TEXAS A&M AGRILIFE EXTENSION

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ERATH COUNTY
AG PRODUCERS NEWS
erath.agrilife.org

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District 8 Farm & Ranch Seminar

offering 8 CEUs for Private Applicator License Holders

There will be a Mass CEU Seminar hosted at thirteen locations across Texas A&M AgriLife Extension District 8 on Thursday, December 10, 2015.

TOPICS & SPEAKERS:

- Laws and Regulations - Brandi Kelm, TDA Representative
- Laws and Regulations, Forage Pest Management- Dr. Sonja Swiger, Asst. Professor & Extension Entomologist
- Riparian Watershed Management - Ricky Linex, Natural Resources Conservation Service Wildlife Biologists
- Protecting Our Pollinators- Mark Dykes, Chief Apiary Inspection Service
- Tree & Turf Diseases – Dr. Kevin Ong, Associate Professor & Director of the Texas Plant Disease Diagnostic Laboratory
- Range and Pasture Health Considerations – Dr. Larry Redmon, Professor & State Extension Specialist
- Brush Controlling Weeds and Brush with Prescribed Burning – Dr. Morgan Russell, Assistant Professor & Extension Range Specialist
- Brush Control Technologies – Dr. Megan Clayton, Assistant Professor and Extension Specialist.

The program, which will offer 8 CEUs for private and commercial applicator license holders, will be held in Erath County will be held at the Texas A&M AgriLife Research and Extension Center at 1229 U.S. 281, Stephenville, TX 76401.

The cost of registration is $50, which includes lunch. Sign-in will start at 7AM with program to follow at 7:30AM.

Please pre-register by Monday, August 24th!
Call **254-965-1460** or send email to **erath-tx@tamu.edu**

IN THIS Issue

DOW AGROSCIENCES TO WORK DILIGENTLY

TO SUPPORT RENEWED U.S. EPA SULFOXAFLOR REGISTRATIONS

On Thursday, November 12, EPA issued a cancellation order for sulfoxaflor-containing products in response to a September 10th Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals ruling "vacating" product registrations. The following is Dow AgroSciences' comment on that action.

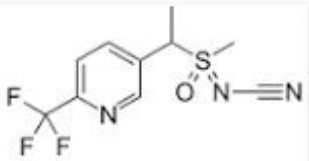
As a result of the extensive data currently available on sulfoxaflor, Dow AgroSciences expects the pollinator protection concerns expressed in a recent Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals decision (September 10) to be readily and thoroughly addressed by EPA through further review of scientific data, supporting pressing grower needs for protection against destructive crop pests with renewed U.S. registrations of sulfoxaflor-containing products.

Four full years of widespread U.S. product use – with additional use in Canada, Australia and other nations – have demonstrated excellent sulfoxaflor performance worldwide with no noted adverse effects on pollinators.

Registrations outside the U.S. of sulfoxaflor-containing products should not be impacted by this decision. U.S. tolerances for sulfoxaflor are similarly unaffected.

Sulfoxaflor

Chemical Compound



Sulfoxaflor is a systemic insecticide which acts as an insect neurotoxin and is a member a class of chemicals called sulfoximines which act on the central nervous system of insects. Wikipedia

As part of its recent action, EPA has issued an existing stocks provision allowing growers to use sulfoxaflor-containing products they have in hand consistent with directions on the pre-existing product label. Dow AgroSciences is, however, disappointed with EPA's existing stocks provision which effectively removes a critical tool from the American grower by not allowing existing inventories of sulfoxaflor-containing products to be sold and distributed to end-users while EPA considers its next steps.

Dow AgroSciences remains confident in the benefits offered by this new class of insecticides and will work diligently with EPA and States to achieve new registrations for these important products to support the American grower.

Dow AgroSciences notes that contrary to misrepresentations circulated by pesticide opponents, sulfoxaflor is a sulfoximine-class insecticide, not a neonicotinoid, a distinction clearly established by the Insecticide Resistance Action Committee (IRAC) and published in the open scientific literature.

