



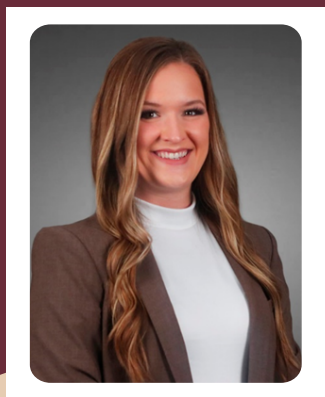
JANUARY 2024

AG NEWSLETTER

Carley Howell

County Extension Agent

Agriculture & Natural Resources



TEXAS A&M
AGRILIFE
EXTENSION



Howdy! I am thrilled to extend my warmest greetings as your new Extension Agent with Texas A&M AgriLife Extension. My name is Carley Howell, I was born and raised Orange, TX, but moved to Alvin, TX with my husband after tying the knot. I graduated from Sam Houston State University with a degree in Animal Science and Equine Science. Additionally, I earned a Master of Agriculture in Sustainable Agriculture and Food Environment, with a specialized emphasis on whole farm and small agricultural businesses management. I was a veterinary technician for several years before transitioning to an Extension Agent for Harris County. I am genuinely eager to meet and collaborate with each of you, and I look forward to building strong relationships that contribute to the prosperity and well-being of our county.

I'd like to get to know you as well- visiting the link below will lead you to a survey designed to gather information about the topics that interest you and that you'd like to learn more about.

Please don't hesitate to reach out! I am here to listen, learn, and work collaboratively to support the growth and success of our community.

https://qualtricsxmzbdvk6qmc.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_bBFnXAnLLvhSLMW

Blanco County



Upcoming Events



January 3-5, 2024



Youth Show SALE January 13th
Exhibit Hall SILENT AUCTION for Food Items - Jan. 5th
SILENT AUCTION for Sewing, Hobbies, Fine Art
& Photography Projects - January 13th

Join us in showing support and encouragement for the aspiring talents shaping the future of our community. Your presence makes a meaningful impact, so let's unite to uplift and celebrate the promising achievements of Blanco County's youth.



January 12-20, 2024 & SALE January 20, 2024



Extension Education in Blanco County

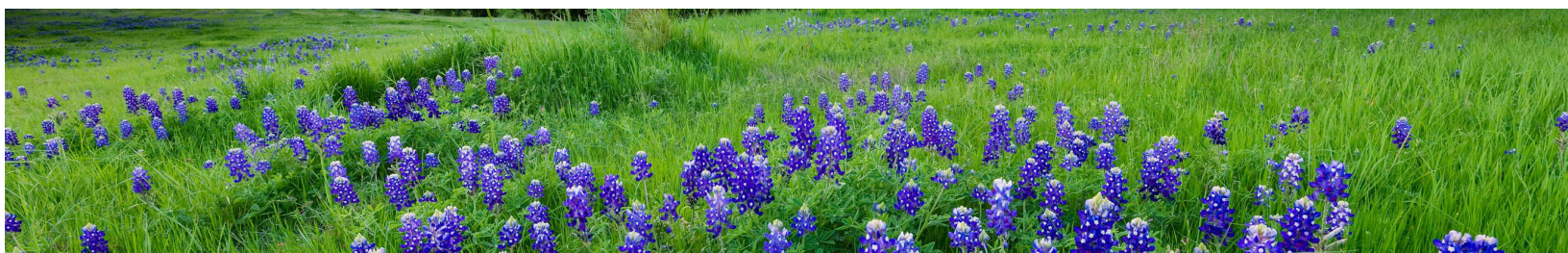
Did you know the Pecan tree is the state tree of Texas? Ring in the New Year by honoring our agricultural history. January is perfect for planting bare root pecan trees, fostering a robust root system by spring. Choose varieties like Sioux, Choctaw, Caddo, or Wichita for successful growth.

Mission Statement:

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service works daily to make Texas better by providing innovative solutions at the intersection of agriculture, natural resources, youth, and health, thereby improving the well-being of individuals, families, businesses, and communities through education and services.

Pecans, being wind-pollinators, benefit from proximity to different varieties for effective pollination. Ensure healthy trees by addressing diseases, pests, and nutritional needs. Adequate watering and site selection, with well-draining soil and proper spacing, contribute to their well-being. Whether you're a seasoned grower or a backyard enthusiast, join us in sowing the seeds of prosperity with pecan trees. Here's to a future adorned with the sweet taste of Texas pecans. Happy planting, y'all!

**OUR WORK MAKES
A DIFFERENCE.
IN THE LIVES OF TEXANS AND
ON THE ECONOMY.**





Soil, Water, and Forage Testing Lab

January offers an ideal window to establish a soil baseline for your upcoming spring garden. Conducting a soil test during this time allows for ample processing time before spring planting, enabling you to address any deficiencies or amendments needed.

Soil is the foundation of a thriving garden. Without rich, healthy soil, there is a great chance of failure despite all the hard work put into it. A soil test provides insights into existing nutrients, deficiencies, and aids in deciding the most suitable plant choices. Additionally, it guides fertilizer recommendations for supplementing nutrients that the soil may lack, covering both macronutrients (nitrogen, phosphorous, potassium, and calcium) and micronutrients (zinc, iron, copper, and manganese), along with assessing pH and organic matter levels. By testing before applying fertilizer, compost, or manure, you prevent the risk of overloading the soil with nutrients, which could potentially harm your plants. This mindful approach not only safeguards your garden but also contributes to the overall health of our rivers by preventing fertilizer runoff.

Collect soil samples using a trowel or shovel, taking multiple six-inch-deep cores in gardens or small properties. For small acreage properties or gardens, combine five or six cores (about 1 pint in total) for an accurate representation of the area being tested. Sample bags and forms can be obtained from the AgriLife Extension office. Quart-sized resealable bags can be used as well.

The forms can also be found at

<https://soiltesting.tamu.edu/soiltesting/wp-content/uploads/sites/13/2023/05/soilwebform.pdf>.

Blanco County Master Gardener Program

A big thank you to Bernadette
McFarling, our outgoing
Master Gardener President for
all of her hard work and
dedication to the
Blanco County
Master Gardeners



≡Welcome≡

We want to welcome,
Nina Zonansky as the new
Master Gardener
President



Blanco County Annex Master Gardener's Courtyard Garden



30 VOLUNTEERS
Contributed hours
towards
horticulture education.



1164 Hours
We completed in Blanco
Co. in education &
community programs

For more information on Blanco County Master
Gardeners, visit

<https://txmg.org/blanco/contact-us/>



<https://txmg.org/blanco/contact-us/>

Making a Difference in Blanco County



Carley Howell

Blanco County Extension Agent
Agriculture & Natural Resources

206 S. Hwy 281
P.O. Box 189
Johnson City, TX 78636
Email: carley.howell@ag.tamu.edu
Contact: 830 868 7167

<https://blanco.agrilife.org/publications/>