

Nueces Agriculture

“IMPROVING FOOD & FIBER PRODUCTION”

Volume 11, Issue 5

September 2018



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Your Chance To Win \$100!!

How much are feral hogs costing you? Take a few minutes to answer that question for us and you could win \$100.



Feral hogs were once largely a rural or agricultural issue in Texas, inflicting over \$52 million in agricultural damage annually, are now causing significant damage in urban and suburban communities as well. It has been estimated that a single hog can cause over \$200 damage annually and that Texas landowners spend \$7 million on control efforts each year.

We would like to know what feral hog damage is costing Nueces County landowners. You can help us in documenting these losses by participating in the survey at this link: <http://bit.ly/2uObeOl>. You will be asked about abatement practices you have employed, number of animals controlled, acres damaged, type of crop, and economic damage due to feral hogs. Each person completing an evaluation will be entered in a drawing for a \$100 gift certificate to a local farm supply store.

PRIVATE APPLICATOR TRAINING

When: Tuesday, 12/4
Time8:00 am—11:30 am
Pre-Registration Required.....(361)767-5223
Where.....A&M AgriLife Ext. Office,
 710 E. Main, Robstown, TX
Fee: \$50.00 (Includes study manuals)

A Private Applicator is defined by law as a person who uses or supervises the use of a restricted-use or state-limited use pesticide for the purpose of producing an agricultural commodity.

FARM WORKER PROTECTION SAFETY TRAINING

When.....2/8/19
Time9:00 –11:00 am
Where Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Office

Pesticide handlers and workers must be trained every year unless they are certified applicators. All participants in this training will be issued cards verifying they have successfully completed the required training and given a copy of the sign-in roster for their employer’s files.

TEXAS A&M
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Find us on Facebook at
 @NuecesCountyAgriculture

Feral Hog Abatement Program

Nueces County has instituted a feral hog trap loan out program for county landowners. The program is using traps fully complete with M.I.N.E.TM Gate control box and M.I.N.E.TM wireless digital camera capable of remotely triggering the M.I.N.E.TM gate using a cell phone. Any landowner in the county is encouraged to take advantage of the trap loan out program at no cost. Three traps are available and will be lent out on a first come first serve basis, with priority given to landowners within the Lower Nueces and Oso Creek Watersheds, followed by agricultural producers experiencing the most significant feral hog damage.



The trap loan out program is being administered by the County Demonstration Assistant, JR Cantu, within the Nueces County Agricultural Extension Office. Landowners can schedule appointments with the County Demonstration Assistant to obtain and setup the trap by calling 361.767.5223. There is no cost to borrow a trap and JR will work with landowners to deliver and setup the trap. The trap borrower will be responsible for baiting the trap, as well as, harvest and proper disposal of feral hogs. Participating landowners must work with the County Demonstration Assistant to assess and document feral hog damage on the property, follow proper trapping procedures, and report trap catch numbers.

The landowner will be instructed on proper use of the trapping system and baiting procedures. The landowner will be given full access to the trap's remote triggering capabilities for their use and discretion, enabling the landowner the ability to close the trap gate when the entire group of hogs is in the trap and it is convenient for them.

All captured feral hogs will be required to be harvested by the landowner. Research suggests that control methods must eliminate 75% of the population in order to keep up with the hog's annual reproductive capacity; however, the Noble Research Institute has found conventional trapping has an insufficient capture rate of 49%. By trapping the entire sounder at once the landowner reduces the likelihood of developing a trap wise population of feral hogs. Through the practice of pre-baiting the trap and the use of the wireless digital camera and remote trigger gate capture of an entire sounder is possible. Additional benefits of the camera's remote control technology includes: allowing the users to send messages back to the camera, the ability to remotely check the battery charge and cellular signal strength, and remotely turn off the camera after the hogs are captured. This technology saves fuel, time and labor by allowing 24 hour surveillance without wasting daily travel time and expenses to multiple bait sites. Traps are currently available for loan to any county landowner; call to schedule your use today.

