

News From Your County Agent
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Zavala County

Well we have gone through a few days of colder than usual for October, rainfall that has the river flowing at an almost all time high and now the weekend was more like early summer late spring. As we bid October farewell this week we move right into November and the end of hurricane season. Of course it looks like we will go into November tracking hurricane Oscar which should be the last named storm of the season. Good news is that it will not pose any threats to populated land areas and it should fall apart in the north Atlantic. Greetings to all of you and have a safe and enjoyable Halloween week.

Don't Forget to bring your Private Water Well Samples this Week

Do you have your own water well? Have you had it screened lately? if this is your case then you might want to consider participating in our multi-county water screening event coming to you soon.

The Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service is hosting a water well screening on November 1, 2018 at the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service office for Zavala County at 221 N 1st Ave in Crystal City, to give area residents the opportunity to have their well water tested.

Results will be available on November 5th at the County Extension Office. The screening is presented by Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service. "Private water wells should be tested annually," said John W. Smith, AgriLife Extension Program Specialist. "It is very important that only sampling bags from the Zavala County AgriLife Extension office be used and all instructions for proper sampling are followed to ensure accurate results."

I suggest that area residents who want to have their well water tested, pick up a sample bag and sampling instructions from the Zavala County AgriLife Extension office (830-374-2883). The cost is \$15 per sample and samples must be turned in by 10a.m. on November 1, 2018. Samples will be screened for common contaminants, including fecal coliform bacteria, nitrates, high salinity and presence of hydrocarbons.

The presence of fecal coliform bacteria in water indicates that waste from humans or warm-blooded animals may have contaminated the water. Water contaminated with fecal coliform bacteria is more likely to also have pathogens present that can cause diarrhea, cramps, nausea or other symptoms. "Water with nitrates at levels of 10 parts per million is considered unsafe for human consumption," Griffin said. "Nitrate levels above 10 parts per million can disrupt the ability of blood to carry oxygen throughout the body, resulting in a condition called methemoglobinemia. Infants less than 6 months of age and young livestock are most susceptible." Salinity as measured by total dissolved solids will also be determined for each sample. Water with high levels may leave deposits and have a salty taste, and using water with high levels for irrigation may damage soil or plants. For more information about this valuable program contact the Zavala County Office of the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service at 830-374-2883. Remember free water collection bags and instructions may be picked up at the Zavala county office of the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service at 221 N 1st Ave in Crystal City, Texas.

Results of The Zavala County Mosquito Surveillance Program

A few weeks ago I informed you about the mosquito surveillance program in which Zavala county would be participating. I set out 25 mosquito ovitraps throughout the county for a 4 week period, collected the samples each week and submitted the samples to our Extension Lab in Stephenville Texas. The results are in and here is what we have found. I need to remind you that there is NO NEED TO PANIC based on these results. This is just to inform you what we have found and to continue to be vigilant when you are in the out doors. Remember mosquitoes have been around for thousands of years and we have learned to live with these pest. Based on the samples submitted by me from Zavala County the lab has confirmed that they have identified both the *Aedes albopictus* and *Aedes aegypti* mosquitoes.

The *Aedes albopictus* from the mosquito family is also known as Asian tiger mosquito or forest mosquito which is a mosquito native to the tropical and subtropical areas of Southeast Asia; however, in the past few decades, this species has spread to many countries through the transport of goods and international travel is characterized by the white bands on its legs and body. We have all probably seen this mosquito when you are outdoors enjoying an evening with friends and family. This particular mosquito was first reported in Europe in 1979 in Albania . In 1985 it was reported in Texas, and has since spread northward and eastward, having now been reported in at least 32 US states including Hawaii. This expansion was facilitated by the movement of used tires along the interstate highways. In Latin America it was first reported in Brazil in 1986 and later in Mexico in 1988. *Aedes albopictus* is considered a potential vector of Zika virus.

Aedes aegypti, the yellow fever mosquito, is a mosquito that can **spread dengue fever, chikungunya, Zika fever, Mayaro** and yellow fever viruses, and other disease agents. The mosquito can be recognized by white markings on its legs and a marking in the form of a lyre **l** on the upper surface of its thorax. This mosquito originated in Africa, but is now found in tropical, subtropical and temperate regions throughout the world including Texas and other states of the United States. Remember mosquitoes transmit diseases such as West Nile, Zika, Yellow fever and others only when they prey on and infected person or animal and then go to another host and bite thus transmitting the disease.

Control of is based on the reduction of larval development sites such as water holding areas like old tires, old buckets and cans, dirty bird baths and any area that holds stagnant water. Mosquito fogging and larviciding (insecticides targeting the mosquito larvae have proven to be effective). Remember to always use mosquito repellents, wear long sleeved shirts and pants during heavy mosquito activity. For additional information on mosquito control contact the Zavala county office of the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service at 830-374-2883. Any other developments as a result of these results will be passed on to the proper authorities in Zavala County.

Tip of the Week: Applications for Conversation Programs Ends In November-What You Need

Despite the uncertainties of a new Farm Bill, NRCS continues to accept applications for the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) and the Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP). NRCS will screen and rank eligible applications for early funding by **November 16, 2018**.

For a list of early funding opportunities, please refer to the EQIP webpage

<https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/ca/programs/financial/eqip/>.

Any application not considered for this quarter's obligations will be processed for funding consideration after February 1, 2019.

For those who have not yet applied, NRCS recommends you submit an application immediately to ensure consideration this quarter. For producers who've already submitted applications, NRCS will be sending deferral letters with directions to notify NRCS on whether to proceed with, modify, or cancel their application.

To be ready for EQIP funding consideration, interested applicants will need to:

- Develop a conservation plan
- Submit an application
- Meet program eligibility requirements
- Approve their EQIP schedule of operations

An EQIP application must be supported by a conservation plan, co-developed by the landowner and the NRCS conservationist, listing the actions that will be undertaken to improve the natural resource condition being addressed and the timeline for doing so. The time needed to complete a conservation plan and process eligibility can vary, from a few weeks to more than a month.

EQIP provides financial and technical assistance to agricultural producers in order to address natural resource concerns and deliver environmental benefits. These include improved water and air quality, improved irrigation efficiency, reduced soil erosion and sedimentation, forest restoration and creating or enhancing wildlife habitat.

RCPP promotes coordination between NRCS and its partners to deliver conservation assistance to producers and landowners. NRCS provides assistance to producers through partnership agreements and through program contracts or easement agreements. Eligible applications for the San Diego County Partnership for Agricultural Sustainability and the North Coast Oak Woodland Conservation Project will be considered. For additional information, interested farmers and ranchers are encouraged to contact their local NRCS Service Center. Service center locations and more information on the programs can be found at www.ca.nrcs.usda.gov. You may also contact the Zavala county office of the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service at 830-374-2883. Have a great week. M.V.

October 29-November 2, 2018.

The members of Texas A&M AgriLife will provide equal opportunities in programs and activities, education, and employment to all persons regardless of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, age, disability, genetic information, veteran status, sexual orientation or gender identity and will strive to achieve full and equal employment opportunity throughout Texas A&M AgriLife.

