

Agriculture Newsletter

COLORADO COUNTY

MARCH 2021

Winter Storm Uri

Well folks, Winter Storm Uri graced us with it's presence following Valentines day and it looks like we will feel impacts of this storm for several weeks to come. I don't know about you, but to a certain extent I'll be okay if I don't live through more historic events for awhile! As you continue on in the coming weeks, I want to be sure you have adequate resources for recovery. You may have already seen information from me on the Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP) but I will include that information here again.

One new item that I have to share with you is a survey link shared with me from our disaster assessment and recovery folks. The purpose of this link is to help individuals report damages experienced during Winter Storm Uri.

Individual Assistance – State of Texas Assessment Tool (iSTAT)

The objective of this survey is to identify damages across Texas, to help emergency management officials across the state gain an understanding of damages that have occurred during the recent winter weather. Such understanding is valuable in the recovery effort. Should you have sustained damage to your property, please click on the link below to access the damage assessment survey for your property.

<https://survey123.arcgis.com/share/eb1ab4928205490182896d86783447d3>

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) also has a disaster assistance discovery tool. You can utilize this to help you understand what disaster assistance program may be best suited for you. <https://www.farmers.gov/recover/disaster-tool>

Here is a link to the Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP) through USDA offices https://www.fsa.usda.gov/Assets/USDA-FSA-Public/usdfiles/FactSheets/livestock_indemnity_program_lip-fact_sheet.pdf. This information sheet lists the values a producer can apply for as a result losses due to the "inclement weather". Be mindful that producers have 30 days after the loss to notify and 60 days after to file a claim.

For those of you that have experienced horticultural damages, our friends at Aggie Horticulture have done a fantastic job of compiling informational videos and posting them on their Facebook page. There is information on landscape plants, lawns, and citrus fruit on their ability to survive the freezing weather event and what you should be looking for.



Mark Your Calendar

Our office will be closed on Friday, April 2nd in observance of Good Friday.

Audio Updates for Growers - A message from Extension Entomologist, Dr. Dalton Ludwick

Last year, the Extension Entomology unit piloted a small program to assist growers with pest issues. We produce audio clips that are approximately 7-8 minute in length are produced for different geographical regions in the state of Texas. Growers that are subscribed to a texting service are notified each week during the growing season when clips are posted. At their leisure, growers can go to the link in the text and get tips and insight for insect and weed pests as well as growing conditions in their region.

Due to last year's success according to grower feedback, the program has expanded significantly. There will be two geographical regions in our area that are covered by the [IPM Audio Updates project](#). If you are in the Blacklands and Upper Gulf Coast, then please use this [link](#) if you are interested in subscribing to this weekly service during the growing season. Growers can unsubscribe via text if they decide they are not interested.

Multi County New Land Owner Program

Winter Storm Uri postponed our first meeting of the annual Multi-County New Land Owner Program hosted by Austin, Colorado, Fayette and Washington Counties, but we are moving forward for 2021. While this program is designed to assist new landowners with the concept of agricultural production and rural living, we welcome anyone in our four county to join us for afternoons of educational content. For more information on this years program you can visit our website at <https://colorado.agrilife.org/multi-county-new-landowner-program-3/>

Beef Quality Assurance Tip - Dr. Jason Banta

Estrus synchronization is used by some cattle producers to facilitate artificial insemination, embryo transfer, and natural breeding. Various products including GnRH, prostaglandin, or analogues of these hormones are used in synchronization protocols. It is critical to read the label for each product to make sure it is stored and administered according to label directions. Products that are used for the same purpose vary in storage guidelines. Some should be stored at room temperature and others in a refrigerator. Use a refrigerator thermometer to monitor the refrigerator temperature. Unless the label states otherwise, these products should be administered in the neck according to BQA best management practices.

TexasSpeaks

TexasSpeaks is being conducted in Colorado County and across the State of Texas to allow the citizens of Texas to provide their input on the assets and issues in their communities. The local branch of the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service has a rich history of providing educational programs that address the most critical issues in the county, and invites your participation in the TexasSpeaks process.

The Extension Service highly values the opinions shared through the TexasSpeaks community assessment. The expectation is that the assessment will take about 10 minutes.

The Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service is a statewide network of professional educators, trained volunteers, and county offices. It reaches into every Texas county to address local priority needs and to extend the latest research to the people of Texas. Some of the major efforts are in mitigating drought impacts; conserving water use in homes, landscapes, and production agriculture; improving emergency management; enhancing food security; and protecting human health through education about diet, exercise, and disease prevention and management.

You can provide your input by going to the following tx.ag/texaspeaks or by scanning the QR code below.



