

Bee County Agriculture Newsletter

Volume 4, Issue 1

September 2018

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

COASTAL BEND SOIL CAMPAIGN

DATE: OCTOBER 1 – NOVEMBER 16, 2018

CROP & LIVESTOCK PRODUCERS ARE ELIGIBLE FOR A DISCOUNTED RATE: FOR ROUTINE ANALYSIS OR FOR ROUTINE + MICRONUTRIENT ANALYSIS. SAMPLES WILL BE ANALYZED BY TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY SOIL TESTING AND FORAGE LABORATORY. CONTACT THE BEE COUNTY EXTENSION OFFICE FOR A SUBMITTAL FORM AND TO DROP OFF SAMPLES.

TRI COUNTY CEU DAY

DATE: NOVEMBER 15, 2018

PLACE: BEE COUNTY EXPO CENTER COLISEUM

TIME: 7:00AM – 12:00PM

IN COOPERATION WITH BEE, GOLIAD, AND REFUGIO COUNTIES, WE WILL BE SPONSORING A CEU SEMINAR. THE COST IS \$10/HR. ALTHOUGH WE ARE OFFERING 5 HOURS. 2 LAWS AND REGS, 2 IPM, AND 1 GENERAL.

PRIVATE APPLICATOR TRAINING

DATE: DECEMBER 6, 2018

PLACE: BEE COUNTY AGRILIFE EXTENSION OFFICE

TIME: 9:00AM – 12:00PM

PESTICIDE APPLICATOR TRAINING COURSE COST \$50 WHICH INCLUDES THE COST OF STUDY MANUALS. PLEASE CONTACT EXTENSION OFFICE AT 361-621-1552 TO RESERVE YOUR SPOT

TEXAS WELL OWNER NETWORK – WELL EDUCATED PROGRAM

DATE: OCTOBER 18, 2018

PLACE: BEE COUNTY EXPO CENTER

TIME: 1:00PM – 5:00PM

THE 'WELL EDUCATED' PROGRAM IS FOR PRIVATE WELL OWNERS WHO WANT TO BECOME FAMILIAR WITH GROUND WATER RESOURCES, SEPTIC SYSTEM MAINTENANCE, WELL MAINTENANCE, WATER CONSERVATION, WATER QUALITY AND WATER TREATMENT. WELL OWNERS MAY BRING SAMPLES TO BE SCREENED FOR NITRATE-NITROGEN, TOTAL DISSOLVED SOLIDS, AND E. COLI BACTERIA FOR \$10. PICK UP APPROVED SAMPLE CONTAINERS WITH INSTRUCTIONS AT THE BEE CO. EXTENSION OFFICE. BRING SAMPLES AND \$10 TO THE MEETING.

Inside This Issue

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Lotebush *Condalia obtusifolia*

*The Cattleman Magazine, July 2018

Lotebush (*Condalia obtusifolia*) is a perennial native shrub that is in the Buckthorn family. It is found on rangelands in Central, South and West Texas, and throughout the Southwest U.S.

- Is a many branched, grayish-green plant that has thorn-tipped branches and many thorns along the branches.
- Can reach a height of more than 6 feet and can form dense thickets.
- Has grayish-green leaves that vary in shape from oval to oblong. 1/2 to more than an inch in length and can have a tooth-like appearance on the edges.
- Does produce flowers, but they are not easily noticed.
- Produces a black, mealy, hard fruit that is pea-like in size and is eaten by many wildlife species.

Lotebush is not utilized by livestock but is grazed occasionally by wildlife. It is probably best known for providing good cover for bobwhite quail and as a haven for desirable grass seedlings to escape grazing pressure on overgrazed ranges.

The root of the plant has been used as a substitute for soap and for treating wounds and sores on domestic animals.

Lotebush *Condalia* is also known as *Ziziphus obtusifolia* and it has many common names as well, including gumdrop-tree, gray-thorn, clepe and chaparral, among others. The name *Condalia* is in honor of the Spanish physician Antonio Condal, who accompanied the botanist, Loeffling, on a journey up the Orinoco River in the 18th century.



