

News From Your County Agent
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Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service
Zavala County

The ash trees around the county are sure ready for spring and are starting to put on some new foliage to begin greening up, but of course mesquite trees are a little smarter and they are not quite ready to jump into spring. At least we know that spring is just around the corner and trees, flowers and other plants will begin to welcome spring very soon to our area. Greetings to all of you and thank you so much for reading this week.

Zavala & Uvalde Extension Agents Host An Auxin Specific CEU Training For Pesticide Applicators

Marcel Valdez, County Extension Agent in Zavala County and Samantha Korzekwa County Extension Agent in Uvalde County are hosting an Auxin specific training for licensed pesticide applicators in the Winter Garden on Tuesday March 6, 2018 at 10 a.m. in the Frio Room at the Fairplex in Uvalde. Cost to attend this training is \$10.00 per person. The training is conducted in accordance with new Texas Department of Agriculture application requirements for those using the new formulations of dicamba – Xtendimax, FeXapan and Engenia. The auxin training is required for all applicators including licensed applicators and unlicensed applicators who spray under a licensed applicator. One Texas Department of Agriculture continuing education unit in the laws and regulations category will be offered at this training. The Uvalde County Fairplex is located at 215 Veterans Lane, Uvalde, TX 78801. You are encouraged to RSVP to the Uvalde County Office of the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service at 830-278-6661 or the Zavala County office of the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service at 830-374-2883.

Hopes are to have as many producers as possible to attend this training to prepare for the 2018 crop while being sure we are doing our part to legally apply these herbicides. These technologies are big tools cotton producers can use and we want them to be available for years to come but they must be used according to the label and other application considerations. *Educational programs of the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service are open to all people without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, disability, genetic information or veteran status. The Texas A&M University System, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the County Commissioners Courts of Texas Cooperating.*

Ed Ritchie, Jr. Memorial Scholarship Applications Now Available For Zavala County Seniors

The Ed Ritchie, Jr. memorial scholarship applications are now available for interested Seniors in Zavala County. Applicants do not need to be a 4-H or FFA member however they must be pursuing a career in an agricultural related field, consumer and family sciences, environmental sciences or related fields. The onetime \$1,500 scholarship is made by the Ritchie family in memory of the late Ed Ritchie, Jr. Applications may be obtained from the Zavala County office of the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service or from any high school counselor in Zavala County. Applications must be submitted complete by 5:00 p.m. Friday March 30, 2018 to the Zavala County Extension Agent's office or to the high school counselor where the student attends school.

Tip of the Week: Spring Time Means Bee Swarming-Be Cautious

Before I start receiving panic calls about a monstrous bee invasion in the neighborhood I figured I might stay a little ahead of what will happen pretty soon in our area. Honey Bee swarms are a natural biological event.

Although swarms normally occur during the spring months of April and May in Texas, they could happen in other months as well. According to professional beekeepers due to recent weather conditions bees might start the swarming process a little earlier in our area this year. Beekeepers do their best to prevent their own colonies from swarming throughout the year so if you encounter a bee swarm more than likely it is from a wild hive looking for a new home.

Swarms are generally not aggressive. They do not have brood (eggs/larva) or food resources to defend. Public concern over locations of swarm points (personal residences, schools, day care centers, senior centers, etc) are understandable. A football-sized cluster of bees hanging from a tree limb or on a wooden fence are awaiting the return of scouts that will guide them to a new nest site. The clustered swarm may wait a day or two for the scouts to locate a suitable cavity for the colony to occupy. Bee swarms should not be killed indiscriminately. Bees are beneficial insects, helping pollinate flowers and vegetables. Unless a swarm is causing a distinct problem and cannot be tolerated, it should be left alone. Most honey bee swarms will leave a resting site within a few hours. Eliminating possible points of entry by bees into buildings and removing other potential nest sites is the best way to prevent serious problems with bees around structures. More information about bees and beekeeping is available through the Internet or from the Zavala county Extension office. For further information about honey bees, call the Zavala County Extension Service office and ask for publication E-346, Honey Bees in and Around Buildings. Information is also available on Africanized Honey Bees and their current range in Texas at <http://honeybee.tamu.edu/africanized/quarantine.html>. Again for the most part swarming bees look scary but are generally not aggressive. Remember we need them and we need to learn how to live with them. Have a great week. M.V.

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