

# Agriculture Newsletter

COLORADO COUNTY

TEXAS A&M  
AGRI LIFE  
EXTENSION

July 2016

14 CEUs  
Inside

## What is the Texas Crop Registry?

As Extension Agents, we often hear about pesticide drift or misapplication of pesticides that damage or injure some off-target crop or operation. Most often, it is sensitive crops like grapes, cotton, tomatoes and other vegetables, peaches and other fruit crops, forage, greenhouses, or honeybees that are negatively affected. The problem is that pesticide applicators often are unaware that a sensitive crop is being raised nearby. Commercial applicators especially (to no fault of their own, and not for a lack of effort) struggle to keep up with the location of sensitive crops that may exist near all of the many fields they are spraying. Additionally, in recent years, crop tolerance to different herbicides has been introduced into a range of field crops including cotton, soybeans, sorghum, and corn. If two cotton fields are planted side-by-side, and field one is glyphosate-tolerant, and field two is 2,4-D tolerant, then 2,4-D drift from field two onto field one can severely injure that crop because it is not tolerant to 2,4-D. Finally, organic production of crops is increasing; if a pesticide was

to drift onto a certified organic production, that operation could lose its organic certification.

Now, producers and applicators have a tool to assist each other in eliminating off-target drift: The Texas Crop Registry. Producers can anonymously enter the location and type of sensitive crop they are growing, and then applicators can check for nearby sensitive sites using the map feature before spraying. All personal information is kept confidential. Only the location and type of crops are publicly available on the site. Once your crop is registered, applicators in your area will be notified of that crop, and can then use the map to determine proximity to their planned application.

In order to ensure a current and accurate database, crop locations remain in the database for one year, at which time they will be removed and producers will have to update their crops and locations.

While no specific stories have come to my attention, if a producer had registered a crop on Texas Crop Registry prior to experiencing crop injury or bee loss due to pesticide drift or off-target



The interactive map showing locations of sensitive crops throughout Texas. Blue = fruits/nuts, Pink = vegetables, Yellow = honeybees, Red = nursery/greenhouse, Grey = forage

application, that producer could potentially make a better argument when filing a complaint with the Texas Department of Agriculture. Most importantly, however, registering your sensitive crop on Texas Crop Registry can help you avoid any drift or misapplications in the first place.

Keep in mind that the only way this system can be successful is if everyone actually USES the website.

To access Texas Crop Registry: [kel.tamu.edu/texascropregistry](http://kel.tamu.edu/texascropregistry)

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](http://colorado.agrilife.org)

# Upcoming Events & News You Can Use

## Feathers, Furs and Farming program designed for Colorado and Austin Counties

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service of Colorado and Austin Counties have teamed up with Texas Parks and Wildlife to deliver

TEXAS A&M  
AGRILIFE  
EXTENSION



a series of educational events designed to help all landowners diversify their operations and save money and time by becoming better stewards of the land. This program is scheduled for **July 15, 2016** at the Colorado County Fairgrounds, 1164 Crossroads Blvd, Columbus, from 1:00—4 p.m. Registration will begin at 12:30pm, and there will be no charge for this initial program. Topics will include: Ecology & Wildlife, Incentive & Cost-share Programs, Organism I.D. Training (Plants), Wildlife Populations & Small Acreage Management, What Texas Parks & Wildlife Can Do For You. **Two (2) CEUs** will be offered. A flyer and map can be found at [colorado.agrilife.org](http://colorado.agrilife.org) under “Events.” For more information: 979-732-2082.

## Texas A&M Beef Cattle Shortcourse—**August 1-3, 2016**

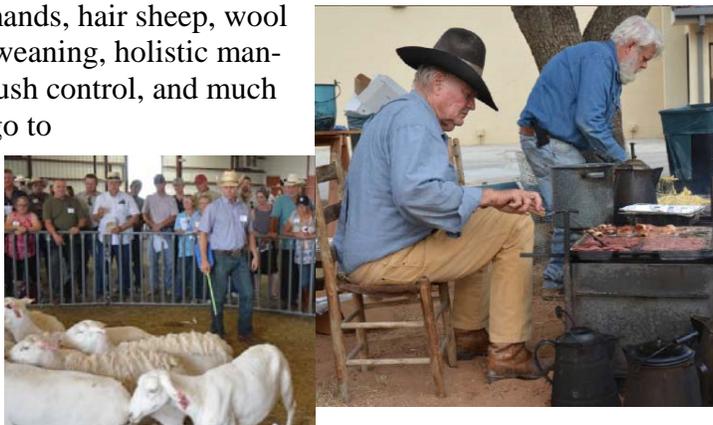
The Texas A&M Beef Cattle Short Course has a rich tradition and historical place in the programs emanating from the Department of Animal Science at Texas A&M University dating as far back as 1942. Topics such as landowner issues and fence building will be featured at this BCSC this year. Sessions are designed for everyone, from the newest member of the industry to the most seasoned producer. A **number of pesticide CEUs**, veterinarian CECs and BQA credits are available to attendees. For more information and online registration go [beefcattleshortcourse.com](http://beefcattleshortcourse.com).