Wheat Variety Grain Picks for Texas—2018-2019

Posted on September 11, 2018 by L-francis

by Dr. Clark Neely, State Small Grains Extension Specialist, TAMU Soil & Crop Sciences, College Station, (979) 862-1412, cbneely@tamu.edu; Dr. Calvin Trostle, Extension Agronomy, TAMU Soil & Crop Sciences, Lubbock, (806) 723-8432, ctrostle@ag.tamu.edu

Texas A&M AgriLife staff in College Station, Amarillo, Vernon and Lubbock have designated our annual wheat grain variety “Picks” for the 2018-2019 season for four distinct variety testing regions of Texas. These are the High Plains, Rolling Plains (Chillicothe/Vernon region in the north to south of Abilene), Blacklands & Northeast Texas, and South Texas.

Continuing a tradition established years ago, our ongoing Picks criteria include a minimum of three years of irrigated or dryland data in Texas A&M AgriLife regional variety trials across numerous annual locations.



Furthermore, a “Pick” variety means this: “Given the data these are the varieties we would choose to include and emphasize on our farm for wheat grain production.”

Picks are not necessarily the numerical top yielders as important disease resistance traits (leaf or stripe rust, wheat streak mosaic virus), insect tolerance (greenbugs, Russian wheat aphid, wheat curl mite Hessian fly), or standability can also be important varietal traits that enable a producer to better manage potential risk.

South Texas Wheat Grain Picks for 2018-2019:

Hard Red Winter Wheat	Hard Red Spring Wheat	Soft Red Winter Wheat
TAM 401 (MR/R)	LCS Trigger (R/MS)	USG 3120 (R/MS)
	Espresso (MR/R)	
	TAMSpr 801 (R/R)	

Do Unmanned Aerial Vehicles Have a Place in Wild Pig Management?

*By: Ian Gates, Research Associate – Texas A&M Natural Resources Institute
Edited By: Josh Helcel, Extension Associate – Texas A&M Natural Resources Institute*

Wild pigs (*Sus scrofa*) are a growing concern across the country, and, unfortunately, Texas seems to have the largest population over other states. Landowners, producers and others concerned with minimizing damages associated with this exotic species often look to emerging technologies to reduce wild pig numbers. Remotely activated trapping system manufacturers boast higher capture rates over traditional box and corral traps that rely on a mechanical trigger tripped by wild pigs. Aerial gunning with a helicopter proved to be a viable population reduction tool (Campbell et al. 2010). Even conventional hunting can be improved through the use of technologies such as night vision, thermal optics and firearm suppressors. Now, unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) are gaining a place in the management toolbox to improve management of wild pigs.



Fully autonomous aerial vehicles will be capable of both flying and charging without the need of human involvement

Emerging Uses of UAVs

From recreational flying by hobbyists to commercial uses like construction or even military applications, today's UAVs are fast becoming a daily tool to complete tasks in a more efficient way. For instance, the largest retailer in the world, while currently limited by aviation regulations, is already poised to deliver packages to your door with UAVs. Researchers and agricultural producers have taken notice of UAV benefits, and have begun incorporating this technology into agricultural production. In fact, 80-90% of the anticipated growth in the UAV market by 2025 is projected to come from the agricultural sector (Stehr 2015). From sensing and mapping the methane emissions of cattle to detecting the ideal ripeness of fruits through their ethylene levels (Pobkrut et al. 2016), UAV use in agriculture is well underway and seemingly here to stay. Unmanned aerial vehicles use will progress along with the need, technology and acceptance of this tool. For instance, improvements to UAV flight controllers and other sensors are already translating to the actual pilot becoming less of a necessity and more of a safety precaution. In the not too distant future, UAVs will be able to perform their duties autonomously. Provided a number of regulatory hurdles involved with autonomous aircraft are resolved, this could mean a big win for agricultural production or crop protection.

UAV Uses in Wild Pig Research

Many UAVs can be equipped with infrared or thermal sensors as well as low light cameras which aid in the detection of the primarily nocturnal wild pig. While research efforts have focused mainly on agricultural crop monitoring and damage assessment (Michez et al. 2016; Steinbrucken 2013), UAVs equipped with these kinds of systems are also being used gain a bird's-eye view of wild pigs, their trails and loafing areas. Additionally, UAV systems are being developed that have the ability to discern the difference between damage specifically caused by wild pigs and other sources of damage (Rutton et al. 2018). For instance, UAV sensors can identify differences in damage signatures caused by flooding and other sources as opposed to wild pigs. This kind of research could potentially lead to streamlined and efficient crop loss documentation for insurance claims in the future. Other UAV research efforts involve direct wild pig monitoring and surveys for population estimates (Racanelli et al. 2018). This research demonstrates an emerging role for UAV systems in wild pig management, with implications for more efficient control measures in the future.



