



Extension's Role in Urban Agriculture

Molly Keck
Texas A&M AgriLife Extension
Bexar County, TX



Urban Agriculture

“The practice of cultivating, processing, and distributing food in or around a village, town or city. Can also involve animal husbandry, aquaculture, agroforestry, beekeeping and horticulture.”

- ▶ **Community Gardens are Growing!**
 - Churches
 - Neighborhoods
 - Other organizations
 - School Gardens

- ▶ **Backyard Agriculture – back to basics**
 - Beekeeping
 - Chickens
 - Gardening



Issues with Urban Agriculture

- ▶ Increased pest issues
- ▶ Increased awareness of insects
- ▶ “Weird” bugs
 - Poultry lice, fleas
 - Bee attacks
 - Flies



Issues with Urban Agriculture

- ▶ Medical concerns
 - Fire ants
 - Bees
 - Mites and Delusions of Parasitosis



Issues with Urban Agriculture

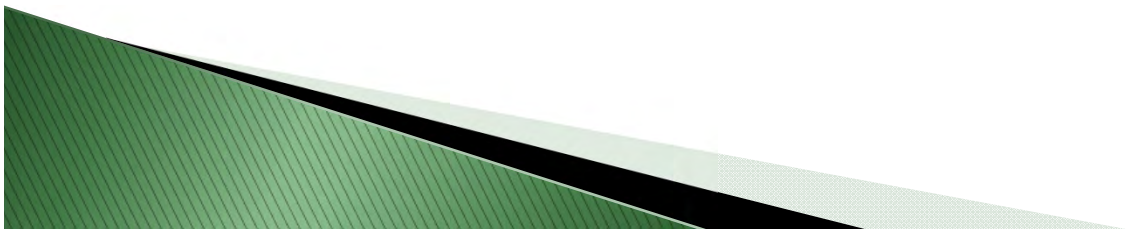
- ▶ What to do?

Education!



Education in Urban Agriculture

- ▶ How to do Urban Agriculture
 - Beekeeping Courses
 - Recognizing Beneficial and Harmful Insects
- ▶ Integrated Pest Management in Urban Agriculture
 - How to kill it and what to keep
- ▶ Using Community Gardens for Demonstrations



How to do Urban Agriculture

- ▶ Beekeeping Basics Course & Field Day



IPM in Urban Agriculture

▶ 2013 - 49



Demonstrations Reach More

- ▶ Using the audience of community gardens to do more educationally
 - Children's Vegetable Garden @ San Antonio Botanical Garden
 - Cabbage looper trial
 - Results said it all



Demonstrations Reach More

- ▶ Community Gardens love “free” help!
- ▶ Fire Ant Management Programs
 - Help once, show them how a regimen works



Thank you!

