

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

Greetings to all of you and thank you so much for reading this week. This Thursday September 22 is officially the first day of fall but according to the professional weather experts the temperatures for Thursday or for most of the week for that matter will not be anything like fall temperatures but more like summer. I did hear something amazing early this morning and I have made notes about it. A certain weatherman informed viewers on a San Antonio CBS affiliate that we would have temperatures in the mid to high 50's by the end of the month. Let's see how accurate he is.

Water Well Screening Planned for November 1st

The Dimmit, Zavala, Frio, Atascosa, and McMullen County offices of the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension service are planning on hosting a water well screening on November 1 at the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service offices for Dimmit County at 539 Industrial Boulevard, in Carrizo Springs, Zavala County at 221 N 1st Ave in Crystal City, Frio County at 400 S. Pecan Street, Pearsall, TX, Atascosa County at 25 E. 5th Street Leming, TX, and McMullen County, County Courthouse, HWYS 72 & 16, Tilden TX. This event will give area residents the opportunity to have their well water screened to determine if additional testing is required on samples that might come back positive for the screening being done. Samples will be screened for common contaminants, including fecal coliform bacteria, nitrates and high salinity. I will provide more details as this event is finalized in this news media outlet.

Young Farmer Grant Applications Due October 12th

If you are you currently creating or expanding an agricultural business in Zavala County or the region you might consider applying for the 2017 Young Farmer Grant (YFG) program. The Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA) is now accepting applications for these grants and I encourage all of you that qualify to do so.

The Young Farmer Grant program(YFG) is administered by the Texas Department of Agriculture(TDA) under the direction of the Texas Agricultural Finance Authority (TAFA). The purpose of this program is to provide financial assistance in the form of dollar-for-dollar matching grant funds to individuals between the age of 18 and 46 years of age who are engaged or will be engaged in creating or expanding an agricultural business in Texas. Additional details, instructions and the 2017 Round 1 application materials can be found by going to

<http://texasagriculture.gov/GrantsServices/RuralEconomicDevelopment/TexasAgriculturalFinanceAuthority/YoungFarmerGrant.aspx> . Applications are due by the close of business (5 p.m.) on Wednesday October 12, 2016. For more information contact the grants Office at (512) 463-6908 or by email at Grants@TexasAgriculture.gov with questions.

Tip of The Week: Tips on Managing 4-H Lamb and Goat Projects

The county goat and lamb validation for the 2017 Zavala county junior livestock show was held this past week on Wednesday and Saturday. Now these lamb and goat projects are in the hands of 4-H