## East Texas Fruit and Vegetable Conference

This program is scheduled for **Friday, August 19, 2016** at Overton Research and Extension Center, 1710 FM 3053 N., Overton, Texas. Sessions for the Producer to include Vegetable Production, Stone Fruit Production and Marketing. Sessions for the Homeowner include Backyard Grape & Muscadine, Integrated Pest Management and Figs. For more information, Contact Dr. Joe Masabni at [jmasabni@tamu.edu](mailto:jmasabni@tamu.edu) or 903-834-6191. **Three (3) CEU** credits will be offered.

## 2016 Texas Sheep & Goat Expo

A premier sheep and goat educational event will be held **August 19 & 20**. The event will take place at the San Angelo Fairgrounds, San Angelo, Texas. This two-day seminar boasts over 20 experts who will be speaking on topics including Market Updates, marketing tips, parasites, cooking instructions, predators, low-stress handling demonstrations, understanding consumer demands, hair sheep, wool management, Ram management, pasture lambing, weaning, holistic management, managing for deer and goats, goats for brush control, and much more. Meals will be provided. To register online go to <http://agrilife.org/westresults/registration>. Early registration is \$30.00. Late registration after August 17th will be \$50. For more information call 325-653-4576.



## **Olive Orchard Bus Tour to Showcase State's Fifth Largest Fruit Crop**

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension and TDA have partnered to host a driving bus tour of olive orchards in the San Antonio/Wintergarden area. The day-long tour begins at the LaQuinta Hotel Downtown San Antonio at 8 am on **Tuesday, August 9<sup>th</sup>** and encompasses four diverse olive orchard visits before returning to the hotel at 7 pm that same day. The tour is preceded by an educational program to be held at the Blue Star Brewery in San Antonio on Monday evening, August 8<sup>th</sup>, from 5:30-8:00 pm. Registration is \$35/person online at <http://agriliferegister.tamu.edu/horticulture/>. This tour is open to all interested parties and should provide timely education to growers or agents interested or engaged in growing olive trees for oil production.

## **Fall Gardening and Garden Pest Seminar**

Spring and summer gardens are in full swing and with all the extra rain many gardens throughout the county are looking very well. It is now time to start planning for your fall garden as well. The Horticulture Committee of Austin County would like to invite everyone out to the Fall Gardening and Garden Pest Seminar. Boone Holladay, Fort Bend Agrilife Extension Horticulture agent, will give a presentation on fall gardening and Kate Harell, Texas A&M Agrilife Extension IPM Agent will discuss how to manage garden pests. The program is set for **Friday, July 22<sup>nd</sup>** in Sealy at the Hill Center. Registration will begin at 1:00 pm and the program will run from 1:30 until 4:30. **Three (3) CEU's** will be offered. Registration will be \$15 at the door. If you have any questions or to RSVP to the event please call the Austin County Agrilife Extension service at 979-865-2072 or visit us on the web at [austin.agrilife.org](http://austin.agrilife.org)

## **Fall Forage Seminar and Austin County Hay Show**

This year's show will be held in conjunction with the annual Fall Forage Seminar, sponsored by the Beef and Forage Committee of Austin County. The Seminar and Show will take place on **Friday, September 30<sup>th</sup>**, at the Austin County Fairgrounds in Bellville. The seminar is scheduled to begin with registration from 8:30 - 9:00 a.m., with the program starting at 9:00 a.m. and concluding at 12:00 p.m. This year's seminar will cover such topics as Cool Season Forages, Soil Fertility, and Long Range Weather Forecasting. There will be a trade show with local and area vendors. A total of **three (3) CEU's** will be given to pesticide applicators. Lunch and handout materials will be provided, all compliments of the Beef and Forage Committee and their sponsors.

