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Face-To-Face Educational Programs Still Postponed

The current response to the COVID-19 pandemic still restricts our face-to-face programming. However, here are some online opportunities that may interest you.

May 1, 2020 Livestock Guardian Dog Field Day: Online 3:00pm CDT

The Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service will host a free online Livestock Guardian Dog, or LGD, Field Day on May 1 from 3-4 p.m.



The field day will be held on the Zoom meeting platform. Participants will need to download Zoom to their computer, tablet or smart phone and preregister to obtain the meeting link.

Contact Information:

Bill Costanzo, Bill.Costanzo@aq.tamu.edu, 325-653-4576

https://calendar.tamu.edu/agrilife/view/event/date/20200501/event_id/176718

May 5, 2020 North Region Beef Cattle Conference: Online 6:00pm - 9:00pm CDT online

The North Region Beef Cattle Conference online begins May 5, with six segments offered by the [Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service](#) North Region agents and specialists.

Each session will be held from 6-9 p.m. and will be delivered via ZOOM. There will be a one-time \$10 fee per participant plus a \$2.24 payment fee payable online. Registration is now open. Payment must be by credit or debit card or PayPal. Register at :

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/north-region-beef-cattle-conference-registration-102698491954>

Upon registration, participants will receive email confirmation with additional instruction. Participants must register at least one hour prior to the first meeting they attend. After that, no additional fees will be charged. The following is a list of event dates and topics:

Session 1, May 5 Topics: Reproductive development and herd health, economics of reproduction decisions.

Session 2, May 7: Topics: Keep/cull decisions, body condition scores, predator issues, economics.

Session 3, May 12 Topics: Nutrient requirements and forage value, economics.

Session 4, May 19 Topics: Integration of livestock into farming practices, budget analysis of no till, limited till, cover crops and livestock diversification.

Session 5, May 21 Topics: Grazing management plans, supplementation and grazing distribution, prussic acid in forages, economics.

Session 6, May 26 Topics: Learning efficiencies from dairymen, research/ carcass data update, beef/dairy industry panel, markets and economics.



May 16, 2020 Small Acreage Big Opportunity webinar 9:00am - 4:00pm CDT Webinar

The Small Acreage Big Opportunity program for landowners with small properties will be held from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on May 16.

The program, presented by the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service and Texas Wildlife Association, will be a live webinar.

The program will be online and accessible to anyone, but the content will be focused on land management techniques that apply to South Texas.

All that's required for this webinar is to register and have a laptop or personal computer with good internet access.

The fee for the webinar is \$25 with registration on the Texas Wildlife Association website.

Topics will include:

- Lessons from a landowner.
- Building from the ground up with soil.
- Reading your land.
- Plants as wildlife habitat.
- Wildlife tax valuation.
- Tools for land management.
- Cost-share programs.

Register at <https://www.texas-wildlife.org/resources/events/small-acreage-big-opportunity-richmond> .



Current Topics

A Closer Look At Agriculture Market Interruptions During COVID-19

Texas A&M-led Department of Homeland Security center of excellence analysis to focus on food, agriculture sectors *Excerpt from article by AgriLife's Kay Ledbetter*

Part I of III: Disruptions caused to the food and agriculture sector's supply chains by the COVID-19 pandemic are being analyzed by the Texas A&M AgriLife-led Center of Excellence for Cross-Border Threat Screening and Supply Chain Defense Center, or CBTS, a Department of Homeland Security Science and Technology Center of Excellence.

Whether it was the empty meat cases in the supermarkets, the milk market crashing as dairy owners had to dump milk due to lack of demand or grain markets showing volatile reactions, CBTS will exam the critical issues brought to light by this pandemic.

The CBTS was established by the Department of Homeland Security in October 2018 and Texas A&M University was named the lead of the consortium of U.S. academic institutions and other partners. The center's mission is to help protect the global supply chain and reduce the risk of exposing people and infrastructures to biological threats.

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“Because the pandemic’s impacts are unfolding before us, CBTS, a Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Science and Technology Center of Excellence, is working with DHS, academic and industry researchers to more fully assess the impacts of supply chain disruptions on the food and agricultural sectors.”

These projects will provide comprehensive insights about the pandemic’s impacts and identify critical issues that will lead to more resilient supply chains and industries in the future, he said.

