



# San Patricio Agriculture

“Agriculture Affects Everyone”

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- \* **April 17, 2018**  
2018 Corpus Christi Agriculture Symposium
- \* **April 18, 2018**  
Coastal Bend Grain Storage & Handlers Safety Conference
- \* **May 16, 2018**  
Laws You Need to Know Workshop

If you would prefer to receive this newsletter by email instead of by U.S. Postal Service, please contact the Extension Office at 361/587-3400 or by email - [sanpatri@aq.tamu.edu](mailto:sanpatri@aq.tamu.edu)

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March, 2018

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Hello Again,

This crop year is off to a good start and emerging crops are looking good. There is still some cotton to be planted but if conditions hold it should all be in the ground shortly. Soil moisture is good for the majority of the county but some parts had to go deeper than wanted to get to it. We will need a good rain soon for ideal conditions to continue. Spring green up is in full swing and this area is extremely pretty this year.

We have several programs on tap for April and May. April 17 the annual Ag Symposium will be telecast at the San Patricio County AgriLife Extension office. This annual event highlights work done by our District Specialists and will also be an opportunity to receive the Auxin Application Training certificate if anyone is needing it. Three TDA CEU's will be offered if Auxin Training is completed. Attached is an agenda for this symposium.

April 18 will be our 6th Coastal Bend Grain Storage and Handlers Safety Conference. This conference is directed toward our grain handling industry but we also are offering a CPR certification class for conference participants, but if there is availability we would welcome others who may wish to receive this certification. Please call the office if interested. See flyer for more information.

May 1, we are co-hosting with Ag-Pro, 9880 US Hwy 181, in Taft, an agricultural clinic from 12pm-3pm. Topics included precision and variable rate farming, and a Laws & Regs update. Two TDA CEU's available.

May 16 and 17, we are fortunate to have Tiffany Dowell Lashmet, Agricultural Law Specialist, coming to do a Laws You Need to Know Workshop. May 16 from 6-8, Ms. Lashmet will discuss Landowner Issues at the Johnny Calderon Building in Robstown.

May 17, from 8am-2pm, at the Texas A&M AgriLife Research & Extension Center in Corpus Christi, Ms. Lashmet will be discussing landowner issues, landowner liability, statutory protection, and agricultural production issues. I have heard, Tiffany in the past and I feel it will be worth your time to attend. She is both knowledgeable and captivating with the information she presents. See attached flyer for more information.

A recent article from the Texas Row Crop Newsletter; Grain Sorghum Hybrid Tolerance to Sugarcane Aphid, March 9, 2018 has some really good information for grain sorghum producers with regards to hybrids tolerance and yields. Here is the link <https://agrilife.org/texasrowcrops/2018/03/09/grain-sorghum-hybrid-tolerance-to-sugarcane-aphid/>. I recommend you take a look if growing grain sorghum.

Backyard poultry production continues to gain in popularity. Many who may have never before been involved with this kind of endeavor are building coops and enjoying the experience. I have included two articles and two resource links that are good places to start if you are looking for more information on possible challenges that may arise.

National Ag Day was March 20, but it is never to late to Thank an Ag Producer.

Till Next Time,

## **Backyard Poultry Producers Should Protect Themselves from Salmonella**

**Writer: Adam Russell**

COLLEGE STATION – A Texas A&M AgriLife Extension expert said residential poultry producers should take precautions against salmonella exposure after the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reported the highest number of cases linked to live poultry on record.

The popularity of backyard poultry flocks has increased over the last several years, but the rising number of salmonella outbreaks shows there is continued need for public education to warn producers about the risks and ways to avoid exposure through basic hygiene, according to Dr. Craig Coufal, a Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service poultry specialist, College Station. Exposure to salmonella from live poultry can be prevented if producers take the necessary precautions.

"We just want to reiterate the point that salmonella continues be a problem among producers," he said. "The numbers are going up, and it's an indicator that there are more birds and more exposure to humans."

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reported 1,120 cases of salmonella linked to poultry in 48 states, including 58 cases in Texas. The infections resulted in 249 hospitalizations and one death.

In 2016, the Centers for Disease Control reported 895 cases of salmonella infections, including three deaths and 209 hospitalizations. According to the CDC, 28 percent of those infected were children 5-years-old or younger.

