

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service Procedures

34.06.02.X0.01 | Weapons in Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service Facilities



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

Next Scheduled Review: August 1, 2021

PROCEDURE STATEMENT

This procedure addresses the possession of weapons, other than concealed handguns, on any Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service (AgriLife Extension) premises, on any grounds or building on which an activity sponsored by AgriLife Extension is being conducted, or in a passenger transportation vehicle of AgriLife Extension. Texas laws, The Texas A&M University System (A&M System) Regulation 34.06.02, *Weapons*, and AgriLife Extension Rule 36.02.01.X1, *Carrying Concealed Handguns on Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Property*, prohibit the possession of weapons, except 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 Extension facility or unit. "Premises" as used here has the same meaning as that assigned to it by Penal Code § 46.035.

REASON FOR PROCEDURE

This procedure establishes guidelines for weapon use/possession exceptions other than concealed handguns at AgriLife Extension facilities.

PROCEDURES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

1.0 AUTHORIZED WEAPON USE/POSSESSION

- 1.1 Possession of weapons/use of weapons on property, except concealed handguns, controlled by AgriLife Extension that 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 Extension.
 - 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 Extension controlled property.
 - g. Storage of weapons owned by AgriLife Extension 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 Extension/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 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 Extension or the A&M System, or which are stored in the personal residence of individuals who live on AgriLife Extension 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 Extension 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 Extension 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 Extension facilities. (For example, a sign prohibiting open carry of weapons).

RELATED STATUTES, POLICIES, OR REQUIREMENTS

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

[AgriLife Extension Rule 36.02.01.X1](#), *Carrying Concealed Handguns on Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Property*

CONTACT OFFICE

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.