



Callahan County Ag Newsletter

April 2021

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Wheat Tour set for May 7th in Eula

Wheat Tour this year will be a little different. With issues in Taylor County Wheat



Plots, the wheat tour will only be in Callahan County. We will start at the Lions Clubs in Eula with registration and then will move to the plots down the road. The plots in Callahan County consist of using cool season legumes in our fields and forage trials. Speakers and topics at the plots are:

- Dr. Reagan Noland, using cool season legumes in our fields and the benefit and looking at forage trial plots
- Dr. Fernando Guillen, state-wide update and weed control
- Dr. Mark Welch- market update and commodity report.

We will move back to Eula Lions Club for Laws and Reg by Jason Jones of TDA and end the day with lunch and updates from sponsors. We will be offering 2 CEU for this event and it is free. Please RSVP by calling the Extension office at 325-854-5835.

TOMATOES ARE KING IN MOST VEGETABLE GARDENS

Tomatoes are said to be the most popular plant grown in most home gardens. According to Dr. Joe Masabni, Extension Vegetable Specialist from Dallas, tomatoes come from South America, present-day Peru. The earliest mention of tomatoing European literature was found in Italy in 1544. Tomatoes were described as “Golden

Apples" and were yellow varieties. Tomatoes became widely cultivated for several decades in Spain, Italy, and France where it was called pomme d'amour (Love Apple). It might have been used as an early aphrodisiac. German folklore named tomatoes "Wolf Peach." The scientific name for tomato is *Lycopersicon esculentum* which means "edible wolf peach". The first cookbook to mention tomatoes was in Naples Italy in 1692. The U.S. Supreme Court in 1893 ruled that tomatoes were considered the "fruit of the vine" and therefore a vegetable.

Everyone asks what the best tomato is to grow in our area.

The Celebrity tomato, long recognized as the variety by which all new tomatoes are measured, was named the latest Texas Superstar plant.

The Celebrity tomato was first hybridized and produced in the U.S. by Colen Wyatt. The seeds were commercially distributed in the late 1980s by Petoseed Co. and today by Seminis Vegetable Seeds.

In 1984, the plant was judged by various horticulture experts and recognized with an All-America Selections award due to its favorable characteristics compared to other tomato cultivars.

Celebrity's root-knot nematode resistance sets it apart from most tomato varieties.



For gardeners who plant tomatoes in the same spot year after year, they have to have root-knot nematode resistance. That and its yield, fruit size and quality make Celebrity a must for gardeners.

Caring for Celebrity tomatoes

Celebrity tomatoes require full exposure to the sun for optimum production. They are also tolerant of a variety of soils if the location drains well.

Plants are perennial but grow as an annual in Texas due to the cold. They are determinant, or grow as a bush, but will easily reach 4-6 feet tall.

Celebrity tomatoes perform best as transplants in early spring, or they can be planted mid-summer for fall harvest, but whiteflies and viruses may hinder

production. Plants also need staking or caging to produce fruit throughout the growing season.

Continue fertilizing after the first fruit set, and the plant will continue to grow and set more fruit.

You can apply fungicide and insecticide when fruit are about golf ball size, but that tomatoes may reach harvest before sprays are needed.

Along with root-knot nematodes, they are resistant to several diseases that plague tomatoes, including fusarium wilt types 1 and 2, verticillium wilt and tobacco mosaic

virus, Stein said. Root-knot resistance is significant because very few tomatoes are tolerant to that pest.

Fruit is also resistant to cracking and splitting when there is excess water and sugar movement as the fruit develops.

High volume, high quality

Ripe Celebrity tomatoes are round and red, and vigorous plants typically produce 20 or more very plump, robust fruit, Stein said. Fruits typically weigh approximately 8 ounces and are 4 inches in diameter. Tomatoes continue to ripen after being picked and are typically harvested when they start to change color.

If you're going to plant, you should have a few Celebrity plants in your garden and test the others.

Texas Superstar is a registered trademark owned by Texas A&M AgriLife Research, a state agency that is part of the Texas A&M University System.



