

# Comanche County Agriculture Newsletter

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For sure weather has been the news maker lately. That is nothing new in agriculture, the weather takes up a big portion of our thoughts and discussion regardless of what it is doing. Hopefully, everyone has recovered from the bitter cold temperatures and had time to get everything fixed that was damaged by the cold. Lately we have received a little much needed moisture, but we still need more. As I am writing this we have several chances in the forecast. The climatologist are calling for us to stay under La Nina conditions through most of the summer. If they turn out to be right that will mean dry and warm conditions for the next few months. While that sounds pretty depressing, we can still catch timely rainfall during La Nina conditions, so we just have to be ready to take advantage of any rainfall we get.

The cold conditions set most grazing on grain fields back a couple of weeks and increased the need for hay feeding. There is very little stockpiled hay left, if you do have some, you may want to hold onto it. Recently fertilizer and fuel prices have gone up considerably, this and the potential for dry conditions could make hay a very valuable commodity next year. Be sure to visit our facebook page at: <https://www.facebook.com/comanchecountyagriculture>, we also have a You-Tube page with videos of many of our research trials it is at <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCWaDOA2e1lw7UCS3W-3iwUA>, you can go to our website to see upcoming events: <https://comanche.agrilife.org/>. Perhaps, the best way to reach out to us is to just give us a call at the office: 325-356-2539 or now you can even come see us again.

## **Getting the most for the least**

Fertilizer prices have gone through the roof, that coupled with the La Nina forecast, make dryland forage production risky for at least the next few months. This situation understandably may lead many folks to question how much if any fertilizer they want to apply to hay meadows this year. If you do decide to cut back on fertilizer be sure not to let your potash and phosphorus level drop below critical levels. Just applying nitrogen and cutting out potash and phosphorus will lead to trouble in the future. Disease and poor root health can damage your bermudagrass stands as a result of low potash and phosphorus levels. Once levels of these two nutrients get low it is extremely costly to get the levels back to where they need to be for the field to remain healthy and productive. When soil sampling, putting lower yield expectations, grazing or just maintenance on your soil sample yield goal will provide you with excellent information on how to keep fields healthy while still lowering cost. This is a year where money spent on weed control will be well worth the expense. Now is the perfect time to spray most of those spring annuals and biennials.

## Getting the most for the least (Continued)

If you can catch a day when the wind is not howling, you can get very good, and mostly inexpensive control of things like thistles, mustards, buttercup, and other spring weeds. Early summer scouting and spraying for most of the summer annuals like broom weed and careless weed will increase spray and cost effectiveness. Timing will vary on summer perennials, so to get effective weed and cost control it is very important to scout and properly identify those weeds.

All annual weeds come up from seed and complete their life cycle in one growing season. Most of the weeds we are seeing now are winter annuals; these germinate in the winter and then bloom in the spring. Some examples are Henbit, Wild Mustard, and Buttercup. Summer annuals germinate in spring or summer, develop into a mature plant, and produce a seed before frost. Some examples of summer annuals include Bitter Sneezeweed, Careless Weed (pigweed) and Woolly Croton (Dove weed). Annual weeds are the easiest to control; spraying early before flowering and seed development will provide the best weed control.

Perennial weeds can persist for many years. These plants will die back in the winter and regrowth will occur from the root stock the next growing season. Perennials have extensive root systems and are much harder to control than annual weeds. Some perennial weed examples include Silver Leaf Nightshade, Carolina Horse Nettle, Bull Nettle, and Western Ragweed. Brushy weed species also fall into the perennial weed category; some examples of these are Greenbriar, Mesquite, Locust and Winged Elm. While it is best to spray annual weeds while they are young, the optimal time to spray perennial weeds can vary with each weed. Many silver leaf night shades, Carolina horsemettle, and bullnettle need to be sprayed at the flowering stage while western ragweed should be sprayed while actively growing at the 2-4 inches of growth stage.

