

# Calhoun County Ag Talk



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## Crop Tour

The annual Calhoun County Crop Tour was held on June 15<sup>th</sup> and started in the auditorium with Greg Baker, Texas Department of Agriculture inspector, discussing laws and regulations for pesticide license holders. Next, Jeff Nunley, Executive Director for South Texas Cotton and Grain Association, spoke over farm bill updates. After Mr. Nunley was done speaking everyone met at the first demonstration plot, the soybean variety test. The soybean plot was at Tony Wehmeyer’s land. After soybeans the next plot was the non- Bt cotton at Danny & Shane May’s land. Then, Sorghum Hybrid Test at Sam Nunley’s, Corn Hybrid Test at Shannon Farms and Cotton Variety Test at Danny & Shane May’s land. Speakers at the plots include: Dr. Thomas Isakeit, Dr. Ronnie Schnell,



**2017 Calhoun County Crop Tour  
June 15, 2017**

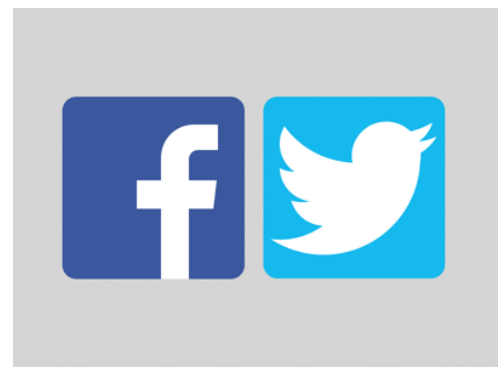
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Dr. Josh McGinty, Dr. Robert Bowling, Dr. James Grichar and Stephen Biles-County Extension Agent- Integrated Pest Management- Calhoun. If seed reps were in attendance they spoke over their varieties in the demonstration tests as well. Dinner was held at the Brett’s. I would like to thank all the members of the Calhoun County Row Crop Committee and the farmers who had test plots for all their hard work.

## Social Media

If you are on Facebook please “Like” the new Calhoun County Agriculture– Texas A&M AgriLife Extension page. And if you are on twitter please “follow” Calhoun County Ag. I will be posting pictures and information to these sites.



## **Spray Drift Damage: What Injured Landowners Need to Know**

By Tiffany Dowell Lashmet, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service

Unfortunately, as many farmers know all too well, applications of various pesticides can result in drift and cause damage to neighboring property owners. In the event this happens, it is important for an injured farmer to know what steps to take and what options are available to remedy the situation.

First and foremost, the injured farmer should document any evidence, including taking photographs or samples of damaged crops or foliage, documenting wind speed, direction, temperature, and getting statements from any witnesses who might have seen the application. The more documentation a farmer has, the better his chances of recovery will be.

Second, it is always a good idea to try and deal with neighbor issues over a cup of coffee instead of in a courtroom. Talking to your neighbor about these issues is a good place to start and can sometimes resolve issues without ever needing to get the legal process involved. Ideally, this type of conversation would occur before pesticides are ever applied, but even if the damage has been done, trying to work out some sort of resolution may still be possible. If this type of conversation is successful, it will likely save both parties a great deal of stress, time, and money that would have been spent with legal options. If unsuccessful, then the landowner can always pursue the legal remedies mentioned below.

Third, the application of pesticides is governed by the Texas Department of Agriculture. In the event that someone is illegally applying the product—meaning an application in violation of the label requirements or TDA rules—the TDA has the authority to levy a fine and/or restrictions against that person. Upon receipt of a complaint, the TDA will send someone out to investigate the alleged drift incident, conduct interviews, inspect records, and collect evidence. If TDA finds a violation has occurred, it may fine the violator and may impose restrictions on his or her ability to continue applying pesticides. Importantly, any fines imposed by TDA are paid to the TDA, rather than serving as payment for damages to the neighboring landowner. Additionally, before calling TDA, it is important that the injured landowner insure that his or her own records are complete and accurate, as TDA will likely inspect them during their investigation. Unfortunately, TDA's investigation and determination may take an extended period of time to be completed, which can lead to frustration for the injured farmer.

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## Spray Drift Damage: continued

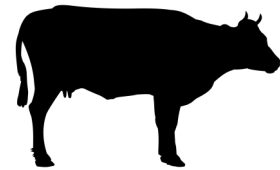
Fourth, an injured landowner may want to consider a civil lawsuit against the applicator. Unlike a TDA fine, a judgment in a civil lawsuit between the injured landowner and applicator will go to the landowner to compensate him for damages. There are a number of potential claims that may be considered depending on the factual situation, including nuisance, trespass, negligence, and others. In the event that a civil lawsuit is filed, having the evidence discussed above will be extremely useful for the landowner.

'Tis the season for application of pesticides to increase throughout Texas. It is important for landowners to understand the rules and to know what to do in the event they suffer damages due to spray drift.

## Cattle Fever Tick information

For some great information on cattle fever ticks please visit:

<https://agriflifeextension.tamu.edu/solutions/cattle-fever-tick/>



## Upcoming events

Some upcoming local events:

In Jackson County:

August 10th– Pesticide Training for Private Applicators starting at 8:00 am at the Jackson County Extension Office 411 N. Wells Edna, TX 77957. Please RSVP to 361-782-3312.

September 16th– Master Gardener Fall Plant Sale in the Jackson County auditorium for more information please contact 361-782-3312

In Matagorda County:

August 25th– Regional Cattlemen's Workshop at the Bay City Civic Center (201 7th St Bay City, TX). Registration starts at 4:30pm. More information will follow. For questions please call 979-318-9527 or 361-552-9747

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*“What you see depends  
on how you view the  
world. To most people,  
this is just dirt. To a  
farmer, it’s potential.” -  
Doe Zantamata*

*“Texas A&M AgriLife Extension provides equal opportunities in its programs and employment to all persons, regardless of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, disability, age, genetic information, veteran status, sexual orientation, or gender identity.”*

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## **Picture of the month**

The picture to the right is fall webworm egg mass on a pecan tree. Bill Ree, Extension Program Specialist– IPM in College Station says “Earlier this spring I observed more fall webworm activity than I have [in] several years.” Egg masses can be deposited in a single or double layer and can have up to 600 eggs. To rid your pecan trees of the fall webworm egg masses you can physically remove the webs, caterpillars or egg masses. You can also prune or rake where the infected leaves are. Insecticides that contain *Bacillus thuringiensis* (Bt) or spinosad work well on fall webworms and will not hurt beneficial insects.