Crop damage due to wild pigs can be documented by UAVs (Texas A&M AgriLife Photo by Boone Holliday)

The Potential Role of UAVs in Wild Pig Control

Researchers, producers and agencies such as Texas Wildlife Services are already utilizing UAVs to gain a better understanding of crop destruction caused by wild pigs, especially on lands which may be difficult or time consuming to access. However, UAVs are also being used to scout for wild pigs, identify areas they frequently inhabit and to determine their access points onto a property. Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) laws and certification procedures in Texas are strict and for good reason, so direct control efforts from an UAV are extremely unlikely. More realistic uses for the UAVs in wild pig control in the future will most likely be in a supporting role that increases the efficacy of legal control methods. One example could be to utilize an autonomous thermal equipped UAV to locate sounders for trapping, hunting or aerial gunning with helicopters. Another could be to efficiently determine potential snaring locations by flying a UAV around a property's perimeter fence instead of spending all day driving to scout snare sites. While the primary limitations of UAV today are mostly regulatory, numerous possible uses for UAVs in wild pig control exist that could come into play in the future.

Conclusion

Although it may seem intimidating, getting to know the ends and outs of UAVs has become easier. Many people can pick up a controller and within a few hours become competent in flying simple recreational UAVs. Those who live near large cities may readily find groups that offer flight lessons and companies that rent UAV equipment at reasonable rates. There are many great options among UAV types, but it is a good idea to try different ones before purchasing a particular aircraft. Flying with someone that already uses the UAVs is encouraged, and practicing will increase your comfort level in operating the aircraft. Whether using UAVs commercially or non-commercially, a pilot should know and understand all applicable rules and regulations for UAV operation in their state before operating any aircraft. Although UAVs are not the sole answer to wild pig or land management, they are emerging as another tool that should receive consideration.

South Texas Risk Management Workshop



Looking for answers to today's commodity prices?

Attend our in-depth and hands on training from AgriLife Extension Experts on Budgeting Tools, Insurance Decision Tools, 2019 Crop Insurance Options, Marketing Strategies, and Grain and Cotton Market Outlooks. Speakers include:

- Dr. Mark Welch
- Dr. John Robinson
- Dr. Steven Klose
- Mr. Mac Young
- And others

Participation fee of \$25 includes lunch.

When: October 3, 2018

Where: San Patricio Co. Fairgrounds
219 W. 5th Street
Sinton, TX 78387

Time: 8:30am - 2pm

Other: Please register on or before September 28th by going to <http://bit.ly/2018CropMarketing>; or by calling Lisa at 361.767.5223.

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service
Nueces and San Patricio Counties

TEXAS A&M
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The members of Texas A&M AgriLife will provide equal opportunities in programs and activities, education, and employment to all persons regardless of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, age, disability, genetic information, veteran status, sexual orientation or gender identity and will strive to achieve full and equal employment opportunity throughout Texas A&M AgriLife.

TEXAS A&M AGRI LIFE EXTENSION

Fall C.E.U. Conference
Nueces and San Patricio Counties



Texas A&M Research and Extension Center

10345 Hwy 44, Corpus Christi

Thursday, October 18; 8:30 - 3:00pm

This year's Conference will focus on "Pest Management" This program will offer sessions of interest to those involved in Range Management and Row Crop Production.

5 CEUs offered. Participation fee of \$25 includes lunch.

Highlighted Topics include:

- Weed and Brush Management
- Verde Plant Bug and Boll Rot Concerns
- Feral Hog Abatement
- Compliance with Worker Protection Standards

Please register at: <http://bit.ly/FallCEU2018>; Or by calling Lisa at 361.767.5223 on or before October 12th.

