

Participants are encouraged to attend all Urban Rancher lectures and Saturday workshops. Over 100 adults have completed the Urban Rancher program since its inception 6 years ago. After graduation the Urban Rancher program keeps on giving – giving education to new landowners. After graduation, think of it as a special interest group – composed of small acreage landowners. Every quarter throughout the year past participants get together for fellowship, food, and education on a current agricultural topic of interest. Upon graduation there is no membership fee to maintain your status as a Brazoria County Urban Rancher.

### The Urban Rancher

Population growth in Brazoria County is on the rise. This is changing the face of Brazoria County agriculture. Large tracts of farmland that were once managed as single units are being subdivided into small tracts and sold to individuals who wish to escape the pressures of city living. These smaller parcels are commonly referred to as ranchettes, while individuals who make this move from population centers to small ranches are referred to as urban ranchers.

Typically, the urban rancher commutes to a full-time job at a major population center each weekday, and devotes weekends and holidays to work on their ranchette. Despite the fact that many ranchette operators have at least one college degree, they often lack significant experience and training in agricultural science and land management.

The Urban Rancher Volunteer program is designed to strengthen the technical knowledge of the ranchette operator by providing 45 hours of classroom instruction and hands-on training over a comprehensive list of topics that pertain to ranch selection, establishment and management. Upon successful completion, individuals are encouraged to serve as outreach volunteers for agriculture programs with Texas Cooperative Extension.

The 2007 Urban Rancher Committee (Brazoria County) identified key factors to define the role of Urban

Rancher volunteers, and what volunteerism entails for the average Urban Rancher.

### Role of an Urban Rancher Volunteer

1. Serve as role model
2. Promote extension education, technology transfer and outreach programming
3. Be available to assist others who want help
4. Promote the Urban Rancher program



### How May I Serve as an Urban Rancher?

1. Serve as a volunteer in support of extension program implementation, (e.g., help out at group meetings, seminars, workshops, etc.)
2. Coordinate and host annual workshops or group meetings for Texas Cooperative Extension agriculture education programs
3. Participate in urban rancher committee meetings
4. Be prepared to provide assistance via referrals from county extension agents
5. Assist the County Extension Agent with on-farm demonstrations



## REGISTRATION FORM

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY, STATE  
ZIP CODE: \_\_\_\_\_

RANCHETTE  
LOCATION: \_\_\_\_\_

HOME  
TELEPHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

MOBILE  
TELEPHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

## TUITION

Tuition covers: guest lecturer transportation costs; snacks, drinks, and meals; a free soil sample; book on toxic plants; reference book on livestock health; bound handouts; a chance at 300' of livestock fence, free!, etc.

### Entire Lecture/Workshop Series:

- \$ 200 for individuals
- \$ 250 for couples (2 people)
- children can attend for free

### Limited to first 30 participants

Call the Brazoria County Office of Texas Cooperative Extension at 979-864-1558 x 110 for more information on what the Urban Rancher Volunteer Program is all about.

Call 979-864-1558 x 110 to register, and mail this registration form and questionnaire with payment payable to: *Ag Committee Fund*

Mail To: Urban Rancher Program  
Texas Cooperative Extension  
21017 CR 171  
Angleton, TX 77515

# QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Is your personal residence located on your ranchette property?  
 NO  YES  
If yes, indicate  primary, or  secondary
2. Indicate time (in years) in residence at your ranchette:  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. Please indicate the county where your ranchette is located:  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. Number of acres: \_\_\_\_\_
5. List type(s) of livestock of interest to you:  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. List type(s) of specialty product(s) produced on your ranchette:  
\_\_\_\_\_
7. List resources available on your ranchette, (e.g., barn, pond, soils, etc.):  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
8. Please indicate your property tax exemption status:  
\_\_\_\_\_
9. Briefly describe your experience with agriculture:  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
10. Do you presently have a TDA pesticide applicator license?  
 NO  YES

## TEXAS COOPERATIVE EXTENSION AND THE URBAN RANCHER COMMITTEE OF BRAZORIA COUNTY OFFER

### URBAN RANCHER

### LANDOWNER TRAINING

**January 22, 2008 - April 15, 2008**

Experts from Texas Cooperative Extension, Texas A&M, Brazoria County, and other cooperating agencies provide lectures pertaining to ranchette management. Sessions begin on Tuesday, January 22<sup>nd</sup>. Thirteen 2-hour lectures are scheduled for every Tuesday evening through April 15<sup>th</sup>. Three Saturday workshops are scheduled for hands-on training. Lectures to be held at the Brazoria County Extension Office. Workshop locations TBA.

### Lecture and Workshop Topics

#### TUESDAY EVENING LECTURES – 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm

- Livestock Marketing and Agriculture Loans
- Pasture Forage Management
- Farm Safety
- Landowner Liability and Condemnation
- Barn Construction
- Weed and Brush Control
- Rural Water Issues
- Laws Affecting Rural Residents
- What to Look for When Buying Used Farm Equipment
- Primer on Appraisal of Ag Lands
- Farm Pond Construction & Management
- Volunteerism and Graduation Ceremony

#### SATURDAY WORKSHOPS

- Private Pesticide Applicator Training & Testing  
February 2, 9 am-4 pm
- Pasture Fence Construction – “And I thought I knew how to build a fence”  
March 1, 9 am-1 pm
- Livestock Health and Handling  
March 22, 9 am-1 pm



Corrie P. Bowen

County Extension Agent, Agriculture/Natural Resources  
Tel: 979-864-1558 x 110 - <http://brazoria-tx.tamu.edu/>

Extension programs serve people of all ages regardless of socioeconomic level, race, religion, disability or national origin. The Texas A&M University System, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the County Commissioners Courts of Texas Cooperating. A member of the Texas A&M University System and its statewide Agriculture Program. Individuals with disabilities who require an auxiliary aid, service or accommodation in order to participate in any Extension activities, are encouraged to contact the County Extension Office for assistance 8 days prior to activity.