

TEXAS A&M AGRI LIFE EXTENSION

AgriLife Extension
411 N. Wells
Edna, TX 77957
361-782-3312
jackson@ag.tamu.edu



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Jackson County Agri-News

April 2017

Important Dates

- April 18—Ag Symposium—JCSB Kitchen
- May 2-3—Grassfed Beef Conference @ College Station
- May 5—Quail Workshop—Lavaca Rio Ranch
- May 11—Pesticide App. Lic. Training—JCSB Kitchen
- May 16—Ag Day @ BRC
- June 12—Ag Tour—Hafernack Center @ Brackenridge Park
- Aug. 7-9—2017 Beef Cattle Shortcourse—College Station
- Aug. 16-17—Beef 706 @ College Station

2017 Ag Tour

The Jackson County Extension Field Crops Committee is conducting an Ag Tour of a corn and cotton crop demonstrations in the Edna and Ganado areas. Three hours of CEU's for your Pesticide applicators license will be available for \$10. One in IPM, two in General. The Jackson County Ag Tour will be on Monday, June 12, 2017. It will start at the Hafernack Center at 4:00 p.m. Certified Crop Advisor hours will also be available.

Tour stops include a corn hybrid variety demonstration with cooperator Espinosa Farms, a Regional Agronomic Cotton Evaluation with cooperator Chris Hajovsky.

Tour speakers include: Dr. Ronnie Schnell, Extension Agronomist from College Station; Dr. Gaylon Morgan, Associate Professor and Cotton Specialist from College Station; Dr. Robert Bowling, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Entomologist, Corpus Christi; and Dr. Josh McGinty, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Agronomist, Corpus Christi.

A meal will be catered by Mustang Creek BBQ in the Hafernack Center after the tour. Speakers at the Hafernack Center will include: Dwayne Vincent, FSA program director; Jeff Nunley, South Texas Cotton & Grain and Dr. Mark Welch, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Economist—Grain Marketing, College Station. For more information, call Jackson County AgriLife Extension Office @ 361-782-3312.

2017 Agriculture Symposium

Jackson County Services Building Extension Kitchen—April 18, 2017, 7:30 am-12:15 pm
2 CEU's available in IPM

7:30-8:00 am REGISTRATION

8:00: The Use of Drones in Ranching – Dr. Megan Clayton, Extension Range Specialist

8:30: Weed Management Update– Dr. Joshua McGinty, Extension Agronomist

9:00: Managing Sugarcane Aphid with Resistant Sorghum Hybrids – Dr. Robert Bowling, Extension Entomologist

9:30: New Year – Old Pest: An Update of 111 Years of Fever Tick Control – Dr. Joe Paschal, Extension Livestock Specialist

10:00 – COFFEE BREAK

10:15: Setting Goals to Determine What to Plant in Your Pasture – Dr. Megan Clayton, Extension Range Specialist

10:45: The Financial Truth Behind Planting Your Pasture for Cattle Grazing – Mac Young, Risk Management Specialist

11:15: Herd Replacement Selection – Dr. Joe Paschal, Extension Livestock Specialist

11:45: Determining What You Can Afford to Pay for a Replacement – Mac Young, Risk Management Specialist

12:15 pm – ADJOURN: Speakers available for any questions.

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Bobwhite Quail Workshop
May 5th, 2017
Lavaca Rio Ranch, Jackson County



Topics of Discussion



8:45-9:00 - Sign in

9:00-9:05 - Welcome

9:05-9:35 - **Bobwhite Ecology**- An Overview-Eric Grahmann – Cesar Kleberg Wildlife Research Inst.

9:35-10:05 - **Grazing Strategies for Quail Management**- Stephen Deiss, NRCS

10:05-10:35 - **Prescribed Fire and Managing for Quail**-Bobby Eichler, TPWD

10:35-10:45 - Break

10:45-11:15 - **Brush Management Chemical and Mechanical Methods**, Brent Pierce- TPWD

11:15-11:45 - **Grassland Restoration**- Jim Willis - WHF

11:45-12:00 - **Lavaca Rio Bobwhite Quail Result Demonstration** – Mike Hiller – CEA

12:00- 12:10 - **Gulf Coast Conservation Planning** – Brian Koch – TSSWCB

12:00-12:45 – Lunch

12:45-1:00 –**Lavaca Rio Quail Management Practices** - Brent Friedrichs – Lavaca Rio Ranch

1:00-3:00 - In the field:

- Look at post burn area and compare to unburned area.
- Look at food sources, nesting cover and discuss strategies to improve habitats.
- Questions.

RSVP to Mike Hiller, CEA at 361-782-3312

Directions: From Edna, take FM 822 North for approximately 10 miles. Turn left on CR 127. Cross over Lavaca River and Lavaca Rio Ranch will be on the left. Watch for sign on gate.



