

Agriculture Newsletter

COLORADO COUNTY

November 2016

TEXAS A&M
AGRI LIFE
EXTENSION

46+ CEUs
Inside

Interest Brewing for Locally-Grown Barley

The following is adapted from the Texas A&M Soil & Crop Sciences Department Newsletter; Article by: Kay Ledbetter

Barley might not be on the top of the list as a feed and forage for livestock, but the growing interest in craft breweries and micro distilleries has Texas A&M AgriLife researchers taking a look at the crop. Currently, barley is grown on only about 30,000 acres in Texas, said Dr. Clark Neely, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service state small grains specialist, College Station. It is mainly used for feed and forage for livestock. But that is expected to change somewhat in the near future, Neely said, due to increased interest in craft breweries and distilleries searching for locally grown malt and distilling ingredients.

The craft brewing movement is exploding across the U.S., he said. Texas was home to 189 craft breweries in 2015 – a number that tripled in the last five years and now ranks seventh in the country. These breweries produce approximately 1.1 million barrels of beer annually, which requires roughly 200,000 tons of barley grain and could potentially support 100,000 acres or more of barley in the state. The missing link is craft malt houses, where the grain is soaked and made into malt, Neely said. Breweries require malted barley and cannot purchase barley straight out of the field. Currently, Texas has only one craft malt house, but business is good and expansion is planned in the near future, he said. Another two malt houses are in the building stages, so capacity is on the rise to support the craft brewing malt barley needs.

“With interest in local ingredients for these new markets along with feed barley for a growing dairy industry in the Texas High Plains, we have started looking for barley varieties that are adapted to Texas climates and those that can withstand drought, disease and pest pressure,” he said. Neely said he doesn’t expect a surge in researchers screening barley germplasm or breeding new lines, but his program is beginning to evaluate existing varieties and out-of-state breeding germplasm for their viability in Texas. In 2016, Neely’s program included a study of 112 spring two-row, 113 spring six-row and 136 winter barley varieties grown in Castroville, McGregor, Lubbock and College Station. Initial results show a wide range of adaptation from the barley lines evaluated under Texas climates, although continued screening will look for lines with superior yields and malting characteristics, he said. Neely said while the brewery demand for barley is growing, it remains a niche market.

The largest market for barley is still as a forage. New barley variety options may provide cattle or dairy producers a more drought-tolerant, water- and nitrogen- use efficient alternative to wheat for use in forage and silage production, he said. To address this, the same advanced winter breeding lines from the Triticeae Coordinated Agricultural Project that were evaluated for grain and malting were also screened under Texas environments for forage and silage production, Hessian fly resistance and yield stability across environments. The initial year of screening in 2014 evaluated 800-plus barley lines, but these have since been reduced to 150 lines based on characteristics such as disease resistance, vernalization requirements and grain production, he said. The project will further screen these lines to identify the ones with the highest production capabilities for forage and grain production in Texas and evaluate if they are superior to existing cultivars.



Winter six-row barley growing near Thrall in April in an AgriLife Extension variety trial.

Texas A&M AgriLife
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Colorado County

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Upcoming Events & News You Can Use

Austin/Colorado County Soil, Water, and Forage Testing Campaign - November

During the month of November, the Colorado County Beef and Forage Committee – in cooperation with the Austin County Beef and Forage Committee – is sponsoring a soil, forage, and water testing campaign that offers testing services for a reduced charge and no shipping required. Materials must be picked up and dropped off at Bernardo Farm and Ranch, Columbus Plumbing and Feed, Dudensing Farm Service, Eagle Lake General Store, Garwood Farmers Coop, M-G Farm Service Center, Sandy Creek Country Store, or at the Extension office.

Two types of soil tests for ag producers will be available: Routine analysis for \$7 and Routine plus micronutrients for \$14. Homeowners wishing to test lawn or garden soil can get free shipping if samples and payment are dropped off at the Extension office, but normal pricing will apply.



For this campaign, only elemental water testing is available at reduced cost of \$26; there will be no bacterial tests offered. Elemental water testing is useful for determining softener or filtering needs for home use, suitability for livestock consumption, and suitability for lawn, garden, or crop irrigation.

For this campaign, forage analysis will give results on forage protein, fiber, and digestibility. Cost is only \$5.

Instructions for collecting and submitting samples are included when you pick up materials at the aforementioned locations. Simply follow the instructions and return your sample, submission form, and check to any of the participating locations. For more information, call 979-732-2082.

November New Landowner Program

The Multi-County New Landowner Education program is a series of 9 informational meetings, seminars, and field days designed to make new landowners aware of what types of agricultural enterprises are best for their property. The final program in the 2016 series will take place on **Friday, November 18th**, and will focus on Livestock Production for Small Acreage. The program will be at Sand Creek Ranch located at 26598 New Bremen Rd., New Ulm, TX. Registration is \$20.00 per person and includes refreshments and your educational materials. **Two (2) CEU's** will be offered to all pesticide applicators. For more info: 979-732-2082.

