

## Texas A&M AgriLife Research Procedures

### 34.06.02.A0.01 | Weapons in Texas A&M AgriLife Research Facilities



Approved: July 17, 1997  
Revised: October 10, 2002  
September 24, 2012  
August 1, 2016

Next Scheduled Review: August 1, 2021

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#### **PROCEDURE STATEMENT**

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This procedure addresses the possession of weapons, other than concealed handguns, on any Texas A&M AgriLife Research (AgriLife Research) premises, on any grounds or building on which an activity sponsored by AgriLife Research is being conducted, or in a passenger transportation vehicle of AgriLife Research. Texas laws, The Texas A&M University System (A&M System) Regulation 34.06.02, *Weapons*, and AgriLife Research Rule 36.02.01.A1, *Carrying Concealed Handguns on Texas A&M AgriLife Research Property*, prohibit the possession of weapons, except concealed handguns. In addition to concealed handguns, this prohibition does not apply to licensed peace officers (including game wardens) or when authorized in writing by the Director/designee or the unit head of the AgriLife Research facility or unit. "Premises" as used here has the same meaning as that assigned to it by Penal Code § 46.035.

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#### **REASON FOR PROCEDURE**

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This procedure establishes guidelines for granting exceptions for the use/possession of weapons other than concealed handguns at AgriLife Research facilities.

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#### **PROCEDURES AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

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##### 1.0 AUTHORIZED WEAPON USE/POSSESSION

- 1.1 Possession of weapons/use of weapons, except concealed handguns, on property controlled by AgriLife Research may be authorized as follows:
  - a. During approved hunter safety/or firearm/weapon safety courses, 4-H firearm/shooting courses/programs, and related activities being taught/conducted on property controlled by AgriLife Research.
  - b. To euthanize injured or ill animals.
  - c. To collect research samples as part of an approved project protocol.
  - d. To eliminate predators and varmints threatening employees, livestock, and/or research plots. (Note: This does not authorize the elimination of protected or endangered species, the authorization of which must be granted by other agencies.)
  - e. Hunting, when that hunting is done as a part of an approved hunting lease agreement.
  - f. Storage of legal weapons in the personal residence of individuals who live on AgriLife Research controlled property.
  - g. Storage of weapons owned by AgriLife Research or other A&M System member which are used for exceptions a, b, c, and d above.

- h. Any other exception where a demonstrated need exists for carrying or using a weapon will be approved by the Director of AgriLife Research/designee.

## 2.0 GUIDELINES

- 2.1 In accordance with A&M System Regulation 34.06.02, a System Firearm Authorization Request Form must be completed for one of the criteria contained in section 1.1. The application must be signed by the unit head. Applications for the unit head must be signed by the Director/designee.
  - a. The period(s) of authorization will not exceed one year, and for ongoing programs, storage, etc. must be renewed each fiscal year.
  - b. If the request is for multiple weapons, such as for 4-H programs, attach a continuation sheet for the additional weapons.
- 2.2 A copy of any local rules the authorized individual is expected to follow must be given to the applicant at the time of the application.
- 2.3 A copy of each written authorization will be maintained by the unit in Laserfiche section 5.4.13 where it may be accessed as needed for authorization verification. Where access to Laserfiche is limited, a copy will also be maintained onsite as a paper copy.
- 2.4 Weapons which are owned/maintained by AgriLife Research or the A&M System, or which are stored in the personal residence of individuals who live on AgriLife Research Property, must be stored in a safe manufactured for the purpose of storing handguns/firearms.
- 2.5 Contractual hunting lease agreements will include:
  - a. A "Waiver of Indemnity/Hold Harmless Agreement" to be signed by the lessee.
  - b. The requirement for lessees to adhere to all generally accepted principles of weapon safety and all hunting regulations in Title 31, Part 2, Chapter 65 of the Texas Administrative Code.
- 2.6 Individuals who possess weapons in violation of this rule will be asked to remove the weapon from AgriLife Research property. All refusals to remove such weapons will be reported to the appropriate law-enforcement authorities.
- 2.7 All employees or other individuals authorized to possess and/or use weapons on AgriLife Research property shall adhere to all generally accepted principles of weapon safety at all times. When not in actual use, firearms will be unloaded.
- 2.8 Signs prohibiting the possession of weapons except concealed handguns, may be posted at the entrance to all AgriLife Research facilities. (For example, a sign prohibiting open carry of weapons).

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### **RELATED STATUTES, POLICIES, OR REQUIREMENTS**

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[System Regulation 34.06.02](#), *Weapons*

[AgriLife Research Rule 34.02.06.A1](#), *Carrying Concealed Handguns on Texas A&M AgriLife Research Property*

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### **CONTACT OFFICE**

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Questions regarding this procedure should be referred to the Texas A&M AgriLife Research/Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service Safety Coordinator at 979-862-4038, or AgriLife Risk and Compliance at 979-845-7879.