

# ERATH COUNTY AG PRODUCERS NEWS

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Fall 2018

## DISTRICT 8 FARM AND RANCH SEMINAR DECEMBER 13, 2018 (Multi-county CEU event)

A multi-county Farm and Ranch Seminar for farmers and ranchers conducted by the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service in District 8 is scheduled December 13, 2018.

Private Applicators License holders must obtain 15 hours of CEUs every five years to renew/recertify their license; including two hours of Laws and Regulations, two hours of Integrated Pest Management (IPM), and any mix of these and General hours to equal the required 15 hours of CEUs. Licensed commercial and non-commercial applicators are required to recertify every year by obtaining five continuing education credits with one credit each from two of the following categories: laws and regulations, integrated pest management or drift minimization.

The December 13th seminar will be held at the Texas AgriLife Research Center Stephenville and provide participants with the opportunity to receive up to eight (8) CEUs.

Program registration cost is \$50, which includes lunch, breaks and handout materials. Registration will begin at 7AM with presentations starting at 7:30AM and running till 4:00PM. Please pre-register by contacting Erath Extension Office at (254)965-1460 or email: [erath-tx@tamu.edu](mailto:erath-tx@tamu.edu).

Mark your calendars and more information will be coming with CEU breakdown and topics!

Helpful  
Tips

### BQA TIP-OF-THE-MONTH – MANAGEMENT OF HORNS

Management of horns in beef cattle is important for animal welfare, animal handling, handler safety, and animal value. The easiest way to manage horns is using polled genetics; quality polled genetics can be found in all major beef breeds. Using homozygous polled bulls in *Bos taurus* cattle will result in a 100% polled calf crop even if the cows have horns; in *Bos indicus* influenced cattle the expression pattern is sometimes different, but most calves will be polled. Stocker and feeder cattle with horns should be dehorned or tipped as early as possible using methods that minimizes stress.

# TRI-COUNTY CATTLE GATHERING

TEXAS A&M  
**AGRILIFE**  
EXTENSION



**OCTOBER 23, 2018 NOON - 3 PM  
DUBLIN SALE BARN  
9862 HWY 6, DUBLIN TX**

Erath, Comanche and Hamilton Counties Cooperating

**RSVP by Oct 19th**

**254-965-1460**

**Topics:**

**Chute side manners**

**What are sale buyers and feedlots looking for?**

**Speakers:**

**Ron Gill - Associate Department Head for Extension Animal Science,  
College Station**

**Jason Cleere - Associate Professor & Extension Beef Cattle Specialist  
College Station**

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EXTENSION

## Winter Silage Program

December 18, 2018  
10:00am - 2:00pm

DUBLIN ROTARY BLDG  
136 E. BLACKJACK  
DUBLIN, TX 76446

RSVP: 254-965-1460

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- 10:00am - Dr. Jourdan Bell, Extension Agronomist, Amarillo  
Forage Sorghum Options and Benefits
- 11:00am - Dr. Ed Bynum, Extension Entomologist, Amarillo  
Managing Sugar Cane Aphid
- 12:00pm - Lunch - will be provided
- 12:30pm - Dr. Jennifer Spencer & Dr. Juan Piñeiro  
Dairy Specialists Updates
- 1:00pm - Dr. Jourdan Bell, Extension Agronomist, Amarillo  
Managing and Ensiling grasses for Quality Silage

Erath, Comanche and Hamilton Counties Cooperating



2 DOPA  
2 CEUs  
1 - IPM  
1 - General



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# The Fall Armyworm – A Pest of Pasture and Hay.

Allen Knutson

Extension Entomologist, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension  
Texas A&M AgriLife Research and Extension Center, Dallas

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The fall armyworm, *Spodoptera frugiperda*, is a common pest of bermudagrass, sorghum, corn, wheat and rye grass and many other crops in north and central Texas. Larvae of fall armyworms are green, brown or black with white to yellowish lines running from head to tail. A distinct white line between the eyes forms an inverted “Y” pattern on the face. Four black spots aligned in a square on the top of the segment near the back end of the caterpillar are also characteristic. Armyworms are very small (1/8 inch) at first, cause little plant damage and as a result often go unnoticed. Larvae feed for 2-3 weeks and full grown larvae are about 1 to 1 1/2 inches long. Given their immense appetite, great numbers, and marching ability, fall armyworms can damage entire fields or pastures in a few days.

Once the armyworm larva completes feeding, it tunnels into the soil to a depth of about an inch and enters the pupal stage. The armyworm moth emerges from the pupa in about ten days and repeats the life cycle. The fall armyworm moth has a wingspan of about 1 1/2 inches. The front pair of wings is dark gray with an irregular pattern of light and dark areas. Moths are active at night when they feed on nectar and deposit egg masses. A single female can deposit up to 2000 eggs and there are four to five generations per year. The fall armyworm apparently does not overwinter in north Texas, but survives the winter in south Texas. Populations increase in south Texas in early spring and successive generations move northward as the season progresses.