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension
Service - Nueces County
361.767.5223
<https://nueces.agrilife.org/>
j-ott@tamu.edu

Jason P. Ott, CEA-ANR
710 E. Main, Suite 1
Robstown, TX. 78380

The members of Texas A&M AgriLife will provide equal opportunities in programs and activities, education, and employment to all persons regardless of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, age, disability, genetic information, veteran status, sexual orientation or gender identity and will strive to achieve full and equal employment opportunity throughout Texas A&M AgriLife.

Horse Program Success on Working Ranches

Strategic & Operational Decision Making



Photo by R.J. Hinkle Photography
Courtesy of King Ranch, Inc.

15th Annual Holt Cat® Symposium on Excellence in Ranch Management
October 18-19, 2018 • Kingsville, Texas

Your ranch horse questions answered.

Please join us to learn how the most successful ranches strategically use and manage horses to support cattle operations. From managing brood mares to purchasing replacement saddle horses, learn from experienced managers and industry experts on nutrition, reproduction, health, ranch economics, employee safety, and legal risks.

Program includes King Ranch Demonstration and Equine Tour.



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krirm.tamuk.edu/symposium

361-593-5401    *Space is limited

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Beef Cattle Marketing Seminar

**Thursday,
October 4, 2018**

Registration: 1:30 pm
Program Starts at 1:51 pm
Program Ends at 6:00 pm
\$10.00 Registration Fee

LOCATION

**Gulf Coast
LIVESTOCK AUCTION, LLC**

3015 South HWY 281
Alice, Texas 78332

**TEXAS A&M
AGRI LIFE
EXTENSION**

**TEXAS A&M AGRILIFE
EXTENSION SERVICE
JIM WELLS COUNTY BEEF
COMMITTEE**

Jim Wells County
200 North Almond
P.O. Box 1370
Alice, Texas 78333

Phone: 361-668-5705 x7
Fax: 361-668-2802
E-mail: rx-mercado@tamus.edu

“Increasing Beef Profits”

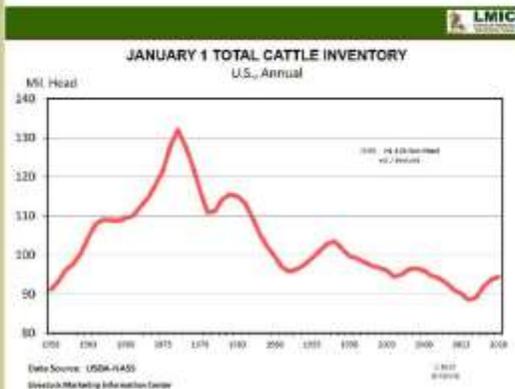
USDA NRCS
U.S. Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation Service

**Make Plans To
Attend!**

**Dinner will be
Served!**

*To ensure adequate meal and
facility arrangements, please*

RSVP by calling
361-668-5705 x7 by
Wednesday, October 3rd



Tentative Agenda

1:51 pm	Welcome and Introductions – Rogelio Mercado
2:00 pm	RMA – Rainfall Insurance Program – Mac Young
2:30 pm	Improving the Value of Your Calf’s Carcass – Tanner Machado
3:15 pm	Heifer Selection and Development – Rogelio Mercado
4:00 pm	Increasing Herd Value Thru Proper Bull Selection and Management – Joe Paschal
4:45 pm	Break
5:00 pm	Cull Cow Evaluation Exercise - Eddie Garcia
5:30 pm	Marketing Cull Cows to Maximize Salvage Value – Eddie Garcia
6:00 pm	Dinner (Sponsored)

Individuals with disabilities, who require an auxiliary aid, service or accommodation in order to participate in any of the mentioned activities, are encouraged to contact the County Extension Office at 361-668-5705 at least eight days before all programs for assistance. Educational programs of the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service are open to all citizens without regard to race, color, sex, disability, religion, age or national origin.

