

Agriculture Newsletter

COLORADO COUNTY

JANUARY 2015

Notice:

The Colorado County Extension Office will be closed on January 19th in observance of Martin Luther King Day

21.5 CEU credits available in this newsletter!

Introduction, Tawny Crazy Ant Update

By Stephen Janak
 County Extension Agent
 Colorado County

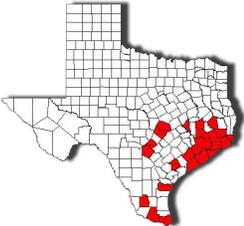
I would like to take this opportunity to say “Howdy” to you, the producers and residents of Colorado County. I am excited to be here and look forward to working with and assisting you in any way that I can. My goal is to extend research-based knowledge and provide real-world solutions that help people reach their individual goals. I welcome any and all questions related to agriculture and natural resources, from plant identification, to ways in which to diversify income from the land. I don’t claim to be the expert in any one subject, but have a broad understanding of ecology and agriculture, and promise to find the latest in scientific knowledge to answer any questions. I am here to help make life better for Texans.



TAWNY CRAZY ANT

Tawny Crazy Ant - *Nylanderia fulva*

In 2002, an exotic species of ant was found for the first time in Texas, within Harris County. It has since spread along the coast, even reaching out to Bexar and Travis counties, and down to Cameron and Hidalgo counties. Like many other non-native pests, the ant spreads by transportation of infested materials: hay, potted plants, garbage bags, or compost materials. The ants do not have stingers, like the Red Imported Fire Ant. Rather, they seem to be attracted to electrical equipment, where they cause short circuits and clog switches. They also are attracted to the “honeydew” left by aphids, scale, white flies, and mealybugs. This could cause potential problems for farmers and vegetable producers. This species does not build nests, but rather congregates under rocks, timber, in debris piles or tree trunks. Individuals are about 1/8 inch long and often form trails on their way to foraging, moving quickly and erratically. If you suspect you have a Tawny Crazy Ant infestation, call the Extension office at 979-732-2082.



Current known occurrence of Tawny Crazy Ant

Upcoming Programs:

- January 16—New Landowner: Ag/Wildlife Valuation—Washington Co. Fairgrounds
- January 21—Western Rice Belt Conference—El Campo Civic Center
- January 22—Grain Handlers Conference—El Campo Civic Center
- January 23—Texas Soybean Board Producer Meeting—Wharton Co. Fairgrounds
- January 29—Feed Grain and Cotton Conference—Bay City Civic Center
- February 6—Wharton Co. 5-CEU Pesticide Recertification—Wharton Co. Fairgrounds
- February 20—New Landowner: Horticulture & Fruit Tree—Winedale Historical Complex

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Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service
 Colorado County

Stephen Janak, CEA
 Agriculture/Natural Resources

316 Spring Street
 Columbus, TX 78934
 979-732-2082

colorado.agrilife.org

Agriculture Newsletter

COLORADO COUNTY

JANUARY 2015

Don't Wait to Apply Nitrogen Fertilizer

At the Plant Protection Conference in December I had the opportunity to meet Dr. Larry Unruh, technical director at American Plant Food Corporation. Suffice it to say that he has his ear to the rail of nitrogen fertilizer supply and demand flows. Due to the high current prices, many producers are trying to wait until spring to apply, hoping that prices will fall a bit between now and then. While no one can accurately predict the market, Dr. Unruh says we might see a slight bump up in spring nitrogen prices.

Regardless of the future price, the fact that many producers are delaying nitrogen applications until spring will likely result in a fertilizer rush as everyone tries to purchase and apply around the same time. "It's an issue with logistics" Dr. Unruh says, meaning that transportation of fertilizer may not be able to keep up with the sudden surge in demand. Trucks and rail cars to transport fertilizer are most all tied up hauling supplies and material for the oil and gas industry. It is my advice that producers keep this in mind as they prepare for the 2015 growing season.

How Can we Best Contact You?

Some of you will receive this newsletter by email, and some by hard-copy mail. We would like to deliver the Ag Newsletter to you in a way that is most likely to reach you in a timely manner. If you are currently receiving a hard-copy, but would prefer to receive an electronic copy and reduce desk clutter, simply call the Extension Office and let us know. Likewise, if you receive this in an email, but sometimes miss programs or information because you don't always check your email or it gets buried under a mountain of others, we are willing to send you a hard copy in the mail. While emailing saves us money, time, and postage, we would rather be sure that our clientele receive pertinent information in a timely and useful manner that fits them best. To make a request please call the office at 979-732-2082.

