



San Patricio Agriculture

“Agriculture Affects Everyone”

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST: March, 2019

Issue 1

- * **March 19, 2019**
Grass Growers Gathering
- * **April 16, 2019**
Ag Symposium - Telecast
Wheat Field Day
- * **April 17, 2019**
Coastal Bend Grain
Storage & Handlers
Safety Conference

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County Website:
<http://sanpatricio.agrilife.org>

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Hello Again,

What an interesting six months in the Coastal Bend. Wet conditions, have been the norm since mid August. There have been drying times but for most areas, they seem to be short lived. Normal farming operations have been affected as well as livestock operations, due to the uncharacteristic prolonged moisture in our area. There has been some corn and grain sorghum planted but recent rains has halted the process. Hopefully some drier conditions will occur and planting will proceed till completed.

For most this is old news, but I have included a 2019 Texas Auxin Herbicide Training update in this newsletter. This is a mandatory training for those who plan to use technology specific Dicamba and 2 4-D formulations over the top of the specific tolerant cotton varieties. There has been several training opportunities already, but I will schedule more if needed. Also please contact me if anyone is wanting to obtain a Private Pesticide Applicators License which is a new requirement in Texas to buy and apply these specific Dicamba formulations. Please feel free to give me a call if you need more information.

The Texas Boll Weevil Eradication Foundation has asked that we help disseminate information to area cotton producers with regards to plans and requests for 2019. Please see attached 2019 Boll Weevil Program Information sheet. Due to printed copy not in color, the small circle inside the large circle is depicted green.

I want to mention our upcoming programs we have scheduled. 1) Grass Growers Gathering, March 19, 2019, Johnny Calderon Building, Robstown. 2) Coastal Bend Grain Storage & Handlers Safety Conference, April 17, 2019, San Patricio County Fairgrounds Civic Center. Please see program flyers for more information.

On April 16, 2019, the annual Ag Symposium, hosted by our District Extension Specialists, will be held at the Texas A&M AgriLife Research and Extension Center, 10345 Hwy 44, Corpus Christi. Dr. Josh McGinty will also offer at the conclusion of the symposium, an Auxin Specific Certification Training. I will be offering this symposium and Auxin Training via telecast at the Extension Office in Sinton. Please see included agenda for more information.

Also, on April 16, at 1:30pm a Wheat Field Day is also on tap at the A&M AgriLife Research and Extension Center in Corpus Christi. Dr. Clark Neely, Extension Small Grains Specialist, College Station, and Dr. Josh McGinty Extension Agronomist will be on hand to speak about various wheat related issues and varieties suited for the Coastal Bend.

As I am finishing this column, tractors and planters across San Patricio County and the Coastal Bend sit idle in anticipation of drier conditions. As the window of opportunity opens, those tasked with producing food and fiber will fervently engage another crop year and we all hope it is a good one!

Till Next Time,

So often in Agriculture, there is not a simple answer to a simple question.

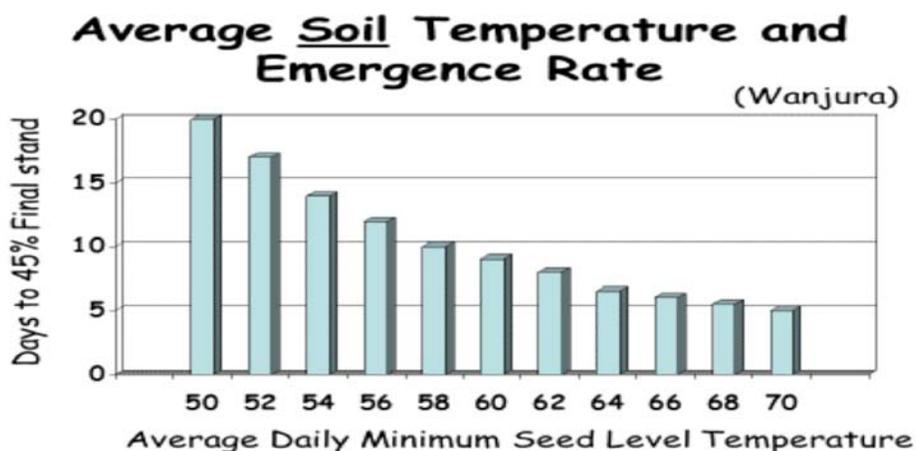
Cotton: Starting Strong to Optimize Yields

Gaylon Morgan, State Extension Cotton Agronomist; Posted on April 7, 2015

Along with variety selection, seed quality should be on cotton producers' minds, especially considering the wet and cool spring in South and East Texas and current cotton prices. Also, one of the most popular thoughts this winter has been to reduce seeding rates in order to cut seed costs. This is a viable option for many. However, reducing seeding rates should only be considered in conjunction with high quality seed and near optimum planting conditions. When reducing the seeding rates, it is critical to have a good emergence, which results from high quality seed, good seed placement, and warm soil temperatures (62-65° F). Several of these factors can be controlled, or partially controlled, and below are some management considerations.