Restrictions on Waterfowl Hunting and Baiting

*information is an excerpt from a TAMU publication EWF-029 written by John M. Tomecek and Larry A. Redmon

Texas hunters enjoy the waterfowl migration and are fortunate to have large numbers of ducks and geese to hunt each year. Other hunted waterfowl include Sandhill cranes and coots. Responsible hunters enjoy these resources and strive to hunt inside the law. Waterfowl are considered migratory game birds, and federal statutes to comply with the Migratory Bird Treaty Act govern hunting them. This treaty protects migratory birds such as waterfowl travelling from Canada to Mexico. It is a cornerstone of conservation and contains complex legal restrictions. Once such restriction addresses hunting waterfowl over bait.

Simply put, hunting migratory game birds over baited areas is strictly forbidden. The goal of this law is to equalize hunting opportunity along migration pathways and prevent localized overharvest of migratory game birds. The exact definition of baiting, however, can be somewhat unclear. According to the US Fish & Wildlife Service baiting is: the direct or indirect placing, exposing, depositing, distributing, or scattering of salt, grain, or other feed that could lure or attract waterfowl to, on, or over any areas where hunters are attempting to take them. [Title 50, Code of Federal Regulations, Part 20.11 (k)]

Throwing out bags of salt, grain or other feed is clearly baiting and illegal when it comes to any migratory birds—including dove. However, is it baiting if the grain comes directly or indirectly from crops that are growing on agricultural lands? Consider the following, which is quoted from the US Fish and Wildlife Service office of Law Enforcement: Agricultural lands offer prime waterfowl hunting opportunities. You can hunt waterfowl in fields of unharvested standing crops. You can also hunt over standing crops that have been flooded. You can flood fields after crops are normally harvested and use these areas for waterfowl hunting. Hunting waterfowl over a crop that has not been harvested but that has been manipulated (rolled/disc'd) is considered baiting under current regulations. <http://www.fws.gov/le/waterfowl-hunting-and-baiting.html>

Key terms in the law are “harvest” and “manipulation.” Again, from US Fish and Wildlife Service office of Law Enforcement: You should be aware that although you can hunt doves over manipulated agricultural crops, you cannot hunt waterfowl over manipulated agricultural crops except after the field has been subject to a normal harvest and removal of grain (i.e., post-harvest manipulation). <http://www.fws.gov/le/what-is-legal.html>

Rules for doves and waterfowl are different

For hunting doves, which are also migratory birds but not waterfowl, hunters are allowed to plant a crop and then manipulate the field in a way that scatters seed specifically to attract doves. With waterfowl, however, this practice is considered baiting. The difference is whether the field is harvested to remove the grain. A person cannot legally hunt waterfowl over a manipulated field unless the field has first been harvested for the removal of grain. For example, if a grain sorghum field were planted and harvested to remove the grain, it would be legal to hunt waterfowl over that particular field. If a field were planted and was not harvested, but was shredded, disked, or trampled by livestock, it would be legal for dove hunting, but it would not be legal for hunting waterfowl. Again, the difference is in how the field was manipulated—whether or not the crop was harvested under normal agricultural processes for the removal of grain. In the first instance, the field was planted and manipulated to enhance the dove hunting experience (no harvest to remove seed required); in the second instance, where waterfowl are at issue, manipulating the field (without harvesting to remove seed) would violate waterfowl hunting law.

Texas Dove Hunting Prospects Bright for Season Opener September 1st

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department - media

Though Hurricane Harvey caused a significant drop in dove hunter effort and harvest numbers last year, the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department expects the 2018-2019 season to be back to normal. In Texas terms, normal means exceptional.

Opening day of dove hunting is Saturday, September 1 statewide. For the third consecutive year, Texas dove hunters can look forward to a liberal 90-day season and 15-bird daily bag limit. In addition, hunters in Texas' South Dove Zone have the opportunity to hunt every weekend in September thanks to the Special White-winged Dove Days Sept. 1, 2, 8, and 9, combined with a Sept. 14 zone opener, the earliest in half a century. Though hunting hours are limited to afternoons during the Special White-winged Dove Days (noon-sunset), hunters in the southern portion of the state are now able to take advantage of the earlier dates in which the majority of dove harvest in Texas occurs.

Over 300,000 Texas hunters harvest nearly one third of the mourning doves taken nationwide each year, far more than any other state. In recent years, an estimated 10 million doves are harvested in Texas annually. While Texas supports breeding populations of over 34 million mourning and 10 million white-winged doves, those numbers swell during the fall when birds from northern latitudes funnel south.