Management. Fall armyworm outbreaks in pastures and hay fields often occur following a rain which apparently creates favorable conditions for eggs and small larvae to survive in large numbers. Hay fields with a dense canopy and vigorous plant growth are often more susceptible to armyworm infestations than less intensely fertilized and managed fields. Irrigated fields are also susceptible to fall armyworm infestations, especially during drought conditions. Also monitor volunteer wheat and weedy grasses in ditches and around fields which may be a source of armyworms that can move into the adjacent crop.

Look for fall armyworm larvae feeding in the crop canopy during the late evening and early morning and during cool, cloudy weather. During hot days, look for armyworms low in the canopy or even on the soil surface where they hide under loose soil and fallen leaves. A sweep net is very effective for sampling hay fields for fall armyworms. When fields are wet with dew, armyworms can stick on rubber boots worn while walking through the field. Small larvae chew the green layer from the leaves, creating a “window pane” effect and later notch the edges of leaves.

The key to managing fall armyworms is frequent inspection of fields to detect infestations before they have caused economic damage. Once larvae are more than  $\frac{3}{4}$  inch

long, the quantity of foliage they eat increases dramatically. During their final 2-3 days of feeding, armyworms eat 80% of the total foliage consumed during their entire development.

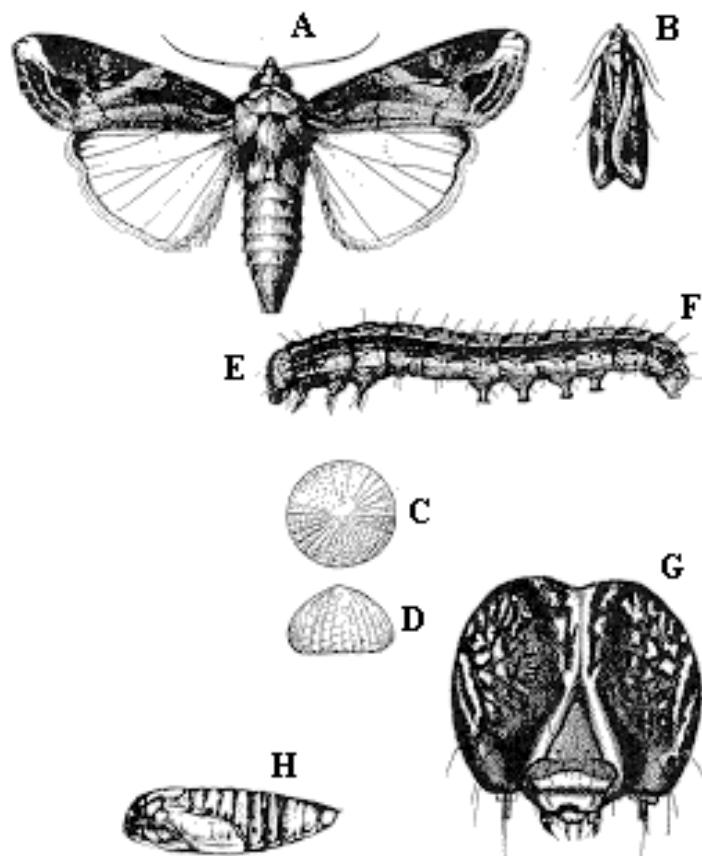
The density of armyworms sufficient to justify insecticide treatment depends on the stage of crop growth and value of the crop. Seedling plants can tolerate fewer armyworms than established plants. Infestations of more than 2-3 armyworms (1/2 inch or longer) per square foot may justify an insecticide application. If practical, apply insecticides early in the morning or late in the evening when armyworm larvae are most active and therefore most likely to come into contact with the insecticide spray. If the field is near harvest, an early harvest, rather than an insecticide treatment, is an option.

Always read and follow all label instructions on pesticide use and restrictions. Information below is provided for educational purposes only.

**Insecticides labeled for fall armyworm in pasture, grasses, and hay. 2018.**

Active ingredient	Insecticide	Pre-grazing interval (days)	Pre-harvest interval for hay (days)		Remarks
beta-cyfluthrin	Baythroid	0	0		Restricted use
carbaryl	Sevin 4F, Sevin 80S, Carbaryl 4L, Sevin XLR Plus	14	14		General use
chlorantraniliprole	Prevathon, Coragen	0	0		General use
chlorantraniliprole + lambda-cyhalothrin	Besiege	0	7		Restricted use
cyfluthrin	Tombstone	0	0		Restricted use
diflubenzuron	Dimilin 2L	None listed	1		Restricted use; apply at egg hatch and larvae are less than $\frac{1}{2}$ inch long
gamma-cyhalothrin	Declare	0	7		Restricted use
lambda-cyhalothrin	Warrior II, Karate, Lambda-cy, generics	0	7 for hay, 0 for forage		Restricted use
malathion	Malathion 57EC	0	0		General use
methoxyfenozide	Intrepid 2F	0	7		General use. Apply when first signs of feeding occur
spinosad	Tracer, Blackhawk	Allow spray to dry	3		General use; target small larvae or egg hatch
zeta-cypermethrin	Mustang Maxx	Allow spray to dry	0		Restricted use

