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June 3 Ranchers Leasing Workshop

AgriLife Extension has developed an online Leasing course that will allow people to receive the same information presented during our live workshops from the comfort of their home, anytime, at their own pace.

The online course gives participants access to the full leasing workshop anytime they want to watch. The cost is \$75 and can be found at <https://agrilifelearn.tamu.edu/> in the "Business and Finance" section.



Presenters are Tiffany Dowell Lashmet, AgriLife Extension agriculture law specialist, Amarillo and Greg Kaase, Ph.D., AgriLife Extension agricultural economist and risk management specialist, College Station. They will cover grazing, hunting and livestock leases as well as landowner liability protection. The course is designed for both landowners and lessees and covers legal considerations like why written leases are important, key terms to include, and economic issues like average cash lease rates and different lease payment structures.

Participants will be able to download the Ranchers' Agricultural Leasing Handbook, which contains checklists and sample lease language. If you want the hard copy for \$25, you can order one by contacting Lacrechia Garza, Lacrechia.garza@ag.tamu.edu.

OTHER ONLINE WORKSHOPS & COURSES

June 5 Advanced Viticulture Shortcourse

The Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service is holding a three-part Advanced Viticulture Shortcourse. Preregistration is required; the cost is \$30 for each individual session or \$75 for all three. Contact Information: Daniel Hillin, 806.746.6101, daniel.hillin@ag.tamu.edu.

June 28 Texas A&M AgriLife Organic Workshop

Although the videos are tailored toward the High Plains and Rolling Plains producers, there are videos that provide great insights for producers across Texas. The series of nine videos range anywhere from about 10 to 90 minutes and can be viewed at any time without a fee.

Example topics include Texas Department of Agriculture Organic Certification Program, Integrated Goat Grazing System, Justin Benavidez, Organic Production Marketing.

For more information, contact AgriLife Extension agronomists Jourdan Bell at Jourdan.bell@ag.tamu.edu, or Emi Kimura, emi.kimura@ag.tamu.edu.

CEU Workshops

We will make you aware of any online opportunities as we can. However, we hope to be able to resume our local workshops as soon as possible this summer. Please contact us with your topics of interest!

New AFPC Report Helps Producers Navigate CFAP Program

On May 19, 2020, USDA released details of the Coronavirus Food Assistance Program (CFAP). CFAP's \$19 billion package contains two primary components. First, USDA will partner with regional and local distributors to purchase \$3 billion in fresh produce, dairy and meat and provide those commodities to those in need. The bulk of the program is designed to provide \$16 billion in direct support to farmers and ranchers affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. Eligible commodities for the direct support include:

- Livestock: cattle, hogs, and sheep (lambs and yearlings only)
- Dairy
- Wool
- Non-specialty crops: malting barley, canola, corn, upland cotton, millet, oats, soybeans, sorghum, sunflowers, durum wheat, and hard red spring wheat.
- Specialty Crops -- Fruits: apples, avocados, blueberries, cantaloupe, grapefruit, kiwifruit, lemons, oranges, papaya, peaches, pears, raspberries, strawberries, tangerines, tomatoes, and watermelons
- Specialty Crops -- Vegetables: artichokes, asparagus, broccoli, cabbage, carrots, cauliflower, celery, sweet corn, cucumbers, eggplant, garlic, iceberg lettuce, romaine lettuce, dry onions, green onions, peppers, potatoes, rhubarb, spinach, squash, sweet potatoes and taro.
- Nuts: almonds, pecans, walnuts
- Other: beans, mushrooms

Signup will be from May 26 to August 28, 2020. Once signup begins, eligible producers should call their county Farm Service Agency (FSA) office to schedule an appointment.

To help affected producers navigate this new program, Agricultural and Food Policy Center (AFPC) at Texas A&M University co-directors Dr. Bart Fischer and Dr. Joe Outlaw, and Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service economists Dr. David Andersons and Dr. Justin Benavidez authored a timely report. *Overview of the Coronavirus Food Assistance Program (CFAP)* is available at <https://www.afpc.tamu.edu/research/publications/files/699/RR-20-02.pdf>. The report provides an excellent overview of the program, provides clarification on payment rates and eligible commodities, payment limits, income tests, and payment reductions. It also provides payment calculations and examples by commodity.