White-winged doves were historically found in the lower Rio Grande Valley, but have rapidly expanded in numbers and distribution across Texas in recent years. According to Fitzsimmons, white-wing populations continue to grow and are making up a larger percentage of daily bag limits state-wide. White-wings are now found mostly in and around urban areas, providing hunting opportunity for those hunting just outside major cities and urban centers.

Hunters are reminded that licenses went on sale Aug. 15 for the 2018-2019 hunting seasons. Hunting and fishing regulations for the new season are available in the Outdoor Annual in print, online and on the Outdoor Annual mobile app. A limited number of Outdoor Annual booklets can be picked up at any of the 1,700 license retailers. A Spanish language version is also available online.

In addition to a hunting license, anyone born after Sept. 1, 1971, must successfully complete a hunter education training course in order to hunt legally in Texas. The TPWD Hunter Education certification is valid for life and is honored in all other states and provinces.

A Migratory Game Bird endorsement and Harvest Information Program (HIP) certification are also required to hunt dove. HIP certification involves a brief survey or previous year's migratory bird hunting success and is conducted at the time licenses are purchased.

2018-2019 Dove Season Calendar

North Zone: Sept. 1 – Nov. 4 and Dec. 21 – Jan. 14, 2019

Central Zone: Sept. 1 – Nov. 4 and Dec. 21 – Jan. 14, 2019

Special White-winged Dove Days (entire South Zone): Sept. 1-2, 8-9

South Zone: Sept. 14 – Oct. 30 and Dec. 14 – Jan. 21, 2019



Bee County Wildlife Management Association: Hunter's Welcome

You are invited to attend the opening of deer season celebration hosted by the Bee County Wildlife Management Association.

November 3, 2018, 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Come as you are for a FREE LUNCH**, drawing for one FREE GUN

Located at the Lucas-McNeill Pavilion at the Bee County Expo Center, 214 S. FM 351, Beeville, TX.

**lunch is free for anyone with a current Texas Hunting License or one child 12 or under, accompanying an eligible adult. All others are \$7. No carry outs.

For more information, contact Frank Massey (210) 771-8551 OR Robbin Reininger at the Bee County Extension Office (361) 621-1552.

www.bee-county-wildlife.org

BQA Tip of the Month – Optimum Stocking Rates

Late spring is generally the time of greatest forage production for most producers in the southern U.S. As such, it is tempting to increase cow-calf numbers to take advantage of any surplus forage. However, if ranches are stocked to utilize all the forage at peak production it means that the rest of the year the property is overstocked. When managing stocking rates keep forage production patterns in mind so that stocking is appropriate throughout the year. It is also worth considering stocking at 80% or some level below maximum capacity to allow for drought and any adverse weather conditions.



The Lasting Benefits of Pre-Weaning Vaccinations in Beef Calves

*The Cattleman Magazine – July 2018

“Producers should consider vaccinating calves at 2 to 4 months of age, depending on the operation,” says Dr. D.L. Step, professional services veterinarian, Boehringer Ingelheim.

Colostrum consumed by a newborn calf provides protection against infectious diseases. However, this protection is only temporary; lasting a few weeks to months, and calves must start building their own immunities. Vaccination during this time of transition can help protect the calf until weaning age. Here are 3 benefits of incorporating pre-weaning vaccinations in a herd-management plan.

1. **Reduced Stress** – During weaning, calves are faced with stressors such as castration, transportation, disease challenges, weather fluctuations, dietary changes and more. Stress can cause immunosuppression in a calf, decreasing its ability to respond to disease-causing pathogens and vaccines, making it susceptible to respiratory disease. “Early vaccination gives calves the opportunity to stimulate their immune systems to work at optimum levels,” says Step.
2. **Enhanced BRD and BVDV protection** – Bovine respiratory disease (BRD) is the top health and economic issue facing the beef industry today. Once calves are affected by BRD, there are both immediate and long-lasting effects on performance. Studies have shown that calves challenged by BRD could weigh up to 36 pounds less at weaning than their healthy herd mates. Early vaccination can help ranchers during weaning time, ensure calves are less susceptible to becoming infected with pathogens and have a more rapid immune response to the various pathogens that cause BRD. Bovine viral diarrhea virus (BVDV), another growing health issue in the cattle industry, can result in reproductive, digestive and respiratory problems in the herd. Once infected, calves can shed a high level of the virus, spreading the disease to other susceptible animals. Studies have demonstrated that calves as young as 5 to 6 weeks of age can be effectively immunized against BVDV. “BVDV Type 1b has been identified as the most common subtype found in persistently infected calves, so make sure the vaccine you choose offers solid protection against it,” Step recommends.
3. **Cost-Effective** – In the case of calf health, prevention is key. Calves affected by BRD can greatly reduce profits through poor performance and by being increasingly sick. The average cost of BRD in the U.S. cattle industry is more than \$640 million annually. Pre-weaning vaccination is an opportunity to provide additional comfort and protection for your calves. “Producers should work with their local veterinarian to develop a vaccination program catered to their environmental conditions and herd goals,” Step adds. “For best results, ensure you are handling and administering the vaccines in accordance with Beef Quality Assurance guidelines.”