2018 South Texas Farm and Ranch Show Educational Programs

October 24-25, 2018

6:00 a.m. Early Registration &
Breakfast Both Days

Victoria Community Center
2905 E. North St.
Victoria, TX

All Educational Programs in Annex

Wednesday, October 24th		Thursday, October 25th	
Annex 1 & 2	Annex 4	Annex 1 & 2	Annex 4
<p>Cattlemen's College I CEU credit: 2 General, 1 IPM</p> <p>*Plant Identification Contest</p> <p>*Pasture & Range Management <i>Dr. Barron Rector, Agrilife Extension</i></p> <p>*Beef Industry Sustainability Options <i>Dr. Dan Hale, Agrilife Extension</i></p> <p>*Pasture & Hay Field Weed Management Alternatives <i>Dr. Josh McGinty, Agrilife Extension</i></p> <p>Moderator—<i>Dr. Josh McGinty</i></p>	<p>Crops Management CEU credit: 1 General, 1 IPM</p> <p>*Coastal Bend Field Research Results as a Decision Making Tool <i>Mr. Stephen Biles, Agrilife Extension</i></p> <p>*Bt Resistance in Cotton <i>Dr. David Kearns, Agrilife Extension</i></p> <p>*Soil Fertility in Crops <i>Dr. Jake Mowrer, Agrilife Extension</i></p> <p>Moderator—<i>Mr. Anthony Netardus, Agrilife Extension</i></p>	<p>TDA License Recertification I CEU credit: 1 Laws & Regs, 2 General</p> <p>*Pesticide Compliance Issues <i>Mr. Greg Baker, Texas Department of Agriculture</i></p> <p>*Innovative Pasture Management Concepts <i>Mr. Wayne Hanselka, Agrilife Extension Retired, Bayer</i></p> <p>*Feral Hog Control Alternatives <i>Dr. John Tomecek, Agrilife Extension</i></p> <p>Moderator—<i>Mr. Greg Baker</i></p>	<p>*Pesticide Applicator Training <i>Mr. Brian Yanta, Agrilife Extension</i></p>
10:00 Trade Show		10:00 Trade Show	
11:30 Luncheon— Mr James D. Bradbury, Attorney "Ask an Ag Lawyer" , James D. Bradbury, P.L.L.C.		11:30 Luncheon – Mr. Jason Skaggs, Chief Executive Officer, "the Changing Landscape of the Cattle Rancher" Texas and Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association	
<p>Cattlemen's College II CEU credit: 1 General, 1 IPM</p> <p>*Beef Trending Topics <i>Dr. Joe Paschal, Agrilife Extension</i></p> <p>*Beef Promotion Quality Program's Update <i>Mr. Mike McCravey, Texas Beef Council</i></p> <p>*Beef Market Outlook, <i>Dr. David Anderson, Agrilife Extension</i></p> <p>Moderator—<i>Dr. Joe Paschal</i></p>	<p>Wildlife CEU credit: 1 General</p> <p>*Native Plants for Quail Restoration and Ecology <i>Dr. Aaron Sumrall, Agrilife Extension</i></p> <p>*Pond Management Decisions <i>Dr. Mike Masser, Agrilife Extension</i></p> <p>*Management Tips for Wildlife Habitat <i>Mr. Stephen Deiss, NRCS</i></p> <p>Moderator—<i>Dr. Aaron Sumrall</i></p>	<p>TDA License Recertification II CEU credit: 1 Laws & Regs, 1 IPM, 1 General</p> <p>*Water Issues in Agriculture <i>Mr. John Smith, Texas A&M Soil & Crops Science</i></p> <p>*IPM Strategies for Agriculture <i>Mr. Stephen Biles, Agrilife Extension</i></p> <p>*Pesticide Laws & Regulations <i>Dr. Mark Matocha, Agrilife Extension</i></p> <p>Moderator—<i>Mr. Stephen Biles</i></p>	<p>*Backyard Plant Propagation Techniques (HANDS ON) <i>Mrs. Lupe Cook, Mrs. Joy Reed, Mr. Jimmy Miller, Victoria County Master Gardeners</i></p>
6:00 closed Trade Show		5:00 - closed Trade Show	

FREE ADMISSION TO SHOW

Wednesday - 10am - 6pm
Thursday - 10am - 5pm

\$20.00 per day to attend Educational Programs

SCHOLARSHIPS

The South Texas Farm & Ranch Show awarded \$16,750.00 in scholarships in 2018. Approximately \$210,000.00 has been awarded since 1991 to deserving high school seniors pursuing an agriculture related degree.

