

TEXAS A&M AGRI LIFE EXTENSION

Callahan County Ag Newsletter

May 2020

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TEXAS A&M AGRI LIFE EXTENSION

Callahan and Taylor County Wheat Tour Cancelled for 2020 but Providing Virtual Wheat Tour

It is that time of year that wheat farmers are getting ready and looking forward to the wheat harvest of 2020. It is also time for the Wheat Tour of Taylor and Callahan County, but due to the Covid-19 it has been cancelled until 2021. Many farmers and ranchers look



forward to this event. They get the opportunity to look at plots and see which variety look the best and strives in our West Texas climate. They get an update on the market reports and learn about research that is going on by AgriLife. With this Covid 19 pandemic, “It has changed the ways we do things”, says Karl Winge County Extension Agent in Callahan County. We have moved to more of a virtual way of doing things to reach our producers and clientele during this time. With the cancellation of the wheat tour, we will be providing a Virtual Wheat Tour.

This meeting is setup on May 7th from 11:00a.m. to 1:30p.m. This meeting will be offering 2 CEU for this program. The cost of the program is \$10. The program will be through zoom. Here is the link to sign up for the program:

agriferegister.tamu.edu/Wheat

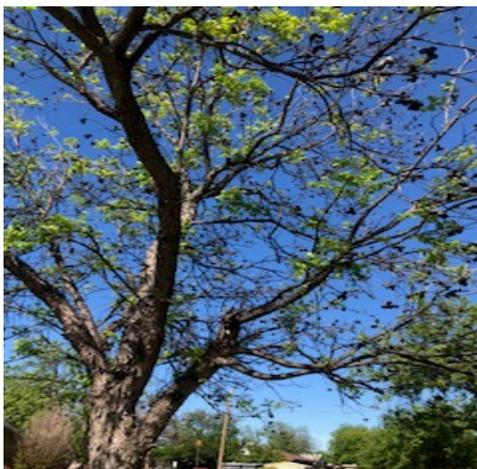
FERTILIZING PECAN TREES IN THE YARD



Now is the time to fertilize the pecan trees in your yard. Most commercial pecan producers use a combination of granular fertilizer and a foliar application which includes zinc. This not very feasible for folks with yard trees. So, the recommendations for pecan trees in landscapes/yards is simple. A 21-0-0 fertilizer blend is applied out at the end of the branches all the way around the pecan tree if possible, along the drip line. Estimate the tree trunk diameter (not circumference). If the pecan tree trunk is saying 24" in diameter apply 1 measuring cup full of 21-0-0 fertilizer per inch of true trunk diameter. Therefore, a 24" diameter tree would need 24 cups of fertilizer applied at the drip line.

Pecan trees should be fertilized on time in April, one time in May and one time in June. Be sure to water in the fertilizer soon after applications to avoid burning the turfgrass.

Pecan Tree Struggling out of Dormancy



This year has been a rough start for pecan trees in our area. Many have called the extension office wondering if their pecan trees are dying. The answer to the question is No. Back in October of 2019, our weather was seasonably warm for that time of year. At the end of October, we had a major cold front that dropped the temperature to 18-20 degrees in our area. Many pecans were frozen in the shuck. That is why you still see pecans in the tree currently. Dr. Larry Stein, Professor and Extension Horticulturist said, "with the freeze in October, it caused injure to some of the shoots which is why some of branches

are not coming out and the shoots are pushing back to the trunk of the tree. Nothing to do at this point but wait and see what happens and then cut back to where the tree is growing. The dead wood does not have to be removed, but it would improve the tree appearance. However, the wind will eventually bring the dead stuff down. This would be an excellent time to fertilize your pecan tree and make sure to water them to get them back to growing.

ARE FLIES BUGGING YOUR COWS?

Every spring, our thoughts turn from calving to the breeding season, green grass, rainy days, and warmer temperatures. However, with the green grass and pleasant temperatures come some disadvantages as well — fly season is upon us. If you have not already started planning your fly control program for this year, you are probably already behind the curve.

Flies are not only a nuisance for humans, but also an even greater nuisance for livestock. Additionally, flies can spread disease, from anaplasmosis to pinkeye. They are responsible for a tremendous amount of lost production in the form of decreased weight gain or lower milk yields. Rather than eating, cattle will spend time stomping and tail swishing, lying down, and standing in groups or in the middle of a stock pond. It doesn't take a large number of flies to have an effect on your cattle's production. As few as 100 to 200 flies per side is enough to impact calf or stocker gains by 25 to 50 pounds during the summer. This is greater than or comparable to the weight gain achieved through a growth implant program. If you can see more than a hand-sized patch of flies on each side — typically behind the shoulders of your cattle — there are enough there to be a problem.

Fly control methods

There are many control methods out there. Some of the more common methods are pour-ons, sprays, rubs or dusters, ear tags, feed-through additives and biological controls. Some methods work better than others, and each has its place. Using a combination of methods will afford you the most effective control. Additionally, remember to change the chemical class or family you use periodically to reduce

resistance.