Regarding seed costs, and Plains Cotton Growers (PCG) has a very effective [Seed Cost Calculator](#) for the High Plains of Texas. This calculator is very helpful for producers to compare seed costs of varieties and technology fees, but also compare costs of various seeding rates. However, for producers in South, East, and Rolling Plains of Texas, please note that the Technology fees may be different than those listed in the PCG Seed Calculator.

Cotton is a warm-season perennial plant and is more sensitive to cool soil temperatures than grain crops. Before planting cotton, the 4" soil temperature should be taken in the field. The recommended soil temperature (4") for planting cotton is 65° and more specific information can be found in the publication titled [Soil Temperatures for Cotton Planting](#). Soil temperatures can be obtained from some local weather stations or even regional models, such as the [Aghost](#) webpage. However, several factors influence soil temperature, including soil moisture and ground cover or residue, and weather station data should not be a replacement for checking the in-field soil temperature with pocket thermometer. Previous research by D.F. Wanjura demonstrates the soil temperature effect on the time required for emergence and the delayed emergence increases the risk of seedling diseases. See below.



Cotton: Starting Strong to Optimize Yields Cont.

Seed quality is the final management factor to be strongly considered when reducing seeding rates or planting under adverse conditions. There is no doubt that some genetic (variety) differences exist in seedling vigor, but there can also be large differences in seedling vigor within a variety by seedlot. Each bag (or bulk unit) is required by state law to include the percent germination from the Standard Germination Test. However, the Standard Germination Test is conducted under near optimum conditions (68° for 16 hours and 86° for 8 hours) and germination is documented after 7 days. These temperatures are not representative of our cotton planting conditions and is not a good indicator of seedling vigor. The best estimate that is currently available for seedling vigor is the Cool-Warm Vigor Index Test. Seed companies conduct the Cool-Warm Vigor Index Test on every seed lot and can make this information available to producers. But, producers will have to inquire with the seed company or distributor to obtain this information. For additional information on cotton seed quality, see the publication titled [Cotton Seed Quality – Where It All Begins](#) by Todd Baughman. From a practical perspective, producers should plant seed with a Cool-Warm Vigor Index of 160 or above, especially when planting into cooler soil temperatures or other adverse conditions.

Regarding the seeding rate and “how low can you go”. This is a more difficult question to answer, because it is highly dependent on the geographic region, weather, irrigation capacity, and variety growth habit. Cotton does have a tremendous ability to compensate (increasing bolls/plant) for low stands with little impact on yields, assuming no big skips in the stand. However, there are several exceptions and can result in significant yield losses. The most common problem with lower plant population is the increased likelihood of big skips in the field. So, good seed placement (seeds/foot and planting depth) are essential for planting low populations. In South and East Texas, comparable yields occurred for plant stands between 1.7- 4.6 plants/ft. In West Texas, especially in the northern production regions, cotton plants have less time (heat unit accumulation) to compensate for low plant populations. The current recommendations to obtain the final uniform plant stand between 2-3 plants/ft on dryland and 3-4 plants/ft on irrigated.

(<https://agrillife.org/texasrowcrops/2015/04/07/cotton-starting-strong-to-optimize-yields-2/>)

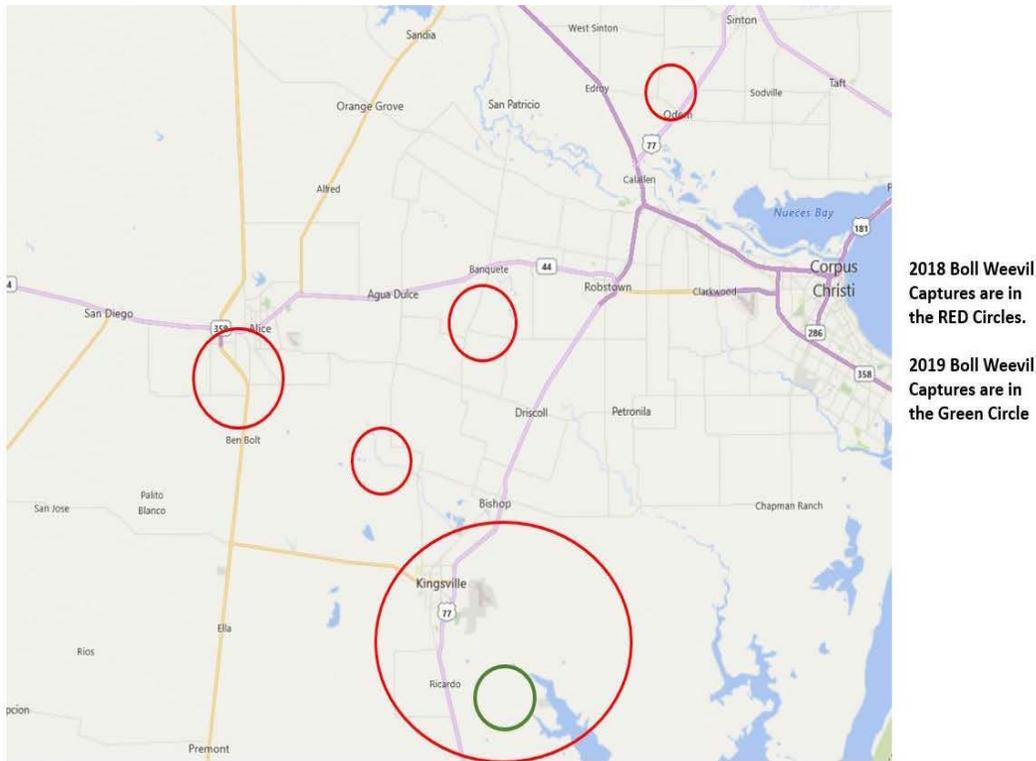
2019 South Texas Agriculture Symposium: Staying Current in The Changing Times

