

**News From Your County Agent**  
**by Marcel Valdez, CEA-ANR**  
**Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service**  
**Zavala County**

Thank you so much for reading this week and greetings to all of you. Most of this week I am in College Station Texas at the Texas A&M University Center for Food Safety. I am meeting with food safety specialist and updating my data base and resources which I use too conduct food safety educational programs in the county and region and supported by the Winter Garden Spinach Producers Board. Regulations regarding food safety are becoming more stringent and adding additional compliance issues to producers of fresh spinach and other vegetables grown in our area. The new Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) signed by the president in January 2015 will affect all aspects of food production including livestock producers and produce growers, processors and any industry associated with food production, processing and shipping.

**Zavala County Heifer Exhibitor Information**

All 4-H and FFA exhibitors that are planning to show heifer projects at spring major shows must have these projects validated. The Texas Heifer Validation UIN order period will be from September 1-15, 2016. The actual physical validation of these heifers will take place between October 1-November 1, 2016. If you will be participating in this program contact Jeremy Garza, Zavala County Steer and Heifer Validation chairman at 830-279-2727. In order to even considering participating with a heifer project and validating a heifer through this process the original registration papers for the animals must be in the name of the Exhibitor.

**Local Small Grain Producers Should Mark Their Calendars for Small Grain Production Program**

A regional small grain production program is being planned for Tuesday August 30, 2016 at the Uvalde County Fairplex Auditorium in Uvalde. Plans are to officer 2 CEU's for private, commercial and non-commercial pesticide applicator license holders. The program is set to begin with registration at 9:30 a.m. and should conclude around 3:00 p.m. Some of the topics to be covered at this event include diseases of small grains, Hessian Fly and other small grain pests, weather outlook, managing small grains for profit-graze out or grain production and wheat variety selection and trial updates. I will provide additional information as this program is finalized but I wanted to inform you about this upcoming opportunity in a timely manner so that you can make plans to attend. For more information about this program contact the Zavala County Office of the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service at 830-374-2883.

**Tip of The Week: Extension Tips on Avoiding The Zika Virus**

The Zika virus is a potential threat to the health of unborn babies in Texas. The virus is primarily spread through mosquito bites and the recent cases in Florida almost certainly