

Frio County Pesticide Applicator Newsletter

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TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE ANNOUNCES NEW HAY HOTLINE WEBSITE

Today, Texas Agriculture Commissioner Sid Miller unveiled a new and improved hay hotline designed to serve as a comprehensive clearinghouse for farmers and ranchers in need of hay for their livestock. The Texas Department of Agriculture Hay Hotline provides an online marketplace for hay buyers and sellers, and can even help locate grazing land for lease.

The new website is free and available to anyone interested in buying, selling, donating hay or otherwise in need of hay by registering at: Hay Hotline Website

“This is a great tool for Texas farmers and ranchers,” Commissioner Miller said. “No one else in the state and few in the nation provide the kind of helpful information for our ag industry producers that we provide on the Texas Department of Agriculture Hay Hotline. And the best part is that it’s free. Just another way we’re serving our ag industry here at TDA.”

First published in 2008, the website has become an important resource for the Texas agriculture community. However, during times of disaster, the hay hotline fulfills a more critical need.

During Hurricane Ike the TDA Hay Hotline served as a clearinghouse for forage and hay donations to ag producers impacted by the massive storm. The hotline also helped channel donations to the affected area by directing distributions to livestock supply points across the state of Texas.

Since that time, the Hay Hotline has become a trusted source for finding hay during droughts, floods, after severe wildfires, winter storms and, most recently, during the recovery from the record-breaking Hurricane Harvey.

By partnering with other agencies like the Texas Animal Health Commission and Texas A&M AgriLife Extension, the TDA Hay Hotline is now a critical disaster relief tool for Texas farmers and ranchers.

“After a disaster, access to hay can make or break the business of a farmer or rancher,” Miller said. “They depend on livestock for their livelihood and their livestock depend on hay. The TDA Hay Hotline is absolutely critical during times of disaster.”

The TDA Hay Hotline also contains weather information, disaster alerts and information on other disaster assistance programs like the TDA State of Texas Agriculture Relief Fund or STAR fund. It also displays updated information on any Fire Ant Quarantine and will alert Hay Hotline users to state requirements when shipping hay in or out of a quarantine area.

The new look also includes a map of Texas to pinpoint search results, making it easier to quickly identify locations for both those in the industry and emergency responders. Updates to the Disaster Alerts section will lead to real-time alerts providing details on where an emergency is happening, the resources needed, the local supply points, and contact information. This update is intended to make donating and receiving supplies as streamlined as possible to ensure timely support to Texas agriculture when a crisis hits.

TEXAS AGRICULTURE COMMISSIONER SID MILLER STATEMENT REOPENING CATTLE SPRAY BOXES

“After working with representatives from the Texas cattle industry and our state and federal partners at Texas Animal Health Commission, USDA and EPA, we have agreed to a short term compromise that will ensure ranchers have the option of exempting some cattle from the spray boxes and move us toward a more permanent solution for providing ventilation in the boxes as required by the federally-approved Co-Ral label. “

“Consequently, I am allowing the Cattle Fever Tick spray boxes to reopen as of today for a period of 45 days while I continue discussions with TAHC, USDA and EPA on a long term solution. I am hopeful that these agencies will have that solution in place before the September 24th deadline.

“I appreciate the quick and professional response from USDA Under Secretary Ibach and I look forward to working with him to find a more permanent solution to this issue. I also appreciate the patience and input of our friends in the Texas cattle industry. I sincerely hope that together we can find that solution that will protect Texas cattle, serve the public interest and strengthen the position of the Texas beef industry as a world leader.“

Rinse, Recycle, Do Your Part!



USAg Recycling, Inc. specializes in recycling crop protection product containers. As we are supported by the Ag Container Recycling Council (ACRC), we are able to provide our services for FREE!

We work closely with county extension agents, universities, and state Departments of Agriculture. You can find drop-off locations by state, here. If you have a large quantity and would like us to pick up your plastic on one of our routes, please fill out a service request or call toll free at 1 (800) 654-3145.

In order to participate in our recycling program, containers must meet certain standards related to the size and type of plastic. If your containers are eligible, you will need to follow specific instructions regarding the preparation and proper rinsing of your containers.

Ag Container Recycling Council (ACRC)

The ACRC is an industry funded not-for-profit organization safely collects and recycles one-way rigid HDPE plastic agricultural crop protection, specialty pest control, animal health, micronutrient/fertilizer, and/or adjuvant product containers. This is done through member funding of cost effective programs that foster public health and safety, environmental protection, resource conservation and end user convenience.

The organization supports state level container collection programs, and works closely with the EPA, state environmental regulatory agencies, and departments of agriculture and natural resources. ACRC works directly with contractors to granulate and transport flaked containers from state approved sites. In addition, the ACRC conducts extensive research to identify acceptable end uses for recycled container plastic.

Ag Container Recycling Council

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