By incorporating early vaccination into a regimen, producers can enhance their herd health and create the quality of animals sought by feedyards, packers and ultimately consumers.

Even Late, A Better Option Grows More Forage

*Dow Agrosiences Range and Pasture Steward Newsletter

As a rule of thumb, you grow more grass by spraying weeds early in the growing season. But, life happens and spraying doesn't always get done early. So, what's the cost-effective weed control option then? Dealing with pasture weeds later in the summer could be a reaction (e.g., "Those weeds are worse than I thought"), or it may be by design, says Pat Burch, a Range & Pasture field scientist with Corteva AgriScience™, Agriculture Division of DowDuPont, who is based in Virginia.

For producers concerned about keeping clover in their pastures, summer mowing or spraying a light rate of 2,4-D have been two options. Mowing by itself should have little effect on clover. The herbicide 2,4-D usually injures the clover it hits, but the clover does recover. GrazonNext® HL herbicide at recommended rates will provide superb weed control, but will take clover out for at least a year.

In a two-year study, Burch looked at all three options in a weedy corner of southwestern Virginia pasture. Weeds included chicory, cocklebur, dandelion, fleabane, horsenettle, plantain and wingstem. In July 2016, he established replicated plots to demonstrate:

- Mowing
- Spraying 2,4-D amine at the rate of 1.5 pints/A (of a 4-pound product)
- Spraying GrazonNext HL at a rate of 1.2 pints/A

In July 2017, he took samples from each plot for yield data one year after treatment. The original mowed plots he also mowed again. Cattle were excluded from grazing for one month prior to sampling to allow the site to recover. Burch offered some observations a year after treatment:

- Mowing in the second year opened the weed canopy, but it removed 50 percent of the grass and 25 percent of the clover in process. In the mowed plots, weeds continued to outcompete grass and clover. A year later, weeds made up 85 percent of the total biomass, grass 10 percent and clover 5 percent. Total forage (grass and clover) per acre tallied 266 pounds.
- The 2,4-D plots had fewer weeds than the mowed plots, but half the grass and 72 percent of the clover. Weeds made up 85 percent on the total biomass, grass 9 percent and clover 6 percent. Total forage per acre: 152 pounds.
- Plots grew almost nine times more grass when sprayed with GrazonNext® HL herbicide than the mowed plots. Weeds made up less than 5 percent of the total biomass, grass 95 percent and clover less than 1 percent. A small amount of clover was starting to come back. Total forage per acre amounted to 1,594 pounds. Plots sprayed with GrazonNext HL yielded nearly six times more total forage (grass and clover) than the mowed plots and 10 times more forage than 2,4-D plots.

So, what does this mean? Is your goal to support cows? If you're faced with a weedy pasture, you'll grow more forage using better weed control even if you have to sacrifice the clover for a year. Think in terms of days of grazing. For simple math, consider a 1,000 –pound cow consuming 2.5 percent of her body weight per day. At 50 percent grazing efficiency, the mowed acre a year after treatment with no other inputs would support a cow for five days. Sprayed with GrazonNext HL, that acre hypothetically would support her for 31 days.