Outbreaks were traced back to contact with live poultry, such as chicks and ducklings, according to the CDC.

Most chickens carry some form of the more than 2,000 types of salmonella, Coufal said. It's a naturally occurring part of their microbial flora. Birds are carriers so they typically don't show signs of the bacteria.

Despite the presence of salmonella on poultry, residents with backyard flocks for egg and meat production can greatly reduce the risk of infection by taking precautions, Coufal said. Petting or holding live birds, handling eggs or working in areas frequented by birds, such as the coop, can expose people to salmonella.

"My gut tells me it's the fact that there are a lot of new flock owners, people who just don't know about the risks," he said. "They don't know they should wash their hands after picking up or petting birds, handling eggs or working in the coop. They come in and touch the rim of a glass or handle food and then get sick."

In most cases, soap and warm water is the solution, Coufal said.

Coufal said the high percentage of young children exposed to salmonella during the outbreak highlights how the bacteria can be spread.

"Kids love to play with baby chicks and ducklings," he said. "If they then put their fingers in their mouths or touch food without washing their hands, they are putting the bacteria directly into their system, possibly resulting in illness."

Practicing good biosecurity can help protect backyard flocks from exposure to salmonella and other bacteria and viruses, Coufal said. Producers shouldn't share equipment or materials with other producers. If sharing equipment, such as a coop, is necessary, it should be cleaned thoroughly with a bleach-based cleaner.

Visiting neighboring poultry production areas could also lead to exposure of pathogens if precautions are not taken to prevent transmission, such as changing shoes or clothes, Coufal said.

Coufal also recommends backyard producers purchase their chicks, ducklings and other fowl from reputable sources.

"When you buy birds at a flea market or in the want ads, you really don't know where they are coming from," he said. "There are no assurances of testing for diseases or the health status of the bird."

Coufal recommends purchasing birds from hatcheries or breeders certified through the National Poultry Improvement Plan. NPIP certification ensures birds are from healthy breeder flocks tested for severe diseases. However, NPIP certification does not guarantee birds are completely free of salmonella.

"We want people to enjoy their backyard flocks," Coufal said. "We just want them to be educated about salmonella and easy ways to avoid infection."

(From Agrilife Today - March 2, 2018)

<https://posc.tamu.edu/texas-agrilife-poultry-extension-specialists/publications/>

## *Additional Resource for Bird Owners*

### **Biosecurity for Birds**

Raising backyard poultry is a growing trend across the United States. It is very important for all backyard poultry owners to know the signs of two deadly poultry diseases, as well as the basic "biosecurity" steps you can take to protect your birds. APHIS runs the Biosecurity for Birds campaign to help raise awareness among backyard, hobby and pet bird owners.



Biosecurity is the key to keeping your poultry healthy. "Bio" refers to life, and "security" indicates protection. By following good biosecurity practices, you can reduce the chances of an infectious disease being carried to your farm, your backyard, your aviary, or your pet birds, by people, animals, equipment, or vehicles, either accidentally or on purpose.

#### **Biosecurity means:**

- Using common sense practices to protect your poultry and birds from all types of disease agents - viruses, bacteria, funguses, or parasites
- Doing everything possible to protect your birds from infectious diseases like exotic Newcastle disease (END) and avian influenza (AI) and
- Preventing disease-causing germs from entering your premises.

By following good biosecurity, you decrease the risk of END and AI on poultry farms; loss of export markets, public concern, and cancellation of poultry shows, auctions, fairs, and exhibits as a result of disease outbreaks; and quarantines resulting in financial losses due to disease outbreaks.



(<https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/animalhealth/animal-disease-information/avian-influenza-disease/birdbiosecurity>)

# ***Beef Cattle Browsing***

*Dr. Stephen Hammack, Professor & Extension Beef Cattle Specialist Emeritus*

## **TRENDS IN RESTAURANTS**

The National Restaurant Association has released its 2018 Culinary Forecast, based on a survey of 700 professional chefs. Several predicted trends involve beef:

- 69% (highest for any trend) listed as a Hot Trend new cuts such as two from the chuck (shoulder tender and Vegas strip steak) and two from the round (oyster tender and Merlot cut) but there are not many of these in a carcass and all are small;
- 61% listed plant-based burgers;
- 61% listed house-made sausage;
- 60% listed heritage-breed meat;
- 43% listed grass-fed beef;
- 41% listed gourmet burgers;
- 38% listed inexpensive/underused meats, such as chicken feet, pig ears, tongue, oxtail;
- 37% listed sliders/mini burgers in kids meals;
- 29% listed comfort foods, such as chicken pot pie, meat loaf;
- 27% listed barbecue
- 27% listed bone marrow;
- 22% listed offal, such as heart, tripe, liver, sweetbreads.

