

LUBBOCK COUNTY SMALL ACREAGE LANDOWNER NEWS

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Volume 2 - No. 3

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Sept/Oct 2009

The purpose of this newsletter is to assist and educate small acreage landowners to make the best decision for their production needs and keep them updated on educational opportunities. If there is a topic you would like me to address please email me at rj-scott@tamu.edu and I will try to address your request. If you would like to be on the newsletter email list let me know and I will be glad to add you to the list. The Lubbock county Extension website is <http://lubbock-tx.tamu.edu/>.

AgriLife CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

All those interested in South Plains agriculture should mark their calendars for the centennial celebration **Sept. 17** at the Texas AgriLife Research and Extension Center. The center is located at 1102 E. Farm to Market Road 1294 north of Lubbock.

The center was founded in 1909, it has been home to some of the most widely adapted crop-related practices and plant-breeding innovations found anywhere. Many of these discoveries are still used by farmers today in West Texas. The celebration and field day will highlight some of those historic practices and to share with the public what is being done to help producers for years to come. To learn more as updates on the centennial celebration develop, visit: For more information go to <http://lubbock-tx.tamu.edu> click on AgriLife Centennial Celebration

PESTICIDE COLLECTION DAY

There will be a Pesticide Collection Day which will be open to ALL Texas residents who apply pesticides or other agricultural chemicals for the production of agricultural products in Texas or who currently have banned or unwanted agricultural chemicals. **Bring them to Monday, Oct. 12 to Crop Production Services, 880 Industrial Dr. in Slaton collection hours are 8 a.m. – 1 p.m.**

We CAN Accept:

- Pesticides
- Herbicides
- Insecticides
- Fungicides
- Rodenticides
- Nematicides
- Bactericides
- Growth regulators
- Harvest aid chemicals
- Oil/Oil filters²/Grease
- Gasoline/Diesel fuel
- Transmission fluid
- Brake fluid
- Power steering fluid
- Anti-freeze
- Lead-acid batteries
- Paint
- Fluorescent bulbs

We CANNOT Accept:

- Tires
- Radioactive materials gas cylinders
- Fertilizers or nutrient 20 gallons materials that are neither
- Biomedical wasteshazardous nor contain
- Ammunition pesticide admixtures
- Propane/Butane

Contact Information:

For more information go to <http://lubbock-tx.tamu.edu> click on **Pesticide Collection Day**

NORTH REGION 4-H/FFA QUALITY COUNTS TRAINING

December 12, 2009

Location: Ollie Liner Center,
Plainview



North Region 4H and FFA Quality Counts Beef, Lamb, Goat & Swine training is intended to provide an educational opportunity for new or experienced families (4-H and FFA) participating in a livestock project. The main purpose is to teach the basic principles of livestock management as they relate to facility maintenance, selection, nutrition, animal health, handling, showmanship and transportation.

Educational programs of the Texas AgriLife Extension Service are open to all citizens without regard to race, color, sex, disability, religion, age or national origin. The information given herein is for educational purposes only. References to commercial products or trade names are made with the understanding that no discrimination is intended and no endorsement by the Texas AgriLife Extension Service is implied. We will seek to provide reasonable accommodations for all persons with disabilities for any of our meetings. We request that you contact Texas AgriLife Extension Service - (806) 775-1680, as soon as possible to advise us of the auxiliary aid or service that you will require.

“Quality Assurance” programs are discussed to ensure the safe and legal use of drugs or medications to facilitate the ethical care, development and exhibition of livestock.

Parents and leaders are encouraged to remember that livestock projects (regardless of specie) are to be used as tools in the process of youth development. These youth are learning skills that will impact their entire life and ultimately everyone around them.

HIGH PLAINS AG CONFERENCE

Attention Private Pesticide Applicators- Dec 2nd we will be offering 5 CEU's toward your Private Applicator Licence. The training will be held in Lubbock and the cost will be \$40.00 which will include a lunch. Watch for more information in the November-December newsletter or contact the Lubbock County Extension office at 806-775-1680.

KEEP PESTICIDES ON THE LAWN AND OUT OF WATER SUPPLIES!

Pesticides have the potential to move into surface and groundwater if applied inappropriately. Home consumers who use plant protection chemicals on their lawn have a great responsibility to do so properly. Lawn pesticides vary greatly in their requirements associated with application. The only way to be a good steward is to READ THE pesticide LABEL before purchasing and again prior to application—this is the step that most people skip, unfortunately! Remember, some pesticides require you to water them in and others do not. Reading the label will help you apply the product in the right way to be able to control the target pest. Pesticide misapplication can contribute to pesticide movement into our greatest natural resource—Water!

Proper pest control practices can greatly reduce off-site movement of pesticide products. Home consumers, who use pesticides, can do much to alleviate this potential problem. First, do not apply pesticides (herbicides, fungicides, insecticides, etc.) unless you have identified a potential problem pest in your landscape. Second, purchase a pesticide that is labeled to treat this pest in the type of grass that makes up the lawn. Third, purchase and apply the correct amount of pesticide—this means you need to know the square footage of your site and know how to accurately measure and deliver the correct amount of pesticide uniformly over your lawn. Fourth, do not apply these products on hard surfaces such as sidewalks, streets, or curbs since water runoff from hard surfaces could carry the pesticide into drainage ways. This could eventually lead to increased contamination of our water supplies.

Pesticides are sometimes needed in turf management, but if you will take the time and follow these steps, you will control the target pests with minimum impact on our water!

PREPARING YOUR LAWN FOR THE WINTER!