The information given herein is for educational purposes only. References to commercial products or trade names are made with the understanding that no endorsement by Texas AgriLife Extension Service is implied.

Extension programs serve people of all ages regardless of socioeconomic level, race, color, sex, religion, disability, or national origin. The Texas A&M University System, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the County Commissioners Courts of Texas Cooperating. A member of The Texas A&M University System and its statewide Agriculture Program.

Beef 706—sponsored by Texas Beef Checkoff

Beef 706 is a program designed to educate cattle producers about factors impacting safety and quality of beef. As part of the Beef Quality Assurance (BQA) efforts and with the help of beef checkoff funds, Beef 706 focuses on impacting beef producers' management decisions by exemplifying the results of the [National Beef Quality Audit \(NBQA\)](#).

All beef quality efforts, including Beef 706, are based on the current NBQA. This audit, funded in part by checkoff dollars, takes place every five years and serves as a benchmark for the cattle industry. The 2005 NBQA is being used to identify quality challenges and establish new targets for quality levels.



Beef 706 is a one and a half day educational hands-on experience. Beef producers learn about safety and quality issues affecting their product. Beef producers also have the opportunity to ask questions of professors and extension specialists in meat science and beef cattle production. This program encourages interactive dialogue, a valuable educational tool.

"Delivering a safe, consistent, quality product is the best way to increase beef consumption," said Dr. Dan Hale, extension meat specialist, Texas Agri-Life Extension. "Producers should be aware that the day-to-day management of their cattle, whether we're talking about branding, weaning, handling or even herd vaccination plans; these all impact the quality and wholesomeness of beef."

If you are a Texas beef producer interested in learning more about your product, this program is for you. If you need more information on educational programs conducted in the area of beef quality, please contact [Jason Bagley](#). Click here to [sign-up](#) for an upcoming class today. Session—August 16-17, 2017

REGISTER TO ATTEND BEEF 706
April 26-27, 2016—College Station

Register online at: <http://texasbeef.org>

Call us at: 512-335-2333 Ext. 220, or Email: jhodgkins@txbeef.org

Jackson County FSA Updates

2017 Acreage Reporting Dates

In order to comply with FSA program eligibility requirements, all producers are encouraged to visit the Name County FSA office to file an accurate crop certification report by the applicable deadline.

The following acreage reporting dates are applicable for Jackson County:

- May 15, 2017 Corn, Grain Sorghum, Cotton
- July 15, 2017 Rice, Soybeans, Sesame, Grass left standing
- Sept. 30, 2017 Aquaculture for 2018 crop year

The following exceptions apply to the above acreage reporting dates:

- If the crop has not been planted by the above acreage reporting date, then the acreage must be reported no later than 15 calendar days after planting is completed
- If a producer acquires additional acreage after the above acreage reporting date, then the acreage must be reported no later than 30 calendar days after purchase or acquiring the lease. Appropriate documentation must be provided to the county office
- If a perennial forage crop is reported with the intended use of “cover only,” “green manure,” “left standing,” or “seed,” then the acreage must be reported by July 15.

Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) policy holders should note that the acreage reporting date for NAP covered crops is the earlier of the dates listed above or 15 calendar days before grazing or harvesting of the crop begins.

For questions regarding crop certification, crop loss reports or to set up an appointment to certify your crops, please contact the Jackson County FSA office at 361-782-7151, Ext 2.

Lavaca River Watershed Meetings

For those stakeholders and interested parties who work during the day and are unable to make the meetings, please see the link attached here.

We've uploaded previous meeting materials to the website at: <http://matagordabasin.tamu.edu/lavaca/meetings/>

Sometimes the slides aren't as informative as the discussion that goes on during the meeting. If you have any other questions about the information posted, watershed plan, or meetings, please email me or give me a call at the number below.

Thanks,

Michael Schramm

Research Associate | Texas Water Resources Institute

Office: (979) 458 – 9191 | 1500 Research Parkway, Suite 240 | 2260 TAMU | College Station, TX 77843-2260

Jackson County Ag Day—May 16, 2017

On May 16, Jackson County Farm Bureau and Texas AgriLife Extension will coordinate the Youth Ag Day for Jackson County 4th Graders. Approximately 275 kids will come out to enjoy and take part in an Agricultural Educational Experience like none other.

