**Corn Program and Auxin Training**

There are several thousand acres of corn planted for silage in the county every year. It is now one of the larger crops grown in the county and has a major economic impact on the area. The Comanche County Agents office will be hosting a corn preplant meeting to help producers get geared-up for this year’s growing season. The Corn Program will be held on Thursday, January 31st from 10:00 AM until 12:00 NOON at Matt Daddy’s on the Comanche Square.

We will have Dr. Ronnie Schnell, Texas A&M AgriLife State Extension Corn Specialist, talking about nutrient management and general management of your corn crop. We also have Dr. Scott Nolte the State Extension Weed Specialist talking about weed control and resistance management. There is no charge for the program, and we will offer 2 CEU’s and 1 DOPA credit. Lunch will be provided for program attendees by our great local sponsors.

**Auxin Training**

2019 Texas Auxin Herbicide Training Update

In late October 2018, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced they will extend the registration of dicamba for two years (until December 20, 2020) for over-the-top (OTT) weed control in dicamba-tolerant cotton and soybean. The extended labels include changes to ensure these products continue to be used effectively and to address concerns about off-target movement. Initial label changes state that only certified applicators may apply dicamba OTT, prohibit OTT applications after 60 days after planting for cotton (45 days for soybean), limit the number of OTT applications to two for both cotton and soybean, allow applications one hour after sunrise to two hours before sunset, and in counties where endangered species exist, maintain the downwind 110 foot buffer and add a 57-foot buffer around the other sides of the target field. Some of these new changes may be different before the 2019 growing season pending 24C requests that have been submitted to the Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA). Upon approval, the 24c labels will be available on the Texas Department of Ag website ([www.texasagriculture.gov/RegulatoryPrograms/Pesticides](http://www.texasagriculture.gov/RegulatoryPrograms/Pesticides)). Engenia® herbicide (BASF Corporation), XtendiMax® herbicide with VaporGrip® Technology (Bayer CropScience), and DuPont® FeXapan® herbicide Plus VaporGrip® Technology (Corteva AgriscienceTM) are US EPA Restricted Use Pesticides (RUP) and State Limited Use (SLU) pesticides in Texas, which requires sale to and use only be certified applicators. This training is not a substitute for the state-specified certified applicator training, which is required to purchase and use RUPs.

In addition to the EPA mandated dicamba applicator training, TDA has added 2,4-D Choline formulations (Enlist Duo® and Enlist OneTM) for use on 2,4-D tolerant crops to be included in these mandatory trainings. These Enlist products are State Limited Use pesticides in Texas. They can be sold to and used only by certified applicators or those working under the supervision of a certified applicator.

The two-hour 2019 mandated Auxin Training will include the following topics: 1) why do auxin herbicides require additional precautions, 2) label requirements for approved auxin formulations, 3) understanding temperature inversions, 4) spray system hygiene, 5) record keeping, and 6) using dicamba and 2,4-D in a weed management system. The Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service will be providing a 2-hour in-person course, approved by TDA, that will fulfill the training requirements for Dicamba and 2,4-D Choline products and will include 2 hours of Laws and Regs.

We will be offering the 2-hour Auxin Training locally on Thursday, January 31st from 1:00 until 3:00 following the Corn Program at Matt Daddy’s on the Comanche Square. There is a $10:00 fee for this training.