2018 Recipients

Jessica Pesek, Shiner—Mark Scherer Memorial Scholarship \$1750
Bridley Jacob, Victoria West—Melvin Scherer Memorial Scholarship \$1500
Sara Bludau, Hallettsville—John Stockbauer Jr., Memorial Scholarship \$1500
Kodye Neel, Goliad—Jock Ross Memorial Scholarship, \$1500

Academic Scholarships \$1500 each:

Lane Marbach, Victoria West
Rhett Davis, Goliad,
Aaron Treken, Shiner

Opportunity Scholarships \$1000 each:

Gabriel Rodriguez, Yoakum
Morgan Yearwood, Cuero
Alexandra Lott, Cuero
Wesley Tallos, Hallettsville
Kelly Spann, Cuero
Hannah Schulz, Industrial

Featured Luncheon Speakers



Mr. Jim Bradbury
Ag. Attorney
James Bradbury, P.L.L.C.
October 24th



Mr. Jason Skaggs
Chief Executive Officer
Texas & Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association
October 25th

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Silver

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New First National Bank
New Distributing

Victoria Electric Cooperative
Prosperity Bank
Texas Corn Producers
Goldman, Hunt, & Notz, L.L.P.

Bronze

First National Bank, Victoria
Main Street Animal Hospital
Northside Ranch Pet & Garden

IBC Bank

2018 SOUTH TEXAS FARM & RANCH SHOW
OCTOBER 24-25, 2018

TEXAS A&M
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EXTENSION

Victoria Community Center
2905 E. North St.
Victoria, Texas
Phone # 361-575-4881

<http://southtexasfarmandranchshow.com>





Coastal Bend Soil Testing Campaign Runs Through Nov. 16

“Farming is a gamble, but science improves the odds”, is one of many pithy comments found in a book called Forage-Livestock Quotes and Concepts that I feel speak directly to the fact that soil testing is a critical tool for farmers and ranchers. Because “if you don’t soil test, you will be forced to guess” the only way to know what amount of various nutrients should be added is to take soil samples and have them analyzed by a reputable soils lab.

Therefore, the Coastal Bend Soil Testing Campaign will begin Oct. 1 and will run through Nov. 16 to help row crop farmers and ranchers with improved pastures prepare for next year’s growing season, according to Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service personnel in Aransas, Jim Wells,

Kleberg, Kennedy, Nueces, Refugio and San Patricio counties. Soil testing will help determine the soil nutrient status of fields and pastures for area producers.

There are four steps involved in obtaining a soil test through the soil testing campaign: 1) obtain sample bags and instructions, 2) collect composite samples, 3) complete the information sheet selecting the proper test, and 4) return the sample to the Nueces County Extension Office at 710 E. Main, Robstown, TX 78380.

It is important that producers put themselves in the best position to take advantage of every bit of their land’s value. Knowing the exact fertility value of their farm’s soil helps landowners from wasting money on unnecessary fertilizers; because growers can reduce fertilizer costs by crediting themselves for any residual fertility in their soils and applying only what is needed to make their realistic yield goal.

We will also be offering growers help in crediting themselves for deeper residual nitrogen, collect samples to a 24 inch depth. We will sample fields to a depth of 24 inches and have nutrient analysis done at the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service Soil, Water, and Forage Laboratory. You can contact JR Cantu, Nueces Co. Demonstration Assistant, at 361.767.5223 or for additional information on this program.

This is an excellent year to consider collecting samples to test for deeper residual nitrogen, as most growers applied a far greater amount of fertilizer to last year’s grain crop than the yields reflect. Could that nitrogen still be there? It is possible, but the only way to know is by soil testing. To do this you will need to collect a traditional 0 - 6” sample along with a paired 6 – 24” sample. We have a bumper mounted hydraulic soil probe that can be used for collecting these samples.

Not only does soil testing allow growers to put themselves in the best position to take advantage of every bit of value they can get out of the land, but it is also an important best management practice in regards to protecting our area water resources. By soil testing we are ensuring that nutrient levels are optimal for crop production while minimizing the potential for excess nutrients to runoff. By implementing this best management practice crop producers lessen any potential nutrient loading of water bodies and the impact agriculture can have on water quality.