The 2017 Ag Day education will focus on the county's agriculture aspects. Several AgriLife Extension committees, including Beef Cattle, Field Crops, Master Gardeners & EEA along with speakers representing the Texas Parks and Wildlife, Texas Farm Bureau, Rice Belt Warehouse, B-H Genetics, Lavaca Navidad River Authority, Texas AgriLife Poultry Science, The First State Bank, Crop Production Services, Safeguard Pest Control Services, Vanderbilt Farmers Coop., Natural Resource Conservation Service, Jackson County 4-H and the Jackson County Farm Bureau will share interesting and informative information with the youth on the importance of agriculture in our everyday lives.

Presentations will include topics such as: types of food made from corn and rice; good, bad and ugly bugs in the garden; 4-H program and projects; beef and beef by-products; cotton; poultry; wildlife; banking; soil & water conservation and home safety with chemicals.

May 16 is Ag Day for Jackson County. If you would like to help out in this exciting event, phone 782-3312.



2017 Beef Cattle Short Course

The 2017 Beef Cattle Short Course will be held August 7-9 on the Texas A&M University Campus in College Station, Texas. Featuring more than 20 concurrent sessions, topics include animal health, nutrition, reproduction, breeding, genetics, selection, research, marketing and handling. Sessions are designed for the newest member of the industry all the way to the most seasoned producer. Along with opportunities to receive pesticide CEUs, veterinarian CECs, and BQA credits, trade show exhibitors will also be in attendance. For registration and more information on this beef cattle educational program, visit <http://beefcattleshortcourse.com/>

Cutworms and Aphid IPM

Cutworms are the larval stage of moths, several species of which damage corn, grain sorghum and cotton. The cutworms species may include Army cutworm, black cutworm, granulate cutworm, pale western cutworm, variegated cutworm.

Cutworms are dingy, gray-black and smooth-skinned (greasy appearance) robust bodied caterpillars that may reach 1-1/2 inches long. When disturbed, the caterpillars curl up tightly into a C-shape. Larvae overwinter and become active in the spring, feeding on a wide variety of plants. Adults are dingy, gray-brown colored moths with light or dark spots on the wings and wingspans of from 1 to 2 inches. ([Source](#))

Cutworms are more likely to be found in fields with abundant winter weeds. Search under these weeds to see if cutworms are present. If cutworms are present it would be advisable to band an insecticide at planting. Fields which have been free of live vegetation for four to six weeks are much less likely to experience a cutworm problem. However, there have been cases in the past when cutworm moths have laid eggs fairly late resulting in small cutworms on seedlings. The black cutworm has been the species most often found this time in the season; whereas, on larger corn the pale-sided cutworm was found a few years ago cutting brace roots.

Several Resources for Cutworm Management can be found for [Corn](#), [Grain Sorghum](#), and [Cotton](#).

Aphids may be found on corn, grain sorghum and cotton plants as soon as they emerge from the soil. Several different species of aphids can be found and it is important to be able to distinguish between them. The aphids of grain sorghum are pictured on the right. More information on identification of these aphids can be found [HERE](#).

Corn Leaf Aphids are rarely found in populations that reduce yield. Instead, they usually benefit the sorghum by attracting beneficial insects that feed on aphids such as lady beetles, syrphid flies and green lacewings. The corn leaf aphid is typically found in the whorl of the plant.

The **Yellow Sugarcane Aphid** is one we have dealt with for many years. This aphid injects a toxin into the plant which can cause leaf death. Yellow sugarcane aphids are found on the undersides of lower leaves on the plant. The leaves they are on can often be spotted from several feet away due to yellowing or purpling of the leaf. Sorghum plants should be inspected beginning the first week of plant emergence and twice weekly until plants have at least five true leaves. Yellow sugarcane aphids most damage small sorghum plants. Very small sorghum seedlings (one to three true leaves) often are damaged significantly after being infested for a week or less. As plants grow larger, they better tolerate aphid feeding. [Source](#) Economic Injury Levels are based on control cost and crop value and vary depending on the number of leaves on the plant.

The **Sugarcane Aphid** has been in Texas since 2012. Sugarcane aphids (SCA) are different from Yellow Sugarcane aphids in both appearance and injury. SCA are usually found on the underside of leaves lower in the plant canopy but can be found on all parts of the plant. Monitoring sorghum fields for aphids should begin as soon as the plants emerge and continue until harvest. Several economic thresholds for SCA are effective.

- 50-100 aphids per leaf (field average)
- 20% of leaves checked have 50 or more SCAs
- 20 – 30% of plants are infested with localized areas of honeydew and established colonies are present.

Posted on [March 24, 2017](#) by [Stephen Biles](#)—IPM Specialist for Victoria, Refugio & Calhoun Counties.