Use of Water Guzzler for Wildlife

Wildlife needs four things to survive: food, cover, space, and water. If one of these is missing or not available, then wildlife cannot survive. Each species is different when it comes to amount of water they need to survive. It seems two needs that are always affected the most is food and water. Those two needs are affected by the weather. In wet years, there is plenty of food and water. In dry years, there may not be any food for wildlife or water in ponds/creeks. We already use

supplemental feeding for wildlife, especially for white tail deer. One factor that most people forget is water. Water is so important to wildlife. Many people that have land think they must have a pond, but you do not. Building a water guzzler is simple and very inexpensive to do. I'm currently doing a research and demonstration of using a water guzzler on land that doesn't have any water resource on it. I have a game camera set up to take pictures of wildlife and to see what comes to the guzzler. Guzzlers are especially used in far west Texas where water is a need. Texas Parks and Wildlife has built water guzzlers each year to help the Desert Big Horn Sheep in

the Big Ben area. The use of guzzler has allowed the populations of Desert Big Horn to increase but it also helps other wildlife in the desert climate. These guzzlers can be used even for birds in your own back yard. They come in many different styles. When you think about it, it is rainwater harvesting. You can probably look around



your place and build a guzzler out of supplies laying around. Callahan County 4-H has built one that will also be used in demonstration. They will be setting up one near a feeder to see if it is beneficial for wildlife to have water near a food source instead of just a feeder full of corn. Be looking for more information in the next several months. Wanted to mention the water guzzler in the above picture is not done. I will be attaching a gutter system that will

allow rainwater to fill up the barrel. This guzzler will be allowed to fill up by mother nature or if rain is lacking, I can fill.

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.

Texas hunters ready for 2021 spring turkey season

Fruitful nesting seasons in 2019 and 2020 contribute to a promising outlook for this year's Texas spring turkey hunting season.

While the South Texas zone is already open for spring turkey season, activity across much of the state will officially begin April 3, according to Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) Wild Turkey Program Leader Jason Hardin.

There should be many successful Texas hunters this season no matter the location, he said in an [interview](#) with the [Texas Farm Bureau Radio Network](#).



"We had great production in 2019, so those birds are now two-year-olds across most of the [Rio Grande wild turkey] range. And we had another good year of production last year, so there will be a lot of jakes out there, which bodes well for new hunters or folks

that are just out looking to put a bird in the freezer and bodes well for the 2021-2022 season, because we will have a lot of two- and three-year old birds next year," Hardin said. "Time will tell what production will be like this year, but for now it looks good. I've been out around the state and seen birds strutting and gobbling from North Texas all the way to the Rio Grande River."

Spring 2021 turkey season dates

The spring [Rio Grande wild turkey](#) season in northern counties is from April 3 to May 16 and from March 20 to May 2 in the southern zone.

Hunters should take note a special one-turkey bag limit exists in Bastrop, Caldwell, Colorado, Fayette, Jackson, Lavaca, Lee, Matagorda, Milam and Wharton counties.

The [Eastern wild turkey](#) season in East Texas is from April 22 to May 14. The East Texas counties include Bowie, Cass, Fannin, Grayson, Jasper, Lamar, Marion, Nacogdoches, Newton, Panola, Polk, Red River and Sabine.

Harvested birds in East Texas must be reported to TPWD within 24 hours, and all Eastern turkey harvests must be reported through TPWD's app or website.

Reports may be made using the TPWD [My Texas Hunt Harvest webpage](#) or through the TPWD [My Texas Hunt Harvest app](#).

Hardin said the mandatory reporting is to help TPWD get an accurate population count in an area where less hunting occurs.

With limited harvest in East Texas and those 10 counties from Lee down to Matagorda, we just don't have the data to rely on through our small game harvest survey. By requiring mandatory reporting, we can get precise numbers on what is being harvested in that area and use that from year-to-year to track what's going on with that population.

Hunters must also have an upland game bird endorsement to hunt turkeys. The endorsement is available as part of a TPWD super combo license or may be purchased separately, Hardin said.

It is legal to harvest bearded hens in the spring, which Hardin said allows new or inexperienced hunters some leniency in accidentally shooting the wrong sex and avoids wasting harvested game.

If someone accidentally shot a bearded hen, we'd rather them utilize that bird, take the meat, take the feathers, use what you would with a male and not waste that game. That is the goal.

Maintaining proof of sex after harvest is important. Hardin advised hunters to keep a patch of skin with breast feathers and beard attached from a bearded

hen. Hunters should keep a leg, including the spur, or a patch of skin with breast feathers and beard attached from a gobbler until the bird reaches its processing destination.



The beard does not have to be attached to the bird, but it needs to be with the bird. It used to be that you had to maintain that proof of sex attached to the bird, but that made it a little more difficult to store that bird, get it cut up, put in a cooler. We tried to ease that regulation on our hunters, and now they just need to maintain that proof of sex somewhere with them in that vehicle. So, whenever the game warden does visit with them, they can show that proof of sex.

Visit [TPWD's website](#) for more information on turkey hunting regulations.

it up by transporting water to it.