Extension’s Role in Urban Agriculture

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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

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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!