

DID YOU KNOW...

.....you can support the youth of Rusk County by making a donation or sponsoring an award for the Rusk County Youth Project Show ...

Stop by the
Extension Office—
we can assist you !

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Tune in to 98.5 FM & 1470
AM Monday-Friday at 8am
and noon to hear the Rusk
County Extension Agents
Report on KWRD Radio,
Henderson TX. Agents will
be discussing a wide array
Of Agricultural, Natural
Resource, 4-H and Family
and Community Health
related issues and events.

Rusk County

Ag News & Views

WINTER 2022 - 2023

2022 Rusk County Hay Show

We had 96 hay samples submitted and we recognized the top ten hay producers in Rusk County

Here are the results, and the supporters of those ten:

Producer	Buyer
Trent Smith	Della Russell Insurance
Bill Hale	Lowe Tractor
Kenny Floyd	United Ag & Turf
Clinton Bonds	Della Russell Insurance
Randy Weatherford	Hunt Livestock
Neal Cadenhead	Vera Bank
Galan & Patti White	Steele's Feed
Todd Smith	Lowe Tractor
Ken Ragle	Heritage Land Bank
Damon Bassett	Henderson Ranch & Feed

Special thanks to additional Hay Show
Supporters/Purchasers:

Terry Nicholas, Harriett Craig, R&R Bailing,
Texas Fresh, Tri-County Livestock, Velvin Oil,
Livestock Nutrition Center, The Ranch Farm &
Home, Mike Rollins, Gary Griffin, Texas Farm
Bureau, Randy Weatherford, etc.



Lot 1 in this year's Hay Show
was produced by Trent Smith.
Trent's hay was purchased by
Della Russell Insurance Agency.
Pictured (l-r) Trent Smith and
Della Russell.



Find us on
Facebook

Rusk County AgriLife

Jamie Sugg

Jamie Sugg
County Extension Agent-
Agriculture





Lot 2: Bill Hale produced hay in the top ten again this year. Bill's hay was purchased by perennial buyer Lowe Tractor & Equipment. Pictured (l-r) Kyle Keeling and Bill Hale.

Lot 3 hay was produced by Kenny Floyd. Kenny's hay was purchased by a returning buyer (with a new name) United Ag & Turf. Pictured (l-r) Stoney Tillison, Tim Pool, Micah Pettit, Kenny Floyd and Matt Ellis.



Lot 4 hay was produced by Clinton Bonds. Clinton's hay was purchased by Della Russell for her second purchase of the night! Pictured (l-r) Clinton Bonds and Della Russell.

Lot 5 hay was produced by Randy Weatherford. Randy's hay was purchased by Hunt Livestock Exchange. Pictured (l-r) Mark Hunt and Randy Weatherford.



Lot 6: Neal Cadenhead produced hay this year that was purchased by Vera Bank. Pictured (l-r) Neal Cadenhead and Ryan Ellis.



Lot 7: Galan & Patti White produced Lot 7 hay this year. Steele's Feed & Seed was the purchaser of the White's hay this year. Pictured: (l-r front row) Sean and Sawyer Steele. (l-r back row) Chance Steele, Patti and Galan White and Bo Steele.



Todd Smith produced the hay of **Lot 8** this year. Lowe Tractor & Equipment purchased Todd's hay, for their second hay purchase of the night. Pictured (l-r) Kyle Keeling and Todd Smith.





Lot 9: Ken Ragle (R&D Cattle Co.) produced Lot 9 hay this year. During the hay show, Ken was represented by daughter and son-in law, Shelly and Brian Wood. Heritage Land Bank was the purchaser of Ken's hay this year. Pictured (l-r) Steven Dyess, Shelly and Brian Wood, and Bryan Wages.

Lot 10 hay was produced by Damon and Jill Bassett. Henderson Ranch & Feed purchased the Bassett's hay this year. Pictured (l-r) Jimmy Berry, Jill and Damon Bassett and Robert Berry.



