

# Ag conference to address drought-management

The South Plains Ag Conference is set for Tuesday, Jan. 22, and this year has something for everyone.

The annual agricultural-education program will be held in the Activity Center of First Baptist Church, 219 W. Main St. Registration is \$15 and includes lunch and six Texas Department of Agriculture continuing education units.

Registration will be held from 7:45-8:15 a.m., followed by a welcome and introductions. The list of speakers and the topics they will cover includes:

- **Dr. Jason Woodward**, Assistant Professor and Extension Plant Pathologist, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension and State Peanut Specialist, "Disease Issues in Cotton and Peanut; Peanut

Production in Drought Condition (irrigation timing, variety selection, etc.)

- **Dr. Mark Kelley**, Extension Cotton Agronomist, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension, "Cotton Variety Selection in Drought Conditions and Irrigation Timing"

- **Debbie Slocum**, Inspector, Texas Department of Agriculture, "Texas Department of Agriculture Laws and Regulations Update"

- **Jason Coleman**, Manager, South Plains Underground Water Conservation District "South Plains Underground Water Conservation District Update"

- **Mary Collier**, County Extension Agent- Family and Con-

sumer Sciences, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension, Terry County, "Health and Safety"

- **Dr. Peter Dotray**, Professor and Extension Specialist- Weeds and Herbicides, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension, "Weed Management Considerations with Glyphosate Resistant Careless Weed and Drought Conditions"

- **Dr. Jackie Smith**, Professor and Extension Economist, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension (or Jay Yates), "2013 Crop Marketing Update/Outlook/Budgets"

- **Dr. Calvin Trostle**, Assistant Professor and Extension Agronomist, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension, "Grain Sorghum Production"



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### Storm Water Starts Clean But Can End Up Polluted

When it rains or snows, most of that water seeps into the ground. But what if the ground is covered with a paved surface like a sidewalk or parking lot? In that case, the water flows into gutters or storm drains.

Water picks up **pollutants** as it runs through city streets, gutters and storm drains. These pollutants can make water in our creeks unsafe for humans, plants and animals. This pollution is called *non-point source pollution*.



Draw a line to match a solution with each problem.

POLLUTION PERIL	POLLUTION SOLUTION
A. Pet waste on streets and sidewalks can end up in storm drains. Gross!	1. Purchase household detergents low in phosphorous. Reduce run-off by washing your car on a lawn or other permeable (able to absorb liquids) surface.
B. Soapy water from car washing travels to storm drains.	2. Clean up after pets. Dispose of waste in the trash.
C. Fertilizer, pesticides and other garden chemicals can wash into storm water.	3. Keep litter, leaves and debris out of the street gutters and storm drains. These drain directly to lakes, streams, rivers and wetlands.
D. When it rains, oil and gas that has dripped from cars washes into storm drains.	4. Keep a drip pan under parked cars and dispose of used motor oil at an official recycling center.
E. Paint enters drains when brushes are cleaned outside.	5. Apply lawn and garden chemicals sparingly and according to directions.
F. Trash in gutters and sidewalks.	6. Brushes and painting equipment soiled with water-based paint may be rinsed in a sink.

ANSWERS: A-2, B-1, C-5, D-4, E-6, F-3

**Kids Can Help!** Here are three simple ways to help keep pollution out of our waterways and eliminate waste. Create a fourth tip. Post these in your classroom.

- Use reusable cups instead of disposable ones. Cans and plastic bottles are major sources of pollution.
- Use reusable bags when you go to the grocery store. Plastic grocery bags can blow away and end up in creeks.
- Always pack your lunch in a reusable container. Bring it home, wash it and use it again to help prevent lunchbag litter.

Standards Link: Environmental Science: Know how people affect the environment in negative and positive ways.

**Extra! Extra! Weather Report**

Most newspapers and newspaper websites contain some form of weather report. Design your own symbols for different kinds of weather conditions including frost, snow, wind, clouds, fog, thunder and lightning.

Standards Link: Visual Arts: Use a variety of media to convey meaning.

**Kid Scoop Puzzler**

Draw the fish that should come next to continue the pattern in each row.

Standards Link: Mathematical Reasoning: Extend simple patterns.

**Double Double Word Search**

Find the words in the puzzle. Then look for each word in this week's Kid Scoop stories and activities.

POLLUTION RECYCLING SOLUTION WETLANDS GUTTERS DISPOSE PROTECT DRAINS STORM TRASH PAINT SOAPY WATER WASTE LAWN

Standards Link: Letter sequencing. Recognized identical words. Skim and scan reading. Recall spelling patterns.

**The Online Scoop**

Try these online games that teach you how to take care of the environment. Go to: [www.kidscoop.com/kids/](http://www.kidscoop.com/kids/)

**FROM THE Kid Scoop LESSON LIBRARY**

**Water Journal**

Clip and collect articles about creeks, rivers, lakes and all kinds of water. Make lists of people, agencies and places that appear in the articles. What are the main topics of discussion or issues about water in your newspaper?

Standards Link: History/Social Science: Understand environmental issues in your local community.

**What do you get by mixing an elephant and a fish?**

ANSWER: Swimming trunks.

### Kid Scoop Together: REUSE IT!

We can change trash into something useful. Before you toss anything into the recycle bin, think about how it could be used again. Jars can be washed and used to store things. Plastic butter tubs can be used to pack food for school lunches. Some trash can even be turned into toys!

**The Mighty Scoop**

- To make a scoop, cut away the bottom and one side of a plastic milk jug as shown.
- Use the scoop to toss a ball back and forth. See who can catch the ball most often in one minute!

**Plastic Power Bowling**

- Save six or more plastic bottles (such as soda or dishwashing liquid).
- Clean bottles thoroughly and remove labels.
- Place bottles in a triangle shape and try to knock down with a small ball.

**Quick Tips**

- Baby wipe containers can be washed and reused to store toys with lots of small parts (such as LEGOs or Barbies).
- Used gift wrap can make a terrific addition to your art supplies. Use it to make collages, for scrapbooking or link it into a paper chain to decorate next year's tree.
- Empty peanut butter jars are great for storing crayons and also for saving spare change.

**Kid Scoop-doku**

Complete the grid by using all the letters in the word CLEAN in each vertical and horizontal row. Each letter should only be used once in each row. Some spaces have been filled in for you.

C			L
L			
C	E		
		A	
A	E		N

**Write On! Clean Water Team**

The first rainstorms of winter can bring a lot of debris into storm drains. What can you do to keep rivers and creeks clean?