

SOMERVELL COUNTY

AGRICULTURAL NEWSLETTER

BULL SNAKE

TEXAS A&M
AGRI LIFE
EXTENSION

TEXAS
PARKS &
WILDLIFE

Description: The bullsnake is a heavy-bodied snake that ranges from three to five feet in length. They are overall beige to light brown with dark brown or black blotches. Their belly is yellowish with black spots.

Habitat: Bullsnakes prefer sandy soils in fields, brushlands and grasslands.

Distribution: Bullsnakes occur in the western, southern and southeastern United States. They are very common throughout Texas except for the extreme east and extreme western Trans-Pecos.



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23RD ANNUAL Beef Cattle Meeting April 25, 2022

Location:

FUMC Family Center
411 NE Barnard St,
Glen Rose, TX 76043

Registration:

5:30pm

Meal Included...Steak tips!

Cost: \$20/person

Topics:

- Market Update
- Noxious Weeds
- Policy Update



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Educational programs of the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service are open to all people without regard to race, color, sex, religion, national origin, age, disability, genetic information, or veteran status. The Texas A&M University System, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the County Commissioners/Courts of Texas Cooperating. Individuals with disabilities who require an auxiliary aid, service or accommodation in order to participate in any Extension activity are encouraged to contact the County Extension Office for assistance 5 days prior to the activity.

The Last Drop

A RAINWATER HARVESTING PROGRAM

THE TEXAS A&M AGRILIFE EXTENSION SERVICE IN SOMERVELL COUNTY WILL BE HOSTING A RAINWATER HARVESTING PROGRAM AT THE SOMERVELL COUNTY SENIOR CENTER.

TOPICS COVERED:

- IMPORTANCE
- DIFFERENT TYPES
- SYSTEM SET UPS
- USAGES

A MEAL WILL BE PROVIDED



May 16

**LOCATION: 209 SW BARNARD ST,
GLEN ROSE, TX 76043**

TIME: 5:30-7:30

COST: \$18

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**FOR A HEAD COUNT FOR THE MEAL,
PLEASE RSVP TO THE EXTENSION
OFFICE AT 254-897-2809 OR CALL
FOR ANY QUESTIONS**



Texas A&M AgriLife provides equal opportunity in programs and activities, education, and employment to all persons regardless of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, age, genetic information, or veteran status.

CROSS TIMBERS LAND MANAGEMENT SYMPOSIUM

TOPICS RANGE FROM FERTILIZER
PRICE UPDATES TO DROUGHT
EXPECTATIONS AND SOIL FERTILITY
AS WELL AS HANDS ON SPRAYER
CALIBRATION AND PESTICIDE
USAGE.

\$15

APRIL 8TH

10 AM TO 2 PM

LUNCH INCLUDED ON SITE:

TEXAS A&M AGRILIFE
RESEARCH CENTER

1229 N. US HWY 281

STEPHENVILLE, TX 76401

**CEUs
offered:
1 Drift
1 General**

**ONLINE OPTION
AVAILABLE
REGISTER HERE:**

[HTTPS://WWW.EVENTBRITE.COM/E/CROSS-TIMBERS-LAND-MANAGEMENT-SYMPOSIUM-TICKETS-292590324537](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/cross-timbers-land-management-symposium-tickets-292590324537)

TO RSVP CONTACT YOUR EXTENSION AGENT

ERATH COUNTY PALO PINTO COUNTY

LONNIE JENSCHKE
(254) 965-1460

JASON WESTBROOK
(940) 659-1228

HOOD COUNTY

LONDON FAIR
(817) 579-3280

HAMILTON COUNTY

BRUCE BOYD
(254) 386-3919

COMANCHE COUNTY

MIKE BERRY
(325) 356-2539

EASTLAND COUNTY

TJ CUMMINGS
(254) 629-2222

SOMERVELL COUNTY

JORDAN VOGES
(254) 897-2809



WHAT IS LIGHT POLLUTION?

If you've ever tried to see the stars at night, you may also have found that it's nearly impossible because there's so much light everywhere. So much light floods our night skies that the term "light pollution" has emerged, describing any adverse effect of artificial light including sky glow, glare, light trespass, light clutter, decreased visibility at night, and energy waste.

In June 2016, it was estimated that one third of the world's population could no longer see the Milky Way. This included 80% of Americans, and 60% of Europeans.

Light pollution affects many animals since light and dark often signals when to eat, sleep, hunt, migrate, or reproduce. That means light pollution alters and interferes with the timing of necessary biological activities. Artificial light at night disrupts nocturnal pollination networks and has negative consequences for plant reproductive success. In one study, artificially illuminated plant-pollinator communities, nocturnal visits to plants were reduced by 62% compared to dark areas.

