



**OCTOBER 2019**

## **Karl's Korner**

It is hot and dry this time of year. Is that the reason why many hunters haven't seen any birds? Last weekend, I shredded a field of sunflowers so that we can get it plowed and ready to plant oats. The reason why I shredded the field is because of the thick dense sunflowers where causing a mess when plowing. As I shredded, I counted a total of 9 birds the whole time. This was late in the evening and should have been an abundance of dove flying around. Granted maybe why I didn't see many birds might have the lack of water nearby. With that said, I have heard many complain about the lack of birds this year. I have also noticed less shooting noise in my area. The warm temperature may be the cause that has not forced the birds from the north down in our area or just the amount of food supplies the birds have this year across the state because of the spring rains. I'm not for sure if I really know why. One thing I know, make sure to know where you are stepping and be listening. I was bragging the other day about not seeing a rattlesnake at all this year. Well that comes to an end. I went to grab a sack of feed out the seed container. I went ahead and put the sack down to open and put the feed in a 5-gallon bucket. I didn't realize that a 2ft rattlesnake was right under the pallet until it rattled. I'm probably lucky that I didn't get bit. I have also noticed several killing rattlesnakes on Facebook. They just had their young back in August and September and are on the move. They are also heading to hibernate for the winter. So, beware were you walking. As for the rattlesnake in the seed container, he is in there somewhere alive. If have any question, call the extension office at 325-854-5835 or come by the office.

## Spraying Prickly Pear



Is this a good time to spray? James Jackson, a range specialist from AgriLife Research, says no because of the dry condition, lack of moisture, and dense cover surrounding the pads. Majority of the fields are covered with grasses, broom weed, and other weeds making it hard to see the pear. On our tour of the plots in September, I would say 90 to 95% are covered in Texas Winter grass. Some fields in the area look like they don't have any pear at all but are realistic covered in 50% or more by pear in the fields. The grass/weeds are currently protecting the pear which makes it hard to control by spraying. This time

of year would not be a good time to spray because of grass coverage. Another factor is the moisture. Pear absorbs chemicals better when the ground is moist. With us not having any rain in the last 3 to 4 months, it may be best to hold off from spraying. The best time to spray for Prickly Pear is early spring. This is an excellent time to spray aerial because the mesquites don't have any leaves which making easier to get the chemical through the mesquite onto the pads. Also, we tend to have moisture in the ground to help the chemicals to be absorbed easier in the spring. With that said, it is your decision to treat or wait for better conditions to spray for Prickly Pear. You can spray at anytime but may not get the best results.

## PRIVATE PESTICIDE APPLICATOR TRAINING, OCTOBER 24TH IN BAIRD

The Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service in Callahan County is conducting a Private Pesticide Applicator Training on October 24th in Baird, Texas.

The training will be at the Callahan County Extension Office, 100 W 4th St Ste 201, Baird. Registration begins at 4:30 p.m. The training will start at 5:00 p.m.

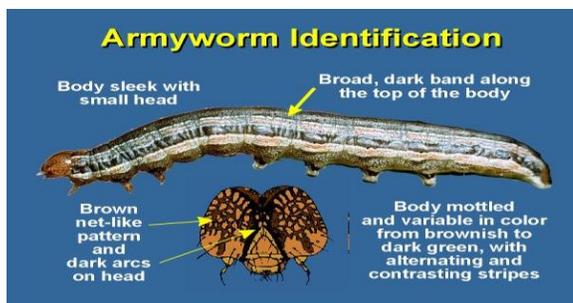
The training is specifically for those seeking a Texas Department of Agriculture private applicator license, and is not a continuing education unit training.

The license is required to buy and apply restricted-use/state limited use herbicides and pesticides.

The Texas Department of Agriculture requires this training prior to being tested for a private applicator pesticide license, also issued through the agency.

Individual registration is \$50, this includes all your study material. Deadline to register is October 17th, so that we can get all of study material ordered. To register and for more information, contact the AgriLife Extension office in Callahan County at 325-854-5835.