Details on the following programs and much more can be found at our website: colorado.agrilife.org

As always, please feel free to contact me about your individual issues, needs or concerns.

I can be reached by phone at 979-732-2082 or email at stephen.janak@ag.tamu.edu.

Sincerely,



Stephen D. Janak

County Extension Agent—Ag/Natural Resources—Colorado County





United States Department of Agriculture

Rural Development

Texas State Office
101 South Main Street, Suite 102
Temple, Texas 76501
Voice 254-742-9700
Email: gayle.aubrey@tx.usda.gov
Web: <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/TX.html>

News Release

USDA REAP PROGRAM ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR RENEWABLE ENERGY & ENERGY EFFICIENCY IMPROVEMENTS

TEMPLE, TEXAS, December 1, 2014 - As many U.S. farmers are discovering, renewable energy is the new cash crop of the 21st century. Renewable energy and energy efficiency systems provide a significant opportunity to increase local revenue and the economic yield of land while bolstering the local job market. Energy efficiency improvements are a useful tool for increasing farm or business productivity while reducing costs. By investing in energy efficient equipment, agricultural producers and rural small businesses can enjoy savings and increased reliability for years to come.

USDA Rural Development provides financial assistance in the form of grants and guaranteed loans to agricultural producers and rural small businesses to purchase renewable energy systems or make energy efficiency improvements through the Agency's Renewable Energy for America Program (REAP). REAP offers funds for farmers, ranchers and rural small businesses to purchase and install renewable energy systems and make energy-efficiency improvements.

Many projects have been funded throughout Texas under the REAP program. This funding was used for projects ranging from installation of solar and wind renewable energy sources, improving irrigation systems, upgrades to air conditioning and refrigeration units, and retrofitting poultry houses with more energy efficient equipment.

Grants can fund up to 25% of a project's total eligible costs, and are limited to \$500,000 for renewable energy projects or \$250,000 for energy efficiency improvements. Grants as low as \$2,500 for renewable energy projects and \$1,500 for energy efficiency projects, will be considered. Guaranteed loans can fund up to 75% of a project's total eligible costs, with a minimum of \$5,000 and a maximum of \$25 million.

All agricultural producers, including farmers and ranchers, who derive 50% or more of their gross income from agricultural operations are eligible. Businesses in a rural area which meets the Small Business Administration size standards can also apply. A private entity, a rural utility, and rural electric cooperatives are typically eligible, however non-profit and public bodies are not eligible.

The first round of REAP applications will be due in February 2015. For more information on the program and to apply for funding, details are available on the USDA Rural Development website, http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/TX_Energy.html. Applications should be submitted to the USDA Renewable Energy Coordinator, Billy Curb, at billy.curb@tx.usda.gov, or call 254-742-9775 for more information.

January 16, 2015

Program Introduction, Agriculture/Wildlife Valuations

The Multi-County New Landowner Education program is a series of meetings, seminars, and field days designed to educate new land-owners in Austin, Colorado, Fayette, and Washington counties. However, these educational programs are NOT restricted to only new landowners—anyone who has an interest in learning about the particular topic is invited to attend. Participants in the program will hear from Extension experts in various fields about best management practices they can implement on their own property.

This first meeting of the New Landowner Education program will serve to introduce landowners to the array of agencies who can be a resource of information, planning help, or funding for land improvement projects. The meeting will also address establishing agriculture and wildlife tax valuation status and meeting requirements to qualify. The meeting will be held at the Washington County Fairgrounds. Registration will take place from 1:00-1:30PM and the program will run from 1:30-5:00pm.