Judging of the hay samples will take place during the event, with the winners of the show being named at the conclusion of the seminar. Anyone feeding hay is encouraged to submit a sample of their hay for analysis. The Beef and Forage Committee is encouraging beef cattle producers to simply turn in a sample of their hay for analysis. The analysis will be done by the Texas A&M Forage testing lab and the results will be handed out during the meeting.

The Hay Show will allow any hay producer from Austin, or a surrounding county, to enter forage samples in the show. The focus of the show is to emphasize the importance of utilizing high quality hay. Producers may submit as many samples as they wish for the show, in each of the following categories; Coastal Bermudagrass, Other Bermudagrasses, Other Perennial WarmSeason Grasses, Annual Warm Season Grasses, Cool Season Grasses, Legume-Grass Mix and Legumes. There is no entry fee, however the deadline for entering the show is September 2<sup>nd</sup>. Please refer to the Austin County Hay Show Guidelines which are available online at <http://austin.agrilife.org/> and at each of the drop off locations.

Hay samples may be turned in at the Austin County Extension Office, Harrison's Farm Service and Linseisen's Feed in Bellville, Adamcik's Farm Supply and Steinhauer's Inc. in Sealy, Dudensing Farm Service and Schulz General Store in New Ulm, and Lindemann's Store and Blezinger's Inc. in Industry from August 8 - September 2, 2016. Please contact the Extension Office to preregister at (979) 865-2072, so we can have an accurate count for food and refreshments.

## Multi-County New Landowners Educational Series

The Multi-County New Landowners Educational Series will resume on **Friday, August 19th**, in Washington County. The program will be an overview of Weed and Brush Control for Small Acreages. The program is open to anyone that wants to attend, but it specifically targets new landowners in the Austin, Colorado, Fayette and Washington County areas. The programs are held on the third Friday of the month, and all begin at 1:30 p.m. and lasts until 5:00 p.m. Registration is \$20.00 per person and includes refreshments, an evening meal and your educational materials. **Three (3) CEU's** will be offered to all pesticide applicators - two general and one IPM.

## Cattle Fever and Fever Ticks

Cattle Fever, formerly called Spanish, Texas or Splenic Fever is caused by two different protozoa called Babesia (*B. bigemina* and *B. bovis*) that are carried in two cattle fever ticks (*Rhipicephalus annulatus* and *R. microplus*). These were formerly called *Boophilus annulatus* and *B. microplus*. Cattle Fever is caused when an infected tick takes a blood meal and injects the organism into the host animal's bloodstream. The Babesia organism infects and reproduces in the host's red blood cells. Destruction of the red blood cells causes anemia and reduction in oxygen carrying capacity and a reduction in weight and often death. Cattle infected with Babesia often have red colored urine from the excreted hemoglobin (redwater) although this can be caused by other diseases.

Fever ticks get infected by ingesting blood from an infected cow. The protozoa migrate to the reproductive system and when tick's eggs are shed, they are also infected. The principal hosts of the ticks are cattle and horses but can include deer and exotic wildlife like axis red deer and nilgai (an Indian antelope prevalent in South Texas), making control efforts difficult.

In 1906, the fever tick (and the fever) was in 14 southern states and as far north as Virginia. Control methods used were principally long, narrow dipping vats full of an acaricide (insecticide that killed ticks, usually an arsenical compound, and later organophosphates). The cattle and calves were forced swim the length of the vat and they were submerged at least once to treat their head. Dipping vats are still in use but wildlife are being fed avermectin treated corn (until 60 days before the hunting season begins) in certain problem areas. By 1943 the fever tick was contained to a 580 mile long Permanent Quarantine Zone in Texas ranging from Del Rio to Brownsville. It ranges from about 125 yards to almost 8 miles in depth.



Cattle inside the Zone must be examined (scratched for ticks) and treated before they can move outside the Zone. Usually there are a few cases just outside the Zone as ticks migrate. Currently Zapata county has some premises under quarantine outside the Zone because of that. However, recently there have been over 20 cases well north of the Zone in Cameron and Willacy counties and one each in Kleberg and Jim Wells counties. Most (but not all) are thought to be carried by wildlife (white tailed deer and Nilgai). Ranchers have the option of treating all their cattle every 2-4 weeks or vacating their pastures for 6 to 9 months.

Ticks prefer brushy areas over grasslands so brush management can help reduce but will not eliminate tick habitat.

