

210 East Live Oak
Seguin, Texas 78155
830-303-3889 Fax: 830-372-3940
Website: <http://guadalupe.agrilife.org>



GUADALUPE COUNTY EXTENSION NEWSLETTER SEPTEMBER 2020

VIRTUAL FALL WEED & BRUSH WORKSHOP

Date: Wed, September 30
Time: 8:30-9 - Registration
 9-12 noon - Programs
Cost: \$10 per person
 (Free if not receiving CEUs)
Deadline: Mon, September 28

To register, please call the Guadalupe Co Extension Office at 830-303-3889. Mail check (made out to Demonstration Fund) or pay cash in person to 210 East Live Oak, Seguin, Tx 78155.

A link for the workshop will be emailed on Sept. 29. For those without internet access, the Extension Office will be available to host 35 people with masks and must maintain social distancing.

Three (3) CEU's (2 Gen, 1 IPM) will be given. Topics will include: New Range & Pasture Herbicides; Cool Season Broad Leaf Weed Management; and Fall Huisache Management Options.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Travis Franke".

Travis Franke
Guadalupe Co Extension Agent - Ag/NR

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jeff Hanselka".

Jeff Hanselka
Guadalupe Co Extension Agent - Ag/NR

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"Individuals with disabilities who require an auxiliary aid, service or accommodation in order to participate in this meeting are encouraged to contact the County Extension Office at (830) 303-3889 at least 5 days prior to determine how reasonable accommodations can be made."

Educational programs of the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service are open to all people without regard to race, color, sex, disability, religion, age or national origin.

The Texas A&M University System, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the County Commissioners Courts of Texas cooperating.

Coronavirus Food Assistance Program (CFAP) Extended to September 11th

Are you a farmer or rancher whose operation has been directly impacted by the coronavirus pandemic? The Coronavirus Food Assistance Program provides direct relief to producers who faced price declines and additional marketing costs due to COVID-19. Producers self-certify when applying for CFAP, and documentation is not submitted with the application. You may be asked for additional documentation to support your certification of eligible commodities, so you should retain the documentation used to complete your application. Information on additional documents is provided at farmers.gov/cfap/apply. While most USDA Service Centers are open for business by phone appointment only, FSA is working with producers by phone and using email and online tools to process CFAP applications. Please call the FSA office at your local USDA Service Center to schedule an appointment if you'd like assistance or have questions. You can find contact information for your local USDA Service Center at the bottom of the page, and check the status of your local USDA Service Center at farmers.gov/coronavirus/service-center-status.

A CFAP Call Center is available for producers who would like additional one-on-one support with the CFAP application process. Please call 877-508-8364 to speak directly with a USDA employee ready to offer assistance. The CFAP Call Center can provide service to non-English speaking customers. Customers will select 1 for English and 2 to speak with a Spanish speaking employee. For other languages, customers select 1 and indicate their language to the Call Center staff. The Coronavirus Food Assistance Program provides vital financial assistance to producers of agricultural commodities who have suffered a five-percent-or-greater price decline or who had losses due to market supply chain disruptions due to COVID-19 and face additional significant marketing costs. Contact the Guadalupe Co USDA FSA Office for assistance at 830-379-0331.

Eligible commodities for CFAP include: Non-Specialty Crops; Aquaculture; Livestock; Wool; Specialty Crops; Dairy Eggs; Nursery Crops and Cut Flowers

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension COVID-19 Update and Resources

While all face to face events regarding AgriLife Extension are currently cancelled or postponed, we still are upholding our commitment to Helping Texans Better Their Lives. Here at the Extension Office we deal with three of some of the most important things in your life: Your Food, Your Health, and Your Children. For a complete list of available resources check out <https://agrilifeextension.tamu.edu/coronavirus/>

Food: Our local farmers and food producers are working hard to ensure a safe wholesome food product from their fields to your table. For our beef producers here in the county <https://beeffax.tamu.edu/> is a great resource for cattle market updates.

Health: As we adjust to our new normal our FCH Agent Charla Bading has some awesome resources to help stay active, manage stress, adhering to guidelines on social distancing, and how to safely shop at the grocery store. When out shopping for essential items it is important to remember the following tips:

1. If possible go by yourself, the less people out minimizes the chance of exposure and spread.
2. Only touch products you will buy.
3. Sanitize cart and cart handles before shopping.
4. Keep your distance from others, CDC Guidelines say 6 feet apart at all times.
5. Go with a paper grocery list, be prepared so you minimize the amount of time at the store, and throw away your list when you're done shopping.
6. After you get home thoroughly wash produce and disinfect items such as boxes and cans with sanitizing wipes, or make your own sanitizing solution with 1/3 of a cup of bleach to a gallon of water.
7. Sanitize commonly touched items such as, door knobs, light switches, refrigerator door handle, faucets, car keys, and counter tops. Wash your hands with soap and water for 20 seconds after using cleaning products.

Children: As home becomes school and school becomes home, 4-H has some amazing educational resources to help facilitate school lessons with agriculture, learn about 4-H projects, and some at home projects to help the community. Also check out the Texas 4-H Facebook page for daily activities and videos! Contact Matt Miranda at the Extension Office for even more 4-H resources.



