

Free home aerobic septic system workshops in Hays and Caldwell counties

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SAN MARCOS – Homeowners interested in learning about the maintenance of their aerobic treatment system are invited to attend a free Texas AgriLife Extension Service workshop in San Marcos.

A “Homeowner Maintenance of Aerobic Treatment Units Workshop” will be held from 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m. May 27 at the AgriLife Extension office for Hays County, 1253 Civic Center Loop.

“The workshop will be of interest to homeowners who want to learn more about the components and maintenance of an aerobic treatment unit and spray field of their on-site systems,” said Dr. Bruce Lesikar, AgriLife Extension water and wastewater resource specialist in biological and agricultural engineering. It is important for homeowners to properly maintain and operate these systems to help protect water quality.

“The purpose of the course is to present information on the function, operation and maintenance of aerobic treatment units, and to provide hands-on demonstration of evaluation techniques to determine operational status of the treatment system,” Lesikar said.

Topics will include the importance of maintaining the system, health and safety considerations, basic concepts about the aerobic treatment processes, and system testing and reporting. It also will address “care and feeding” of the unit, system maintenance, system evaluation tools and supplies, and how effective wastewater treatment protects water resources.

“The workshop is free thanks to funding provided by the Plum Creek Watershed Partnership and Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority through a U.S. Environmental Protection Agency grant administered by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality,” said Nikki Dictson, AgriLife Extension water quality program specialist.

Workshops are being offered in Hays and Caldwell counties as part of the Plum Creek Watershed Protection Plan implementation strategies to reduce potential pollutants from entering area streams and creeks by way of aerobic and septic systems.

Another South Central Texas homeowner aerobic treatment unit maintenance workshop will be held from 9 a.m.- 4:30 p.m. June 24 at the AgriLife Extension office in Caldwell County, 1402 Blackjack Street, Suite B, Lockhart.

Class attendance is limited, so attendees are required to pre-register to ensure adequate space.

To pre-register for either workshop and to get a registration form or more information, contact Susan Levien at 979-845-7451 or s-levien@tamu.edu .

A registration form also can be downloaded from the Plum Creek Watershed Partnership Web site at <http://pcwp.tamu.edu/PChomeowner-workshop.html> .

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