Recently the Texas Animal Health Commission has adopted a new tick vaccine. It must be administered by a veterinarian to beef cattle only, 2 months an older. Two vaccinations (initial and booster) 28 days apart with another booster every 6 months are required. The vaccine will be used on cattle inside the Zone and possibly in some problem areas as well. There is no Babesia in Texas but if there were, the initial cost is estimated to be \$1.2 billion cost would be well over \$100 million per year. It is unlikely that you will ever have fever ticks but if you see ticks you aren't familiar with contact the Texas Animal Health Commission at 1-800-550-8242.

## Post Oak and Live Oak Trees Dying Lately in our Area

I've gotten many calls about (mostly) Post oaks and (some) Live oaks turning yellow, leaves wilting, then leaves turning brown, leading to the eventual death of the tree. This is occurring all throughout our region, mainly in the Post Oak Savannah and it's sandy soils that don't hold moisture very well. The following comes from Daniel Lewis, Staff Forester with Texas A&M Forest Service in La Grange:



It is happening mainly with post oaks and it always happens this time of year when temps starting hitting the mid 90's. The tree losses are due to a cumulative buildup of environmental stressors that all contribute to a loss of internal tree moisture that brings the tree down below a critical threshold beyond which the tree cannot recover and sustain life. So, since it is a cumulative condition there are some "usual suspects" that we can look to for determining what may be the likely cause for the decline and loss of the tree.

Usually Hypoxylon canker (a fungus) is the disease that ultimately takes out stressed oaks (among some other species as well). Here are some likely causes of tree stressing factors that commonly contribute to the cumulative buildup of tree stress that contribute to the eventual decline and death of the tree:

1. **Overwatering.** Post oaks are particularly vulnerable to problems due to prolonged overwatering. Typical watering frequency required to keep high water demand sod forming grasses alive will cause the roots to rot and decline over time.
2. **Root disturbance.** Post oaks are also particularly susceptible to root disturbance. This root disturbance may be in the form of severing roots due to construction (Even if that root damage was done up to 10 years ago). The installation of a sprinkler system is one of the most destructive things that can happen for damaging a mature tree's root system and particularly so if it is a post oak!
3. **Grade changes.** Changing the grade of soil around post oaks creates an unfavorable condition in which the addition or removal soil results in the tree roots being either too deep or too shallow for the tree to continue to undergo the gas exchange of root systems that is required for the tree to function normally and remain healthy.
4. **Soil compaction.** Compacting soil can compact the soil to a solid impermeable mass that prevents root growth and water and air infiltration required for the tree to continue to undergo healthy function of the root system.
5. **Drought.** Extended droughts cause a host of issues that can reduce tree vigor and actually cause the loss of the fine feeder roots that take up the water and minerals in the soil. It also causes dieback of the crown (loss of limbs and leaves). This type of damage will not be undone when we start to get rain again. It will take several years of normal rainfall for the tree to slowly recover and build back up to normal plant function. This is a critical period of vulnerability. Adding fertilizer at this time will only exacerbate the problem with encouraging the tree to produce foliage it does not have the healthy root system to be able to support.
6. **Weed and Feed Products.** These types of fertilizer with a weed herbicide are wonderful for creating weed free grass. Unfortunately, the tree is also a "broadleaf weed" that will also be susceptible to the herbicide within this product. These products clearly state on the label not to use around trees! Although not many heed this warning.
7. **Damage to trunk and limbs.** Damage to branches and particularly trunk damage can cause the tree to be inoculated by disease and rot pathogens that begin problems that will stick with the tree indefinitely.

Post oaks are not tolerant of any changes in their environment that may change their ability to undergo gas exchange in the root system. Be especially cautious of any activity that may disturb or compact the soil around mature oak trees. This is especially true for older large trees because these trees are more susceptible to problems and less likely to be able to recover from damage. Unfortunately the trees we seem to impact with our daily activities and landscaping changes tend to be those typically large mature trees that are right around our houses, which incidentally are the most valuable trees on the property!

**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](mailto:stephen.janak@ag.tamu.edu).

Sincerely,



Stephen D. Janak

County Extension Agent—Ag/Natural Resources—Colorado County

**[colorado.agrilife.org](http://colorado.agrilife.org)**

*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 ten (10) days prior to the meeting to determine how reasonable accommodations can be made.*

Columbus, TX 78934

Box 236

Al Jamison

316 Spring St.  
Columbus, TX 78934  
**TEXAS A&M**  
**AGRI LIFE**  
**EXTENSION**