The report's lead author, Dr. Bart Fischer, notes that while CFAP provides a significant amount of aid, there are a number of losses not covered. A previous AFPC report, estimated Texas agricultural losses alone could exceed \$8 billion. That report can be read at <https://afpc.tamu.edu/research/publications/files/698/RR-20-01.pdf>.

Dr. Fischer identified some areas of concern not addressed by CFAP:

- 2020 Row Crops: CFAP only provides assistance for crops held in inventory as of January 15, 2020. In other words, it provides no assistance for the 2020 crop year.
- Livestock: While livestock producers in general and cattle producers in particular are the biggest recipients of assistance from CFAP, the estimated support for cattle is still significantly less than half of the damages estimated by industry. While animals in inventory from April 16 to May 14, will be eligible for a CFAP payment, there likely will be calls to provide additional assistance to producers who had to depopulate animals in response to COVID-19. Also, those producing poultry on contract and paid by pounds produced may accrue significant additional losses.
- Others in the Supply Chain: CFAP provides no direct benefits to anyone in the supply chain after leaving the farm gate. For example, ethanol producers are under tremendous strain. Also, the merchandising supply chain for cotton has incurred significant carrying charges, logistical costs, and market disruptions not currently addressed by CFAP.

As Congress continues to debate the next steps, these and other issues will be in the forefront.

Comparison of MezaVue, Tordon, and Surmount For Prickly Pear Control

Two years ago we sprayed test plots to evaluate rates of the herbicide, MezaVue against Tordon and Surmount for prickly pear control.

Six treatments were applied with an ATV equipped with 2 Boom Buster 140 nozzles and 2, 7- gallon/minute pumps at 25-30 psi and 20 gallons of spray-volume per acre. Treatments were evaluated for percent pricklypear pad yellowing and desiccation at 4 and 8 months post-treatment. Treatments are listed in Table 1.

Treatment	Herbicide/combination and rates, oz/ac
1	Tordon 22K, 32 oz
2	Surmount, 64 oz
3	MezaVue, 8 oz
4	MezaVue, 16 oz
5	MezaVue, 24 oz
6	MezaVue, 32 oz

Results and Discussion

At 12 months post-treatment, average pricklypear pad desiccation for MezaVue at 24 and 32 oz/ac were similar ($p < 0.1$) to Surmount and Tordon, but greater than MezaVue at 8 oz/ac (Figure 1). However, when combined with data at other sites, MezaVue at 32 oz/ac provides more consistent pricklypear pad mortality (Figure 2).

At 24 months post-treatment, pad desiccation was similar for all treatments except MezaVue at 8 oz.

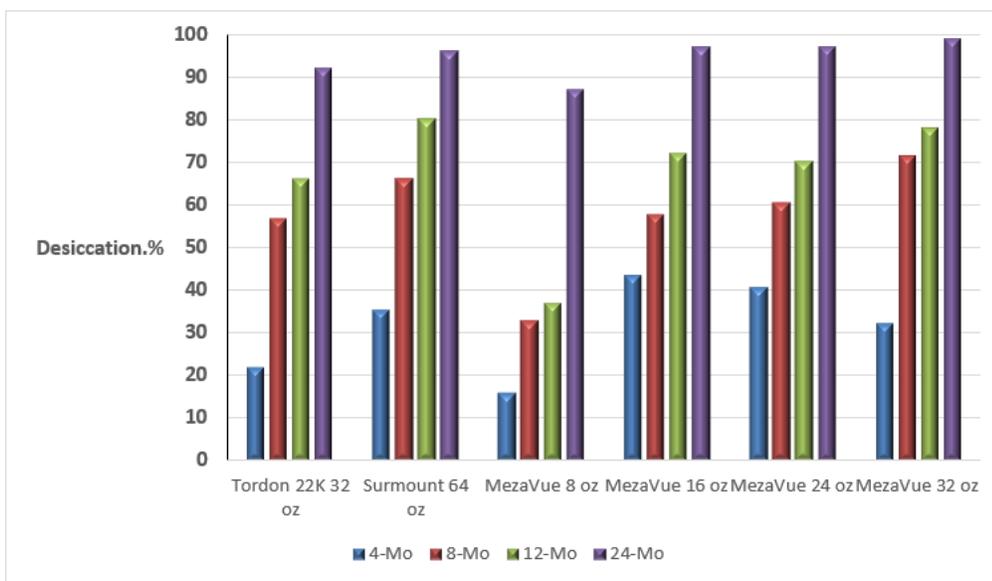


Figure 1. Average pricklypear pad desiccation at 4, 8, 12 and 24 months post-treatment.

