

Agriculture Newsletter

COLORADO COUNTY

September 2016

TEXAS A&M
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EXTENSION

25+ CEUs
Inside!

Integrated Pest Management for Pecans

The following is adapted from the Texas Pecan Pest Management Newsletter by Bill Ree, Extension Pecan IPM Specialist

STORED PRODUCT INSECTS

For those producers that sell retail there is another group of insects that can negatively impact your business and these are referred to as stored product insects, this is the same group of pesky critters that can be found in kitchen pantries. Fortunately there are pheromones and traps that can be used to detect an emerging problem. As a group these insects attack a wide range of foods which can include is but not limited to: nut meats, grains, seeds, tobacco, dry pet food and treats, rodent baits, dried fruits, peanuts, pharmaceutical drugs, and candy.

The first rule for any pest problem is sanitation and no more true for stored product pests. A broom and refrigeration will go a long way toward prevention and elimination of a problem.

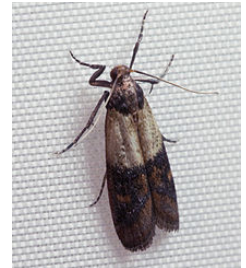
For all stored product insects, none can penetrate an intact shell; entry to the kernel can only happen if there is a crack in the shell.

For the stored product insects there are basically two groups – Lepidoptera (moths/caterpillars) and Coleoptera - beetles.

Considering the moths, the most common species that I have encountered is the Indian mealmoth (IMM), *Plodia interpunctella*. I have seen adult IMM on nice displays of in-shell pecans in a retail store and larval infestations in packaged and sealed pecan kernels and baked goods plus a terrible infestation of IMM larvae in packaged pecan pieces/halves at a local grocery store.

Fortunately there is a pheromone for this insect that can be used like the PNC pheromone. Traps can be hung in work rooms or store rooms to act as an alarm to any ongoing activity. The adults are easy to ID being two toned with white and bronze colors.

For the beetles there are several species that could be found around retail stores with some of the most common being: cigarette beetle, *Lasioderma serricorne*; drugstore beetle, *Stegobium paniceum*; and the sawtoothed grain beetle, *Oryzaephilus surinamensis*.



Indian Mealmoth adult



Pheromone trap for IMM in storeroom.



This group of beetles also feeds on an extremely wide range of food sources. There are attractants for these insects that can be used with several different trap styles. For some traps more than one lure can be used in an individual trap. Traps for this group are usually placed on the floor under counters or work tables where it is hard to clean.

There are several sources of suppliers of stored product insect pheromones and traps some of which are: www.trece.com; and www.pantrypests.com. Additional sources can be found by searching the web for pantry pests.

You can sign up to receive the Texas Pecan Pest Management Newsletter by emailing w-ree@tamu.edu.

Dome trap for beetles placed under work bench in storeroom.

Texas A&M AgriLife
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Upcoming Events & News You Can Use

September Multi-County 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 in Austin, Colorado, Fayette, & Washington Counties aware of what types of agricultural enterprises are best for their property. The series will resume on **September 16, 2016**. The seventh seminar will focus on Rural Laws and Code in the South Central Texas region. Our featured speaker will be Marca Ewers, Attorney at Law. Ms. Ewers is a graduate of Texas A&M University, has studied at Charles University in Prague, Czech Republic, at South Texas College of Law in Houston, and now has over a decade of policy experience. Based in Bryan, Texas, Ms. Ewers provides legal services in estate planning, civil law, business law, agriculture law, and is a 4th-generation Texas farmer.

If attendees have specific questions related to rural laws and codes (fence lines, right-of-ways, liability, leasing, etc.), they can submit them ahead of time, so that presenters can come prepared to answer these questions. Questions should be sent to: stephen.janak@ag.tamu.edu or stephanie.rudolph@ag.tamu.edu. Questions can also be submitted to the Colorado County Extension office: 979-732-2082.

The program will be held at the Colorado County Fairgrounds “HE Building” located at 1164 Crossroads Blvd near Columbus. Registration begins at 1:00pm and the program will start at 1:30pm. Cost is \$20 per person for participants who have not signed up for the series. **One (1) CEU** in Laws and Regs will be given for private pesticide applicators. Registration materials and more information can also be found on our website, <http://agrilife.org/coastalbend/program-areas/new-land-owner-information/>

Wine & Grape Industry Events

There will be a Prospective Winegrower Workshop utilizing field and seminar settings to discuss “Introduction to Growing Grapes” on **September 16, 8:30a.m. - 4:00 p.m.** at the Texas A&M Horticulture Center at 9690 FM 50 in College Station. There will also be a post-harvest gathering at the Paradox House Vineyard on **September 17, 9-11am** in Industry, TX at 8544 Bermuda. For more information or to register for these two events, contact Fran Pontash: 979-458-0131.