If you have questions or wish to register, contact the Austin County Extension Office: 979-865-2072

learn



take home

implement

Multi-County New Landowner Program

Fruit Tree Management Seminar

**For More Information
Please Contact:**

Philip Shackelford
Austin County
(979)865-2072

Stephen Janak
Colorado County
(979) 732-2082

Scott Willey
Fayette County
(979) 968-5831

Kara Matheney
Washington County
(979) 277-6212

3 CEUs
(2 General; 1 IPM)

TEXAS A&M
AGRILIFE
EXTENSION

February 20, 2015

Registration 1:00-1:30 pm

Program 1:30-5:00 pm

\$20 / person

Drinks and Refreshments Included

Featuring:

Monte Nesbitt

Extension Horticulturist

Topics to be Covered:

- Variety/Site Selection
- Pruning/Planting Demonstrations

***Fruit Trees Will Be Available for
Purchase for the Bluebonnet Master
Gardeners Association***

Pre-orders @

www.bluebonnetmastergardener.org

Winedale Historical Complex

3738 FM 2714

www.windale.org



Western Rice Belt Production Conference Texas Rice Council Annual Meeting

January 21, 2015

Early Bird 7:30

Precision Ag
 El Campo Civic Center

Rice conference

Registration – 8:00 a.m.
 Conference
 8:20 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
 (lunch provided)

Rice Trade Show

Including Booths from
 Conference Sponsors

Exhibits Include

*Equipment
 Seed Dealers
 Chemical Suppliers
 Other Rice Industry
 Products*

**FOR MORE INFO
 CONTACT**

Brent Batchelor
 979-245-4100

Corrie Bowen
 979-532-3310

Stephen Janak
 979-732-6694



Topics & Speakers include

Rice Policy Update	Joe Outlaw	Texas A&M AgriLife
Disease Management	Don Groth	LSU AgCenter
Insect Management	Mo Way	Texas A&M AgriLife
Groundwater Update	Neal Hudgins	Coast Bend GCD
Grain Market Update	Dennis Delaughter	Progressive Farm Mgmt
Effect of Carry-over Rice	Jay Davis	East Bernard Rice Marketing
Pesticide Laws and Regs Update	Greg Baker	Texas Dept. of Agriculture
Texas Rice Council Producer Elections		Texas Rice Council

If you need any special accommodations, please contact the Extension Office no later than seven days before the program so we can consider your request. 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 or veteran status.

UPPER GULF COAST GRAIN HANDLERS CONFERENCE

JANUARY 22, 2015- EL CAMPO CIVIC CENTER

Preregister - \$20.⁰⁰

*By contacting the Colorado County
Extension Office before January 10th*

At the Door - \$25.⁰⁰

Registration - 8:00 am
Program - 8:25-3:30 pm

5 CEUs

(Pending TDA Approval)

**FOR MORE INFORMATION
PLEASE CONTACT:**

Stephen Janak
Colorado County
(979) 732-2082

Brent Batchelor
Matagorda County
(979) 245-4100

Corrie Bowen
Wharton County
(979) 532-3310

Clyde Crumley
Wharton County
(979) 532-3310

Mike Hiller
Jackson County
(361) 782-3312



Program Topics and Speakers

Phosphine Fumigant Stewardship and Practical Use—Jim Sharp

Understanding Pesticide Application & OSHA Compliance- Sheila Schulmeyer

TDA Pesticide Laws and Regulations Update—Greg Baker—TDA

New and Emerging Pests in Stored Grain—Dr. Robert Bowling

Understanding Pesticide Resistance—Dr. Robert Puckett

Installation and Use of Spray Equipment for Application of Grain Protectants -

Craig Jakob & Josh Behrens

Equipment Maintenance—Richard Sommerlatte

Identifying Key Insects in Stored Grain—Dr. Robert Bowling

Program Evaluation/CEU Forms - Corrie Bowen, Brent Batchelor, Stephen Janak

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, or veteran status. The Texas A&M University System, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the County Commissioners Courts of Texas Cooperating. Individuals with disabilities who require an auxiliary aid, service or accommodation in order to participate in this meeting are encouraged to contact the County Extension Office at (979) 732-2082 prior to the meeting to determine how reasonable accommodations can be made.

**Texas Soybean Board & Texas Soybean Association
 Soybean Conference
 Wharton County Fairgrounds
 Director's Room
 6036 FM 961 Road, Wharton, TX 77488**

January 23, 2015

Wharton County Fair
 Grounds

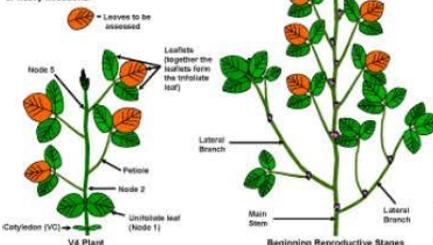
Registration – 8:00 a.m.

