December 2016

Agriculture Newsletter:

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Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service
Wharton County

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NOTICE

The Wharton County Extension Office will be closed on:
Friday, December 23rd
Monday, December 26th
Monday -January 2nd

Upcoming Educational Programs Slated for January/February 2017

By Corrie Bowen
County Extension Agent
Wharton County

It's always a pleasure to write these newsletters, sharing useful information with our Extension clientele in and around Wharton County. Much of the month has been spent winding down the year, but at the same time we're winding up for another round! That round begins in mid-January 2017 with our Western Rice Belt Conference, Grain Handlers Conference, Feed Grain and Cotton Conference, and the Wharton County Pesticide CEU Conference. Listed Below are the dates of these programs, but all of the specifics, like the agenda, location, and registration information is within this newsletter. I wish everyone a Merry Christmas, and I hope to see all of you at our upcoming programs over the next two months.

January/February 2017 Programs:

January 18, 2017—Western Rice Belt Conference—El Campo Civic Center
January 19, 2017—Grain Handlers Conference—El Campo Civic Center
January 26, 2017—Feed Grain and Cotton Conference—Wharton Fairgrounds
February 2, 2017—Wharton County 5-CEU Pesticide Recert Conf—Crescent
February 3, 2017—Colorado County Beef and Forage 5 CEU Conference—Columbus

Educational programs of the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service are open to all people without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, disability, genetic information or veteran status.
The Texas A&M University System, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the County Commissioners Courts of Texas Cooperating

24th Annual Upper Gulf Coast Grain Handlers Conference - January 19, 2017

The Conference will be held on Thursday, January 19, 2017 at the El Campo Civic Center. Registration will begin at 8:00 am, the program will begin at 8:25 am and should conclude around 3:30 pm. A catered lunch will be provided. Five CEUs (2 IPM; 1 L&R; 2 General) will be offered to all TDA pesticide applicators that sign in at the beginning of the meeting and remain through the closing of the program. No structural credits offered. The cost of the program is $20.00 per person preregistered by January 13th or $25.00 per person at the door. To preregister, please contact the Colorado County Extension Office and we will send a form to you. Program Topics: Fumigation Equipment Usage and Safety, Manlift Safety and Fall Protection Safety, TDA Pesticide Laws and Regulations Update, Fumigation and Protectants for Use with Stored Grain, Insect ID for Stored Grains, and an IPM-based speaker panel on keeping facilities and grain "bug-free." For more information, call 979-732-2082

Colorado County Beef and Forage 5 CEU Conference - State Climatologist to Present - February 3, 2017

The Beef and Forage Committee of Colorado County is hosting an educational seminar on Friday, February 3rd, 2017 at the Exhibit Hall within the Colorado County Fairgrounds. The program will offer 5 CEU credits for those producers who possess a private pesticide applicator's license. This year we are most excited to have the Texas State Climatologist, Dr. John Nielsen-Gammon, speaking at the event. His presentation will include how to read the weather and forecast for applying pesticides, better understanding your local forecast, and his long-term weather and climate outlook. There will also be a live demonstration of sprayer equipment, spray tips, booms, pressure regulation, pesticide mixing, and more. Other topics include Understanding Pesticide Labels, Being the Voice for Pesticide Stewardship, and a Laws and Regulations Update, Those interested may pre-register by January 30th, 2017 for $25 per person and $30 for couples. Registration at the event will be $30 per person and $35 for couples. To preregister or for more information, call the Colorado County Extension Office at 979-732-2082.

Fireweed (Heartleaf Nettle) Control in Pastures

adapted from University of Florida Extension

Fireweed (Urtica chamaedryoides) (Figure 1) is native to our area of Texas, and every year I get questions about this plant in the late winter and early Spring. A lot of people call this "burning grass". Well, it's not a grass, but it most certainly burns if you touch it. This winter annual species is commonly observed in sandy or sandy loam pastures, particularly in bareground areas (near feeding pens and under fences), as well as along tree lines where forage grasses are less dense. Fireweed is particularly troublesome because it possesses stinging hairs that easily embed in skin. Once exposed to the toxin, severe irritation can occur for several hours. Though generally avoided by cattle, horses are more likely to browse fireweed and develop stress symptoms. These symptoms commonly manifest themselves as weight loss, or difficulty in swallowing and breathing for many days after consumption. In extreme cases, young horses have died after rolling in fireweed and becoming over-exposed to the toxins in the leaf hairs.