Finally, the 2016 Grape Camp will be hosted on **November 6-7** by Texas Wine and Grape Growers Association at the Lady Bird Johnson Park Pioneer Pavilion at 432 Lady Bird Drive in Fredericksburg. Day One is geared toward the new grape grower or individuals wanting to start growing grapes. Topics center around irrigation, soil, disease control, grape varieties, vineyard management. Day Two continues the educational sessions leaning toward topics for seasoned, experienced growers. **Six (6) CEUs** will be available. For more information or to register: www.txwines.org.

5 Hour CEU Pesticide Recertification

A **5 Hour CEU** Pesticide Recertification is scheduled for **September 20, 2016** at the Hallettesville Knights of Columbus Hall. Topics to include: USDA Conservation Program Updates, Chronic Wasting Disease Update, Pesticide Law & Regulations, Range and Pasture Weed and Brush Management, Soil Health Impacts on Weed and Brush Populations and Ag Chemical Handling & Transportation Laws. Cost is \$20.00 per person. Registration at 7:30am, program 8:00am - 1:00pm. For more information call the Lavaca County Extension Service at 361-798-2221.

Beginner Farmer and Gardener Conference

A conference is scheduled for **September 22-23, 2016** at the Research and Extension Center at 1710 FM 3053 N, Overton, TX. Registration fee is \$60.00 for two days and \$40.00 for one day. Deadline to register is September 20th. Topics will include soil, water, farm loans, business planning and marketing, crop production, pollinator management, and organic and conventional production practices.

Three (3) CEUs in IPM will be offered. For more info: 979-732-2082



Wildlife Habitat Federation Native Prairie Discovery Tour

This event is scheduled for Friday, **October 7, 2016** at St. Johns Lutheran Church of Cat Spring, at 480 Ross St. Registration begins at 8:30 a.m. Registration fee is \$25.00 per person. Participants will be provided with transportation, refreshments and lunch. Tours will explore local native prairie restoration sites. **Three (3) CEUs** will be offered: **two General, one IPM**. Please register by September 30th online at www.whf-texas.org or by calling 979-865-2072.

Feather, Furs and Farming

This is a series of educational events designed to help all land-

owners diversify their operations and save more money and time by becoming better stewards of the land. The next event is scheduled for **October 28, 2016** at the Colorado County Fairgrounds. Topics include Browse and Bush Manipulation; Aging on the Hoof and Jaw; Contest on Jaws and Antler Sight-scoring; Shoot or Don't Shoot: Doe Harvest; CWD, Parasites, Warts, Anomalies, and Other Weird Things You'll See on Deer. Cost is \$20.00 per person. For more information call 979-732-2082. **Two CEUs (1 General, 1 IPM)** will be offered to Pesticide Applicators.

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5th Annual Texas Fruit Conference

This program is scheduled for **October 31st — November 1st** and offers well-rounded slate of speakers and topics for those individuals who are

Texas Fruit
Conference



growing/considering growing fruit for home or commercial purposes. The 2016 conference will be held in the New Braunfels Civic Convention Center, in downtown New Braunfels, located 45 minutes from San Antonio and one hour from Austin. **Conference topics this year include:** Keys to successful small acreage fruit growing, Stinkbugs and Leafhopper bugs—traditional and organic control approaches, Water delivery & conservation options, Most-diagnosed fruit diseases in Texas, History of commercial fruit in Texas, Successful outcomes in farmers markets, Avocados, Olives, Table Grapes, Fringe Fruits, & more—*Full conference program will be announced soon.* Our invited speaker this year is Dr. Tom Beckman, Research Horticulturist, with the USDA-ARS Southeastern Fruit & Tree Nut Laboratory, Byron, Georgia. Dr. Beckman will talk about progress in the development of disease-resistant stone fruit rootstocks, moderate chill peaches and managing fungal gummosis on peaches. **CEUs will be offered** for pesticide applicators.

Early-Bird registration for growers is set at \$65/per person for those people registering by September 1st. Regular online registration from Sept. 1 to Oct. 21st is \$80/person. On-site registration on Oct. 31st is \$90/person. **Registration available now at <http://agriliferegister.tamu.edu/horticulture/>.** The Courtyard New Braunfels River Village by Marriott is the conference hotel and site for the Monday evening welcome. Guest rooms reserved under the Fruit Conference block are available for \$89/night. Sponsors and exhibitors are welcome! For more info contact: mlnesbitt@tamu.edu or 979-862-1218.

45th Annual South Central Texas Cow/Calf Clinic

Enter to win a free heifer! **Friday, October 28th** is the date scheduled for this event at the Washington County Fairgrounds, 1305 E Blue Bell Rd.. Topics to include: Live Cattle Demonstration, Injection Site Management, Chute Side Manner, Carcass Evaluation, Herd Health – A Focus on the Calf and Calving Season Do's and Don'ts. Registration begins at 7:30 a.m. Program will run 8:00am - 4:00pm. There is a \$20.00 registration fee. There will be **2 CEUs (1 General, 1 IPM)** offered to private applicators. BQA credits will also be offered. For more information and to register please call 979-277-6212.