Parasitic wasps and flies, ground beetles, and insect viruses help suppress armyworm numbers. However, these natural enemies can be overwhelmed when large numbers of migrating moths move into an area and weather conditions favor high survival of eggs and larvae.



Fall armyworm. A & B, Adults. C- E, Eggs  
(enlarged) and egg mass. F & G, Larva with  
front view of head. H, Pupa.

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## GENETIC SELECTION FOR CALVING EASE

The most important factor affecting calving difficulty is birth weight of the calf in relation to size of the dam. Genetics influences birth weight. Birth weight was one of the four traits (along with weaning weight, yearling weight, and maternal ability which is often called “milk”) originally evaluated with Expected Progeny Difference (EPD), an estimate of genetic transmitting potential. Birth Weight EPD includes records not only from an individual but also from relatives and progeny. So, if Birth Weight EPD is available for an individual it should be used in genetic selection instead of the individual’s actual birth weight, which can be highly influenced by non-genetic factors.

Birth Weight EPD is just an indicator of calving ease. As breed genetic evaluation programs evolved, EPD was developed for actual calving ease. EPD for calving ease includes the effect of birth weight and so should be used instead of Birth Weight EPD. And when EPD for calving ease is available, it should be used alone without considering Birth Weight EPD.

Most breed associations report two estimates of calving ease. One is Direct Calving Ease EPD. It should be thought of as a factor of the calf, i. e., how easily is the calf born. This is the EPD that should be considered in predicting ease of birth of a sire’s calves. The other is Maternal Calving Ease EPD, i. e., how easily a female gives birth. In sire selection, Maternal Calving Ease predicts calving ease of a sire’s daughters.

Direct and Maternal Calving Ease are different traits. Just because a sire has a desirable Direct Calving Ease EPD does not mean his daughters will necessarily be easy calving. This is a common misconception. In fact, most research shows a negative genetic relationship, ranging in magnitude from low to medium depending on the particular study. So, if you are selecting terminal sires (with no replacement heifers to be saved) you should concentrate only on Direct Calving Ease EPD. But if you save heifers, you should consider both Direct and Maternal Calving Ease. You can find sires with desirable EPD for both Direct and Maternal, but it will not be as easy as when looking for Direct alone.

### **What is Glyphosate**

Glyphosate is an herbicide used to control a wide range of undesirable plants in lawns and gardens, row crops, pastures, aquatics, road sides, rights-of-way, and other managed areas. First introduced for use in 1974, glyphosate is now one of the most widely used herbicides in the United States. Today, there are over 750 products that contain this active ingredient for agronomic, commercial, and home use.

### **How does it work**

Glyphosate kills a wide range of annual and perennial plants (grasses, broadleaves, and sedges) by preventing them from making 3 essential aromatic amino acids. It does this by inhibiting a specific enzyme, EPSP synthase, only found in plants and many bacteria.

### **Is it likely that glyphosate can cause cancer**

Regulatory agencies charged with the risk assessment of substances and their impact to the public including Health Canada, European Food Safety Authority (EFSA), Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations, World Health Organization (WHO), and the United States Environmental Protection Agency (US-EPA), all released findings of their assessments later in 2015, 2016 and 2018. Based on the most currently available research, these agencies have all concluded that glyphosate was unlikely to pose a carcinogenic risk to humans.

The International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) is a non-regulatory working group that considers current published research to determine if substances are potential carcinogens. In March 2015, IARC classified glyphosate as Group 2a “probably causes cancer”. IARC only assesses the potential carcinogenicity of a substance and does not consider exposure or conduct risk assessment.

### **Concerns about glyphosate in food**

Pesticides undergo rigorous testing and risk assessment by regulatory agencies to evaluate the potential for harm to humans, wildlife, fish, and other non-target organisms.

Human health risks are evaluated rigorously, including considerations for sensitive groups such as children and immune-suppressed individuals.



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*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*

## **EXTENSION OFFICE HOURS**

**The Erath Extension Office is open 8 AM - Noon and 1 PM - 5 PM Monday through Friday.**

**The Extension Office will be CLOSED for the following holidays:**  
**Monday, Oct 8th – Columbus Day**



**Lonnie Jenschke  
County Extension Agent  
Ag / Natural Resources**