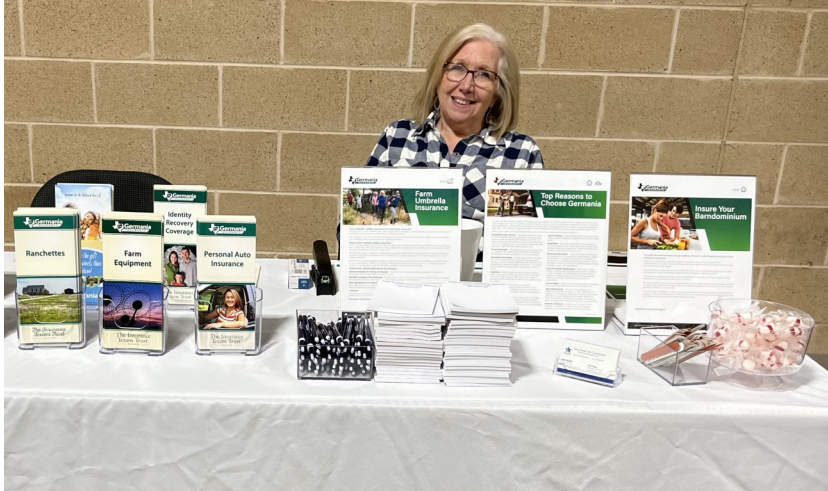
This year's hay show auction netted over \$14,000. All proceeds from this annual event support agriculture and the youth in Rusk County.



Thank you to Bid-Chasers Henry Hart (left) and Andrew Jordan (middle). Auctioneer Terry Nicholas (right) and the Bid-Chasers make a good team.



2022 Hay Show



2022 Hay Show



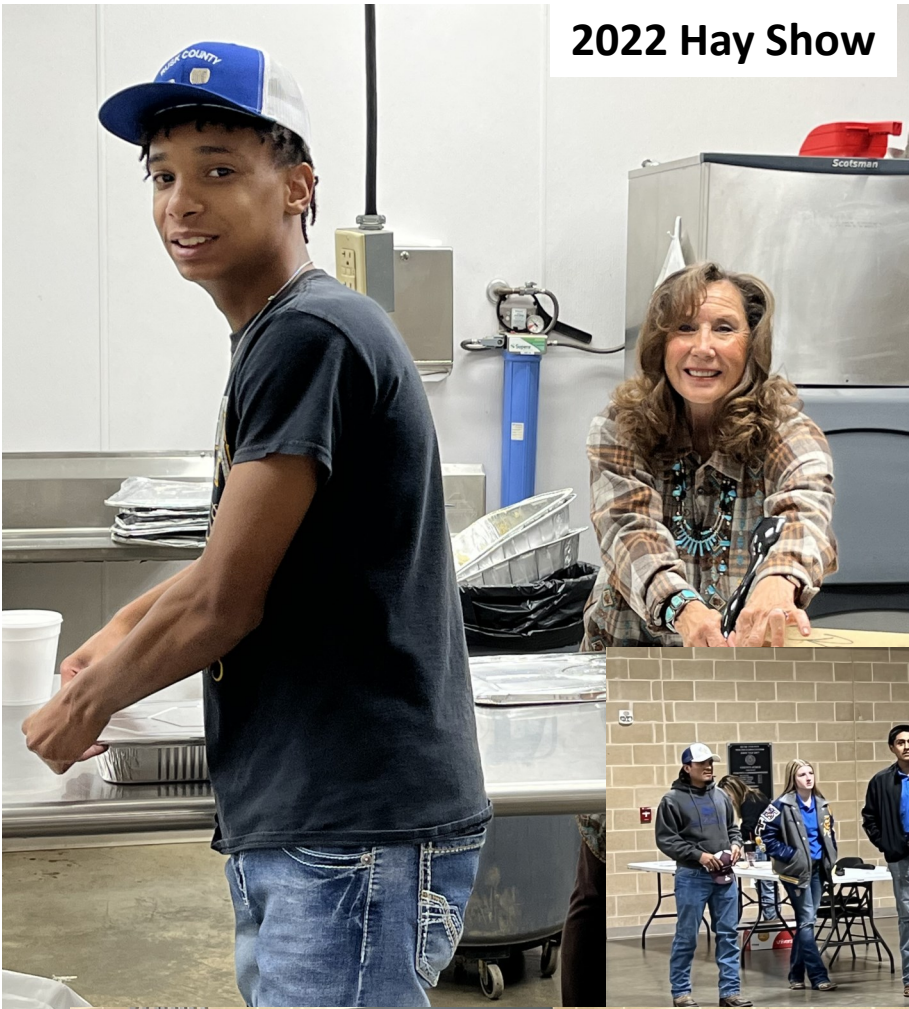
2022 Hay Show

We had plenty of help
this year!