Dow AgroSciences has assured the industry that they are working diligently with the EPA to achieve renewed registrations for these important products.

EPA Proposed Pesticide Applicator Rules Potentially Detrimental to Texas Farmers

Texas Corn Producers encourage farmers to submit comments to the Environmental Protection Agency on its proposed rule changes for applying pesticides by its **Dec. 23 deadline.**

The proposed rule applies to all restricted use pesticides, and includes all private, noncommercial and noncommercial political subdivision applicators in Texas. Some of the proposed changes are already established in the state's process; however, others will greatly affect the Texas pesticide program.

Proposed changes that may be of particular concern for Texas farmers are:

- **Direct Supervision Change:** Agricultural handlers should be compliant with the Worker Protection Standard, except exempt sites such as pasture, rangeland, etc.
- **Training Requirements for Supervision of Noncertified Applicators:** Applicators supervising noncertified applicators must be licensed. Additionally, licensed applicator must provide training and be available if needed. There are also specific training requirements and restrictions on supervising from the same local office.
- **Age Requirement:** Must be at least 18 years of age to be a certified commercial or private applicator.
- **Certification Period:** Establishes a maximum certification period of three years for both commercial/ noncommercial applicators and private applicators. Texas law currently allows for a 1-year certification period for commercial/ noncommercial applicators, and a 5-year certification period for private applicators.

Additional details about how the proposed rules would impact Texans is available from the Texas Department of Agriculture **HERE**.

Farmers are encouraged to submit comments to docket number EPA-HQ-OPP-2011-0183 at regulations.gov by Dec. 23.

Further information about the proposed rules are available from the EPA **HERE**.

APP REVIEW

The ESRI ArcGIS application (1) is free to use and a valuable resource for mapping, measuring, and calculating area. There is no need to register with an ID, just move to the map screen, hit the circle with a target in the bottom-right hand corner, and it will zoom to your current location using the GPS in your phone or tablet (2). Use the measuring tool at the top of the screen to determine length (3), or use the calculate area tool at the top of the screen to determine area simply by clicking at the start and around to a stopping point (4). The next button in the row of options allows you to quickly change the mapping features (5). For nice views of the plants and their layout on your landscape, I prefer the "imagery" options. This app is available for Apple or Android products, although the location of the tools may vary slightly.

WET WEATHER + FIELD TRAFFIC =

MORE SOIL COMPACTION, REDUCED NUTRIENT USE EFFICIENCY & YIELD

by Dr. Jake Mowrer, Soil Nutrient and Water Resource Management Extension Specialist, Texas A&M Agrilife Extension; Dr. Dennis Coker, Extension Program Specialist II – Soil Fertility, Texas A&M Agrilife Extension

We are approaching that time of the year when Texas row crop producers are preparing for Winter wheat planting or nutrient applications for next year's cotton, corn, and sorghum. Producers will have a need to travel through their fields several times during the next few months. We are likely to experience a few substantial rainfall events over this same period. Therefore, a timely reminder of the need to avoid excessive field traffic under wet soil conditions may be in order.

Soil compaction happens when the volume of tiny spaces between soil particles is reduced by applied pressure at the surface. When this occurs, soil becomes denser and will hold less air and/or water per unit volume (Fig. 1).

When dry, soils resist compaction. However, as they take on more water, soils become more easily compressed. This is why it is important to avoid field travel with heavy equipment if at all possible when soils are near field capacity or greater water content. It may not be convenient, but sometimes it pays off to wait a few days for better conditions rather than risk the undesirable impacts compaction can have on production.