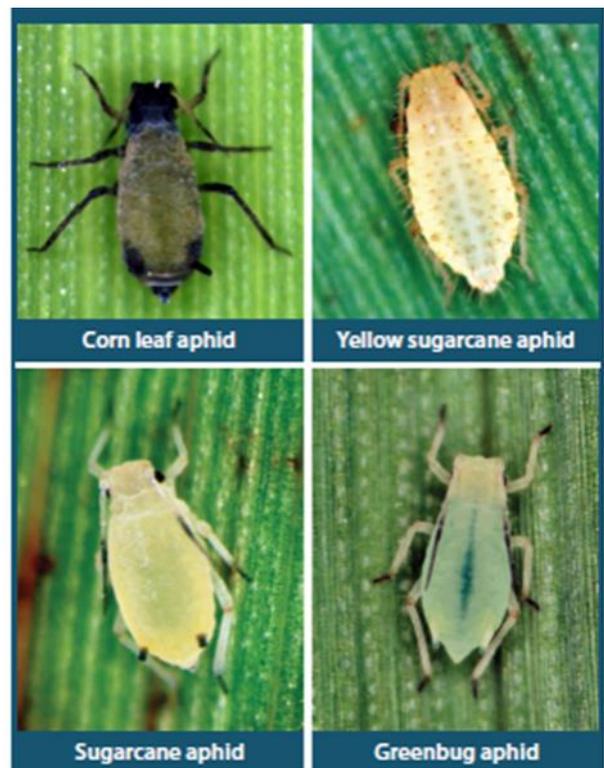


Figure 2. Aphid species that affect grain sorghum. All aphids reared by Scott Armstrong, USDA-ARS Lab Stillwater, OK, and photographed by Rick Grantham, Oklahoma State University Insect Diagnostic Lab, Stillwater.



**May 2-3
2017**

**Texas A&M
College Station
campus**

for more information

Dr. Ron Gill

rgill@tamu.edu

Office 979.845.3579

To register go to:

<https://agriliferegister.tamu.edu/Beef>

Register by phone 979.845.2604

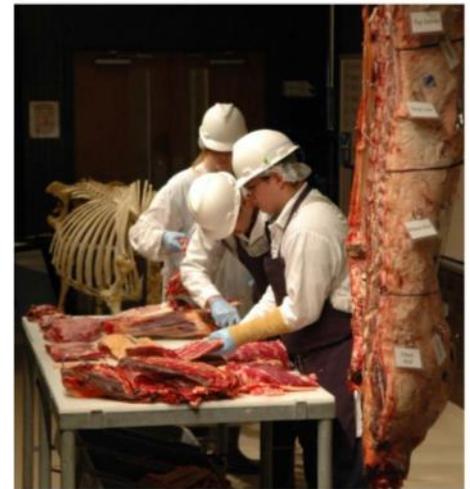
Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service is pleased to announce the sixth conference focused on grassfed beef production.

Consumer interest in natural, grassfed and organic beef continues to rise. If you'd like to learn more about grassfed beef production and how it's different, mark your calendar for May 2-3, 2017 to be in College Station for this year's **Grassfed Beef Conference**.

We're excited about the interest among participants and the outstanding lineup of speakers that will come together for this information-sharing opportunity. Here's a chance to learn more about beef production... from pasture to plate.

Here's a quick preview of the agenda:

- Grassfed in the US beef system
- Handling Cattle for Wholesome Beef
- What is natural, grassfed and organic
- Carcass fabrication... a demonstration
- Growing forage – the fundamentals
- Consumers... and their expectations
- Cattle types suited for grassfed beef
- A Taste of Texas Beef
- Forage-based nutrition for cattle
- Marketing a unique product
- Preventative herd health
- Sustainability



Agri-News Trivia

Did you know?

- *Farmers and ranchers receive only **16 cents out of every dollar** spent on food at home and away from home. The rest goes for costs beyond the farm gate: wages and materials for production, processing, marketing, transportation and distribution. In 1980, farmers and ranchers received **31 cents**.*
- Texas has more cattle on feed than Australia and Canada COMBINED.
- In 1954, the number of tractors on farms surpassed the number of horses and mules for the first time.

Private Applicators License Training

If you plan on using a state limited use or state restricted use pesticide, such as Grazon P+D, 2 4-D, Weedmaster, etc., and need a license, the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service will be sponsoring a Private Applicator Training at **8:00 AM on Thursday, May 11, 2017** at the Jackson County Extension Office. Books and study materials for the course need to be purchased ahead of time for \$50.00 at the Extension Office. The exam can be taken a location of your choice. If you complete the training portion and score a 70 or above on the examination, you will be eligible to apply for your Private Applicator License, which will allow you to purchase all state limited use and restricted use pesticides used in agriculture. To reserve your spot at the training, contact the Jackson County Extension Office at (361) 782-3312.



Real Learning for Real Life



Newsletter by E-Mail

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Mike Hiller, CEA-Ag/NR



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