

In This Issue

Austin Co. Livestock Assoc. Meeting	Page 1
TMG Specialist First Detector Training	Page 2
Private Applicator Training	Page 2
Fall Garden Program	Page 3
Multi County New Landowners	Page 3
Horn Fly Control, Joe Paschal	Page 3-4
Upcoming Events	Page 5

Austin County Livestock Association Meeting Thursday, June 7, 2018

The annual Austin County Livestock Association Meeting will be held on Thursday, June 7, 2018, at the Cat Spring Ag Hall in Cat Spring. There will be a CEU program prior to the meeting with registration starting at 2:30 pm and the program beginning at 3:00 pm. This year's program will be presented by Range Specialist Megan Clayton and will include a presentation on "Understanding Herbicide Labels and The Herbicide's Effectiveness" and "Herbicide Update: What's old, new and coming down the pipeline for difficult plants in Austin County". Registration for the annual meeting will be from 5:30pm – 6:30 pm. The meal will be served at 6:30 pm, followed by the program, short business meeting and door prizes. The guest speaker for this year's general meeting will be Randy Stavinoha who is with the Texas Department of Public Safety. He will discuss federal regulations for farm trucks and trailers as well as other important topics for livestock producers.

There will be a registration fee of \$20 per person charged prior to CEU program, which includes the annual membership fee. This money will be used for the payment of the meal at the annual meeting, and coverage for a \$500.00 reward in the event of recovery of stolen livestock. Dues are also used in awarding college scholarships to Austin County youth. All livestock producers are encouraged to attend and become a member of the association.

Spray Permits Required for a Portion of Austin County

As a reminder to anyone that will be using state limited use or state restricted use herbicides in Austin County, a permit to apply these herbicides must be obtained through the Texas Department of Agriculture if you plan on spraying in certain portions of the county. The following areas of Austin County must acquire a permit as is specified in the Texas Agricultural code, chapter 75,

I.) Only the portion of Austin County lying east and south of the line beginning at the point where state highway 36 crosses the north county line, thence southerly along Highway 36 to FM 949; thence westwardly along FM 949 to the San Bernard River

2.) Between March 15th and July 31st, in that portion of Austin County lying south of Interstate Highway 10, the following restrictions on the use of 2,4-D formulations shall apply:

- (A.)* The application by aircraft is prohibited
- (B.)* The use of all ester formulations by any method is prohibited

Permits may be obtained from the Texas AgriLife Extension Service of Austin County at (979) 865-2072, or visit our website at <http://austin.agrilife.org/files/2013/03/Regulated-Spray-Permit.pdf>. Forms can also be obtained by contacting the Texas Department of Agriculture Gulf Coast Regional Office in Houston at (713) 921-8200.

Texas Master Gardener Specialist First Detector Training June 11-12, 2018

Brazoria County AgriLife will host a Master Gardener Specialist First Detector Training Pest and Pathogen Surveillance on June 11-12, 2018, from 8:30 am-5:00 pm. This program will cover the importance of monitoring for high risk pests, basic plant disease diagnostic skills, proper methods and procedures to sample and submit a diagnostic sample, photography for diagnostics, methods for prevention, and other related disease problems. Texas Master Gardeners will work toward program certification by completing 20 volunteer hours of service. There is a registration fee of \$125 which includes; lecture, hands-on instruction, thumb drive with resources, two lunches, and friendship dinner. Registration ends June 1st. Please contact Jean Godwin by email at jean.godwin@ag.tamu.edu or by phone at 979-864-1558 for any registration questions.

Private Applicator Training Friday, June 29

If you are planning on using a state limited use or state restricted use pesticide, such as Grazon P+D, 2-4-D, Weedmaster, etc., and need a license, the Austin County Extension Office will be hosting a training on Friday, June 29th. Check in will be at 8:00 am with the program starting at 8:30 am. There will be a \$50 registration fee to attend the training and this will include study material and refreshments. The study materials should be purchased in advance for review. This 4-hour training will give participants the necessary information to take the private applicators license test which will be administered by a state certified testing facility. This training is also required by the TDA prior to taking the private applicators license exam. Pre-registration is required with the deadline being June 25th. Please contact the Extension Office to register.

***2018 Schedule
Multi County
New Landowner Series***

August 17

Bees and Trees for Homeowners
Colorado County

September 21

Horticulture Production
Fayette County

October 19

Wildlife Management
Native Grass Restoration
Austin County

November 16

Hot Topics
Washington County

***Fall Gardening Program
Friday, July 20***

The Austin County Horticulture Committee will be hosting a Fall and Winter Gardening program on Friday, July 20, 2018. It will be held at the Hill Center, 1000 Main Street, in Sealy. The program will run from 1:30 pm-4:00 pm and will provide two CEU credits to applicators with a pesticide license. The topics to be covered this year include preparing a fall garden by Boone Holladay and tower hydroponics. To register for this program, please contact the Extension Office at 979-865-2072.

