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## AGRIVIEW

By: Rick Hirsch  
County Extension Agent

Grasshoppers, armyworms, and aphids sound like an entomology course syllabus, but actually it is a list of some of the more common pests that producers in Henderson County have been dealing with for the past couple of years.

Pest control and cool season forage management will headline the Winter Pasture Seminar Tuesday, September 23, 2014. Registration for the program will begin at 5:30 p.m. and cost will be \$15 per person. It will include a barbecue dinner and 2.5 continuing education units for holders of Texas Department of Agriculture private pesticide applicator's licenses. To register, contact the Henderson County AgriLife Extension office at 903-675-6130. Preregistration is recommended due to dinner being served. The program will begin at 6:00 p.m. and should last until about 8:30 p.m.

Speakers and topics include: "Managing Forage Pests-grasshoppers, armyworms, aphids, and more," by Dr. Allen Knutson, Professor and Extension Entomologist; "Pesticide Regulations Update," by Rick Hirsch, Henderson County Extension Agent; and "Managing Cool Season Forages," by Dr. Monte Rouquette, Texas A&M Regents Fellow and Professor of Forage Physiology.

When planning an integrated pest management (IPM) program, the producer should consider the effective use of cultural control, natural enemies, resistant crop seed, accurate field scouting and chemical control. IPM programs use all available options to keep pest numbers

below levels that cause economic crop damage.

Although non-chemical management tools provide the first line of defense, chemicals are an important part of the pest management system. Major factors to be considered when using insecticides are protection of natural enemies of crop pests, resurgence of secondary pests following application, insect resistance to insecticides, effects on livestock, humans and other non-target organisms, effectiveness of the product against the target pest, and cost of the product.

Best management practices call for use of insecticides at the proper rates and only when field counts indicate economic losses will occur if insecticides are not used. Remember to read all pesticide labels carefully. Specific products or rates may not be labeled for all pests or crops given in the tables. Ground speed, application pressure and nozzle size, number and condition influence the rate of insecticide applied per acre. The sprayer should be carefully calibrated to ensure proper application of approved label rates. Plant coverage is essential for optimum insect or mite control. Use of excess insecticide may result in residue accumulation, injury to the plants or livestock and an increase in the cost of production. Low use rates may result in poor control.

#### QUESTION OF THE WEEK

Q. What is the best way to store left over seed?

A. Almost every gardener will have a few packets of vegetable and flower seeds left from spring and summer planting, or they may have collected seed from some of their favorite plants. Although old seed often has a lower germination rate as well as reduced vigor, many gardeners have difficulty convincing themselves to throw it away. Storing it under the proper conditions can greatly increase the storage life of most seeds.

The seed should be air dried and placed in glass containers with air-tight lids and kept in a refrigerator or cool area at a temperature range of 35-50 degrees F.

When saving seed from plants in the garden, remember that many of the new improved varieties are hybrids and there is often little chance that the offspring will resemble the parent.

IMPORTANT DATES:

- September 23rd- Winter Pasture Seminar - 5:30 p.m.-8:30 p.m. - Senior Citizens Center, Athens - \$15 per person - 2.5 CEUS - Call 903-675-6130 to rsvp or more information
- October 11th - Hunter Education Class - Texas Fresh Water Fisheries - Athens - 903-676-2277

*Rick Hirsch is the Henderson County Extension Agent - Agriculture for Texas AgriLife Extension Service. Visit our web page at <http://henderson.agrilife.org/>.*