Keep in mind those sampled were professional chefs. This does not account for what might be seen as Hot Trends by McDonald's chefs.

([www.Restaurant.org](http://www.Restaurant.org))

## **BQA TIP-OF-THE MONTH: COW BODY CONDITION SCORE AT CALVING**

Cow body condition score (BCS 1 = emaciated, 9 = obese) prior to or at calving is the major factoring affecting subsequent pregnancy rates. To optimize pregnancy rates, 2- and 3-year-old females should be in BCS 6 or higher at calving and cows 4 years old or older should be in BCS 5 or higher. After calving, weight loss should be controlled so that cows don't lose more than 1 body condition score in about 100 days. If hay or forage quality is low then appropriate supplementation to achieve or maintain these targets will ensure that low BCS does not reduce pregnancy rate.

(From Jason Banta, Ph. D., [jbanta@ag.tamu.edu](mailto:jbanta@ag.tamu.edu) , Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Beef Quality Assurance Coordinator)

## **2018 Corpus Christi Agriculture Symposium: Putting \$ Back in Your Pocket**

April 17, 2018  
7:30 am-12:15 pm

7:30-8:00 am REGISTRATION

### Marine

8:00: Baitfish as a Secondary Crop for Aquaculture Producers – Dr. Andrew Ropicki, Marine Economics Specialist  
Live marine baitfish represents a potentially profitable new market for current Texas marine aquaculture (red drum and shrimp) producers. This presentation examines the economic feasibility of Texas red drum farms adding pigfish production to their operations.

### Range and Livestock

8:30: The Forgotten Goat – Dr. Joe Paschal, Extension Livestock Specialist

Since cattle are the main livestock enterprise in Texas, they are the typical focus for most educational programs. Learn about the goat, another excellent meat animal, and considerations for managing a herd!

9:00: Alternative Ranching Operations – Dr. Megan Clayton, Extension Range Specialist

Review some options for adding to an existing conventional ranch or develop value-added programs to increase profitability.

9:30: Tips for Stretching your Dollar in Forage Production – Dr. Josh McGinty, Extension Agronomist (0.5 General CEU)

Highlighting ways to increase the efficiency of inputs in improved pasture and hay production, including species/variety selection, fertility management, and weed control.

10:00: Internal and External Parasites in Livestock – Dr. Joe Paschal, Extension Livestock Specialist (0.5 General CEU)

Review parasites that could decrease cattle productivity, how and when to treat them, and preventative measure to take.

10:30: Cost Saving Tips for Brush Control – Dr. Megan Clayton, Extension Range Specialist (0.5 IPM CEU)

Management of brush can be an expensive endeavor. This session will review a few ways you can reduce your cost through thoughtful follow-up treatments, equipment ideas, and chemical selection.

11:00 – COFFEE BREAK

### Cropping Systems

11:15: Protecting your Investment in Cotton and Grain Production – Dr. Josh McGinty, Extension Agronomist (0.5 IPM CEU)

In light of the development and spread of herbicide-resistant weeds, economical weed management is becoming an increasingly complicated prospect. This will be a discussion of the options for managing the most problematic weeds in cotton and grain with a combination of both older and new weed management technologies.

11:45: Potential Profitability of No-till vs. Conventional Cotton & Grain Sorghum – Mac Young, Risk Management Specialist

An evaluation of potential yields and profitability of conventional vs. no-till cultivation practices in dryland cotton and grain sorghum in South Texas.

12:15: ADJOURN (for those who do not need the auxin training)

12:30-1:15 pm: Optional Auxin Applicator Training – Dr. Josh McGinty, Extension Agronomist (1 additional CEU)

This training is now required for anyone (pesticide license holders and workers making applications under the supervision of a licensed applicator) who will be applying the dicamba-containing products XtendiMax, Engenia, or FeXapan in 2018. This training will cover the updated label requirements and best management practices for reducing the risk of off-target movement of these herbicides.