***Multi-County New Landowners Seminar
Friday, August 17***

The next meeting for the 2018 Multi-County New Landowner Series will take place on Friday, August 17, 2018, at the Colorado County Extension Office. Registration begins at 1:00pm with the program to follow.

This program will focus on Bees and Trees for Homeowners. For more information on this series please contact the Colorado County Extension Office by calling 979-732-2082 or by visiting <https://agrillife.org/coastalbend/nlo/>.

***Horn flies can damage cattle skin;
need to be controlled***

Joe C. Paschal

Livestock Specialist, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension
Corpus Christi, Texas

The horn fly, which seems to be a misnomer since they congregate on cattle without horns, too, were introduced to the U.S. from Europe in the late 1800s. They were called horn fly because they clustered at the base of the horns on cattle. However, they now congregate almost everywhere on the cow's body. They are the same color as a house fly but much smaller – about 3/16 of an inch in length. The horn fly lays its eggs in a freshly dropped cow manure pad where they hatch in about 24 hours. The manure needs to be less than an hour old because the female fly must deposit eggs inside the manure before the surface hardens. The eggs hatch into larvae or maggots and after 4-5 days pupate for a week to 10 days before emerging from the

Selected References from Dr. Joe Paschal

Dr. Sonja Swiger

Assistant Professor and Extension Entomologist,

<http://agrilife.org/livestockvetento/files/2010/10/Managing-External-Parasites-of-Texas-Cattle.pdf>

Sonja L. Swiger and Jeffery K. Tomberlin

<http://agrilife.org/livestockvetento/files/2010/10/E-208-Protecting-Cattle-From-Horn-Flies.pdf>

pad. Within 2-3 hours after emerging, they can be feeding on cattle, where they can take 30-40 meals per day. The females can mate within two days after emerging and lay several hundred eggs a day later and for several days afterward. The entire life cycle takes 12-14 days in the summer. Horn flies appear on the first warm days of spring and are active until the fall and cool weather. They prefer warm, humid days. Horn flies puncture the skin to suck blood and usually are found on parts of the cow's body not easily reached by the head or tail. Horn fly bites can cause extensive hide damage. When temperatures are high, they move to the shaded parts of the belly. Unlike most flies, they remain on the animal day and night. Large numbers of horn flies cause constant irritation and can cause loss of condition, weight and milk production. Research has shown a 15-20 percent reduction in weight and gain when horn fly populations are excessive – more than 250 flies per head. They can also transmit several diseases including Stephanofilariasis, a condition caused by a small filarial parasite that migrates to the dorsal midline of cattle in the fall in the South. This migration causes the cattle to scratch and scrape themselves until they bleed to relieve the pain. That's what causes the large scars on the navels of many commercial cows. It also damages their hides – and value, especially in purebred cattle – as well. There are several management practices and numerous products and methods of application to help control horn flies. Management practices include pasture rotation that helps break the life cycle and dragging small pastures and traps to break up manure pads. There are biological control methods including mites, beetles and wasps that feed on the larvae as well as dung beetles, which help break up manure pads. Insect growth regulator in mineral or other feeds inhibit the larvae's development into adult flies. Pesticide control methods include a variety of chemicals that are either self-treatment or applied as sprays, pour-ons, dips, ear tags, dust, back rubs, insecticide balls and in dust bags. Each product and application have pluses and minuses, but a combination of management and chemical control yields the best results if not complete control. I use a combination of pasture rotation, ear tags, and a back rubber but I have used IGR in past. Dr. Sonja Swiger, our Extension Entomologist, has rewritten a bulletin titled "Managing External Parasites of Cattle" that not only discusses horn flies but other external parasites and their control. Her publication on "Protecting Cattle from Horn Flies" is also available. If you would like copies, contact your local County Extension Agent or myself or access them at bit.ly/2DP1YuV and bit.ly/2IPg4A9.

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Upcoming Events

June

- 7 - Austin County Livestock Association Meeting
- 11-12 - TMG Detector Training
- 29 - Private Applicator Training

July

- 16 - Multi County Estate Planning, More info TBA
- 20 - Horticulture Committee Fall Garden Program
- 26 - TWON Program

August

- 6-8 - TAMU Beef Cattle Short Course
- 17 - Multi County New Landowners Series

September

- 3 - Office will be closed for Labor Day
- 21 - Multi County New Landowners Series

The members of Texas A&M AgriLife will provide equal opportunities in programs and activities, education, and employment to all persons regardless of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, age, disability, genetic information, veteran status, sexual orientation or gender identity and will strive to achieve full and equal employment opportunity throughout Texas A&M AgriLife.