The graphic features a central title "COVID 19 CORONAVIRUS DISEASE STOP THE SPREAD OF GERMS" with a subtitle "Help prevent the spread of respiratory disease like COVID-19." Below the title are six smaller images with corresponding text: 1. "Avoid close contact with people who are sick." (two people standing apart). 2. "Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash." (a person covering their nose and mouth with a tissue). 3. "Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces." (a person washing their hands). 4. "Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth." (a person looking down). 5. "Stay home when you are sick, except to get medical care." (an illustration of a house). 6. "Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds." (a person washing their hands). At the bottom left is the Texas Health and Human Services logo, and at the bottom right is the text "For more information: dshs.texas.gov/coronavirus".

Nitrate and Prussic Acid Issues in Forages

Under normal conditions plants take up nitrogen and convert them into amino acids, the building blocks of protein. This process occurs in the roots of some grasses such as bermudagrass, and in the leaves, stems and stalks of plants such as corn or sorghum. When plants are stressed (ex. drought) this process slows or stops, allowing nitrates to accumulate.

When the temperature is high and moisture is adequate, plants may undergo a process called photorespiration. Photorespiration produces carbon dioxide rather than assimilating carbon into energy. This may cause nitrates to accumulate.

When the soil contains nitrate nitrogen but little soil moisture, nitrates are highly concentrated in the water plants take up. Plants don't have enough water to continue growing and nitrates accumulate.

Herbicide injury can limit the conversion and assimilation of nitrates in plants. After herbicide applications, check the field, especially field edges, for forage plants affected by off-target herbicide drift. Three to 5 days of active growth are needed to significantly reduce nitrate levels in plants.

Nitrates can often accumulate to toxic levels in the following plants:

Forages	Weeds
alfalfa	Canada thistle
barley	dock species
corn	jimsonweed
flax	johnsongrass
millet	kochia
oats	lambsquarters
rape	nightshade species
rye	pigweed
soybean	Russian thistle
sorghum and sorghum hybrids	smartweed
sudangrass	sunflower species
sugarbeets	

Symptoms of nitrate poisoning

If forage contains too much nitrate the animals cannot complete the conversion and nitrite levels build up. Nitrite is adsorbed directly into the bloodstream through the rumen wall, where it combines with hemoglobin to form methhemoglobin. Hemoglobin carries oxygen in the blood, but methhemoglobin does not. The formation of methhemoglobin can cause an animal to die from asphyxiation, or lack of oxygen. The animal's blood turns brown instead of the normal bright red. Monogastrics (i.e., horses, mules, swine, etc.) are less sensitive to nitrate toxicity than ruminants. An animal's conditioning affects its ability to assimilate or tolerate nitrates.

Sampling for nitrates

The highest nitrate accumulation is in the lower stem, and the least is in the leaves. There are a few options for sampling and testing. To sample standing forage, create a composite sample from plant parts taken from at least 10 to 15 areas with the same fertility and moisture conditions. Be sure to have a diverse sample to get an accurate test. Create different composite samples for these areas. Take samples of the entire plant (stem and leaves) from the height the animal would graze (about 3-4 inches from the ground).

Testing Facilities

There are two options in our area that can be used for testing. If a sample is needed immediately (you are planning to move cattle within a day or two) we recommend the Quanta Lab in Selma, TX. It may be a bit of a drive but they can get you results while you wait or next business day. Always call before you collect a sample to get any important details about sampling and turnaround time.

Another option is sending in a sample to the Texas AgriLife Extension Soil, Water and Forage Testing Laboratory through Texas A&M University in College Station. After collection, shipping this sample may take a few days, as well as receiving results. If you are not in a time crunch, this is an excellent option as well. Call the office for more information on both of these testing options.

Prussic Acid Poisoning

Another area of concern in stressed forage is prussic acid poisoning. Unlike nitrate, prussic acid may be present for a while and then dissipate from plants properly cured for hay. Prussic acid accumulation can happen when: There are poor growing conditions that prevent stems from developing properly. Recent hay harvest or grazing causes slow and stunted growth of new plant tissue. Nitrogen fertilizers are over-used or there are other soil fertility or nutrient imbalances. Plants develop new growth after a prolonged drought. Plants are injured by herbicides, frost, hail or other events. Symptoms of Prussic Acid poisoning are similar to Nitrate except for when a blood sample is taken the blood will be cherry red, unlike the chocolate brown of nitrate poisoning.

Prussic acid accumulates mainly in leaves, with highest concentrations in new growth. Concentrations in leaves are many times higher than in stems. Because livestock usually eat leaves before stems, samples taken for prussic acid analysis should be largely comprised of leaves. This is especially true when sampling fields where cattle will be allowed to graze. If grazing is limited, cattle probably will not consume stems. The testing lab options are the same as nitrate testing.

If you have any concerns over nitrate or prussic acid poisoning, contact your veterinarian immediately. The best way to prevent poisoning is proper management and observation of forage quality. If you are concerned about turning cows out to graze a certain area it is best to test, a \$25 test can save hundreds. If cows must be turned out, send them on a full rumen and provide supplemental hay if possible. Poisoning and death can occur from a half hour to four hours after consuming toxic levels. (Source: <https://agrilifeextension.tamu.edu/library/ranching/nitrates-and-prussic-acid-in-forages/>)