

Planned Agenda

Event 1: Getting Started Class

Considering an orchard for the first time? Never planted a fruit tree. WE HAVE YOU COVERED ! Texas is a challenging and unique climate for fruit production, but our half-day "Getting Started Class" will set you on the proper path to success.

Program:

- Site and resource evaluation for new fruit orchards - Jim Kamas
- Fruit orchard establishment - Larry Stein
- Budgeting time resources - WHAT IT TAKES TO START AND MANAGE AN ORCHARD - Jacy Lewis
- Disease & insect threats to successful fruit production - Monte Nesbitt
- Developing an orchard IPM philosophy - Kyle Slusher
- Deciding what to grow: MAJOR PRODUCTION & MARKETING CONSIDERATIONS - Tim Hartmann

When: Thursday, October 17th, 8:00 am to 12:00 pm.

Where: Gillespie County AgriLife Extension Office, 38 Business CT, Fredericksburg, TX 78624.

Event 2: Tree-to-Plate Networking Lunch

Enjoy an array of fresh fruit and diverse fruit-centric culinary products, while exchanging fruit growing & marketing ideas with other new and experienced fruit growers from around the state.

When: Wednesday Afternoon, October 18th.

Where: Location(s) to be determined.

Event 3: Live-Action Lab

Our team has tremendous experience with fruit and vineyard orchard management that new fruit growers need to see in action. Our afternoon "college laboratory" session will get you up close and personal with HOW-TO demonstrations on:

- tree/vine planting,
- training & pruning practices,

- fertilizer application,
- irrigation,
- and pest management.

This 3pm to 6pm session will be held at the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Viticulture and Fruit Lab.

Event 4: Fast Forward Fruit Tour

Experience the possibilities of being a commercial fruit grower by seeing and hearing what other new fruit growers have done to establish and grow a fruit-centric business in the Texas Hill Country. Our Friday morning conference tour is planned to visit Harvest Hill Farm Market, Fredericksburg, Texas.

When: Friday, October 18th, 8:00 a.m., to Noon

Where: Harvest Hill Farm Market, Fredericksburg