

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

Greetings to all of you from Waco, Texas. This week I am attending the Texas County Agricultural Agents (TCAAA) State Professional Improvement Meeting. I thought that going north about 300 miles would be a little bit cooler than back home but no such luck. I think that with the humidity in this part of the state it feels even hotter than back home. From what I understand from our weather experts the only way we are going to get a break from this very hot and dry period is for the high pressure that has dominated the state of Texas for the past several days moves out of the state and allow chances for a cooling rainfall event to help us out. We hope this happens soon. Thank you for reading this week.

**Zavala County Sheep/ Goat Producers Encouraged to Participate in Election**

The sheep and goat predator management board (S&GPMB) will hold an election on July 29, 2016, to elect three sheep and or goat producers to serve a 6-year term on the nine member sheep and goat predator management board. Terms are expiring for one director from each district. The referendum area currently consists of 111 counties, divided into three districts in the state of Texas. All producers who are subject to paying the thirty (30) cents per head assessment to the S&GPMB are entitled to vote for a candidate within the district in which they reside. Producers can vote in one district, for one candidate including write-in-candidates. Zavala County is in district 3 for the purpose of this election.

Official Ballots for this election can be obtained from the Zavala County office of the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service at 221 North First Avenue in Crystal City Texas. Those producers that reside outside of Zavala County may contact the Extension Service office in located in their respective county of residence. Ballots must be post marked on or before July 29, 2016. For more information contact the Zavala County office of the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service at 830-374-2883.

**13th Annual Symposium on Ranch Management Event Set**

October 20-21, 2016 in Kingsville, Texas will be the dates and location for the 13th Annual Holt Cat® Symposium on Excellence in Ranch Management. This year our symposium, Practical Stockmanship in Ranching, will bring top cattle handling experts together to teach attendees not only about low-stress handling techniques, but also considerations about large and small facility costs; workman's comp; management practices for castrating, dehorning, and euthanizing; and more. Keynote speaker Shawn Darcy of the National Cattlemen's Beef Association will discuss linking animal welfare concerns to beef supply chain actions. Discussions will also include producer experiences with implementing change in cattle handling. Both days will include a speaker panel discussion, and a trade show of more than 25 vendors will be open throughout the program. For more information about this event contact the Zavala County office of the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service at 830-374-2883.

**Tip of The Week: Take Care of Your Trees During a Drought**

Even though it has been very hot and dry in the Zavala County area for the past 2 weeks plus, officially we are not in a "drought" according to the Texas drought monitoring system. However, if we continue this pattern we could quickly be in an extremely dry or exceptionally dry condition soon. Last week I provided you with tips on proper lawn care during a drought so it is only fitting to remember of what to do for our trees during a drought. I think the only exception is for those of you who only use mesquite, hackberry and other native trees in your landscape. For those of you who have non-native trees in your landscape and want them to survive in a South Texas drought here are some ideas of what you can do.

Symptoms of drought injury to trees can be sudden or may take up to two years to be revealed. Drought injury symptoms on tree leaves include wilting, curling at the edges, and yellowing. Deciduous leaves may develop scorch, brown outside edges or browning between veins. For those of you who have been successful in maintaining an evergreen tree in your landscape look at that needles which may turn yellow, red or purple. They may also turn brown at the tips of the needles and browning may progress through the needle towards the twig. In continued drought, leaves may be smaller than normal, drop prematurely or remain attached to the tree even though brown. Often times, drought stress may not kill a tree outright, but set it up for more serious secondary insect and disease infestations in following years.

Watering trees during a drought is also very important. When watering trees remember to keep watering to a depth of 12" inches below the soil surface is recommended. Saturate the soil around the tree within the "dripline" (the outer edges of the tree's branches) to disperse water down toward the roots. For evergreens, water 3'-5' beyond the dripline on all sides of the tree. The objective is to water slowly, dispersing the flow of water to get the water deep down to the trees roots. Watering for short periods of time only encourages shallow rooting which can lead to more drought damage. Don't dig holes in the ground in an effort to water deeply. This dries out roots even more. A soil needle/deep root feeder attached to a hose is acceptable to insert into the ground if your soil is not too hard and compact. Overhead spraying of tree leaves is inefficient and should be avoided during drought conditions. Watering at ground level to avoid throwing water in the air is more efficient. So how much should you water your trees during a drought? How much water your tree should receive depends upon the tree size. ***A general rule of thumb is to use approximately 10 gallons of water per inch of trunk diameter for each watering.*** Measure trunk diameter at knee height. *General formula:* Tree Diameter x 5 minutes = Total Watering Time. Example: When you hand water using a hose at medium pressure, it will take approximately 5 minutes to produce 10 gallons of water. If you have a 4" diameter tree, it should receive 40 gallons of water - multiply by 5 minutes to equal total watering time of 20 minutes. All size trees should be watered April through September according to the guidelines below. All trees should also receive adequate water during the winter months too -For more information on winter watering, see below. Water should be distributed evenly under the dripline of the tree. Newly planted and smaller trees can get adequate water by hand watering with a soft spray hose attachment. Since our area constantly deals with drought you will want to consider trees listed as drought-tolerant. These trees are adapted to sites in their native habitat that regularly experience prolonged dry spells. Although they are native to drought and are more tolerant than others the first few years of life is critical to the survival of any tree. Remember trees add value to your property when it comes to sale so do everything you can do to save them. Have a great week. M.V.

July 18-22, 2016.

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