“We are proud of Texas A&M AgriLife’s role in looking beyond the immediate supply and demand issues created by COVID-19. It is critical to identify the key trouble spots and determine ways to mitigate the problems for the future to ensure a stable, safe and nutritious food supply not only for Texas, but the nation and world,” said Patrick J. Stover, vice chancellor of [Texas A&M AgriLife](#), dean of the [College of Agriculture and Life Sciences](#) and director of [Texas A&M AgriLife Research](#).

Supply and demand issues

Pompelli said the apparent shortages of some goods in grocery stores are a combination of supply and demand, human behavior and some supply chain disruptions.

But while explanations about human behavior and supply and demand may help in many cases, the overall food and agriculture sector reactions are prompting CBTS to launch a series of studies on the food and agricultural sector’s supply chains.

“For items like toilet paper, human behavior is an important factor,” he said. “Much like we see in cities prior to forecasted snowstorms, people go to markets for basic food and paper products. No one wants to get caught short if they cannot get out, so they buy more than they normally would. Unfortunately for some products, lightly stocked or empty shelves reinforce consumer concerns and our desires to buy more just in case.” Pompelli also said some of the increased demand for certain goods reflects usage patterns at home that are greater than they normally would be if everyone were back at work or school.



“Over the past few months, we have seen evidence of the problems that arise when normal supply chain operations falter,” Pompelli said.

Project goals and results

He said the goal of the project is to describe the complex paths of these impacts and understand the relationships across what previously seemed to be independent supply chains.

The results from the subprojects will provide assessments of the risks facing affected industries, develop initial estimates of the economic impacts within the food and agriculture sectors, and focus on key supply chains in which the pandemic’s impacts have been the most dramatic, Pompelli said.

“These insights will help stakeholders identify critical issues across industries, guide future research and expand our understanding of the supply chain risks we face beyond the horizon of the current pandemic,” Pompelli said.

Read the entire three part series on COVID-19’s agricultural market interruption at:

<https://agrilifetoday.tamu.edu/2020/04/10/a-closer-look-at-agriculture-market-interruptions-during-covid-19/>

Pecan Nut Casebearer

The pecan nut casebearer is a significant pest on pecans. The adult is a gray moth about 1/3 inch long. These moths fly at night and spend the day in concealment. The casebearer moth deposits from 50 to 150 eggs on the tips of developing nutlets. These eggs are barely visible by the naked eye and are greenish white when first laid.



The first generation larva hatch in four to five days and migrate below to feed on buds. Nut penetration follow a day or two after this outside activity. This is the critical state of control.

Extermination is not possible once the larva enter, as chemical sprays will not penetrate the nut to kill the burrowing worms. Complete clusters can be destroyed by one developing casebearer larva.

Pheromone traps are used to help monitor and identify peak moth activity. This method determines optimum spraying times.

If only shade (and not a pecan crop) is sought, spraying is not necessary.

May Horticulture Tips**PLANT:**

- It's warm enough now to plant warm season grasses including St. Augustine, bermuda, buffalo grass and zoysia.

**PRUNE:**

- Thin fruit on peaches, apricots, and plums to 5-6 inches apart on the branches. The result will be larger, better quality fruit.

FERTILIZE:

- Plants in containers and hanging baskets should be fertilized with 20-20-20 or a complete, balanced fertilizer. The fertilizer could be liquid, water soluble or time released. Don't apply fertilizer to dry soil. Water plants before fertilizing.
- Fertilize warm season turf grasses, such as Bermuda or St. Augustine. Soil tests will accurately tell you the needs of your lawn. Most lawns in our area will need a high nitrogen fertilizer. High alkaline soils will also need an application of iron.

- Trees, shrubs, vines and ground-covers should be fertilized at this time. The fertilizer you use on your lawn can also be applied to trees and shrubs. Do NOT use "Weed and Feed" type fertilizers around desirable plant material. Always be sure to water thoroughly after fertilizing.

BE ON THE LOOKOUT

- Broadleaf weedkillers can be used to control non-grassy weeds in turf. Read the label carefully before applying. St. Augustine is susceptible to damage by many types of weedkillers.
- ONLY if you applied pre-emergent for grassburrs and crabgrass in March is it time to put down the second application.
- Look for early blight on tomatoes which will cause lower leaves to develop large yellow blotches. Treat with a registered fungicide.

Parting Thoughts.....Don't Forget Mother's Day!

Angels—by Randy Travis

Are you telling me you've never seen an angel?

Never felt the presence of one standing by?

No robe of white.

No halo in sight.

Well, you missed the most obvious thing.

Man, are you blind?

Just look in your mother's eyes.



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Check us out on the web! <https://sutton.agrilife.org>



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