

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

Afternoon a series of very cool morning things are starting to change a little as we approach June which only means warmer to hotter temperatures and dry days, but hey it will be summertime soon in South Texas. Greeting to all of you and may everyone have a wonderful Mother's Day weekend with friends and family.

Carnivore Management Program Set For June 22

Zavala, Uvalde, Bandera, Kinney, Edwards and Real counties will sponsor a carnivore management program at The Texas A&M Agrilife Research and Extension Center at Uvalde, located at 1619 Garner Field Road, Uvalde. This valuable program for producers will be held on Thursday, June 22, 2017 beginning with registration at 5:30 p.m. and the program is scheduled to begin at 6:00 p.m. Producers with a pesticide applicators license that attend this event will receive 2 continuing education units (CEU's). There will be a \$20.00 registration fee to attend this event which will include dinner. If you plan to attend you are asked to Samantha Korzekwa at 830-278-6661.

Marcel Valdez, Zavala County Extension Agent, Dr. Maureen G. Frank, Assistant Professor & Extension Wildlife Specialist, and Samantha Korzekwa, Uvalde County Extension Agent have lined up two highly qualified speakers for this event. Mike Bodenchueck with the U.S.D.A. Wildlife Service and Dr. John Tomeček with Texas A&M AgriLife Extension will discuss options and techniques to reduce damage by carnivorous predators such as coyotes, foxes, bobcats and mountain lions.

According to the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) predators killed 23,000 adult sheep and 48,000 lambs in the State, valued at \$2,254,000 and \$3,120,000, respectively. For more information about this event contact Marcel Valdez, Zavala County Extension Agent at 830-374-2883 or Dr. Maureen Frank, Assistant Professor & Extension Wildlife Specialist-Uvalde at 830-278-9151 ext. 280, or Samantha Korzekwa-Uvalde County Extension Agent at 830-278-6661. I hope some of you will make plans to attend this important program.

Uvalde Wheat and Vegetable Field Day Set For Next Week

The Texas A&M Agrilife Research and Extension Center in Uvalde will host a combined vegetable and wheat field day on Thursday, May 18 at the center located at 1619 Garner Field road in Uvalde. The program is set to begin at 8:00 a.m. and should conclude by 1:00 p.m. Both breakfast and lunch will be provided on site. The event will feature educational sessions and crop field tours. Some of the topics and featured crop field tour stops include onion and watermelon breeding, wheat rust diseases, hydroponics, tomato production and others. Zavala County Extension Agent Marcel Valdez will provide attendees with 2 CEU's as part of the requirements for maintaining their pesticide applicator license.

You are encouraged to please RSVP by Friday, May 12, 2017 by contacting Liza Silva at 830-278-

5191 extension 232 or by e-mail to lmsilva@ag.tamu.edu or for more information contact Marcel Valdez, Zavala County Extension Agent at 830-374-2883.

Tip of The Week: Tips on Keeping your Mother's Day Flowers Fresh

Many people chose to send or give their mothers flowers on Mother's Day. Even children in day care and preschool often come home with little seedlings they have planted in honor of their mother for the special day. According to statisticbrain.com American's spend 1.9 on flowers for their mothers on Mother's Day. Mixed bouquets often are popular Mother's Day flowers, offering a splash of different colors and a variety of flowers. Other best sellers include roses, carnations, tulips and daffodils. Some of the more whimsical best-selling Mother's Day flowers include pompon-headed chrysanthemums.

Of course if you give flowers on Mother's Day we all know that they will not last forever however, here are 8 tips researched by Readers Digest that may help you keep your Mother's day bouquets fresh for a longer period of time.

1. Don't throw away those last drops of soda! Pour about 1/4 cup into the water in a vase full of cut flowers. The sugar in the soda will make the blossoms last longer. *Note:* If you have a clear vase and want the water to remain clear, use a clear soda, like Sprite or 7-Up.
2. Just as it preserves your hairstyle, a spritz of hair spray can help your cut flowers look fresh longer. Stand a foot away from the bouquet and give them a quick spray, just on the undersides of the leaves and petals.
3. Everyone likes to keep cut flowers around as long as possible, and there are several good methods. One way is to mix 2 tablespoons apple cider vinegar and 2 tablespoons sugar with the vase water before adding the flowers. Be sure to change the water (with more vinegar and sugar, of course) every few days to enhance your flowers' longevity.
4. The secret to keeping cut flowers looking good as long as possible is to minimize the growth of bacteria in the water and to provide nourishment to replace what the flower would have gotten had it not been cut. Add a few drops of vodka (or any clear spirit) to the vase water for antibacterial action along with 1 teaspoon sugar. Change the water every other day, refreshing the vodka and sugar each time.
5. It's a tried-and-true way to keep roses and other cut flowers fresh longer: Put a crushed aspirin in the water before adding your flowers. Also, don't forget to change the vase water every few days.
6. Freshly cut flowers will last longer if you add 1/4 teaspoon bleach per quart (1 liter) of vase water. Another popular recipe calls for 3 drops bleach and 1 teaspoon sugar in 1 quart (1 liter) water. This will also keep the water from getting cloudy and inhibit the growth of bacteria.
7. Your posies and other cut flowers will last longer if you add a copper penny and a cube of sugar to the vase water. The copper in pennies is thought to act like an acidifier, which prevents the growth of bacteria.

8. Make your own preservative to keep cut flowers fresh longer. Dissolve 3 tablespoons sugar and 2 tablespoons white vinegar per quart (liter) of warm water. When you fill the vase, make sure the cut stems are covered by 3-4 inches (7-10 centimeters) of the prepared water. The sugar nourishes the plants, while the vinegar inhibits bacterial growth. You'll be surprised how long the arrangement stays fresh. Have a very happy Mother's Day week and keep those flowers fresh. M.V.

May 8-12, 2017.

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