Conference

8:30 a.m.

Figure 1. Assessing soybean plants for soybean rust

Assess the center, terminal leaflet at each node. Do not collect data on trifoliolates of branching stems if they are not at the main stem node. Nodes above VC and Node 1 will have only one scar if absent. If rust is found, use the soybean leaflet rust assessment protocol to determine light, moderate or heavy infections.



Tentative Agenda

- 8:00 a.m. - Registration, continental breakfast, view exhibits
- 8:30 a.m. - Welcome, introductions, opening comments
 Daniel Berglund, Texas Soybean Association president
- 8:45 a.m. - Texas soybean production panel, latest on innovative research
 Planting Dates and Varieties by James Grichar
 Insect Pests and Solutions by Mo Way
 Update on Soybean Diseases and Their Management by Tom Isakeit
- 9:45 a.m. - Soybean Seed Company product updates
- 10:00 a.m. - Break, Visit Exhibits
- 10:30 a.m. - Soybean Seed Company product updates
- 10:45 a.m. - Checkoff-Funded Market Development Panel
 US Soybean Export Council, Will McNair
 National Biodiesel Board, Tom Verry
 United Soybean Board, To be determined
- 11:30 a.m. - Your Texas & American Soybean Association at work on policy issues
- 12:00 p.m. - Lunch

TSA membership meeting after lunch

If you need any special accommodations, please contact the Extension Office no later than seven days before the program so we can consider your request. 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 or veteran status.

The Texas A&M University System, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the County Commissioners Courts of Texas Cooperating

2015 Upper Gulf Coast Feed Grain & Cotton Production Conference

January 29, 2015

Bay City
Civic Center

Registration – 8:30 a.m.

Feed Grain Conference

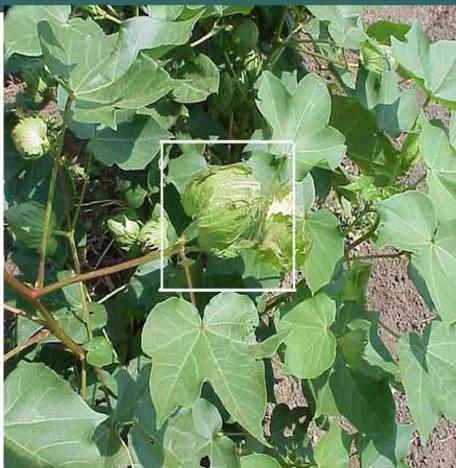
9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

1Hr Laws & Reg. CEU

11:30

Cotton Conference

1:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.



Feed Grain Conference

9:00 Update on the Sorghum/Sugarcane Aphid on Sorghum

9:30 Grain Disease update

10:00 Hybrid Update

10:30 Variable Rate Technology

11:00 Entomology Update

11:30 TDA Pesticide Laws & Regulations

Stephen Biles

Tom Isakeit

Ronnie Schnell

Ronnie Schnell

Robert Bowling

Greg Baker

12:30 Lunch

Provided by Sponsors

Cotton Conference

1:00 Weed Resistance Update

1:30 Soil Fertility Management

2:00 IPM Update

2:30 Spray Nozzle Selection

3:00 RACE Trial Update/PGR Study

Paul Baumann

Josh McGinty

Stephen Biles

Josh McGinty

Gaylon Morgan

3.5 TDA CEUS Applied for. CCA Hours Applied for

If you need any special accommodations, please contact the Extension Office no later than seven days before the program so we can consider your request.

Educational programs of the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service are open to all people without regard to race, color, sex, disability, religion, age, or national origin. The Texas A&M University System, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the County Commissioners Courts of Texas Cooperating

TEXAS A&M AGRI LIFE EXTENSION

Corrie P. Bowen,
Wharton County
Extension Agent
Agriculture/
Natural Resources
315 E. Milam, Suite 112
Wharton, Texas 7748
(979) 532-3310

5 CEUs

2015 Wharton County TDA Pesticide Applicator Re-Certification Program

To Register, return the attached Registration Form and your payment to:
Wharton County Extension Office Attn: Kimberly
315 E. Milam, suite 112, Wharton, Texas 77488

Registration: 8:00 a.m. — 9:00 a.m.
Time 9:00 a.m. — 3:15 p.m.
Fee: \$35.00 for class, lunch included.