Pour-ons and sprays provide a good initial kill with two to four weeks of residual activity. Sprays will typically wear off faster. Rainfall, excess sweating, or the cattle lingering in stock tanks reduces the duration of protection.

Rubs and dusters are an effective method of control once the cattle associate the use of the applicator apparatus to a reduced insect load. It is best to place the applicator next to mineral feeders, water sources or an area that will force the cattle to rub up against it. Additionally, the chemical will need to be recharged once every one to two weeks, or after it rains.

Ear tags are a very effective season-long treatment but remember to cut the tags out at the end of the season. Leaving the tags in builds resistance to the chemical.

Change the active ingredient from year to year. If you used a synthetic pyrethroid this year, change to an organophosphate or organochlorine tag next year.

Feed additives are an effective means of stopping the life cycle of the fly. One of the biggest obstacles, however, is ensuring consistent and adequate intake of the product to have effective control.

Biological control in the form of fly wasps, sometimes called fly predators, is also an effective method. Some dairies and feedlots have started using this method, as the fly wasps are considered a natural, non-chemical control method. Since they are weak flyers, the wasps must be placed in areas of high manure concentration, such as dry lots, feedlots or horse stables. They are sterile, so they must be replenished monthly during the fly season.

Always remember to follow label indications and applicable withdrawal times prior to slaughter. Getting in control of your fly problem will make your cows more comfortable and your wallet happier.

Upcoming Events



West Region Virtual Wheat Production Panel

**Tuesday, May 5th
10:00 am - Noon**

How to Register:

<https://agrilife.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJlkc6orTl0E9LN9A0vPDOiVQTVpqYeeX8W>

**Please contact your local County Extension Office for more details
or assistance with this meeting.**

Harvest Weather Outlook

Hector Guerrero, NWS, San Angelo, Warning Coordination Meteorologist

Grain Storage Panel

Dr Calvin Trostle Professor & Extension Specialist, **Brad Easterling** IPM Agent Glasscock County, **Bill Thompson** Assistant Professor & Extension Economist

Grain Marketing Update

Bill Thompson Assistant Professor & Extension Economist



Educational programs of the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service are open to all people without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, disability, genetic information, veteran status, sexual orientation or gender identity. The Texas A&M University System, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the County Commissioners Courts of Texas Cooperating. If you need any type of accommodation to participate in this program or have questions about the physical access provided, please contact the Runnels County Extension Office no later than two weeks prior to training date.

Wheat Production Tour

11:00-11:50 Wheat Vernalization -- Dr. Reagan Noland

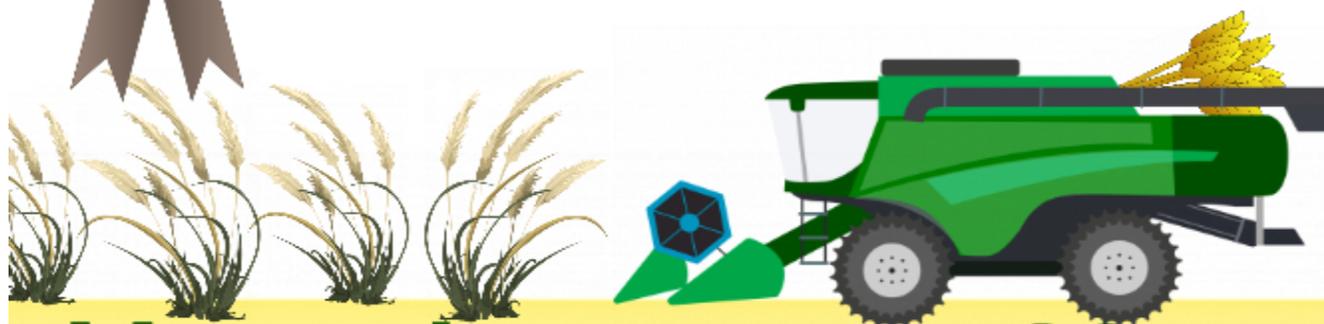
11:55-12:30 Grain Quality Practices -- Audrey Girard, Dr. Emi Kimura/ Dr Noland

12:35-1:30 Wheat/Herbicide Plot Demonstration: Dr. Reagan Noland/Dr. Kimura



To register go to agriliferegister.tamu.edu/Wheat

Please register by May 5th



May 7th -- 11am-1:30pm

Cost: 10 Dollars

Texas A&M Agrilife Extension Service is an equal opportunity employer and program provider. The Texas A&M University System, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the County Commissioners Courts of Texas Cooperating.

Please contact Extension office before attending to make sure these events are still scheduled. Callahan Extension office is 325-854-5835.

**CALLAHAN COUNTY EXTENSION-AGRICULTURE HAS A
FACEBOOK PAGE**



**THIS IS NEW WAY TO KEEP IN TOUCH WITH CALLAHAN EXTENSION OFFICE.
GO AND CHECK IT OUT.**