Laneville FFA and Carlisle FFA
helped-out in many ways,
including helping Patti and Jill
(not pictured) with kitchen
clean-up duties! 😊

Dee Lewis, Sylrorey Swain Jr.,
Trevion Loftis, Ben Reitan, Tommy
Lee Zorn, Manuel Villanueva,
Josue Gaytan,
Michael Reitan.

Evyn Berger, Gus Martinez,
Madi Bathke, Alexis Martinez,
Alex Oliveras, Benito Sanchez,
Anthony Hernandez,
Jory Gresham



Restricted Use¹ or
State-Limited Use²
Herbicides

2,4-D
2,4-DB
Banvel (Dicamba)
Cimarron Max
Crossbow
GrazonNext
GrazonNext HL
Grazon P+D
PasturAll HL
Surmount
Tordon 22K
Weedar 64
Weedmaster
Weedone LV6

Non-Restricted Use
Herbicides

Amber
Chaparral
Cimarron Extra
Cimarron Plus
DuraCor
Milestone
Pastora
PastureGard HL
Reclaim
Redeem R&P
Remedy Ultra
Spike 20P
Spike 80DF
VelPar L
Vista XLT

¹Restricted use: for purchase and use only by certified pesticide applicators or persons under their direct supervision. Designation is placed on the product by EPA, and the label will state restricted use.

²State-limited use: pesticides containing certain active ingredients, with the potential to cause adverse effects to non-targeted vegetation, are classified as SLU when distributed in containers larger than one-quart liquid or 2 pounds dry or solid.

Now is the Time to Control Thistle



If left uncontrolled, thick thistle stands can reduce grazing and result in less forage production. A single thistle plant can produce at least 4,000 seeds, which increases

the chance for higher thistle populations in the pasture the following year. Consequently, management practices need to be conducted prior to flower formation for effective thistle control. Even if thistles have not infested your pasture in the past, it is ideal that your pastures are scouted in late fall through mid-spring (November to March) to ensure that thistles do not get out of control. New

infestations are easier to manage than large-scale populations. Although there are several different species of thistle in Texas, most are closely related and control recommendations will not differ.

Best time to control with a herbicide is when thistles are in the rosette stage. The rosette stage is when the thistle forms a low-growing ring of leaves.

As they mature they are harder to control and may require higher rates of herbicide to have effective control.

Select Herbicide Options:

Weedmaster
2, 4-D
GrazonNext
Remedy
PastureGard
Cimarron Max (for bermudagrass pastures, will control bahia grass)

REMEMBER: THE LABEL IS THE LAW! Always read the pesticide label before using.



Rosette Stage

TEXAS A&M AGRI LIFE

CALIBRATION MADE SIMPLE

Quick Reference Guide for Pesticide Solutions

Boom Sprayers

1. Measure nozzle spacing.
2. Refer to chart below for length of calibration course.
3. Measure and mark calibration course as indicated in the chart.
4. Set gear and rpm that will be used in the field.
5. Drive course at determined gear and rpm.
6. Record time required to drive course.
7. Park sprayer, maintain same rpm as used to drive course
8. Turn on sprayer, catch water from one nozzle for time required to drive course.
9. OUNCES CAUGHT = GALLONS PER ACRE.

Nozzle Spacing Length of Calibration Course

18 inches	226 feet
19 inches	214 feet
20 inches	204 feet
24 inches	170 feet
30 inches	136 feet
40 inches	102 feet

Boomless Sprayers (Cluster Nozzle)

1. Measure effective spray swath.
2. Refer to chart below for length of calibration course.
3. Measure and mark calibration course as indicated in the chart.
4. Set gear and rpm that will be used in the field.
5. Drive course at determined gear and rpm.
6. Record time required to drive course.
7. Park sprayer, maintain same rpm as used to drive course.
8. Turn on sprayer and catch water for time required to drive course.
9. PINTS CAUGHT = GALLONS PER ACRE

