

Polk County AgriLife Extension Beef/Forage & Natural Resources Newsletter

All Good Things Must Come To An End

As many of you probably have already heard my time as your Agriculture and Natural Resources Agent in Polk County is coming to an end. My last day as Polk County agent will be April 12. I have accepted a new role with AgriLife as the Agriculture and Natural Resources Agent in Waller County. This decision was not an easy one but the one that was best for me. Seems just like yesterday, was July 2018 and I was starting my new role as the agent in Polk County. I thank everyone who welcomed me to Polk County and made Polk County feel like home. This is why the decision to leave was truly a tough one as Polk County has become home and feels like family.

As I look back, I hope I helped the producers, landowners, and homeowners with the issues they had and made a difference for the residents of Polk County. As my final newsletter I want to share with you some of the highlights of my tenure in Polk County and thank all the people who have helped me.

First off, I want to thank the Polk AG Committee. They were always willing to help me with programming, result demonstrations, and helping the producers and landowners of Polk County. As many of you know I have a special passion for wildlife and habitat management. The Piney Woods Lakes Master Naturalists fully supported my passion and I want to thank the board and members for supporting my work in these areas.

Next, I would like to recognize all the volunteers and land cooperators that helped to make the extension office a success in Polk County. Though the list is too long to recognize all the great volunteers in the county, I want the volunteers to know they made a difference. Whether you helped with registration at a program or assisting in a result demonstration you helped to improve agriculture and land management in Polk County.

Many agencies, business, organizations, and groups helped me both professionally and personally during my time in Polk County. I would like to specifically recognize Texas Parks and Wildlife, Texas A&M Forest Service, Polk County Farm Bureau, forestry industry, and Produce Growers Breakfast Committee. I also enjoyed serving on the TNLS Livestock show Committee and working with the youth of Polk County.

I have nothing but fond memories of Polk County and have truly enjoyed my time in the pineywoods. I will always cherish the friendships and producers I have worked with, and I wish nothing but the best for everyone going forward. My contact information will remain the same so feel free to reach out to me at any time especially if you need help with questions during the interim period between agents. I am going to leave you with 10 management tips that I think are most important for landowners, homeowners, and producers in Polk County. I am also going to share a few pictures of programs.

Thank you for letting me serve as your Polk County Agent!



East Texas Natural Resources Field Tour Series



Produce Growers Breakfast



Beef and Forage Workshop



Senior Citizen Center Lunch & Learn

Management Tips

- Get your soil tested rather you are growing tomatoes, forages, pecan trees or whatever. Polk County soils are acidic and lack potassium, until you correct these issues growing crops will be difficult.
- Our ponds have aquatic vegetation issues especially algae. Treat ponds in late spring/ early summer before weeds overrun the pond. You will save money and will prevent low oxygen levels.
- If you have a St. Augustine Lawn, manage for take all root rot. It is in nearly present in every St. Augustine lawn that is having decline.
- Open the understory of your forest. Herbaceous understory will benefit wildlife and improve the aesthetic appeal of your forest.
- Yaupon can overrun a forest. Rather you own 1 acre, or 1000 acres of timberland yaupon is an issue.
- Triclopyr may be the most important herbicide in Polk County. It can be applied individually to plants or on a large scale and controls woody vegetation. It is a great tool for managing unwanted woody vegetation especially for smaller landowners.
- Many gardens lack calcium and magnesium in the soil. This can result in impact to yields.
- You will not have successful pecan harvest without managing for pecan scab.
- Moles and gophers cause destructive tunneling activity. Learn how to recognize the difference between moles and gophers as that will dictate management control activities.
- I cannot stress the importance of prescribed fire in East Texas. Not only does it decrease wildfire potential it benefits wildlife and is needed to promote healthy forest in East Texas.



Tomato Variety Result Demonstration at Snook Farms