April 16, 2019

7:30 – 8am	REGISTRATION
8am	Baitfish in Demand: Are you prepared to provide it? (Dr. Andrew Ropicki)
8:30am	Hemp: A new worthy enterprise or will it “mellow” out? (Dr. Joshua McGinty)
9am	Feral Pigs: A problem with solutions! (Dr. Maureen Frank)
9:30am	The Bermudagrass Stem Maggot: What is it and What can you Do? (Luke Pruter; 1/2 IPM CEU)
10 – 10:15am	COFFEE BREAK
10:15am	Pasture Weed Management: The latest and greatest (Dr. Joshua McGinty; 1/2 General CEU)
10:45am	What’s new with Herbicide Brush Control? (Dr. Megan Clayton; 1/2 General CEU)
11:15am	Drought Insurance: How to make dry weather work in your favor (Mac Young)
11:45am	Identification of and Control Methods for External Parasites of Livestock (Dr. Joe Paschal; 1/2 IPM CEU)
12:15pm	REMAINING QUESTIONS/ADJOURN
1 - 3pm	OPTIONAL Auxin Training, Dr. Joshua McGinty

2019 BOLL WEEVIL PROGRAM INFORMATION

*Boll Weevils migrated or were transported into the Coastal Bend in 2018. The map below identifies locations where weevils were captured. **Please read the important information that follows.***



Cotton producers with fields in areas where boll weevils were captured in 2018 and 2019 will see changes in field activities this growing season. First, there will be increased trapping densities and more communication between Foundation personnel and each producer. Second, all fields near weevil captures in 2018 and 2019, will receive pin-head treatments of malathion. Third, all fields receiving aerial or ground treatments must also be treated with mist blowers on all four sides of the field. Producers must leave an area around each field for the mist blower to travel.

We Need Your Assistance:

1. Report your acres timely to the Foundation.
2. Leave access around your fields for mist blower treatments and trapping.
3. Protect the Trap. (It is our source of information)
4. Report fields that are not trapped.
5. Destroy volunteer cotton in your field and report any volunteer cotton observed in other areas.
6. Ask questions and communicate with Foundation Representatives.

Phone Numbers:

Robstown District

361-387-8611

Darrell Dusek

361-946-0246

Beef Cattle Browsing

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

BEEF – FROM THE MEAT COUNTER TO HOME

More and more safety-conscious consumers say they're concerned about how food animals are raised and the product is produced and marketed. But what about what happens once a product is picked out of the retail case? A survey was conducted to study this question. Results indicated a 92% chance that meat could be temperature abused from choosing it out of the case to arrival at home. Consumers leave fresh beef products in their shopping cart for as long as 20 minutes while selecting other items. And another 60 minutes may elapse before reaching home, often because other errands are completed on the way. Depending on how much time is involved, going from case to home can adversely affect color, smell, and off-flavor of the product. Tenderness is not affected but, interestingly, juiciness is increased. Placing meat inside a cooler bag with ice can greatly reduce undesirable factors resulting from transport. The study concluded "a continued need for consumer outreach and research of handling behaviors for meat".

(J. Anim. Sci.:96, Suppl. S1, p. 31; Auburn Univ.)