Effective Swath Width Length of Calibration Course

15 feet	363 feet
20 feet	272 feet
22 feet	248 feet
24 feet	227 feet
26 feet	209 feet
28 feet	194 feet
30 feet	182 feet
35 feet	156 feet
40 feet	136 feet
45 feet	121 feet
50 feet	109 feet

<u>percent solution</u>	<u>ounces per 1 gallon</u>
1%	1.28
2%	2.56
3%	3.84
4%	5.12
5%	6.4
6%	7.68
7%	8.96
8%	10.24
9%	11.58
10%	12.8
11%	14.08
12%	15.36
13%	
14%	17.92
15%	
16%	20.48
17%	
18%	23.64
19%	
20%	25.6
21%	
22%	
23%	
24%	
25%	32

BQA TIP-OF-THE-MONTH – GRASS TETANY

👉 Grass tetany is a condition in cows due to low magnesium levels in the blood which can lead to death.

👉 Grass tetany is more likely in lactating cows grazing cool-season annual forages, especially older cows or cows nursing young calves.

👉 Mineral supplements designed to provide additional magnesium should be considered to help prevent grass tetany in cows grazing cool-season annual forages.

👉 Minerals supplements with a target intake of 4 ounces per day should contain at least 5% magnesium.

👉 Monitor mineral intake as higher levels of magnesium often reduce mineral intake and good intake of the mineral supplement is critical.

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6 Tips for Improving Wildlife Habitat on Your Ranch From the Noble Research Institute

1. ENCOURAGE DIVERSITY

“The easiest and most overarching thing is tip No. 1 — diversity,” says Will Moseley, Noble Research Institute wildlife and fisheries consultant. “Tip No. 2 — diversity. Tip No. 3 — diversity.” Diversity is one of the critical components of [community dynamics](#), one of the four ecosystem processes behind healthy natural systems. Moseley points out diversity is vital in maintaining healthy wildlife habitats. Science textbooks often refer to ecosystems as webs with lines connecting food sources and symbiotic relationships, demonstrating how diversity is the fragile string weaving together every ecosystem. That’s why removing or reducing species in a wildlife habitat can cause a snowball of unintended consequences to tumble through a landscape. “Plants are very important to our community dynamics because they provide habitat or root structure. Perhaps a certain plant has a relationship with fungi that we don’t understand, but it’s providing value to soil or helping build the soil,” he says.

2. EMBRACE THE MESS

While messy isn’t often considered a positive adjective, when it comes to wildlife habitats, it is. “I think one of the biggest things that’s hard for people when they’re managing the landscape for wildlife is the messiness,” Moseley says. “But for people like me — wildlife ecologists — we like to see a real messy landscape.” While the human eye may prefer neatness, symmetry and balance, natural landscapes thrive with diversity, unevenness and variety. For example, land covered in various plants should have greenery of all shapes and sizes. “A messy landscape usually means there’s more diversity in the landscape,” Moseley says. This messiness suggests that wildlife habitat has all the components needed to sustain wildlife in their day-to-day lives.

6 Tips for Improving Wildlife Habitat on Your Ranch (Continued)

3. LOOK AT THE ENTIRE LANDSCAPE

While some wildlife management practices may provide a portion of these needed components, practices like adding food plots often miss the larger picture. When ranchers are looking to encourage wildlife on their land, they must keep the entire landscape in mind. Wildlife must be comfortable in their habitat 24 hours a day, seven days a week and 365 days a year, according to Moseley. Diverse wildlife is more likely to thrive when their habitats concisely provide for all their basic needs — shelter, food, water and space. “If they have to walk a mile or fly a mile to get water, to get food or to find shelter, that’s not a very good use of their energy,” he says. “So, we must ensure we have all those habitat components” in or near our ranch environment.