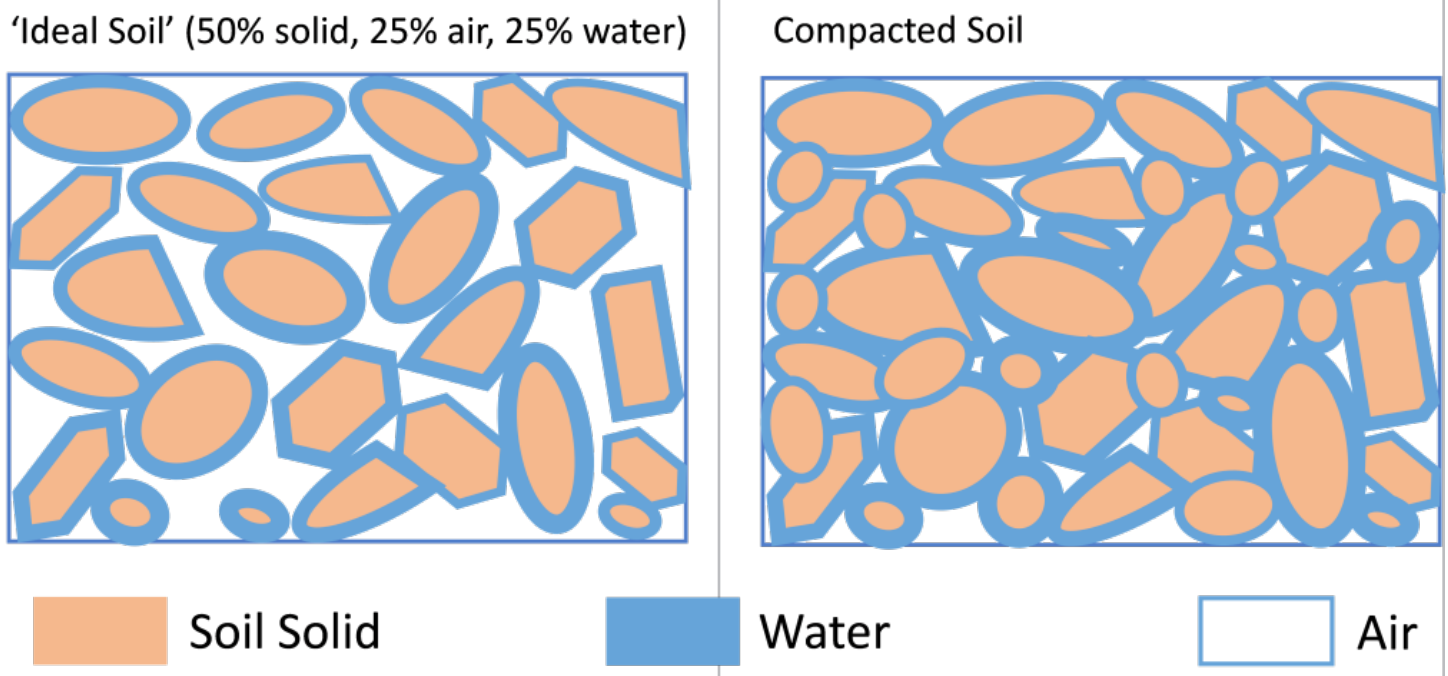


Figure 1. Soil compaction causes a reduction in available space for soil air and water, and limits pathways for crop roots.

WET WEATHER...

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

Jake Mowrer Assistant Professor Dept. of Soil & Crop Sciences College Station, Tx

Estimates of yield loss due to soil compaction range from 5% to 50%. The increase in strength required for roots to penetrate compacted layers reduces root proliferation and thus, the soil volume they can explore. This limits the amount of water and nutrients that a plant can take up. This past year, Texas producers experienced extremes in rainfall patterns. Too much in the spring, followed by too little in summer. Managing traffic to reduce compacting forces has the benefit of allowing more water to infiltrate the soil during periods of light to heavy rain, while allowing roots to access water at greater depths during times of drought.