Fayette County Lunch-N-Learn

Turfgrass Management will be the topic at the Fayette County Lunch-N-Learn to be held at the Fayette County Agricultural Building, 255 Svoboda Lane, on **September 13, 2016**. Program is free, open to anyone. Program will begin at 11:50am and run until about 12:45. For more information call 979-968-5832.

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 30th**, 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 will be provided. 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 2nd . 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 Steinhauser'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.

Citrus Canker Found in Fort Bend County; Placed Under Quarantine

The bacterial disease known as Citrus Canker has recently been found and confirmed in Fort Bend County. The disease causes lesions on the leaves, stems, and fruit of plants in the citrus family. There is no cure for the disease, and fruit trees continually decline in health until they die. Since prevention of the disease is the only way to protect trees, a quarantine has been put in



place which prohibits the movement, distribution, or sale of citrus plants within or out of the quarantined area. Citrus canker is not new to Texas or the US, however it has caused problems for growers in Florida for a long time, and was found in the Rio Grande Valley of Texas in 2015. The 2015 incident is the first known confirmation of the disease in Texas since its eradication in 1943. The disease is easily transmitted by wind, rain, human



activity, lawn & farm equipment, hands and clothing, and the transportation of infected plant parts. Due to the proximity with Fort Bend County, homeowners and producers in Colorado County are encouraged to report any suspected citrus problems so that plants can be diagnosed and tested for the disease. If you believe that you have seen these symptoms, email pictures to stephen.janak@ag.tamu.edu or call for appt: 979-732-2082

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

During the month of November (Nov. 1 - Nov. 30), the Colorado County Beef and Forage committee is sponsoring a soil, forage, and water testing campaign that offers these testing services for a reduced charge. Materials may be picked up and dropped off at several agricultural businesses throughout the county, or at the Extension office. For more information, call our office: 979-732-2082.

Agricultural soil testing is one of the cheapest and simplest tools that producers can use to save money, increase yields, and produce a higher quality crop with less water needed. Soil testing generally entails taking random samples from fields or pastures of the top six inches of soil. The results will give us information that is important to plant growth such as the availability of nutrients and the pH of the soil.



The importance of soil pH must not be underestimated. Research shows that optimum nutrient uptake by most crops occurs at a soil pH near 7.0. Plant nutrient recovery is 70% at soil pH 7.0 and only 38% at soil pH 5.0. Additionally, as pH drops below 5.5, certain elements such as aluminum and manganese become toxic to plants. Acidic (pH below 6.0) soils are common in Colorado County. An application of agricultural lime can pay off by correcting pH levels, thereby improving nutrient recovery and increasing yields.

Is your bermudagrass hay field or pasture being taken over by bahiagrass? Proper fertilization based on soil test results will allow bermudagrass to out-compete bahiagrass. We must remember that harvesting one ton of hay removes on average 50 pounds of nitrogen, 10 pounds of phosphorus, and 40 pounds of potassium. Harvesting 6 tons of hay/acre/year (9-10 round bales/acre/year) removes 300 pounds of nitrogen and 240 pounds of potassium. If we are not replacing all of those nutrients every year, soils eventually “run out” and our improved grasses give way to “weedier” species such as bahiagrass that require fewer nutrients.

Finally, research in Texas has shown that the water efficiency of hybrid bermudagrass can be improved by supplying adequate nutrients. If grown in soils with low nitrogen rates, as much as 17.6 inches of water is required to produce one ton of dry forage. However, with adequate nitrogen and other nutrients, only 3.9 inches of water is needed to produce one ton of dry forage.

Forage testing is a tool that producers can use to ensure proper nutrition and supplementation is provided to livestock during the winter. This year was not great for making hay with high percent crude protein or energy content. Overestimating the nutritive value of hay could mean that livestock are not receiving adequate nutrition. This can lead to low birth weights and poor condition of newborns and cows can take longer to breed again. Underestimating the nutritive value of hay could mean that livestock are receiving more nutrition than necessary, which leads to money wasted on extra hay or concentrated supplement. Forage testing can also help sellers and buyers of hay negotiate fair prices for hay based on quality.



Elemental water testing can be useful for both urban homeowners and ag producers. For every use, establishing a base line of water quality parameters can be helpful when a change in water quality is noticed. This way, new tests can be compared to old tests and correlations can be made to decide what caused the change. For home use, elemental water tests can help pinpoint buildup and scale problems and determine if current levels of salts and metals are safe for drinking. For livestock, it can help avoid problems with salts or sulfate, which can pose significant risks for cattle. Water quality is also important for producers of irrigated field crops. High salt content in irrigation water can lead to salt buildup in soil, which severely limits production. Additionally, high sodium content can lead to soils becoming virtually impervious to water. For more information: 979-732-2082.

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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