

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

The old saying about April showers bring May flowers usually does not happen in our area quite like that. Since we usually start to warm up pretty early, and if March showers happen like it has this year much of South Texas flowers for the most part have or they are nearing their spring show, leaving us with just green, green and green everywhere. Greetings to all of you and thank you for reading this week.

**New Feral Hog Control Bait Will NOT Happen In Texas**

The Scimetrics Ltd. Corp. has withdrawn its registration of Kaput Feral Hog Bait in the state of Texas. Even though this company has received tremendous support from farmers and ranchers in the State of Texas, and have empathy for the environmental devastation, endangered species predation, and crop damage being inflicted here by a growing feral hog population. However, under the threat of many lawsuits, the family owned company cannot at this time risk the disruption of their business and continue to compete with special interests in Texas that have larger resources to sustain a lengthy legal battle.

The Kaput Feral Hog Bait label has been approved by the U.S. EPA, which requires meeting stringent testing and documentation requirements. To meet these high standards, many years of work have gone into developing and proving the safety and effectiveness of Kaput Feral Hog Bait. Unfortunately, has completely discontinued any attempts to provide this product in Texas at this time. I guess we will continue to look for other feral hog control methods to supplement those control practices currently being utilized by Texas landowners as they continue to deal with the damage caused by feral hogs in the state.

**Wheat and Vegetable Field Day Set For May 18**

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](mailto:lmsilva@ag.tamu.edu) or for more information contact Marcel Valdez, Zavala County Extension Agent at 830-374-2883.

**Tip of The Week: Mosquito Control In And Around The Home**

Recent rains have provided us with lush green landscapes as well as a hefty mosquito population. Mosquitos are not only a pest but are also a concern because they affect the health of people and animals more than any other insect pest worldwide. Biting female mosquitoes transmit many infectious agents that cause diseases such as encephalitis, malaria, dengue, chikungunya, Zika virus, and yellow fever. In animals biting female mosquitoes transmit heart worms on dogs and encephalitis in horses. Mosquito populations exist throughout Texas, and some species are known to be disease vectors (carriers). This year in Zavala county the mild winter coupled with good rain across the county over the past few weeks seem to have contributed to a mosquito population explosion. If you don't believe me just good outside at dusk for a few minutes and it will not be long before you are attacked.

All animals, including mosquitoes, need three things to survive – food, water and shelter. If we eliminate one of the three, mosquitoes cannot survive. Keep mosquitoes out of your home and yard by Repairing window and door screens; Eliminate mosquito shelters in your yard; Mow grass and tall weeds; Cut back shrubs and vines; Treat in shaded areas with a professional pest control application or DIY spray treatment and remove tires and junk.

Practice DDC. Dump, drain and change water. Dump or drain water to eliminate egg laying sites. Change water regularly in a dog dish, bird bath or plant pot to eliminate nutrients. Eliminate any place where water can collect and be retained for 7-10 days, especially when there is organic matter present, such as soil or leaves.

Take caution and protect yourself from mosquitos. Avoid disease-spreading mosquitoes, which can be active at any time, day or night. They can bite anytime that the temperature rises above 55°. Outdoors, wear long pants and long-sleeve shirts. Choose fabrics with a tight weave instead of knits or other loosely woven materials. Use mosquito repellent containing one of these ingredients when you're outdoors DEET, IR3535, Picaridin or Oil of lemon eucalyptus. Repellent should only be applied to clothing and exposed skin. Do not apply repellent underneath clothing! If you want to apply repellent to your face, spray your hands with repellent and rub it onto your face. Do not spray repellent directly into your face or near eyes or mouth. Make sure to apply repellent outdoors. Do not allow small children to handle repellents. After applying repellent, wash hands before eating, smoking or using the restroom. Keep repellent just outside your doorway to remind you to apply every time you go outside for an extended period of time.

Controlling mosquitoes outdoors can be accomplished by using outdoor products. These include foggers. Use foggers before an event for temporary relief from biting mosquitoes because they are usually effective for only a couple of hours or more. Apply fogger toward shady areas and plants where mosquitoes rest and hide. Aerosol foggers (spray cans) usually empty more quickly and are more costly than thermal foggers.

Thermal foggers use heat, usually from a propane flame, to create a thick white fog that can kill many resting mosquitoes. Thermal foggers produce a highly visible smoke that can alarm neighbors but they should thank you for making an effort to control mosquitos in your neighborhood. Both types of foggers may harm beneficial insects, such as bees, butterflies, and predator insects so keep that in mind. Do not use them near plants where bees are active, and follow the label instructions carefully. For more information about mosquito control or to request a copy of our Texas A&M AgriLife Extension mosquito control publication contact the Zavala County office of the Texas A&M Agrilife Extension Service at 830-374-2883. Have a great week. M.V.

May 1-5, 2017.