In 2010, Dr. Dennis Coker and Dennis Pietsch diagnosed a nitrogen deficiency in corn directly related to soil compaction from field traffic in wet conditions. What they observed was a pattern of yellowed, shorter plants with lower leaf 'firing' occurring in certain rows across an entire field. Tissue analysis revealed a lower nitrogen content in leaves from the affected plants than in the plants in unaffected rows. The pattern was directly traceable to implement traffic through the field during a wet planting season.

Mother Nature doesn't always allow us to plant and till at the ideal times. But a mindfulness of the potential for compaction in wet soils can preserve the productivity of Texas soils over the long-term.

For additional details on Dr. Coker's work on soil compaction in corn production, please refer to Texas A&M AgriLife Extension publication "2010 Corn Performance Tests in Texas". http://publications.tamu.edu/CORN_SORGHUM/PUB_2010%20Corn%20Performance%20Tests%20in%20Texas.pdf

TIME to Renew Ag & Timber Registration Numbers

From Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts

Texas law requires a person claiming an exemption from sales tax on the purchase of certain items used to produce agricultural and timber products for sale to have an agricultural and timber registration number (ag/timber number).

Ag/timber numbers issued by the Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts must be renewed every four years, regardless of when the number was first issued. The current numbers expire Dec. 31, 2015.

To continue claiming the exemption on qualifying purchases on or after Jan. 1, 2016, agricultural and timber producers must renew their current ag/timber number.

In late September, the Comptroller began sending letters to persons with ag/timber numbers explaining how to renew. They can renew by telephone, online or mail.

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HAY OR FORAGE TISSUE SAMPLES FOR NUTBAL

PROS AND CONS

We often get questions about using the results of hay and or forage tissue analysis as the diet quality input for NUTBAL.

The short answer to this question is yes...
However, there are some very important considerations that need to be evaluated before this option is chosen.

First of all, NUTBAL was designed to be used in conjunction with fecal NIRS analysis. The idea is that fecal samples represent exactly what the animal consumed were as hay samples and plant tissue samples are effectively what is on offer or potentially to the animals and, not necessarily representative of what the animals actually ate.

Probably the most important consideration would be the method used to calculate digestibility of the forage. Most forage testing labs report % TDN (Total Digestible Nutrients) as the forages energy and or digestibility measurement. TDN is calculated as the digestible CP (Crude Protein), Crude Fiber insoluble carbohydrates, NFE (Nitrogen Free Extract) soluble carbohydrates, and EE (%Fat) X 2.25 added together. To get these numbers the proximate analysis values for the constituents that contains energy: crude protein, crude fiber, ether extract, and NFE. Multiply each times their digestibility, and fat times 2.25, and add the values together and get % TDN.

NUTBAL uses Digestible Organic Matter (DOM). DOM is an in situ digestion procedure and NDF analysis correct for time in bath and in vitro digestion correction. When testing NUTBAL, DOM proved to provide more consistent predictions of actual animal performance when compared to TDN.

There is a fairly robust conversion to go between TDN and DOM if TDN is calculated from the proximate analysis of all four components, the only problem is that analysis is costly and time consuming so now many commercial forage testing labs calculate TDN off of a regression from only one or two constituents. When TDN is calculated this way the conversion to DOM does not work as well.

Bottom line is yes this can be done but discretion should be used when evaluating the output of NUTBAL when TDN is used from a hay sample.

Please feel free to contact us should you have any additional questions. Information on TAMU's forage testing lab can be found at the link listed below.
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http://soiltesting.tamu.edu/

Kit Requests can now be submitted at any time online with the NUTBAL Online system at: http://cnrit.tamu.edu/nutbal_online/

We are excited to have the new and improved NUTBAL Online web site up and running. Please feel free to check it out. Returning customers, your login credentials as well as all of your past samples are still the same. Click the link below to view the site. A tutorial for the new site is available. Once on the site, just click the tab that says, "Tutorial."

