

News From Your County Agent
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Zavala County

What an exciting weekend we had enjoying some rainfall across Zavala County. Of course some got more than others which puts a little damper on those that barely got some. La Pryor for example only received 1/2 an inch in town while some folks in the Crystal City area reported 2 to 3 inches. The good news is that thanks to the 7 to 8 inches of rain that fell over the headwaters of the Nueces River it was enough to get the river flowing again, at least for the remainder of summer and into mid fall. Greetings to all of you and thank you for reading this week's column.

USDA Extends Cotton Signup Period To December 7, 2018

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) announced that seed cotton producers, who want to participate in the Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC) and Price Loss Coverage (PLC) programs for the 2018 crop year, may now submit applications. The signup period for the 2018 seed cotton program has been extended from September 30 to December 7, 2018. In accordance with changes to ARC and PLC made by the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018, farm owners with generic base acres and recent planting history of covered commodities have a one-time opportunity to allocate all of the generic base acres on their farm. Farms with generic base acres that were planted or approved as a prevented planted commodity during the 2009 through 2016 crop years, are eligible to allocate generic base acres. This includes upland cotton.

Producers have two options to allocate generic base:

Option 1: Allocate generic base acres on a farm to seed cotton base acres equal to the higher of the following:

--80 percent of the generic base acres on the farm -----the remaining 20 percent goes to unassigned base acres for which there will be no payments

--The average of planted and prevented from planted upland cotton acres on the farm in crop years 2009 through 2012, not to exceed the total generic base acres on the farm.

Option 2: Allocate generic base acres in proportion to the 4-year average acreage planted on the farm and prevented from being planted for each covered commodity, including upland cotton, in crop years 2009 through 2012, to the total acreage planted and considered planted for all covered commodities on the farm. An increase in total base acres on the farm is not allowed. For farms without planted or considered planted history of covered commodities, including upland cotton, during the 2009 through 2016 crop years, all generic base acres shall be converted to unassigned generic base acres for which no benefits may be available.

If a farm owner is unable to allocate generic base acres during the allocation period, the generic base acres will be deemed to be allocated to seed cotton base under the provisions in Option 1.

The final step in the process is enrolling the farm in ARC/PLC for 2018. After completing the aforementioned steps, producers on farms must still enroll the farm for that farm to be eligible for ARC and PLC for 2018. Enrollment of ARC and PLC farms, consistent with the program election for the farm and covered commodities made in the election period, for the 2018 crop year, began Nov. 1, 2017 and will end on Dec. 7, 2018. For more information regarding the seed cotton program visit www.fsa.usda.gov or the local FSA office for information about FSA and the 2014 Farm Bill programs and programs impacted by the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018.

Zavala County Lamb and Goat Validation Tags Due Next Week

It is time to plan for the 2018-2019 Texas 4-H/FFA Lamb & Goat Validation Program. If you are planning on showing at **ANY** of the major shows in Texas (Odessa, Ft. Worth, San Antonio, San Angelo, Houston or Austin) you are required to purchase a validation tag for lambs, goats, breeding doe's, and breeding ewes. Currently tag orders are currently being taken at the Zavala County office of the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service at 221 North First Avenue, Crystal City Texas. The cost per tag is \$15.00 per tag. The last day to order tags for validation is 5:00 p.m. on Thursday August 23, 2018. All major livestock shows **require** all market lambs & goats to be validated in the Texas 4-H/FFA Lamb & Goat Validation program and identified appropriately with an official Electronic ID ear tag, nose print, hair sample & tattoo. If you are showing your lamb or goat project in Zavala County in the Zavala County Junior Fair in January and you will not show these projects in any major show you **DO NOT** need to order a state validation tag. For more information about this validation process or the tag ordering process contact the Zavala County office of the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service at 830-374-2883.

Tip of the Week: Help Keep Your Family Safe From Cyclospora While Enjoying Fresh Vegetables

Cases of cyclospora have been climbing since May, reaching 28 reported cases so far in Bexar County. Only Travis County is reporting more, with 39. These people in Texas have been sickened by a parasite called *Cyclospora* in recent months Officials are still investigating the source of the illnesses. *Cyclospora cayetanensis* is a microscopic, single-celled parasite that causes an intestinal illness known as cyclosporiasis in people, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) People become infected with *Cyclospora* when they consume food or water that's contaminated with feces containing the parasite. However, the infection typically isn't spread directly from person to person, because once the parasite is passed in stool, it needs to spend at least one to two weeks in the environment (outside the body) before it can infect another person, according to the CDC. (The parasite needs time outside the body, where temperatures are lower, in order to mature.)

The main symptom of cyclosporiasis is watery **diarrhea** that lasts a few days to a few months, according to the DSHS. Other symptoms may include loss of appetite, fatigue, weight loss, abdominal cramps, bloating, increased gas, nausea, vomiting and a low fever.

People who have symptoms of cyclosporiasis should see their health care provider as soon as possible to get treatments started. The infection is typically treated with a combination of two antibiotics which have proven effective to treat the disease. Of course the best way to avoid an infection is to prevent it. An effective way to prevent a contamination of this parasite is by thoroughly washing all fresh produce. Thoroughly washing means washing between leaves like in lettuce not just running water over the produce in the sink. This practice can minimize the risk of *Cyclospora* infection. Cooking foods will kill the parasite and further reduce the risk. Continue to enjoy your fresh fruits and vegetables but take the extra time to wash them correctly before consumption. Fresh fruits and vegetables continue to be the best healthy products to consume. For more information about this disease go to the CDC website at <https://www.cdc.gov/parasites/cyclosporiasis/biology.html> . Have a wonderful week. M.V.

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