Friday, February 6, 2015
Wharton County Fairgrounds
(Register by February 4, 2015)

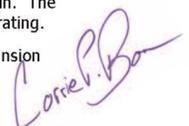
Speaker Topics:

TDA Pesticide Laws & Regulations Update
Aquatic Weed Management and Control
Characterization of Drift Reducing Spray Nozzles
Weed & Brush Identification & Control of Gulf Coast Species
Pesticide Labels and Labeling

The Program will include a minimum of 1 CEU of Laws and Regulations and 1 CEU of IPM.
No Structural Credits Offered.

Extension Programs serve people of all ages regardless of socioeconomic level, race, religion, disability or national origin. The Texas A&M University System, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the County Commissioners Court of Texas Cooperating.

Individuals with disabilities who require an auxiliary aid, service or accommodation in order to participate in any Extension activity, are encouraged to contact the County Extension Office for assistance 5 days prior to the activity.





**Registration Form
Wharton County Pesticide Applicator's
Re-Certification Programs**

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Zip: _____ Phone: _____

Company: _____

TDA License # _____

Additional Registrants:

Name	TDA License Number

Registration fee is \$35 per person. Please pay by check!

Make checks payable to: Wharton County Row Crops Committee

Mail form and check to: Texas A&M AgriLife Extension
Attn: Kimberly Johnson
315 E. Milam, Suite 112
Wharton, Texas 77488

For Office Use Only:

Date Received _____ Amount Paid _____ Check No. _____ Name on Check _____

GENERATION

NEXT

Our Turn to Ranch

Join us for a 2-Day Agricultural Business Start-Up School

- ✓ Gain ideas about operations you can add to an existing ranch
- ✓ Learn options for setting up grazing & wildlife leases
- ✓ Discuss business types, tax info, & insurance needs
- ✓ Exposure to all the latest land management tools & techniques

Available In

San Angelo: March 5th-6th

Stephenville: March 12th-13th

Corpus Christi: April 9th-10th

Course Includes: 2 Days of Expert Instruction, a Resource Notebook
& File Drive, 5 included meals, and

Earn a Generation Next School Completion Certificate

Registration Fee: \$100 (\$25 discount for students)

Limited to the first 50 people per location

To Register: <https://agrifiregister.tamu.edu/ESSM>

Or call 979-845-2604

TEXAS A&M
AGRILIFE
EXTENSION

30th Annual Fort Bend Regional Vegetable Conference

Thursday, February 5, 2015



PRAIRIE VIEW
A&M UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE
AND HUMAN SCIENCES

Cooperative Extension Program



TEXAS A&M
AGRI LIFE
EXTENSION

The 30th annual Fort Bend Regional Vegetable Conference is a celebration of vegetable production along the upper Gulf Coast region. Counties of Waller, Wharton, Harris, Galveston, Brazoria, Colorado, and Austin join with Fort Bend to put on this event focusing on teaching sustainable practices to help producers maximize efficiencies and profitability. We have something for every producer, and as always, we will offer 5 continuing education credits for TDA license holders.

Early Registration: \$20.00; Door Registration: \$25.00

Thru January 26th

Registration

Register online at agriliferegister.tamu.edu/FortBend

Register by phone: 979-845-2604

For general questions, please contact Brandy Rader at 281-342-3034



Thursday, February 5, 2015, 8:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
(Registration: 7:30 a.m. to 8:00 a.m.) Lunch In-
cluded

Fort Bend County Fairgrounds, Buildings B&C
4310 Highway 36 South, Rosenberg, Texas

- Crop Variety Update
- Cover Crop Strategies
- Appropriate Implements
- Understanding GMO's
- Integrated Pest Management
- Laws & Regulations Update
- Intensive Vegetable Production

Earn 5 CEU's

for Licensed Pesticide Applicators

Afternoon break-out sessions
Choose what's right for you!



Find us on:
facebook.

Fort Bend
County Extension

Program sponsored in part by



Educational programs of the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service are open to all people without regard to race, color, sex, religion, national origin, age, disability, genetic information or veteran status. Persons with disabilities who plan to attend this meeting and who may need auxiliary aids or services are required to contact Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service at 281.342.3034 five working days prior to the meeting so appropriate arrangements can be made. The Texas A&M University System, the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the County Commissioners' Court of Texas cooperating.