Contact Info

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GRAZINGLAND ANIMAL NUTRITION LAB

also known as GAN Lab

The Grazingland Animal Nutrition Lab, also known as the GAN Lab, offers diagnostic analysis and decision support software that is used as a nutritional monitoring program for grazing livestock. In addition to our own research, we facilitate the research of other entities with our NIRS capabilities. We are a part the Center for Natural Resource Information and Technology (CNRIT), a center within Texas AgriLife Research that is devoted to providing technology solutions in the realm of natural resource management. We provide CNRIT with the ability to assess and manage animals' nutritional well-being and the capability to develop project specific NIR applications. Though research is our primary focus, we also offer nutritional analysis to the public through our Commercial Services.

Our primary research focus is using near infrared reflectance spectroscopy (NIRS) to analyze animal fecal samples to determine

the nutritional quality of an animals intake. This technology allows us to return nutritional analyses within three days of receiving samples from clients. In addition to our primary research, we have utilized our NIRS capabilities in several more fields including soil analysis and wool and fiber grading.

To compliment our NIRS nutritional analysis we also offer the Nutritional Balance Analyzer (NUTBAL) software free to the public. This tool uses the animal description (the kind, class and breed), body condition, forage conditions, supplemental feed information, environmental conditions, performance targets and NIRS results to produce a nutritional balance report for protein and net energy and a report for least-cost feeding solutions. Such reports can be used by ranchers, consultants, and extension and NRCS personnel to maximize animal weight gain and minimize costs.

Attention CSP ANM 17 Participants

CSP Letter 2012
Option 1: NIRS Results and NUTBAL Report $35.00 per sample
This option includes NIRS fecal analysis (crude protein and energy of forage consumed) and a online NIRS/NUTBAL PRO system report for multiple profiles. Users can choose between online system access or have the results and report sent directly to them via email, fax or regular mail.

Option 2: NIRS Results and NUTBAL Advisory $70.00 per sample
This option includes NIRS fecal analysis (crude protein and energy of forage consumed) as well as an advisory written by one of our staff providing recommendations to meet desired production goals. Delivery of the advisories will be via email, fax, or regular mail. For samples with more than three profiles, a fee of $ 10.00 will be assessed for each additional profile. Please allow for extra time for completion of option 2 as each advisory is written on an individual basis.

AGRONOMY OF SILAGE PROGRAM:

Silage program will be held December 14, 2015 at the Dublin Rotary Building located on Highway 6 East & North of Graford Street. (Across the street from Ben Hogan Museum)

Three CEU's will be provided for private applicator license holders.

Agenda will include: Forage Plant Fungus Issues – Treatment & Toxins, Dr. Ronald French, Coordinator of Texas Plant Diagnostic Lab at Amarillo, Silage Production - Agronomics and Hybrids, Clavin Trostle Extension Agronomist, Lubbock; Insects, Treatments, Seed Treatments & GMO vs Conventional Corn in Silage Production – Allen Knutson, Extension Entomologist at Dallas.

Please RSVP by Thursday, December 9, 2015 to the Erath County Extension Office at 254-965-1460 or erath-tx@tamu.edu.

No registration fee as lunch and program costs are covered by sponsors.

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

Time to Renew Ag & Timber Registration Numbers

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Persons claiming the agricultural exemption on their purchases must give their suppliers an exemption certificate that includes the ag/timber number with a current expiration date. If a retailer already has an exemption certificate that includes their customer's ag/timber number, their customer can add the expiration date to the exemption certificate and initial it.

The Erath Extension Office will be closed Thursday, December 24 & Friday, December 25 for the Christmas Holiday.

We will also be closed on Friday, January 1st for New Year's.

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Texas AgriLife Extension offers you practical, how-to education based on university research. Reference to commercial products or trade names are made with the understanding that no discrimination is intended and no endorsement by Texas A&M AgriLife Extension is implied.

For more information on any of the articles or activities listed in this newsletter, please contact the Erath County Extension Office at 254-965-1460 or visit us on the web at: erath.agrilife.org

Lonnie Jenschke
County Extension Agent
Ag & Natural Resources