Reference Guide for Collin County Landowners

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This document is meant to help guide new landowners towards topics, concepts, and information that are pertinent to new landowners in Collin County, Texas. While we make every effort to be thorough and cover all pertinent topics, this document is not meant to cover every publication over all topics. Rather, we hope that this guide will be a starting point for gathering information, and where to go with any questions.
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Texas A&M AgriLife Extension - Collin County

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension has offices that cover all 254 counties in Texas, and provides relevant, research-based information to landowners and residents across the state. In Collin County, our office provides educational programs on a variety of topics covering 4-H, family and community health, and agriculture & natural resources.

Website: https://Collin.agrilife.org
Phone: (972) 548-4232
Address: 825 N. McDonald St, Suite 150. McKinney, TX 75069.

Texas A&M Forest Service

The Texas A&M Forest Service is responsible for conserving and protecting the resources and lands of Texas. They help property owners maintain forests and natural resources for the future, and are one of the lead wildfire agencies in the State. They offer funding, technical guidance, and information for landowners across Texas, and our Urban Forester is based out of Dallas.

Website: https://tfsweb.tamu.edu/
Funding Programs: https://tfsweb.tamu.edu/landownerassistance/Stewardship/
Plan my Land Webtool: http://tfsfrd.tamu.edu/planmylandoperation/About.html
Phone: (972) 231-5362
Address: 17360 Coit Rd, Dallas, TX 75252

Collin County Soil and Water Conservation District

The Collin County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD #535) is a subdivision of the State dedicated to combating soil and water erosion to improve water quality and quantity.

Website: https://www.tsswcb.texas.gov/swcds/535
Funding Opportunities: https://www.tsswcb.texas.gov/programs/water-quality-management-plan
Phone: (972) 542-0081 ext 3
Address: 1404 N. McDonald St, Ste 100, McKinney, TX 75071

US Department of Agriculture
Farm Service Agency (FSA)
The Farm Service Agency works to provide farmers, ranchers, and landowners access to technical assistance, funding, and programs to improve their operations. Their programs include low-interest loans, commodity price support, disaster assistance, and conservation incentives. These programs are available to all eligible producers, including beginning or underserved farmers and ranchers, veterans, and other groups in the county.

Website: https://www.fsa.usda.gov/state-offices/Texas/index
Phone: (972) 542-0081 ext 2
Address: 1404 N. McDonald St, Ste 200, McKinney, TX 75071

Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)
The NRCS works with landowners to improve and protect soil, water, and other natural resources. Their specialists partner with landowners to provide technical assistance and implement conservation programs to reduce erosion, improve water quality, and promote sustainable agriculture. They do this through a variety of programs.

Website: https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/site/tx/home/
Funding Opportunities: https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/national/programs/?cid=stelprdb1048817
Phone: (972) 542-0081 ext 3
Address: 1404 N. McDonald St, Ste 100, McKinney, TX 75071

Rural Development (RD)
USDA Rural Development provides loans, grants, and loan guarantees to create jobs and support economic development and essential services such as housing, healthcare, first responder services, and water, electric, and communications infrastructure. They promote rural housing and businesses through their grants and loan programs, and can provide technical assistance or information.

Website: https://www.rd.usda.gov/tx
Phone: (972) 542-0081 ext 4
Address: 1404 N. McDonald St, McKinney, TX 75071

Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA)
The Texas Department of Agriculture is responsible for managing pesticide licenses, supporting Texas agriculture, and has grant and loan programs for new and established farms and ranches. Their offices are regional, and the nearest one to Collin County is in Dallas.
Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD)

Texas Parks and Wildlife provides a number of services in Collin County. Aside from their law enforcement functions, they have landowner assistance programs that help private landowners implement Wildlife Management Plans, conduct prescribed fire, and other habitat management operations. They also have grants and other funding that may be applied for if the landowner qualifies.

TPWD has multiple offices around the county, and many of their staff cover a multi-county area. To find the relevant personnel for Collin County, please follow the web link below.

Website: [https://tpwd.texas.gov/landwater/land/habits/county/?county=Collin](https://tpwd.texas.gov/landwater/land/habits/county/?county=Collin)

Collin Central Appraisal District

The Collin CAD is the agency responsible for determining property values and qualifications for the 1-D-1 Open Space Valuation (aka: the Ag Exemption). They make the final determinations for agricultural intensity of use and qualifying activities.

Website: [https://www.collincad.org/](https://www.collincad.org/)
Phone: (469) 742-9200
Address: 250 Eldorado Pkwy, McKinney, TX 75069
Publications and Topics of Interest on Property Management

Purchasing a tract of land, regardless of size, is making a commitment to being a good steward of your property. This section will provide free, publicly available literature recommendations to help improve your understanding on topics you may be interested in. This is not an exhaustive list of every publication or topic, but is rather a list of publications that target common questions and agricultural operations for the county. These publications may be found free at http://collin.agrilife.org/publications/agriculture or by calling the Collin County Extension Office at 972.548.4232.

