



Wheat Variety Trials

Winter wheat uniform variety trials, or UVT, were planted at 23 sites across the state in 18 different geographic locations to evaluate lines of wheat under both irrigated and dryland conditions.

The plots are a collaboration of AgriLife Extension agronomists and county agents as well as Texas A&M AgriLife Research's two wheat breeders, Jackie Rudd, Ph.D., Amarillo, and Amir Ibrahim, Ph.D., College Station.

UVT include different varieties and experimental lines developed by Texas A&M AgriLife, as well as varieties from other universities and private industry. The results gathered from these test plots are used to make sound variety recommendations to producers in the different growing regions – High Plains, Rolling Plains, Blacklands and South Texas – by way of an annual “Picks list.” The 2020-2021 list will be posted in early August.



The best materials placed in the Picks list are selected based on a careful evaluation of:

Grain yield – the variety performs above average in its target region.

Disease and insect package – the variety's ability to cope with seasonal disease and pressures within the target region – particularly leaf rust, stripe rust, stem rust, wheat streak mosaic virus, soil-borne mosaic virus, greenbug, wheat curl mite and Hessian fly.

End-use quality – specifically the variety must have above average test weight and good milling and baking attributes.

Stability – the variety must have the ability to perform consistently across locations and years within a given region.

Variety trial locations

In the High Plains, there were three irrigated and three dryland trials located near Bushland, Groom, Perryton, Dumas and Dalhart. In these trials, 34 varieties were planted in the dryland trials and 36 in the irrigated ones. The dryland trials included eight Texas A&M AgriLife, TAM, varieties, four new experimental TAM lines, nine from other universities and 13 from the seed industry. The irrigated trials had eight TAM varieties, three experimental TAM lines, 11 from other universities and 14 from private industry. These trials are approaching the final stages of development, and they will soon be ready to harvest. This year no trials were lost due to weather conditions at the Panhandle.

Perryton Trial-To learn more about each of the varieties in the Perryton trial you can watch the following YouTube video, Ochiltree County Wheat Variety Tour <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WH9UXHQB1bU&t=14s>
For further info for all the trials statewide you can visit this web page:

<http://varietytesting.tamu.edu/wheat/#FieldTours>

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Apply for COVID-19 Financial Assistance

For several weeks now, farmers may apply for the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Coronavirus Food Assistance Program (CFAP). This program provides direct payments to offset impacts from the COVID-19 pandemic.

The CFAP application and other eligibility forms are available on the USDA's [CFAP page](#). This page has a number of CFAP resources for farmers, including a payment calculator to help identify sales and inventory records needed to apply and calculate potential payments.

Farmers may access additional one-on-one CFAP application support by calling 877.508.8364 to speak directly with a USDA employee.

Additionally, the Ag and Food Policy Center at Texas A&M University has produced a [CFAP guide](#) that may be of assistance for farmers beginning this process.

How to apply

Farmers have from now through August 28, 2020, to apply for this additional financial assistance at their local Farm Service Agency (FSA) Service Center. These service centers are open for business by phone appointment only, so farmers should call to schedule an appointment. The number of the **Ochiltree County FSA Office is 806-435-6597**. Farmers who use the CFAP payment calculator tool may print a pre-filled CFAP application to submit to your local FSA office either electronically or via hand delivery.

After the application is filed, supporting documentation for the application and certification may be requested.

The CFAP payment calculator tool and all other information is located at

<https://www.farmers.gov/cfap>

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Cash Lease Rates: The American Society for Farm Managers and Rural Appraisers (ASFMRA) recently released results of their 2019 land value survey. It covers the entire state but does not have numbers specifically for the Texas High and South Plains on pages 18-20. I've looked at them and they seem a little high, but would still be a good starting point for producers asking about both land sale values and cash rental rates. You can download a copy at <https://www.texasfmra.com/rural-land-trends>.



Cow Calf Economic Management Resource

With the current market conditions, cow/calf producers are undoubtedly looking for ways to cut input costs. Dr. Jason Banta and Dr. Jason Smith with Texas A&M AgriLife Extension developed a resource that describes areas that producers should consider cutting costs, as well as highlight areas where cuts should be avoided, as the expected consequences are anticipated to outweigh any short-term cost savings. This document will also be useful for producers during times of extended drought, as many of the considerations outlined in the document also apply to managing cattle through a drought.



The document can be found at the www.beef.tamu.edu website, under "Publications", then "Current News".

Grasshoppers!

Vanessa Corriher-Olson, Forage Extension Specialist, Soil & Crop Sciences, Overton, TX

There are about 150 species of grasshoppers in the state of Texas, but 90% of the damage to crops, gardens, trees, and pastures is caused by just 5 species. Grasshoppers resting on a weed

Grasshoppers deposit their eggs 1/2 to 2 inches below the soil surface in pod-like structures. Each egg pod consists of 20 to 120 eggs. Egg pods are very resistant to cold and can easily survive the winter if the soil is not disturbed. Grasshoppers deposit eggs in fallow fields, ditches, fencerows, and weedy areas, as well as in crop fields and hay fields.

Eggs begin hatching in late April or early May; hatching peaks about mid-June. If spring weather is cool and dry, hatching may be delayed until July. Young grasshoppers are called nymphs. They look like adults, but are smaller and do not have wings. Nymphs go through 5 to 6 developmental stages and become adults in 40 to 60 days, depending on weather and food supplies.



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The adult grasshoppers deposit eggs from late July through the fall. Usually only one generation of grasshoppers is produced each year.

Producers should start watching for grasshoppers early in the season and begin control measures while grasshoppers are still nymphs. Smaller grasshoppers are more susceptible to insecticides than larger ones.

CONTROL OPTIONS:

Cultural Control: Controlling summer weeds reduces available feed for newly hatching nymphs as well as making it easier for birds to prey on grasshoppers.

Chemical Control: Grasshoppers are susceptible to many insecticides. The length of control will depend on the residual activity of the insecticides and the frequency of treatment. Controlling grasshoppers over a large area will reduce the numbers present which can re-infest a treated area. Remember, smaller grasshoppers are more susceptible to insecticides than larger ones.

Insecticides that can be used on pastures and hayfields:

ALWAYS READ AND FOLLOW ALL LABEL INSTRUCTIONS ON PESTICIDES!

Mustang Max (9.6% zeta-cypermethrin)

Karate Z (lambda cyhalothrin): Do not harvest for hay until 7 days after application

Baythroid XL (beta-cyfluthrin)

Dimilin 2L: Dimilin must be applied when grasshoppers are about 1/4 inch. Dimilin is not effective on adults. (generics now available)

Sevin 4F, Sevin XLR, Sevin 80S, generic Carbaryl: 14 day waiting period before grazing or harvesting

Tombstone Helios (cyfluthrin)

Multiple products (examples include Lambda-Cy, Grizzly Z, Kendo, etc.; lambda-cyhalothrin)

Prevathon (chlorantraniliprole): For optimum control, apply to nymphs.

Coragen (chlorantraniliprole)

Besiege (chlorantraniliprole + lambda-cyhalothrin): labeled for grasshoppers and armyworms.



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