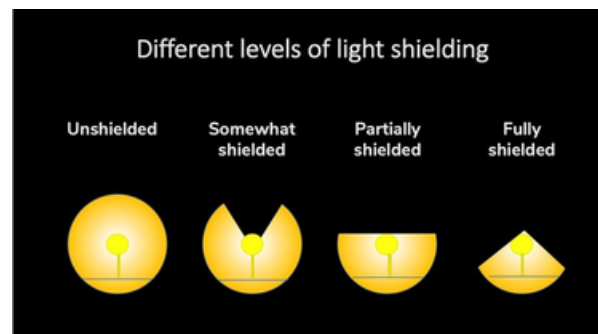
Florida's Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission states, "Even one artificial light source can disrupt normal flight activity, long-distance migrations, or even attract insects that don't normally move from their habitat." When these bugs stay on the light for too long, they tend to die from overheating. Moths are typically the victim, which then affects the birds and bats that feed on them because they lose a food source.



Light pollution also affects the life cycle of plants and can prevent them from growing flowers and reproducing. This affects the pollinators of these plants and also their own life cycles. It also affects humans. According to the National Academies Press' Booklet "Resources on Pollinators," one-third of human food requires a pollinator.

Light pollution also affects human beings. Humans, too, need natural darkness for sound sleep and good health. Cool blue white light at night from sources such as LEDs, fluorescent and metal halide lights interfere with the body's circadian rhythms by suppressing melatonin and increasing cortisol, a brain chemical released when we are stimulated or excited. High cortisol levels make it difficult to fall asleep or experience deep sleep, which our immune systems need to fight illness and disease.

Many cities have taken the lead in re-doing their lights to reclaim the night and decrease energy waste. Flagstaff, Arizona, was the first city to be designated a Dark Sky Community by the International Dark-Sky Association, and Chicago is in the process of retrofitting its fixtures. So far, concerns about dimmer, sparser lighting possibly causing an uptick in crime or decreased safety at night have not been supported by the data; in Chicago's West Garfield Park, more brightly lit alleys actually led to an increase in reported crime. And anecdotally, people are finding that less glaring lighting makes it easier to see in unlit areas, because our eyes adapt more quickly to the dark.



CURRENT EFFECTS ON POLLINATION

Scientists estimate that one-third of all cash crops depend upon animal-mediated pollination. Many plants receive most of their pollination after dark, especially in tropical and desert climates. These plants attract nocturnal pollinators by producing alluring fragrances and copious amounts of nectar.

Unfortunately, pollinators drawn to lights, such as moths, find artificial light more tantalizing than nectar. Such nighttime emissions have increased by more than 70 percent in North America and Europe over the last two decades, particularly in residential areas, according to published estimates.

To determine if night lights affect nocturnal pollination, Knop and her team found 14 ecologically similar cabbage thistle (*Cirsium oleraceum*) meadows in the Alpine foothills of Switzerland and set up mobile street lights in seven of them. Using night-vision goggles, the researchers closely monitored the behavior of nocturnal pollinators in both the dark and illuminated meadows.

Light exposure reduced the number of pollinator visits by 62 percent, the team found. And while nearly 300 species of insects visited plants overnight in the dark fields, 29 percent fewer species came to the lighted fields, the results showed.

The team also measured how much fruit was produced by cabbage thistles under the two treatments. They found that illumination after hours caused a 13 percent reduction in cabbage thistle fruit production, which they attribute to decreased pollination.