Biennial weeds require two years to complete their life cycle. The first season's growth results in a small rosette of leaves near the soil surface. During the second season of growth, the weed will elongate, flower, and make seeds. Then the entire plant will die, and new growth will result from the produced seeds. The most common example of a biennial weed is thistle. Spring and fall are the best time for thistle control. Apply herbicide during March-April and October-November when the plant is in the rosette stage and actively growing. Paying attention to weed competition and control throughout the growing season, will not only save you money, it will also save water and nutrients for your grass. Every pound of weeds means a pound less of forage that could be grazed or harvested for hay.

## Peanut Production

Our peanut research trials once again had excellent yields. I am hearing there is the potential for some good peanut contracts this year. There is no doubt we can get the production and have the highest quality peanuts, so if the prices are good peanuts are still an excellent crop for Comanche County. Please see the 2020 peanut research data on the next page.

Central Texas	Comanche County			
<b>Cooperator</b>	<b>Mark Allison</b>			
<b>Planted on</b>	<b>5/5/2020</b>			
<b>Dug on</b>	<b>9/29/2020</b>	<b>147</b>	<b>DAP</b>	
<b>Harvested on</b>	<b>10/6/2020</b>			
<b>Disease:</b>	<b>Minor leaf spot and very little pod rot</b>			
<b>Comanche</b>		<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>	
<b>RUNNER</b>	<b>Release</b>	<b>Yield</b>	<b>Yield</b>	
GA16HO	GA	-	8546	
Lariart	OK	8478	8174	
GA09B	GA	7385	8114	
AG18	TAMU	7845	7697	
QR14	IPG	7417	7544	
Means		7900	8015	
CV		9	15	
P0.1		NS	NS	
<b>Comanche</b>		<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>	
<b>SPANISH</b>	<b>Release</b>	<b>Yield</b>	<b>Yield</b>	
OLe	OK	6461	7228	
ACI 236	IPG	-	7117	
Means		6556	7173	
CV		12	20.8	
P0.1		0.0125	NS	
<b>Comanche</b>		<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>	
<b>VIRGINIA</b>	<b>Release</b>	<b>Yield</b>	<b>Yield</b>	
ACI 464	IPG	-	8028	
ACI 442	ACI	-	8014	
Contender	OK	7530	6672	
Means		6839	7571	
CV		16	20.8	
P0.1		0.2199	NS	
<b>Comanche</b>		<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>	
<b>VALENCIA</b>	<b>Release</b>	<b>Yield</b>	<b>Yield</b>	
Tamval OL14	TAMU	-	6672	
Valencia C	NMS	-	5524	
Means			6098	
CV			5.85	
P0.1			0.0588	

**Upcoming events:**

We have several programs coming up, please be sure to call the office and preregister for any of the programs you hope to attend, that way if there is a change, we will know to give you a call. Comanche County Agents office:325-356-2539

**Peanut Production Program**

This meeting will be held April 6<sup>th</sup> at the DeLeon City Auditorium from 10:00 AM until 12:00 AM with lunch following the program. We have Dr. James Grichar Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Peanut Research Scientist coming to talk about fungicide and herbicide management and programs in peanuts. We also have Dr. John Cason and Emi Kimura coming to talk about peanut varieties, management, and research trials in the county. This will be an excellent program and will offer 2 IPM CEU's.

**Comanche County CEU Program**

The Comanche County office of Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service will be hosting a 5-hour CEU program Friday, April 9<sup>th</sup> at the DeLeon City Auditorium located at 125 South Texas St., DeLeon, Texas. The cost is \$50.00. Registration for the program will be at 8:30 and the program will begin at 9:00 AM and run until 3:00 PM. Speakers will include Scott Nolte Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Weed Specialist- "Auxin Training", Jason Jones, Texas Department of Agriculture- "Laws and Regulations", Mark Matocha, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Agriculture and Environmental Safety covering "Herbicide application and Drift Management". After Lunch we will have Dr. Russ Wallace, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension IPM Vegetable Specialist covering Insect Management in Watermelons, Cantaloupes and Vegetables" and lastly Thomas Isakeit, Texas A&M Professor Plant Pathology will be covering "Disease Management in Watermelons and Cantaloupes".