Sugar Cane Aphid Training - 2 CEUs

This training is scheduled for **Thursday, November 17, 2016 from 11:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m.**, at the Wharton County Youth Fairgrounds Office, 6036 FM 961 Rd, Wharton, Texas. Get early access to some of the latest trainings on this pest before they are released publicly. Become more efficient at identifying this pest, estimating the number per leaf and earn an IPM credit. Help us fill out an optional brief survey on the subject to develop better trainings in the future & enter for a chance at winning brand new chain saw. Anyone from your farm involved in the pest management process is invited. Please RSVP by calling the Wharton County Extension Office at 979-532-3310 or by email to insecthunter@tamu.edu. This program is sponsored by Texas A&M AgriLife Research and is free to attend. The research conducted is being done under the direction of Dr. Robert Bowling. Enjoy lunch on us while we share the information required for the training. **Two CEU credits will be offered.**



Austin County 5 Hour CEU Program

Anyone needing hours should mark **Friday, December 2nd** on their calendar. On this day, the Beef and Forage Committee of Austin County, Austin County Farm Bureau and the Sealy FFA Chapter will be co-sponsoring a **5 Hour CEU** course at Four County Auction Center in Industry. Registration will take place at 12:00pm, with the program following about 1:00p.m.

The Program topics will include New Chemical Update from Dr. Megan Clayton, TDA Laws and Regulations update from Mr. Brad Tullis TDA Field Inspector, Sprayer Calibration by Dr. Robert Bowling, and Adding Value to Beef Carcasses by Dr. Joe Paschal. Stew will be served at the conclusion of the program as well as refreshments compliments of Four County Auction Center. We hope to conclude around 5:30p.m. The Registration fee is \$20.00 at the door. You can pre-register by calling (979)865-2072 or by going to our website <http://austin.agrilife.org> by December 1st. Credits to be given include 1 hour of Laws and Regulations, 3 hours of General Credit and 1 hour of Integrated Pest Management.



Texas Plant Protection Association

28th Annual Texas Plant Protection Conference

The 28th annual Texas Plant Protection Conference will be held **December 6 & 7, 2016** at the Brazos Center in Bryan, Texas. This year's theme is "Advanced Technologies for Texas Agriculture." Some highlight topics for this year's conference include: Apps for Ag; Use of UAV Data; Ag in Unknown Federal Regulation; as well as sessions on Grain Crops, Cotton, Pasture and Rangeland, Horticulture, New Chemistry, New and Minor Crops, Fertility Management, and product updates from industry representatives. There is also a Pest ID contest for you to test your knowledge of 10 insects, 10 weeds, and 10 diseases. The conference offers a total of **11 TDA CEUs, and 13.5 CCA CEUs**. Cost is \$25 for farmers and students, \$100 for general entry, and \$350 to be an exhibitor or booth sponsor. For complete details, visit their website: tppa.tamu.edu. For assistance with registration or further questions, call: 979-732-2082.

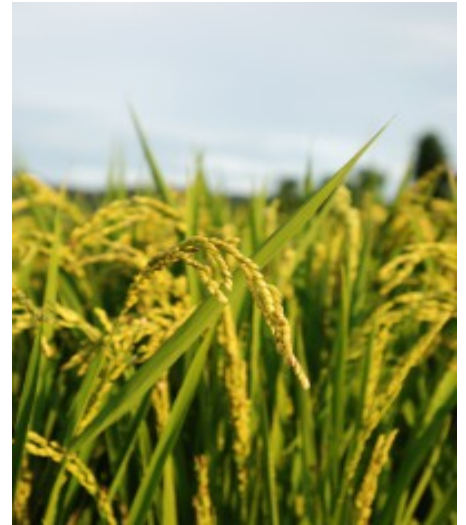
Jackson County 5 Hour CEU Program

The Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service of Jackson County, the Field Crops committee and the Beef Committee are sponsoring a **5 Hour CEU** Event to be held on **Thursday, December 8, 2016**, at the Jackson County Services Building Auditorium. Registration will begin at 8:00 a.m. and the programs will conclude at 3:00 p.m. There will be a \$25 registration fee, which includes refreshments and lunch. Topics include: New Chemicals in the Field; Green Flatsedge, Weeds, Huisache, & Rosehedge Control; Honey Bees & Chemicals; Controlling Mosquitoes and Zika; Laws and Regulations; Watershed & Water Quality. **TDA CEUs: 1 L&R, 3 IPM, 1 Gen. 5 CCA credits will also be offered in: 3 IPM, 1 Crop Mgmt, 1 Professional Development.** For more info and to register: 361-798-3312



2017 Western Rice Belt Production Conference - January 19, 2017

The Conference is scheduled for **January 19, 2017** at the El Campo Civic Center. Registration will begin at 8:00 a.m. Program will be from 8:15 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. **2.5 TDA CEUs** for those with a private pesticide applicators' license will be offered. Topics include Disease Management Update, Laws and Regs, Weed Control, Insect Management, Financial Risk Management, Market Inventory and Outlook, Rice Policy Update, Price Risk Management Tools. For more information call 979-532-3310.