Colorado County

Household Hazardous Waste

&

Reusable Materials Collection Day

Saturday, March 27, 2021

Colorado County Fairgrounds & Ag Complex
1164 Crossroads Blvd.
(Hwy 71 and Crossroads Blvd.)
Columbus, Texas

Drop Off from 8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Product Exchange Center—reusable paint,
household cleaners, and lawn and garden
chemicals to be given away for FREE

Guidelines

- *Products in original containers
- *Properly seal and close containers
- *No mixing or consolidating products
- *Transport in trunk or bed of vehicle
- **Remain in your vehicle* and allow staff to remove product from your vehicle

What to Bring:

Home Chemicals:

- Household chemicals and cleaners
- Residential products Labeled "caution", "warning" or "poison"
- Aerosols
- Camp Stove Propane Bottles
- Fluorescent Light Bulbs
- Paints, Stains, & Varnishes
- Lead-Acid & Rechargeable Batteries
- Used Auto oil, filters, anti-freeze, transmission and brake fluid
- Pool Chemicals
- Lawn & Garden Chemicals

Recyclables:

- Plastics
- Paper
- Aluminum
- Passenger Tires (up to 24", no rims)
- Electronics (computers & monitors laptops, printers, CRT TV's up to 36" Flat Panel TV's up to 55" & phones)

What **NOT** to Bring:

- No Glass
- No Dioxins
- No containers >5 gallons
- No Explosives or Ammunition
- No Medical & Pharmaceutical Items
- No Large Gas or Propane Cylinders
- No Tires over 24" with rims
- No Industrial, Commercial, or Business Waste
- No Wooden console TV's or TV's exceeding 36"
- Microwaves and Appliances
- Household Batteries

*Event made possible through the
Houston-Galveston Area Council and
the TCEQ*



Colorado County Household Hazardous Waste & Reusable Materials Collection Day

Many Colorado County residents are trying to use their time wisely while social distancing; being civic minded and learning new things is always an excellent way to be productive. Colorado County is a community created around its river and natural resources while the economy is built on farmers and ranchers. In recent years Colorado County faced local contamination of our own natural resources by big business and many county resources were utilized to stop and prevent future contamination. We are very proud of the “Don’t Mess with Texas” campaign in Colorado County. This statewide campaign is more commonly known for littering along the roadway; however, it was extended in 2011 to safeguard our lakes, rivers, ponds, and streams.

Over the last decade Colorado County has partnered with the Houston-Galveston Area Council (H-GAC) and the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) in a campaign to raise awareness on household hazardous waste and collection. Colorado County, H-GAC, and TCEQ along with the cooperation of the cities of Columbus, Eagle Lake and Weimar, in conjunction with the Colorado County Groundwater Conservation District, will continue to make strides in educating and helping residents on how to properly dispose of waste and hazardous household chemicals.

Colorado County has a variety of other education programs and campaigns that operate within the county limits. The Lower Colorado River Authority (LCRA) is coordinating with school districts throughout Colorado County to present the “LCRA’s Beat the Baron” waste education program at the elementary school level, but it’s important for all citizens to learn about natural resource conservation and the importance of safe and proper management of hazardous materials. “Take Care of Texas” is a statewide campaign from TCEQ that provides helpful information on Texas’ successes in environmental protection and encourages all Texans to help keep our air and water clean, conserve water and energy, and reduce waste. The Colorado County AgriLife Extension Office is another available and valuable community asset to assist citizens in learning about conservation and natural resources.

Now’s time to put what you’ve learned into action and do a little “spring” cleaning by ridding your home of unneeded paints, lawn and garden pesticides and herbicides, batteries and chemicals. Bringing them to the household hazardous waste collection site on Saturday, March 27th from 8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. The site will be located at the Colorado County Fairgrounds and Agriculture Complex at Crossroads Boulevard and State Highway 71 near Columbus. This Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Collection event is made possible through a Solid Waste Management Grant through H-GAC and TCEQ.

Recyclable materials including plastic, paper, aluminum, passenger tires, electronics, lead-acid batteries, and used motor oil and oil filters will also be accepted for recycling at the collection site. One final thing Colorado County will be offering is a product exchange center for reusable products.

We have all heard the term “Reduce, Reuse, Recycle”; residents will be able to take home products that are still usable such as paints, household cleaners, and lawn & garden chemicals, and more the day of the HHW collection. This is an exceptional opportunity to reduce waste and save a little money in the process.

But what can you do to reduce waste the rest of the year? The City of Columbus and Weimar (through Texas Disposal Systems) offer curbside recycling pick-up and bulk garbage collection services. The City of Columbus operates a recycle drop off facility; and the City of Weimar offers a transfer station. The City of Eagle Lake is currently working with their garbage provider, Waste Corporation of America, to offer a recycling drop off location in the future. Specific guidelines can be found on each city’s website or by contacting the city offices.

All Texans have a part to play in preserving our exceptional quality of life. Preventing toxic household chemicals from contaminating our water resources is an important part of being a responsible citizen. Illegal dumping of waste is a crime and is punishable by law. Colorado County and its government partners offer you a variety of ways to be a part of the solution to illegal dumping through education and collection sites. For more information contact Commissioner Darrell Gertson at (979) 234-2633.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Laramie Kettler

County Extension Agent—Ag/Natural Resources—Colorado County

laramie.kettler@ag.tamu.edu

979-732-2082

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.