# COASTAL BEND GRAIN STORAGE & HANDLERS SAFETY CONFERENCE

Wednesday  
April 18, 2018

8:30 am — 3:45 pm

**Location:** San Patricio County Fairgrounds—Civic Center  
219 W. 5th Street, Sinton, Texas

**Fee:** *\$20 (Includes Lunch) payable at the door  
\$27 CPR Certification (Limited 20 Participants)*

**Pre-Registration required by April 16, 2018 by calling (361) 587-3400**

## AGENDA

8:30 am: Registration

1 - TDA General  
CEU Offered

9 am - 10 am: OSHA Update for Grain Handlers - Marianne McGee, OSHA  
Compliance Assistance Specialist, Corpus Christi

10 am - 11 am: Fumigation Pre & Post Bin Fill - Thadd Bigler, Vice President, Central States  
Enterprises, Salina Ks

11 am - 11:10 am: Break

11:15 am - 12:10 pm: Facility Safety - Round Table Discussion - Jason Lee - Planter's Coop, Odem;  
Roxanne Wiginton - Woodsboro Farmers Coop - Woodsboro; Gene Felder - Driscoll Grain, Driscoll  
K12 Rescue Tool Demonstration

12:15 pm: Lunch & Adjourn if not staying for CPR Session

1:15 - 3:45 pm: CPR Certification - James Shepard, Texas Cotton Ginners Trust

**Lunch will be at Butter Churn Restaurant, 207 West Sinton, Sinton, TX 78387**

*Sponsored by: Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service, Nueces, San Patricio and Refugio County Farm Bureau,  
Woodsboro Farmers Coop, South Texas Country Elevators Assoc., Planters Coop and Driscoll Grain*

*For further information you can also contact Candace Moeller, Refugio County-CEA 361-526-2825 or  
Jason Ott, Nueces County-CEA 361-767-5223*



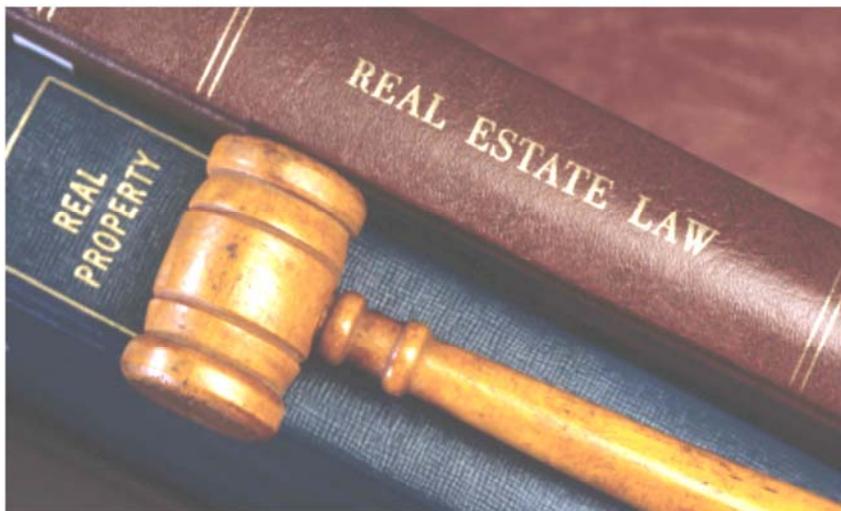
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361-587-3400



Bob McCool  
County Extension Agent  
Ag/Natural Resources

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# Laws You Need To Know Workshop



Johnny Calderon Building - May 16, 6pm  
Landowner Issues

Texas A&M AgriLife Research and Extension Center - May 17, 8 - 2PM  
Landowner Issues  
Landowner Liability and Statutory Protection  
Agricultural Production Issues

Instruction provided by Tiffany Dowell Lashmet, Agricultural Law Specialist. Tiffany is licensed to practice law in Texas and New Mexico. She grew up on her family's farm and ranch in Northeastern New Mexico and focuses on legal issues impacting Texas landowners and agricultural producers.

Please RSVP to Helen at 361.767.5223 by May 11th. Registration is \$15 for 5/16 and \$25 for 5/17 with lunch.

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