# Beware of Armyworms



Identification of an Armyworm



Adult Armyworm Moth

It is that time of year for Armyworms, even though we have not received any rain. Armyworms love the cooler temperatures and wet conditions. Armyworms are picky eaters that prefer high-quality, fertilized forage typically found in fields maintained for hay production. They are common pest of bermudagrass, sorghum, wheat, oats and rye.

Armyworms are night feeders that try to avoid daytime temperatures. Producers should scout each morning for armyworms. Armyworms can be several different colors. They tend to be green, brown, or black in color and can be identified by the white inverted Y on their head. They can grow up to 1 inch in length when they mature. The armyworm got its name because they appear to march across a field consuming everything in their path. Armyworms in the last two or three days of larvae stage consumes 85 percent of their diet. When spraying insecticides, use insecticides that are labeled for armyworm control in pastures and hayfields. If you are not for sure if you got armyworms or have questions, give the Extension Office a call at 325-854-5835. You may not have them today, but if you are not watching for them, you will get caught off guard.

## USDA REQUIRES RFID EAR TAGS BY 2023

In April, the USDA announced it will make changes to the mandatory Animal Disease Traceability (ADT) program concerning the type of ear tags used on beef cattle, dairy cattle, and bison.

This blog post addresses only the federal regulations applicable to interstate transport of livestock. State-specific rules apply to intrastate transport and many states may have import requirements for livestock from other states.

### BACKGROUND

The ADT program, which began in 2013, requires certain animals moving in interstate commerce to have an interstate certificate of veterinary inspection (“health certificate”) and official identification. The ADT program applies to sexually intact beef cattle and bison 18 months of age or older; all female dairy cattle of any age; all dairy males born after March 11, 2013; and cattle or bison of any age used for rodeo, show, exhibition, and recreational events. (The program also applies to sheep, goats, horses, swine, and poultry, but those rules are not being modified at this time, so this blog post will focus only on cattle and bison.)

Exceptions apply to the following:

- animals crossing state lines in order to go directly to an approved tagging site (such as a livestock auction),
- animals moved directly to slaughter or through no more than one USDA approved livestock facility
- commuter herds traveling between premises owned by the same person or entity in two different states.

The USDA is not expanding the scope of the ADT program and these remain the only animals, at least for now, to which the mandatory rules are applicable.

Currently, producers can comply with the ADT rules by using dangle tags, electronic ear tags, or bright, metal tags. The USDA provides the bright, metal tags to producers for free.

### **CHANGES:**

The USDA has announced its plan to convert the industry from the tagging system currently used to requiring all producers to utilize radio frequency identification (RFID) tags by 2023. Remember, this still only applies to the category of animals described above (for beef cattle: sexually intact, over 18 months old, transported interstate). The following deadlines apply to this requirement change:

- December 31, 2019: USDA will no longer provide the bright, metal tags at no cost. Approved vendors may still produce the tags for one more year for purchase by producers.
- January 1, 2021: USDA will no longer allow vendor production of official USDA bright, metal tags. Bright, metal tags and other visual, non-RFID tags may no longer be applied to animals, although the bright, metal tags will still be recognized for animals previously tagged.
- January 1, 2023: RFID tags will be the only recognized official USDA identification under ADT.

The USDA believes these changes will help animal health officials' ability to quickly trace animals in the event of an outbreak.

One note – brands and tattoos may still be accepted as official identification if both the shipping and receiving state or tribe agree to accept the brand instead of RFID tags.

### **QUESTIONS REMAIN**

Several details remain up in the air regarding these changes. There has been some discussion that USDA may do some sort of cost-share program to assist producers with the costs of the mandatory RFID tags. There will also be a need for technology like electronic readers at sale barns or other auctions, with which USDA may provide assistance.

For many cattle producers, this may be a big change and result in added expense as well. It is important for producers to be aware of these changes and applicable deadlines.

## **Upcoming Events**

October 24, 2019	Private Applicator Training	Baird, TX
December 3, 2019	Last Chance CEU *	Baird, TX
January 21, 2020	Forage Seminar *	Cross Plains, TX

\* More information to come.

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FACEBOOK PAGE**



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GO AND CHECK IT OUT.**