24th Annual Upper Gulf Coast Grain Handlers Conference - January 18, 2017

The Conference will be held on **Tuesday, January 18, 2017** at the El Campo Civic Center. Registration will begin at 8:00 am, the program will begin at 8:25 am and should conclude around 3:30 pm. A catered lunch will be provided. **Five CEUs (2 IPM; 1 L&R; 2 General)** will be offered to all TDA pesticide applicators that sign in at the beginning of the meeting and remain through the closing of the program. No structural credits offered.

The cost of the program is \$20.00 per person preregistered by January 13th or \$25.00 per person at the door. To preregister, please contact the Colorado County Extension Office and we will send a form to you. Program Topics: Fumigation Equipment Usage and Safety, Man-lift Safety and Fall Protection Safety, TDA Pesticide Laws and Regulations Update, Fumigation and Protectants for Use with Stored Grain, Insect ID for Stored Grains, and an IPM-based speaker panel on keeping facilities and grain “bug-free.” For more information, call 979-732-2082.

Upper Gulf Coast Feed Grain & Cotton Production Conference - January 26, 2017

The Conference is scheduled for **January 26, 2017** at the Wharton County Fairgrounds. Registration will begin at 8:30am. The feed grain conference will run from 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. Topics include Southern Rust, Precision Ag, Grain Economics, and Sugarcane Aphid. Cotton Conference will begin at 1:00 and will end at 3:30 p.m. Topics include Nitrogen Management, Bollworm Outbreak, Weed Management, and Disease Update. A total of **4 TDA CEUs** will be offered and **6 CCA hours**. For more information call 979-732-2082.

Colorado County Beef and Forage **5 CEU Conference - State Climatologist to Present**

The Beef and Forage Committee of Colorado County is hosting an educational seminar on Friday, **February 3rd, 2017** at the Exhibit Hall within the Colorado County Fairgrounds. The program will offer **5 CEU credits** for those producers who possess a private pesticide applicator's license. This year we are most excited to have the Texas State Climatologist, Dr. John Nielsen-Gammon, speaking at the event. His presentation will include how to read the weather and forecast for applying pesticides, better understanding your local forecast, and his long-term weather and climate outlook. There will also be a live demonstration of sprayer equipment, spray tips, booms, pressure regulation, pesticide mixing, and more. Other topics include Understanding Pesticide Labels, Being the Voice for Pesticide Stewardship, and a Laws and Regulations Update. Those interested may pre-register by January 30th, 2017 for \$25 per person and \$30 for couples. Registration at the event will be \$30 per person and \$35 for couples. To pre-register or for more information, call the Colorado County Extension Office at 979-732-2082.



Texas State Climatologist,
Dr. John Nielsen-Gammon

Wharton County 5 CEU Event

The Wharton County Extension Office will be hosting a **5 CEU** event for Private Applicator license holders on **February 2nd, 2017** at the Wharton County Fairgrounds. Registration will begin at 8:30am and the program will run from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. For more information, contact Stacey at 979-532-3310 or go to wharton.agrilife.org and click on events for the flyer and registration form.

Referendum to Establish a Texas Grain Indemnity Fund

The Texas Legislature has acted to allow the Texas Commissioner of Agriculture to conduct a referendum whether to establish a grain indemnity fund for the state of Texas, statute available at <http://www.statutes.legis.state.tx.us/Docs/AG/htm/AG.41.htm#41.201>.

What is Texas Grain Producer Indemnity Fund?

The purpose of the fund is to indemnify corn, grain sorghum, wheat, and soybean producers as a result of the failure of a grain buyer. If passed, producers of these four crops would pay 0.2% of the gross sales price of grain to the Texas Grain Producers Indemnity Board. Assessments would begin February 1, 2017.

Who is Eligible to Vote?

Persons eligible to vote are landowners and producers who have produced corn, grain sorghum, wheat, or soybeans in the last 36 months preceding the close of voting.

Where Will Voting Take Place?

Voting will be held at local Texas A&M AgriLife Extension County offices from December 5 through 9, 2016. Persons eligible to vote are landowners and producers who have produced corn, grain sorghum, wheat, or soybeans in the last 36 months preceding the close of voting.

Where Can I Get More Information?

More information on the Grain Indemnity Fund Referendum is available from the Texas Department of Agriculture, either by contacting Stuart Strnad at (512) 463-3285, or visiting their website, <https://texasagriculture.gov/Home/ProductionAgriculture/TexasGrainProducersIndemnityBoard>.

Information is also available from the Texas Grain Producers Indemnity Board, (806) 763-0327 or their website, <http://www.texasgrainindemnity.org/>.

****The Colorado County Extension Office will have Grain Indemnity Fund voting available on December 5th through December 9th, 8am-5pm. For more information, please call: 979-732-2082.****

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Do you find yourself browsing through social media, fed-up with everyone's political posts, pet pictures, and general ramblings? Search for and follow [Colorado County Agriculture](#) on Facebook for a refreshing view of agricultural life in Colorado County. I share pictures and advice relating to the everyday work I do in Colorado County, keep you up to date on upcoming local Ag events, and post thoughtful rhetoric on the state of modern agriculture.



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

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.

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