Conclusions

At 12 months post-treatment, desiccation for MezaVue at 32 oz/ac was the most consistent treatment.

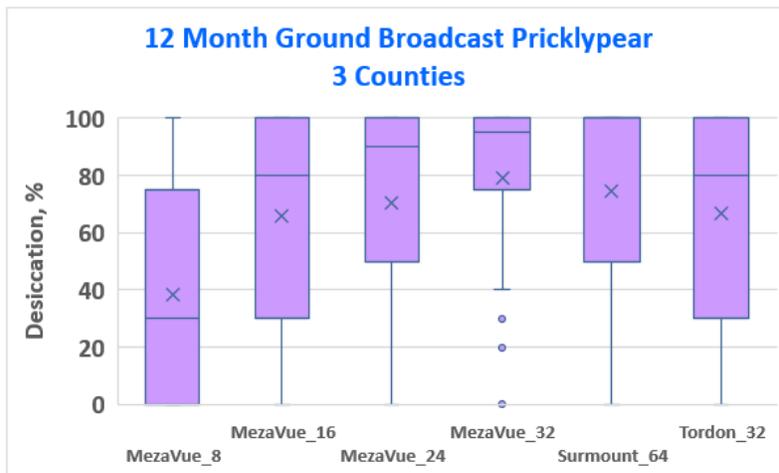


Figure 2. Comparison of consistency among treatments. The smaller the box, the more consistent the treatment.

Acknowledgements

Appreciation is expressed to Dow AgroSciences for support of this project.

June Horticulture Tips

PLANT:

• There is still time to plant heat tolerant summer annuals. Just be sure to water transplants as needed until roots become established.



PRUNE:

- Removing faded flowers from the plant before they set seed will keep the plants flowering and producing more flowers.
- Frequent mowing every week is best for your grass. Mowing often helps to reduce weeds by preventing seed heads from forming. Alternate mowing directions to keep the turf from developing a "grain".

FERTILIZE:

- A light application of fertilizer every 4 to 6 weeks to annual flowers.
- Fertilize rose beds every 4 to 6 weeks with a high nitrogen fertilizer for healthier plants.
- Continue to spray zinc on pecan trees and fertilize with nitrogen. Check for case bearer and spray if necessary. Do not spray for aphids. If needed, irrigate to improve the health of your pecan trees.

Parting Thoughts.....About Father's Day

I Still Can't Say Goodbye as sung by Merle Haggard

When I was young
My dad would say
"c'mon son, let's go out an' play"
Seems like only yesterday

When I was all by myself
I'd climb up the closet shelf
Find his hat an' fix the brim
Pretending I was him

No matter how hard I try
No matter how many tears I cry
No matter how many years go by
I still can't say goodbye

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BE ON THE LOOKOUT

- Check for insects and diseases. In warm weather, spider mites can become troublesome.
- Continue to spray roses for black spot and insects. Thrips cause buds to fail to open and petal to brown. Apply an approved insecticide for control.
- Look for problems on tomatoes. Bloom-end rot: This appears as a sunken brown spot on the bottom of the tomato. This is caused from irregular watering. Mulch plants and keep them moist to help prevent this problem. Early blight: Plants have yellow blotches or dark circular spots with concentric markings. Spots occur on lower leaves first. Apply approved fungicide at 7 to 10 day intervals. Curly top: Leaves curl and cup upwards and leaves turn light green to yellow with purple veins on the lower sides. Remove plants from the garden and rotate plants next year.

MISCELLANEOUS CHORES:

- Water lawns and gardens thoroughly but not too frequently. Soak to a depth of about 6 inches. Watering in the early morning or late evening may eliminate problems with evaporation from high winds. Shade trees need more water than the turf areas do. Soaker hoses coiled at the drip line of the tree are the best way to water large trees.