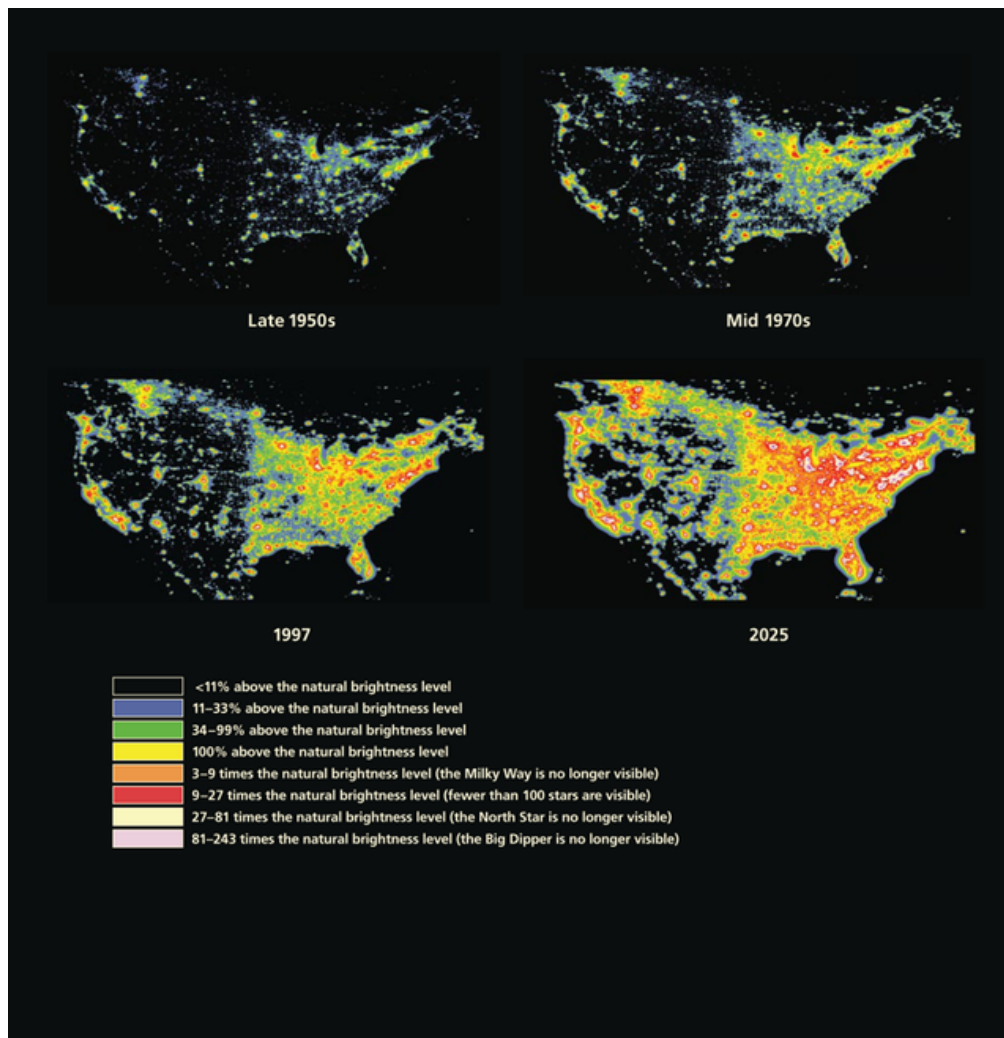


Constant encroachment of urban living and new buildings into rural areas is slowly increasing the amount of light pollution on farmland. Lights create a barrier for nocturnal species and consistently decrease plant pollination which reduces plant growth and subsequently plant production/ food production.

HOW CAN I HELP?

In addition to motion sensors, shielded lighting, blue to warm light and low watt bulbs – solutions abound for reducing light pollution.

- Install reflectors to outline a driveway instead of putting in a row of lights. Reflectors are cheaper to purchase, free to use and are unaffected by power outages.
- Dimmer switches on household lights, both indoor and outdoor save energy and reduce light pollution
- Eliminate, reduce or turn off late night decorative lighting and/or outdoor lighting during late night hours when outdoor areas are not in use.
- Some power companies bill you for "Nearby Outdoor Lighting" which could mean the lamp across the street. Check your bill for the \$5 - \$10 a month for this service and call to ask for the charge to be terminated and the light be removed.
- The IDA Fixture Seal of Approval for dark sky friendly fixtures which minimize glare, reduce light trespass, and keep the night sky dark.





What happens when humans tamper with the age-old balance of day and night? ~Joan Marie Galat, joangalat.com, 2017



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Jordan Voges
CEA AG/NR
Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service
Somervell County
1405 Texas Dr, Glen Rose, TX 76043
PO BOX 895
Phone: 254-897-2809
Email: jordan.voges@ag.tamu.edu

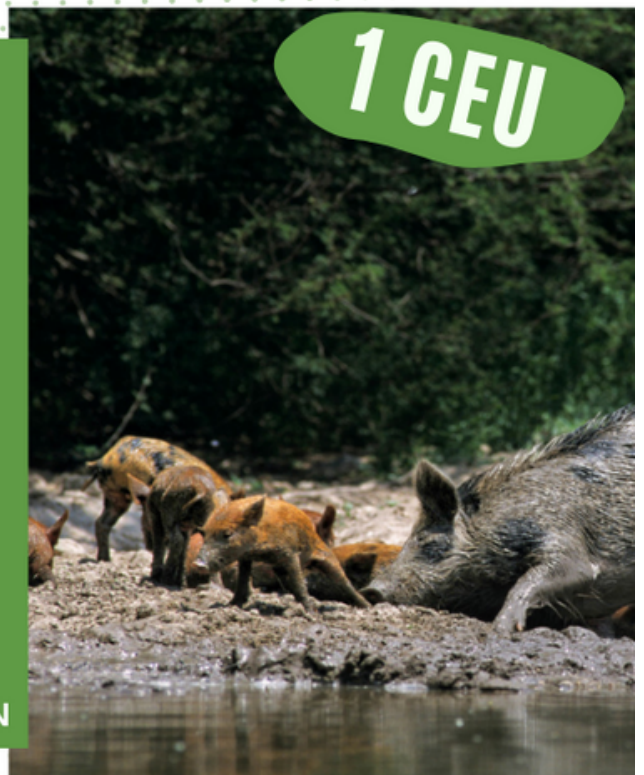
Tri-County Landowner Program

FERAL HOG MANAGEMENT
MAY 24, 2022

Cost: \$20/individual or \$30/couple
Registration: 5:30pm
Program Starts: 6:00pm
Location: TBA
Speaker: Josh Helcel
MEAL PROVIDED



1 CEU



RSVP TO YOUR COUNTY AGENT

Hood County

London Fair
817.579.3280

London.Fair@ag.tamu.edu

Johnson County

Justin Hale
817.556.6370

Justin.Hale@ag.tamu.edu

Somervell County

Jordan Voges
254.897.2809

Jordan.Voges@ag.tamu.edu

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