See No Weevil

See no weevil. That is the goal of the cotton grower-funded and -operated Texas Boll Weevil Eradication Program that has succeeded in eliminating boll weevils from the majority of Texas cotton acres. With the functional eradication of weevils from almost all of Texas the program has increased the profitability of cotton production throughout the state. In spite of these successes, the battle to eradicate boll weevil in Texas is not yet won and given our close proximity to the Rio Grande Valley reinfestation is always a threat. One of the most effective practices of the Texas Boll Weevil Eradication Program for preventing weevils is maintaining the area free of hostable cotton after harvest until the emergence of the next years cotton crop.

It is clear that weather has created a major handicap for this effort over the last couple weeks. But growers are urged to make sure cotton stalks are destroyed and any emerged volunteer cotton is terminated as soon as fields are dry enough to do so. Since July 16 there have been 186 boll weevils caught in Jim Wells, Kleberg, Nueces, and San Patricio counties which prompted the placement of additional traps and the treatment of surrounding acres in the area. In Nueces County growers can expect higher trapping densities to be seen next growing season in the southwestern portion of the county; in locations relative to where weevils were found this season.

How these weevils arrived late in the season is uncertain, but the hitchhiking of weevils on equipment being moved through the area is always a concern. Local growers who plan to move equipment north are strongly encouraged to clean and inspect equipment even if they are staying in the East Texas Maintenance Zone in the move.

There will be plenty of hostable plants in fields due to weather conditions. As fields dry and growers address that issue, a new obstacle to continued progress in the eradication effort is volunteer cotton with the new herbicide technology traits. While products are available for effective control of cotton with these traits, there is concern new herbicide technology traited volunteer cotton might show up in fields it is not expected to due to contamination in planting or harvesting equipment that may have moved seed around. For this reason growers are encouraged to continue to scout fields for any “escapes” they might have after a herbicide treatment. Just a few hostable cotton plants can have a major impact on boll weevil numbers.

Way back in 2007, when Dr. Noel Troxclair was serving as AgriLife Extension Entomologist in Uvalde, he did an impromptu study of the consequences of “just a few” hostable cotton plants in a field could have on future boll weevil numbers. He collected the fruit from cotton plants left uncontrolled on one farm, and from 2 plants, 249 boll weevils emerged at one site on that farm. He then proceeded to collect a total of 12 cotton plants from 5 other sites on the farm where cotton was left hostable. At least 561 weevils emerged from the 12 volunteer cotton plants that he examined on this farm and there were a dozen or so more plants that were not examined. Troxclair found that assuming a 50:50 sex ratio, a 100% survival of well-fed weevils in a mild winter climate, and an average of 150 eggs per female the weevils that emerged from this single farm represented the potential for over 42,000 eggs.

When these 12 plants are multiplied many times over by all the hostable cotton currently in our region it becomes apparent that hostable cotton must not be ignored. The potential consequences for boll weevil eradication and the continued economic viability of this crop are too great.



Jason Ott

Disclaimer - the information herein is for informational purposes only. Reference to commercial products or trade names is made with the understanding that no discrimination is intended and no endorsement by the Texas AgriLife Extension Service is implied.

The members of Texas A&M AgriLife will provide equal opportunities in programs and activities, education, and employment to all persons regardless of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, age, disability, genetic information, veteran status, sexual orientation or gender identity and will strive to achieve full and equal employment opportunity throughout Texas A&M AgriLife.

Individuals with disabilities who require an auxiliary aid, service, or accommodation in order to participate in any Extension event are encouraged to contact their County Extension Office at 361-767-5223 at least one week in advance of the program in order for proper arrangements to be made.

In the event of a name, address or phone number change please contact the office at:
Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service
710 E. Main, Suite 1 Attn: Ag/NR
Robstown, Texas 78380
(361) 767-5223

Jason P. Ott, CEA
Ag/Natural Resources
710 E. Main St., Suite 1
Robstown, TX 78380
Ph: 361.767.5223
Fax: 361.767.5248
Email: j-ott@tamu.edu