

News From Your County Agent
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Zavala County

Happy fourth of July everyone, greetings and thank you so much for reading this week. June went by us pretty fast with no major rain maker and as is usually the case we cannot expect much of the wet stuff during the month of July, however major rains have fallen in the month of July before so there is hope. Most of you recall the heavy rains that began on July 1 and 2, 2002 that caused flooding in and around our area. Maybe we don't need that much but we are sure in need of a good soaker.

2018 Farm Bill Seed Cotton Decision Workshop Set For July 18

As most of you have learned the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018 for Agriculture (2018 Farm Bill) has new language dealing with generic acres and cotton production. New choices will need to be made for each tract with an Farm Service Agency (FSA) number by later this summer. Each producer that does not have prior knowledge of these changes will need to be introduced to the new rules and how these rules will apply to their operation.

Choices that will need to be made for each FSA field number will be: 1) allocate the generic base acres (if there are any on this tract), 2) the producer will have an opportunity to update their base yields, and 3) they will need to choose whether that tract will participate under the Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC) provisions or the Price Loss Coverage (PLC) program provisions (a one-time choice).

The Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Ag and Food Policy Center has developed a decision-aid tool to assist each producer to make these decisions for their acreage. A seed cotton decision sign-up workshop has been set for Wednesday, July 18, 2018 at 9:00 a.m. to cover Medina, Uvalde, and Zavala Counties. This workshop will take place at the Uvalde County Fairplex- Dry Frio Room located at 215 Veterans Lane, Uvalde, Texas 78801. There is no cost to attend this event. For more information and to sign up for this workshop contact Marcel Valdez, County Extension Agent at the Zavala County office of the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service at 830-374-2883 or Samantha Korzekwa, County Extension Agent at the Uvalde County office of the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service at 830-278-6661 or Sandra Kunkel, County Extension Agent at the Medina County office of the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service at 830-741-6180.

Produce Safety Rule Required Training Available For Producers July 19 In Uvalde

Please mark your calendars and make plans to attend this grower training. The Produce Safety Alliance (PSA) has been tasked with developing the standardized national produce safety training program to prepare fresh produce growers to meet the regulatory requirements in the U.S. Food and Drug Administration's (FDA) Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) Produce Safety Rule. The Produce Safety Rule outlines in § 112.22©, that "at least one supervisor or responsible party from the farm to successfully complete food safety training at least equivalent to that received under the standardized curriculum recognized as adequate by the Food and Drug Administration".

This training will be available to ALL produce growers in the Wintergarden area on Thursday, July 19, 2018. Registration will begin at 8:30 a.m. with the training to begin promptly at 9:00 a.m. and conclude at 5:15 p.m. The meeting will be held at the Uvalde County Fairplex-Frio Room located at 215 Veterans Lane, Uvalde, Texas 78801. Cost to attend this program is \$40.00 per participant to cover the noon meal, printed training materials and other resources. After attending the entire course, participants will be eligible to receive a certificate from the association of Food and Drug Officials (AFDO) that verifies they have completed the training course. To receive an AFDO certificate, a participant must be present for the entire training and submit the appropriate paperwork to their trainer at the end of the course. To register for this training you may register online at <https://agriliferegister.tamu.edu/productListingDetails/2608> or you may contact 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.

Tip of the Week: Keeping Pets Safe During Extreme Heat

We are always bombarded with information about the importance of keeping hydrated and using sun blockers when working or exposing ourselves to the heat of summer, but what about your four legged best friend? Every year, hundreds of pets die from heat exhaustion because they are left in parked vehicles or they are not properly cared for when left outside during the summer months. Heat stroke is a serious condition that unfortunately occurs all too often in dogs and cats. Your pet can succumb to heat stroke when his body's core temperature rises excessively — typically to 105 degrees Fahrenheit or higher. Dogs and cats are especially vulnerable to heat stroke because their furry bodies cannot sweat to dissipate heat. Rather they pant or breathe rapidly to cool themselves. When they are unable to effectively cool themselves, their core temperature rises rapidly. This can lead to serious and sometimes fatal complications including seizures, organ failure and clotting problems. Any animal suspected of having heat stroke is experiencing a medical emergency and should receive immediate veterinary treatment.

Pets suffering from heat stroke will initially demonstrate signs of excessive panting, salivating and discomfort. As symptoms progress, they may vomit or have diarrhea, become disoriented or even begin to have seizures. If not promptly treated, this can lead to loss of consciousness and death. The normal temperature for a dog or cat is around 101.5°F. Pets suffering from heat stroke will have an elevated temperature — rectal temperatures may reach 105°F or higher in a heat stroke emergency.

Emergency first aid

The Veterinary Information Network recommends first aid for hyperthermia in pets. Move your pet from the environment where the hyperthermia is occurring to a shaded and cool environment, and direct a fan on her. If possible, determine rectal temperature and record it. Begin to cool your pet's body by placing cool, wet towels over the back of the neck, in the armpits and in the groin region. You may also wet the earflaps and paws with cool water. Transport your pet to the closest veterinary facility immediately. Even if you are able to remove your pet from the hot environment and initiate first aid, she will still need to be treated. Many of the complications from heat stroke do not begin to appear until several days after the incident — prompt veterinary care can

potentially prevent or treat some of these complications.

The best humane thing to do is to properly care for your pets all year long however if your pets are outside take some extra precautions during the blazing heat of summer in Zavala county. Be sure your pets have a shade outdoors where they can get under during the heat of the day. Put ice in their water bowls to keep the water cool for them as they will increase water intake during the summer months. Remember asphalt gets very hot and can burn your pet's paws, so walk your dog on the grass if possible. Always carry water with you to keep your dog from dehydrating.. Tree shade and tarps are ideal because they don't obstruct air flow. A doghouse does not provide relief from heat—in fact, it makes it worse. Keep your pet from overheating indoors or out with a cooling body wrap, vest, or mat (such as the Keep Cool Mat). Soak these products in cool water, and they'll stay cool (but usually dry) for up to three days. If your dog doesn't find baths stressful, see if they enjoy a cooling soak. Remember pets depend on us for their well-being so we must take the extra step to care for them during the summer heat and always. Have a great week. M.V.

July 2-6, 2018.

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