Soil

Soil Properties and Quality

- E-534 - Testing Your Soil; How to Collect and Send Samples
- SCS-2001-06 - Soil Acidity and Liming
- Penn State Extension - Introduction to Soils; Managing Soils
- Penn State Extension - Introduction to Soils; Soil Quality

Soil Conservation

- EL-5532 - Improving Water Quality with Grashed Waterways

Water

- Texas Watershed Steward Handbook
- EB-6153 - Rainwater harvesting
- L-5500 - Keep Pesticides out of Texas Water Supplies

Wells and drinking water

- Texas Commission on Environmental Quality Publication GI-432 - Disinfecting Your Private Well
- Texas Commission on Environmental Quality Publication GI-433 - How to Sample Your Well Water and Understand the Results
Wastewater and Septic Systems

- **B-6171 - On-Site Water Treatment Systems: Homeowner's Guide to Evaluating Service Contracts**
- **L-5347 - On-Site Water Treatment Systems: Operation and Maintenance**
- Additional information on septic and other on-site sewage treatment systems may be found at [https://ossf.tamu.edu/educational-materials-2/](https://ossf.tamu.edu/educational-materials-2/)

Ponds and Pond Management

- **EWF-003 - Texas Farm Pond Management Calendar**
- **EWF-004 - Aquatic Herbicide Selection Tables**
- **EWF-006 - My Fish are Dying**
- **EWF-008 - A Pond to Call My Own: Understanding Water Law in Texas**

Vegetation

Pasture Management

- **SCS-2015-01 - Forage species for Texas**
- **E-179 - Forage Bermudagrass - Selection, Establishment, and Management**
- **E-308 Establishing Cool Season Annual Grasses**
- **E-273 - Hay Production in Texas**
- **EL-5456 - Restoring Native Grasslands**

Brush and Weed Control

- **B-6079 - Weed Identification**
- **E-154 - Brush Control for Small Acreages**
- **ESC-024 - Weed Control in Pastures and Forages**
- **SCS-2017-09 - Managing grassy weeds in a grass pasture or hay meadow**
- Texas A&M AgriLife Extension has a great website for their Brush Busters program: [https://texnat.tamu.edu/about/brush-busters/](https://texnat.tamu.edu/about/brush-busters/). This resource covers a multitude of methods to control brush and other noxious species of plants.

Farming

- **EHT-016 - High Tunnels for Crop Production in Texas**
- **EHT-029 - Specialty Crops for High Tunnel Production in Texas**
- **EHT-105 - Cost of Constructing a Metal Hoop High Tunnel**
Livestock

Choosing Livestock Operations and Stocking Rates

- B-6091 - Livestock for Small Acreage Landowners
- E-152 - Stocking Rate Decisions

Livestock Management, Nutrition, and Health

Cattle

- AN-010 - Texas Beef Cattle Management Handbook ($60)
- E-371 Buying vs Raising Replacement Heifers
- E-348 - Recognizing and Managing Common Health Problems for Beef Cattle
- E-470 - Managing External Parasites of Texas Cattle
- EDL-041 - Keeping Cattle Hydrated and Healthy During a Drought
- E-347 Seven Management Techniques That Move Cow-Calf Producers Toward Profitability

Sheep & Goats

- EL-5094 - Monitoring Internal Parasite Infection in Small Ruminants
- B-6212 - Biosecurity for Sheep and Goat Producers

Horses

- B-5025 Nutrition and Feeding Management of Broodmares
- HRG-021 - Care and Management of Horses on the Ranch
- B-6214 - Best Management Practices for Equine Disease Prevention
- EB-5033 - Selection and Use of Hay and Processed Roughage in Horse Feeding
- EB-6161 - Mature, Senior, and Geriatric Horses: Management, Care, and Use
- L-5210 Horse Theft Awareness and Prevention

Poultry

- E-445 - Poultry Pest Management
- L-5182 - Poultry Facility Biosecurity
- PS-5250 - The Small Laying Flock
Swine

- L-5321 - Artificial Insemination in Swine
- L-5507 - Biosecurity for Swine Producers

Beekeeping

- Georgia Extension B-201045 - Honey Bees and Beekeeping
- Purdue Extension E-201 - What Beekeepers Should Know About Bee Mites
- Purdue Extension E-216 - Using Honey Bees in Pollination
- Purdue Extension E-260 - How to Minimize Pesticide Risks to Honey Bees
- Purdue Extension E-53 - Protecting Honey Bees from Pesticides

Wildlife

- Texas Comptroller - Guidelines for Qualification of Agricultural Land in Wildlife Management Use
- TPWD - Agricultural Tax Appraisal Based on Wildlife Management
- The Wildlife and Fisheries Science Department at Texas A&M have a great website with information on wildlife management at https://wildlife.tamu.edu/new-landowners/

Feral Hogs

- L-5523 Recognizing Feral Hog sign
- AgriLife Extension Feral Hogs Website: https://feralhogs.tamu.edu/
- CDC - Wild Hog Hunting - Stay Healthy on Your Hunt
- SCWDS - Feral Hog Diseases

Ranch Maintenance and Operations

Infrastructure, Fences, and Structures


Operating a farm/ranch business

- E-171 - Business Entity Planning
- E-489 - Basic Business Structures: Sole Proprietor, Joint Operating Agreements and Partnerships
- E-492 - Business Plans for Agricultural Producers
- E-495 - Limited Liability Companies and Corporate Business Structures
- E-555 - Developing a Marketing Plan
The Agricultural Economics Department with AgriLife Extension maintains a website with a number of helpful tools ranging from crop profitability analyzers to budget sheets. Website: https://agecoext.tamu.edu/

Property Taxes

- E256 - Texas Property Taxes
- E-584 - Understanding Texas Taxes
- E-143 - Agriculture Taxes in Texas