2019 Texas Auxin Herbicide Training Update

Dr. Scott Nolte, Dr. Pete Dotray & Dr. Gaylon Morgan

In late October 2018, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced they will extend the registration of dicamba for two years (until December 20, 2020) for over-the-top (OTT) weed control in dicamba-tolerant cotton and soybean. The extended labels include changes to ensure these products continue to be used effectively and to address concerns about off-target movement. Initial label changes state that only certified applicators may apply dicamba OTT, prohibit OTT applications after 60 days after planting for cotton (45 days for soybean), limit the number of OTT applications to two for both cotton and soybean, allow applications one hour after sunrise to two hours before sunset, and in counties where endangered species exist, maintain the downwind 110 foot buffer and add a 57-foot buffer around the other sides of the target field. Some of these new changes may be different before the 2019 growing season pending 24C requests that have been submitted to the Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA). Upon approval, the 24c labels will be available on the Texas Department of Ag website (www.texasagriculture.gov/RegulatoryPrograms/Pesticides). Engenia® herbicide (BASF Corporation), XtendiMax® herbicide with VaporGrip® Technology (Bayer CropScience), and DuPont® FeXapan® herbicide Plus VaporGrip® Technology (Corteva Agriscience™) are US EPA Restricted Use Pesticides (RUP) and State Limited Use (SLU) pesticides in Texas, which requires sale to and use only be certified applicators. This training is not a substitute for the state-specified certified applicator training, which is required to purchase and use RUPs.

In addition to the EPA mandated dicamba applicator training, TDA has added 2,4-D Choline formulations (Enlist Duo® and Enlist One™) for use on 2,4-D tolerant crops to be included in these mandatory trainings. These Enlist products are State Limited Use pesticides in Texas. They can be sold to and used only by certified applicators or those working under the supervision of a certified applicator.

The two hour 2019 mandated Auxin Training will include the following topics: 1) why do auxin herbicides require additional precautions, 2) label requirements for approved auxin formulations, 3) understanding temperature inversions, 4) spray system hygiene, 5) record keeping, and 6) using dicamba and 2,4-D in a weed management system. The Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service will be providing a 2-hour in-person course, approved by TDA, that will fulfill the training requirements for Dicamba and 2,4-D Choline products and will include 2 hours of Laws and Regs. Contact your county extension agent for training locations, dates, and times. BASF Corporation, Bayer CropScience, and Corteva Agriscience also will be requesting TDA-approved training courses that will focus on their specific technology only and will therefore be 1-hour 1 CEU courses.



TEXAS A&M AGRI LIFE EXTENSION



Grass Grower's Gathering



Johnny Calderon Building
710 E. Main, Robstown
Tuesday, March 19th, 8:45 - 2:45pm

This year's program will focus on "Nutrient Management". Participants will gain insight into managing their pasture and range resources. 3 CEUs offered. Participation fee of \$25 includes catered lunch.

Please RSVP at <http://bit.ly/GrassGrower's2019> or to Lisa at 361.767.5223 by March 15th.

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.

COASTAL BEND GRAIN STORAGE & HANDLERS SAFETY CONFERENCE

Wednesday
April 17, 2019

8:00 am — 2:30 pm

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

Fee: *\$20 (Includes Lunch) payable at the door*
\$15 Fire Extinguisher Certification

Pre-Registration required by April 15, 2019 by calling (361) 587-3400

AGENDA

- | | |
|----------------------|---|
| 8 am: | Registration |
| 8:30 - 9:30 am: | Ladder Requirements & OSHA Update - Marianne McGee, OSHA Compliance Assistance Specialist, Corpus Christi |
| 9:30 - 10:30 am: | Insects & Controls for Long Term Grain Sorghum Storage - Dr. Roy Parker, Retired AgriLife Extension Entomologist, College Station |
| 10:45 - 11:45 am: | Facility First Aid Kits & On Site First Aid Protocols - James Shepard, Texas Cotton Ginners Trust - Loss Control Officer |
| 11:45 am - 12:30 am: | Lunch |
| 12:30 - 1:30 pm: | Fall Protection - Chris Williams, Safety Products Mgr., Kennedy Wire Rope & Sling Co. |
| 1:30 - 2:30 pm: | Fire Extinguisher Training - Ruben Villa, A&C Fire Equipment Co., Corpus Christi |
| 2:30 pm | Survey & Certificates |

1 - TDA IPM CEU
Offered

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, 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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219 N. Vineyard
Sinton, TX 78387
361-587-3400



Bob McCool
County Extension Agent
Ag/Natural Resources

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TEXAS A&M AGRI LIFE EXTENSION

*Bobby R. McCool
San Patricio County Extension Agent
Agriculture/Natural Resources
219 N. Vineyard
Sinton, TX 78387*

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In the event of a name, address or phone number change please contact the office at:
Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service
219 N. Vineyard Attn: Ag/NR
Sinton, Texas 78387
(361) 587-3400



Bobby R. McCool

*Bobby R. McCool
County Extension Agent
Agriculture/Natural Resources
Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service, San Patricio County
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