**CALLING ALL BEE
COUNTY FARMERS AND
RANCHERS!!!**

Date: 10/1 – 11/16, 2018

*Stop by the Bee County Agrilife
Extension office to pick up soil
sample bags and submittal
forms.*

**2018 Soil
Testing
Campaign**

2018 Coastal Bend Soil Testing

*Campaign is offering sample testing
at a discounted price:*

- *Routine Analysis*
- *Routine Analysis plus
Micronutrient Analysis*

*Robbin Reininger: Bee County
Extension Agent*

Phone: 361-621-1552

E-mail:

robbin.reininger@ag.tamu.edu



Water-wise Checklist for Texas Home Lawns and Other Turfgrass Areas

Dr. Becky Grubbs

Turfgrass Extension Specialist
College Station, TX

Task	Reason	Additional Resources
Mowing		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mow at the upper end of the appropriate mowing height range for your species of grass Follow the 1/3 Rule. Mow frequently enough to never remove more than 1/3 of the total grass mowing height at one time. 	<p><i>Taller grass = Deeper Roots.</i> Deeper roots can improve overall infiltration and access to water deeper in the soil.</p> <p><i>Scalped grass is stressed grass.</i> Stressed grass will be less tolerant to heat and drought, and more vulnerable to other pests or fungal pathogens.</p>	<p>For more information on appropriate mowing heights for your species, visit the AggieTurf Website: https://aggieturf.tamu.edu/</p>
Irrigation		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Water <i>deeply</i> and <i>infrequently</i>. Try to water to a depth of approximately 6" each time you water. 	<p>Watering this way encourages <i>deeper, denser root growth</i>. Again, this can improve infiltration and access to water deeper in the soil.</p>	

- **Wait to water until visual wilt is occurring, and do so late at night or early in the morning.**

Watering late at night or early in the morning will reduce evaporative losses, improve water-use efficiency, and reduce length of overall leaf wetness, which reduces disease potential.

- **Use the Cycle Soak Method.**

Because sprinkler precipitation rates usually exceed soil infiltration rates, cycle soaking improves soil water infiltration and reduces runoff by "pulsing" water onto the lawn in small amounts over several hours.

Check out this video from Dr. Richard White on the Cycle Soak Method.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Vmr9YbHTL0&t=27s>

- **Monitor your irrigation equipment judiciously.**

Broken or malfunctioning irrigation equipment can both waste water and create localized dry spots across the lawn. Replace broken heads, and consider a professional irrigation audit by a licensed irrigator.

Want to check your irrigation efficiency on your own? Check out **AgriLife Water University's** video on the Catch Can Method.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1nlwZlmm9w&t=2s>

- **Take advantage of rainwater.**

Rainwater catchment can help you take advantage of natural precipitation and supplement irrigation water.

A number of AgriLife programs offer courses on rainwater catchment. Check out these programs, or contact your County Extension Agent for local resources:

Healthy Lawns, Healthy Waters
<https://hlhw.tamu.edu/>
 Water University
<https://wateruniversity.tamu.edu/>

Cultivation

- **Till new areas before replacing or installing new sod.**

Prepare areas for new sod by tilling the area to a depth of 6" to 12", when possible. *Good site preparation is critical to improving water infiltration and laying the literal groundwork for a healthy stand of turfgrass.*

- **Look ahead.**

In the spring and fall, consider core aeration and thatch removal to improve overall water infiltration for active growing months.

Not sure what to do here? Contact your local County Extension Agent for additional input.

Want more? Check out the AggieTurf website: <https://aggieturf.tamu.edu/>

Follow me @TXTurfGal (Twitter)

Follow us @AggieTurf (Twitter, Facebook, Instagram)

AGRI-NEWS TRIVIA

- In 1954 the number of tractors exceeds the number of horses and mules for the first time
- The average hen produced 325 eggs in 2009
- There are over 100,000 acres of watermelons grown in the U.S., producing over 40 million pounds
- Avocado trees average about 150 avocados each year, but can produce up to 500
- Pineapples are made up of 100 to 200 flowers which have been fused together

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Newsletter by E-Mail

Due to increased postage costs, we would like to make future newsletters and announcements available to you electronically. If you would like to receive future information by email send an email to robbin.reininger@ag.tamu.edu. Benefits of having your newsletter sent through e-mail are: pictures and graphs will be in color, easy to store on your computer, no papers to mess with, click-able links to other internet sites, and sooner access.

Check out and 'Like' the Bee County Agriculture and Natural Resources Facebook Page:
www.facebook.com/beecountyag

We're on the Web! <http://bee.agrilife.org>

Robbin L. Reininger, CEA-Ag/NR

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