There are several things that home consumers can do to prepare their lawns for the winter. If you are mowing your lawn within the optimum range for your species/variety but are at the lower height, raise your cutting height to a higher level—especially if your turf is under stress. Apply your last fertilizer application for the year 30 days prior to the first frost date (Oct 31st in Lubbock). Keep a watchful eye for diseases and other pest problems. Apply a pre-emergent herbicide to attack those germinating winter weeds. Apply irrigation on an as-needed basis—too much or too little will cause problems. Remember, if you have an extremely dry winter in your area, you may need to irrigate! Do not allow the soil to become dry, especially when low temperatures exist. Finally, clean and store your maintenance equipment and pesticides properly and have a great winter!

COOL SEASON WEED CONTROL

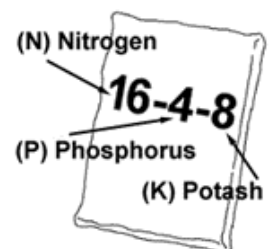
Controlling annual weeds in home lawns can be a chore, but there are ways to combat them. Cool season (winter) weeds usually germinate in early fall and hang around to late spring. A pre-emergent herbicide applied prior to germination would have been the best method to use, but by now, you are most likely too late. This means that post-emergent herbicide applications will be needed.

The main point to remember is to clobber these annual winter weeds when they are small and immature. If you wait until January or February, you've waited much too long. At this point, they are well-established, mature plants and cannot be controlled by post-emergent herbicides. Remember to always read the label and apply the appropriate herbicide at the appropriate labeled rate.

DO WE NEED TO FERTILIZE OUR LAWNS IN THE WINTER?

Depending on where you live in Texas, warm season grasses such as St. Augustinegrass, Bermudagrass, Zoysiagrass, Buffalograss, etc.. will be going dormant very soon. Once this occurs and they become somewhat straw colored, these grasses are no longer growing actively. Our recommendation

is to fertilize your turfgrass only when these plants are actively growing and apply the appropriate type and rate of fertilizer based on a soil sample analysis. Spring, summer, and fall applications would be very appropriate depending on the grass



type, use, soil type, etc. for warm season grasses. A good rule of thumb is to put out your fall application at least 30 days before the average first frost date and begin with the spring application approximately 30 days after the average last frost date for your area. This approach is not only best for the turf, but also for our environment.

If you overseed your turf or have a cool season turfgrass such as Tall Fescue, Perennial or Annual Ryegrass, then late fall and winter applications would be recommended. You need to apply approximately 75% of the total nitrogen required for this species during this period of time and much less in the late winter and early spring.

For more information and Turf Tips go to <http://lubbock-tx.tamu.edu> click on **Links** then go to Horticulture there you will find the link **Aggie Horticulture**.

WHAT'S HAPPENING WITH THE SOUTH PLAINS CHAPTER OF THE TEXAS MASTER NATURALISTS?

Once upon a time there was a group of people who in a few short months were able to experience so many interesting things in the South Plains area that they are still *amazed*.

The experience of these Texas Master Naturalists in the South Plains Chapter includes seeing Mexican Free-tail bats swarming from the Clarity tunnel and four baby bison at the Caprock Canyon State Park (CCSP) to seeing wild flowers blooming, flint knapping and archeologist digging at the Lubbock Lake Landmark. In addition, in workshops lead by Vicky Sybert, a biologist and educational expert from Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, naturalists are expanding their knowledge of identifying bones of mammals and active learning activities from the Project Wild program. Vicky also took the naturalists behind the scenes of the Bison project at CCSP. There we learned about how the bison herd is taken into a carefully designed stock pens so that they are not overly traumatized and they can be checked by the veterinarians and people who care for them.

Many of the naturalists have found individual pursuits such as joining in the Hummingbird Project and the Horned Toad Genetic Study. A group of naturalists including Barbara Teel, Leslie Needham and Mary Wilber created a catalog with illustrations of the native wildflowers growing in the Lubbock Lake Landmark



native beds. Along with the eight hours continued advanced naturalist education each year, each certified naturalists will complete 40 hours volunteer work to help support naturalists concerns in the Lubbock, South Plains area. One ongoing project is the native landscape development and maintenance and rainwater harvesters for small animals at the Lubbock Lake Landmark. Another is supporting the Caprock Canyon State Park. As our group grows the variety of volunteer activities will increase to include other sites and organizations.

We do have fun together and we are glad to say that we also enjoy sharing meals and a winter holiday social gathering have. This fall we are looking for people who would like to join our South Plains chapter of the Texas Master Naturalists. We are planning to start a new training class in January 1010. We will follow the state curriculum and provide 40 hours basic training over the year. For more information, please see the State Web site (<http://masternaturalists.tamu.edu>) as well as our chapter web site (<http://grovesite.comtmn/spmn>) or e-mail Jackie Driskill at jackie.driskill@yahoo.com. or call Jackie at 806 795-2383. We will have children's activity booth at the Garden and Arts Fall Festival on September 19 at 9-6. So come meet us and see what naturalists can do in the Lubbock area. Our next regular meeting will be November 14. We are also planning a Naturalists Photo workshop for October or November. Check our web site for more details.

Jackie Driskill Sept. 10, 2009

2010 Upcoming Programs

Horse Nutrition and Care - April

Water well testing workshop - May

After CRP Program- June

Goat Herd Management Workshop - Oct

Private Applicator 5 CEU's Training - December

Quality Counts Training - December

Watch your newsletter for more information on these and other programs.

Robert Scott
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