Figure 1. Heartleaf Nettle, aka "Burning Grass"

Cont., Fireweed (Heartleaf Nettle) Control in Pastures

Biology

Fireweed leaves resemble that of a strawberry plant, but the plant as a whole has little resemblance to strawberry, or a grass! The plant has square stems and small pale green flower clusters. Small stinging hairs are found on the stems, petioles, and leaves. These hairs contain irritants that have been shown to cause respiratory stress and local allergic reactions when ingested or inhaled.

Control

Little work has been reported for control of this seasonal species. Therefore, experiments were conducted by University of Florida to determine which pasture herbicides are most effective on fireweed.

It was observed that 2,4-D and Telar were ineffective on fireweed (Table 1). Glyphosate, which can be applied when pasture grasses are dormant, provided as much as 80% control. However, in other experiments, we have found glyphosate to be inconsistent on fireweed, sometimes providing as little as 30% control. Because glyphosate can severely injure pasture grasses that are not fully dormant and because of its inconsistency on fireweed, we do not recommend the use of this product.

Weedmaster at 1.5 qt/A did not provide acceptable levels of control, but GrazonNext HL, Remedy Ultra, and Pasturegard HL were found to be highly effective. Within 2 weeks of application, over 90% of the fireweed plants were dead, and the remaining individuals were yellow and dying. By 6 weeks after treatment, no fireweed could be found.

It is Florida Extension's recommendation that GrazonNext HL, Remedy Ultra (or comparable triclopyr ester product), or Pasturegard HL be used for effective control of fireweed. There are no grazing restrictions for beef cattle with these herbicides, but lactating dairy animals must be removed for 0 and 14 days with GrazonNext HL and Remedy Ultra, respectively, and one season for Pasturegard HL.

Mowing provides no benefit for control of this species. In fact, mowing has been found to result in smaller plants, but with many more stinging hairs. Additionally, the seed is surrounded by a sticky substance that can be transported by mower blades to areas not infested with this weed. If not controlled, fireweed generally disappears in May with the onset of summer temperatures, but returns the next year.

Table 1. Control of fireweed with various herbicides.

For a complete copy of this research summary, go to: http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/ag252

Herbicide	Rate Product/A	Herbicide cost $ per acre	% Control	
			2 wat[2]	6 wat
2,4-D amine	2 qt	6	10	0
Weedmaster	1.5 qt	7	33	65
Remedy Ultra	1 qt	14–20	93	100
Pasturegard HL	24 fl. oz	20	92	100
GrazonNext HL	24 fl. oz	8	95	100
Glyphosate	1 qt	3	70	80
Telar	0.5 oz	10	30	10

[2]wat=weeks after treatment.

TEXAS A&M AGRILIFE EXTENSION

2017 WHARTON COUNTY
TDA PESTICIDE APPLICATOR RE-CERTIFICATION CONFERENCE

5 CEUs

FEBRUARY 2, 2017

WHARTON COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS • CRESCENT HALL

REGISTRATION: 8:00 a.m. — 9:00 a.m.
PROGRAM: 9:00a.m. — 3:00 p.m.
FEE: $35/PERSON • LUNCH INCLUDED

PROGRAM TOPICS

•TDA PESTICIDE LAWS & REGULATIONS UPDATE
Dr. Don Renchie — Associate Professor and Extension Specialist
•WORKER PROTECTION STANDARD LAW
Greg Baker — TDA Pesticide Inspector
•HERBICIDE APPLICATION METHODS AND MODES OF ACTION
Rob Brooks — Range and Pasture Specialist, Dow AgroSciences
•INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT OF AQUATIC WEED CONTROL
Peter Woods — Extension Program Specialist II
•FLATSEDGE, WEEDS, HUISACHE& ROSEHEDGE CONTROL
Dr. Megan Clayton — Assistant Professor and Extension Range Specialist

The program will include 2 CEUs in Laws and Regulations, 2 CEUs in Integrated Pest Management, and 1 General CEU. No Structural Credits Offered.

