

# MCCULLOCH COUNTY AG NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2020

## EXCESSIVE STOCKPILING DURING COVID-19 OUTBREAK PUTS OTHERS AT RISK:

### **Social Distancing Requires Only Two-Week Supply Of Items**

There is a difference between purchasing in preparation for a home stay and the excessive stockpiling being seen in the wake of the covid-19 outbreak, according to a Texas A&M AgriLife extension service specialist. "The coronavirus, or COVID-19, has understandably caused people to feel fearful," said Miquela Smith, AgriLife Extension specialist-health, Amarillo. "Families want to be as prepared as possible during this time of uncertainty. Social distancing is critical right now, and one reason to stock up on certain items is to avoid making repeated trips into crowded public areas. You should also stay home if you become sick, except to seek medical care."

Smith said current guidelines indicate people should have enough food and supplies for two weeks. Some items to have on-hand are dry, canned or frozen foods, medications, soap and disinfectant, and fluids with electrolytes.

### **Stockpiling: If You Don't Need It, Leave It**

"But excessive purchasing or stockpiling of supplies can negatively affect others," Smith said. "For example, current CDC guidelines indicate that only those who are sick should use face masks, and yet there is still a shortage of masks across the country."

"What this means is that people who actually need them—sick individuals, immunocompromised individuals and medical providers—may not be able to get them. This could worsen the spread of the disease and hamper the healthcare system."

Other items people have been excessively stockpiling are toilet paper, cleaning supplies and hand sanitizer, she said.

Handwashing and disinfecting frequently touched surfaces are examples of small actions that can help slow the spread of communicable diseases such as COVID-19, but keep purchases within reason, Smith said.

LEDBETTER, KAY. "EXCESSIVE STOCKPILING PUTS OTHERS AT RISK." AGRILIFE TODAY, 19 MAR. 2020, AGRILIFETODAY.TAMU.EDU/2020/03/18/EXCESSIVE-STOCKPILING-DURING-COVID-19-OUTBREAK-PUTS-OTHERS-AT-RISK/.

## HARVESTING SMALL GRAINS CROPS

## For Ensilage

Small grains harvested before the soft dough growth stage may be used for ensilage. Under normal growing conditions silage production should range from 1.5 to 3 tons per acre. If soil moisture and nutrient levels are adequate during the growing season, 6 to 8 tons of silage production per acre is possible.

## For Hay

Oats makes a valuable hay crop when cut while the leaves and stems are still green, and the grain is in the soft dough stage. Oat straw is the most palatable and nutritious of the cereal straws.

Wheat can be made into good quality hay if cut before the boot stage when crude protein content ranges from 14 to 15 percent or higher. Once the crop is fully headed, crude protein is reduced 50 percent. Yield should average 2 tons per acre.

Barley and Triticale can be made into good quality hay if cut prior to the boot stage; however, it is not used extensively for hay.

## For Grain

Begin harvest when grain moisture content ranges between 12 and 13 percent. Proper combine adjustment keeps harvest losses to a minimum. Wheat varieties vary in tightness of glume and ease of threshing. Oats, with a weaker straw than wheat or barley, sometimes presents additional harvesting problems. Wind, hail, rain, insects, and plant stress may cause lodging, increased harvesting cost and reduced grain quality.

Where lodging or shattering occurs or threatens, where weeds are a problem or when grain ripens unevenly, windrow oats and use a pickup attachment to combine the crop. An oat crop is usually damaged less by rains when in windrows than if standing full ripe.

-Billy E. Warrick (retired), Chris Sansone and Jason Johnson  
Extension Agronomist, Extension Entomologist and  
Extension Economist



---

Cameron W. Anderson  
McCulloch County Extension Agent-ANR  
114 W Main  
Brady TX, 76825  
(325)-597-1295  
Cameron.anderson@ag.tamu.edu

Educational programs of the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service are open to all people without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, disability, genetic information, veteran status, sexual orientation or gender identity. The Texas A&M University System, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the County Commissioners Courts of Texas Cooperating