We will offer 5 total CEU's 2 L&R, 2 IPM and 1 drift. Commercial applicators will be able to fulfill their CEU requirements for the year. Applicators will also be able to complete the Auxin Training required when spraying dicamba products on cotton at this training. Please call the office to register for this program.

**Dairy Outreach Program Area Training**

For all the dairy families out there, that need DOPA credits we will have the Spring DOPA meeting on Thursday, April 15<sup>th</sup>. We will offer 5 DOPA credits. We will follow our traditional schedule with the morning session starting at 10:00 AM and offering 2-DOPA credits, the afternoon session beginning at 1:00 and offering 3-DOPA credits. We will be holding the program at Foster's Home Grubbs Center, 1779 N. Graham St., Stephenville, TX 76401. There is no charge and lunch will be provided by our great local sponsors.

### **Pecan Production Program**

We have had to move the Pecan Production Program date to Friday, April 16<sup>th</sup>, but it will still be at the DeLeon City Auditorium from 10:00 until 2:00. This year's program will focus on 'Improving Nut Quality'. We have Dr. Monte Nesbit talking about "Managing Stress for Quality Nuts", Dr. Jake Mowerer talking about "Soil and Leaf Tissue Sampling and Optimizing Nutrient Provision and Ratios" and Dr. Bill the former State Pecan Entomologist will be speaking on new pecan products and other pecan insect topics. We will be offering 2 IPM CEU's. There is no charge and lunch will be provided by our great local agriculture sponsors.

### **Small Grain Field Day**

Once again, this year we have an extensive set of small grain trials with many varieties and species. Weather permitting, we will have a field day at the trial location (CR 322 between FM 1426 and Gustine ISD, watch for signs) on Friday, April 23<sup>rd</sup> from 10:00 am until 12:00 PM. This is an excellent opportunity to come and see all the varieties and species side-by-side. We will have the new small grain specialist Dr. Fernando Guillen Portal on-hand to talk about varieties and management. We will be offering 1 CEU at the program.

### **Cross Timbers Land Management Symposium**

This program will focus on understanding native and improved rangeland grasses and management. The program will be Friday, April 30<sup>th</sup> from 8:30 until 11:00 at the Foster's Home Grubbs Center, 1779 N. Graham St., Stephenville, TX 76401. We have Dr. Ricky Linex retired NRCS Wildlife Biologist talking about native grasses and forbs and introduced rangeland grasses. Dr. Morgan Treadwell Extension Range Specialist will talk about weed control options on rangeland. There will be 2 CEU's, 1 general and 1 IPM offered. There is a \$10.00 fee for the program.

### **Dairy Animal Handling Certificate Training**

This training for workers and managers will be held on Tuesday, May 11<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 AM until 2:00 PM. We are having this program at The First National Bank Annex at 825 N Patrick St, Dublin, TX. The building sits between Dairy Queen and the First National Bank on HWY 377. The program will focus on Dystocia and Management of Colostrum, with hands-on demonstrations of proper calf pulling methods. The training will be offered in Spanish and English and a 4-hour Dairy Animal Handling Certificate DAHC will be awarded to attendees. Lunch will be provided by good local sponsors. Please call the office to RSVP, 325-356-2539.

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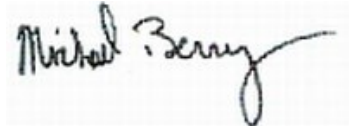
Our office is currently open, but we recommend you call or email first in case of COVID-19 restrictions.

You are always welcome to call or email if you prefer.

**Please call the office at 325-356-2539.**

Emails:

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