To register, return the attached Registration Form and your payment by January 31st to:

WHARTON COUNTY EXTENSION OFFICE
Attn: Stacey Shanks
315 E. Milam, Suite 112
Wharton, TX 77488

TEXAS A&M AGRILIFE EXTENSION

CORRIE P. BOWEN
Wharton County Extension Agent
Agriculture and Natural Resources
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Individuals with disabilities who require an auxiliary aid, service or accommodation in order to participate in any Extension activity, are encouraged to contact the County Extension Office for assistance 5 days prior to the activity.

Registration Form
Wharton County Pesticide Applicator's
Re-Certification Conference

Name:_____

Address:_____

City:_____ Zip:_____ Phone:_____

Company:_____

TDA License #_____

Additional Registrants:

Name	TDA License Number

Registration fee is $35 per person. Please pay by *check*!

Make checks payable to: Wharton County Row Crops Committee

Mail form and check to: Texas A&M AgriLife Extension
Attn: Stacey Shanks
315 E. Milam, Suite 112
Wharton, Texas 77488

For Office Use Only:

Date Received _____ Amount Paid _____ Check No. _____ Name on Check _____

TEXAS A&M AGRILIFE EXTENSION

WESTERN RICE BELT *Production Conference*

TEXAS RICE COUNCIL ANNUAL MEETING

January 18, 2017 • El Campo Civic Center

Agenda

8:00 a.m.	**REGISTRATION**
8:15 a.m.	**Welcome - *Judge Philip Spenrath***
8:20 a.m.	**Weed Control Update - *Dr. Muthu Bagavathiannan***
8:50 a.m.	**Association Report: USA Rice**
9:05 a.m.	**BREAK**
9:30 a.m.	**Rice Disease Management Update - *Dr. Shane Zhou***
10:00 a.m.	**Pesticide Laws and Regs Update - *Greg Baker, TDA***
10:50 a.m.	**Financial Risk Management - *Carrie Watts-Silveus***
11:00 a.m.	**Rice Market Inventory and Outlook - *Thomas Wynn***
11:30 a.m.	**Insect Management - *Dr. Mo Way***
12:00 p.m.	**LUNCH**
	• **Rice Poster Contest Results - *Rachel Berry***
	• **Texas Rice Council Producer Elections - *Ray Stoesser***
1:00 p.m.	**Association Report: U.S. Rice Producers - *Tommy Turner***
1:15 p.m.	**Rice Policy Update - *Joe Outlaw***
1:45 p.m.	**Price Risk Management Tools - *Dennis Delaughter***

2.5 TDA CEUs
CCA Credits Applied For

RICE TRADE SHOW
Including booths from Conference Sponsors

EXHIBITS INCLUDE
Equipment
Seed Dealers
Chemical Suppliers
Other Rice Industry Products

CONTACT INFO
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979-532-3310

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TEXAS A&M AGRILIFE EXTENSION

2017 UPPER GULF COAST FEED GRAIN & COTTON PRODUCTION CONFERENCE

JANUARY 26, 2017

CRESCENT HALL • WHARTON COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS • WHARTON, TX

Registration 8:30 a.m.

Feed Grain Conference 9:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. || Cotton Conference 1:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.

4 TDA CEUS (2 IPM, 1 L&R, 1 General) Applied for • 6 CCA Hours Applied for

FEED GRAIN CONFERENCE

RSVP by 12 Noon JANUARY 25, 2017

9:00 **Southern Rust in Grain Crops**
Tom Isakeit, Extension Plant Pathologist

9:30 **Precision Ag - Speaker Panel**
Extension Specialists & Local Producers

10:15 **Feed Grain Economics**
Dr. Rob Hogan, Extension Economist

11:00 **Pesticide Laws and Regulations Update**
Greg Baker, TDA Pesticide Inspector

12:00 **Update on Sorghum/Sugarcane Aphid on Sorghum**
Robert Bowling, Extension Entomologist

12:30 LUNCH PROVIDED BY SPONSORS

COTTON CONFERENCE

1:00 **Nitrogen Management in Cotton**
Jake Mowrer, Extension Soils Specialist

1:30 **Bollworm Outbreak of 2016**
Robert Bowling, Extension Entomologist

2:00 **Weed Management in Cotton**
Josh McGinty, Extension Agronomist

2:30 **RACE Trial Update/Potassium Trial Update/Other**
Dr. Gaylon Morgan, Extension Cotton Specialist

3:00 **Cotton Disease Update**
Tom Isakeit, Extension Plant Pathologist

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