4. KEEP WEEDS FOR WILDLIFE

Speaking of food, ranchers shouldn’t underestimate the value of weeds on their land, especially the broad-leaved, non-woody, herbaceous plants ecologists call forbs. Moseley notes that traditionally, forbs get a bad rap in ranching. But, when considering wildlife habitats, forbs are an essential classification of plants that provide food and shelter for various wildlife. And when it comes to grazing livestock, forbs also have value for ranchers. “A lot of the forbs have really, really high protein. They have lots of minerals and nutrients compared to grasses,” Moseley says. Cattle are known to highly prefer Maximillian sunflower, compass plant, Engelmann daisy and ashly sunflower to grasses at least seasonally, if those forbs are available. They’ll also graze Western and giant ragweed, redroot pigweed and lambs quarters in certain seasons. While brush is sometimes considered the bane of ranchers managing pasture lands, it can have a positive purpose in a piece of land managed in a way that balances grazing animals with promoting healthy habitats for wildlife. Brush provides another functional group of plants that can benefit both wildlife and livestock, Moseley says. “Even cattle browse on brush, too, if they need to. Brush just adds more diversity in the landscape.”

5. ADAPT YOUR GRAZING

When it comes to the delicate balance between profitably running grazing livestock and promoting wildlife on your land, Moseley suggests looking to nature. “We should manage our landscape using Eco mimicry, managing land in a way that mimics the natural world,” he says. When managing rangeland, this means ranchers should imitate the impact large herds of grazing animals, such as bison, elk, pronghorn and other large ruminants, had on a landscape. Typically, these herds would pass through an area in a large group and heavily graze on that area for a short time before moving along and not return for a longer period of time. “We can mimic the large herbivores of the past in our regular operations now,” Moseley says. “We can use a higher stock density with longer rest and recover periods.” This adaptive grazing also encourages diversity among plants because grazing livestock, like people, have their favorite tastes. So, when given the option, livestock may only eat what Moseley calls “ice cream plants,” or the tastiest of the land’s forages, which disrupts the diversity of a habitat. Grazing smaller paddocks at a high density encourages livestock to eat a wider range of plants.

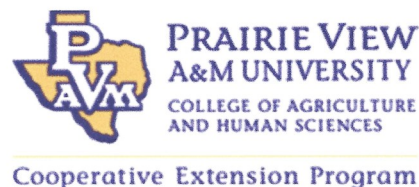
6. EXPECT THE UNEXPECTED

One of the most important lessons Moseley has learned through his years managing wildlife habitats is that the results may vary. When working with such interwoven and complex processes in an ecosystem, things may not always go as planned — and that’s OK. “When applying management, whether that’s grazing or prescribed fire ... we don’t know exactly how nature will respond,” he says. “But we do our best to manage it in a way that’s benefiting nature and our ecosystem processes.” Moseley says watching how a habitat reacts to management and learning from the results is one of the most exciting and rewarding parts of wildlife management. And managing wildlife is crucial to ensuring a healthy habitat for years to come.

“If I could tell ranchers one thing, it’s this,” he says,
“abundant and diverse wildlife is an indicator of a healthy ecosystem.”



**EAST REGION AGRILIFE
CONFERENCE & EXPO
CROSS BRAND
COWBOY CHURCH
11915 FM 2015
TYLER, TEXAS 75708
JANUARY 13, 2023**



Times		Topics and Speakers	How to Register: Go to the Website or scan QR code below	
7:15 AM - 8:00 AM		Registration and Visit Vendors	smith.agrilife.org/erace 	
8:00 AM - 9:00 AM		Termite Identification & Control - Janet Hurley (SPCS License holders only) Senior Extension Program Specialist - IPM Texas A&M AgriLife Extension - Dallas		
9:00 AM - 9:15 AM		Break and Visit Vendors	Online registration is \$10.00 per person when you register by January 12, 2023 by 3:00 pm On-site registration \$ 20.00 per person Online registration will accept credit/debit card (If you need assistance registering online stop by your local County Extension Office) On-site will accept Cash/Check and Credit/Debit Card. (5 % convenience fee when using credit/debit cards)	
9:15 AM - 10:15 AM		Pest Identification & Control Strategies - Bryant McDowell Extension Program Specialist - Urban IPM Texas A&M AgriLife Extension-Dallas		
10:15 AM - 11:15 AM		Pesticide Laws and Regulations Update- Dr. Mark Matocha Associate Professor & Extension Specialist Texas A&M AgriLife Extension - College Station		
11:15 AM - 12:15 PM		Pesticide Safety -Dr. Mark Matocha Associate Professor & Extension Specialist Texas A&M AgriLife Extension- College Station		
12:15 PM - 1:15 PM		Lunch and Visit Vendors		
1:15 PM - 2:15 PM		Disease in Turf and Bermuda Grass- Dr. Chrissie Segars Assistant Professor & Extension Turfgrass Specialist, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension - Dallas		
2:15 PM - 2:30 PM		Break and Visit Vendors		
2:30 PM - 3:30 PM		Water X Weeds: An Approach to Integrated Weed Management Dr. Becky Bowling Assistant Professor & Extension Urban Water Specialist, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension - Dallas		
6 Structural SPCS (Pending Approval)		5 TDA (Pending Approval) (Private/Commercial/Non- Commercial)	Presented by:	
1 Termite 1 Pest 2 Gen 1 L&O 1 Weed		2 Gen 1 L&R 2 IPM	Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service from the following counties: Anderson, Cherokee, Gregg, Henderson, Kaufman, Panola, Rains, Rusk, Smith, Upshur, Van Zandt and Wood	

