

Events Coming Up

Oct 6

- Cow-Calf Mobile Tour (*Bonham, Durant, Melissa*)

Contact Cody Maxwell (Fannin) at (903) 583-7453 to reserve a spot – first come basis

Oct 23 & 26

- Lamb and Goat Validation (*TELS – Denison- youth*) (4 to 6 pm)

Oct 24

- Steer and Heifer Validation
(*Whitewright - Ag Barn – youth*) (4 to 6 pm)

Oct 28

- Grayson County Conservation Days
Instructor Training (adults - *Sherman*)

Dec 16

- Fur, Feather, and Friends Show (*Denison – youth*)

Jan 23, 2024

- NTX Pest Management Conference
(*Sherman*)

Visit our website at [Welcome to Grayson County - Grayson \(grayson.agrilife.org\)](https://grayson.agrilife.org/)(<https://grayson.agrilife.org/>) to sign up for the events.