The members of Texas A&M AgriLife will provide equal opportunities in programs and activities, education, and employment to all persons regardless of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, age, disability, genetic information, veteran status, sexual orientation, gender identity, or any other classification protected by federal, state, or local law and will strive to achieve full and equal



ATTENTION!

Master Gardener Class To Begin In Early February

The local office of Texas A&M AgriLife Extension will begin a new class for people wanting to become involved in the Master Gardener Program. Our class will begin in early February, 2023 and run through mid April; the class will meet once weekly—virtually—Thursday mornings from 9am—1pm(ish). Master Gardeners are members of the local community who take an active interest in their lawns, trees, shrubs, flowers, and gardens. They are enthusiastic, willing to learn and to help others, and able to communicate with diverse groups of people. What really sets Master Gardeners apart from other home gardeners is their special training in horticulture. Master Gardener interns will receive training in plant propagation, ornamental plant selection, rose propagation and pruning, shade tree selection, entomology, plant pathology, turfgrass management, vegetable production, fruit and nut production, and grafting.



All class sessions are taught by Professors and Extension Specialists that are part of the Texas A&M University system, as well as County Extension Agents, trained Master Gardeners, and other experts in the horticultural, and agricultural fields. In addition to the formal virtual classroom trainings of approximately 35 hours, several field trips will be made to nurseries, university arboretums, and other horticulture related venues, for an additional 15 hours. In exchange for their training, anyone who becomes a Master Gardener contributes time as a volunteer, working through their Extension office to provide horticultural-related information to their communities. ***The cost of the program is \$100 which includes all the course materials and training fees.***

For more information or to enroll, contact the Extension office at (903) 657-0376. Enrollment deadline is Friday, January 6, 2023.

The Weather Channel Henderson TX

Historical Monthly:	Average High Degrees	Average Low Degrees	Average Rainfall Inches
November	68	44	4.06
December	61	38	4.63
January	59	36	4.11

If you haven't heard by now, this is the last newsletter you will receive with my signature on it.

I have accepted the position of County Extension Agent for Agriculture & Natural Resources in Walker County. While my official start date in Huntsville will be December 5th, the transition after nearly 20 years here in Rusk County will take some time....that being said, you may still see me around occasionally.

The decision was not made lightly, as this is where we raised our kids and my family and I have made many life-long friends here, but with the kids having graduated and out of the house, it seemed like the right time to pursue new challenges and opportunities.

I wish you all well and look me up if you find yourself in Huntsville....(hopefully, by your own choice, if you know what I mean).

It's way too early to know who will occupy this office next, but I know he (or she) will be in good hands. Plan for Drought and Pray for Rain.....God Bless,

Jamie Sugg

Jamie Sugg
County Extension Agent
Agriculture & Natural Resources
Rusk County
903-657-0376

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AGRI LIFE
EXTENSION

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We are on the web:
rusk.agrilife.org

If you prefer to receive the Ag & Natural Resource Newsletter via email, please email me at jdsugg@ag.tamu.edu and I will add you to the list. You will also receive Weekly Livestock Market Reports and Trends

Extension Office
will be closed
12/23 & 12/26



PRIVATE PESTICIDE RECERTIFICATION **REQUIREMENTS**

Licensed private applicators are required to re-certify every five years by obtaining 15 continuing education credits, including two credits in Laws and Regulations and two credits in Integrated Pest Management (IPM), prior to expiration of the license.