

News From Your County Agent
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Zavala County

Mid-week was a stormy late Wednesday with high winds with lots of lightening but very few reports of hail which was good. Most folks reported about an inch of rain across the county which was good but we need some more. I hope all of you are back to your routine following a very beautiful Easter weekend. Greetings to all of you and thank you for reading this week.

Wheat and Vegetable Field Day With CEU's To Be Held May 10th

The Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service and the Texas A&M AgriLife Research will team up to host the annual wheat and vegetable at the Texas A&M AgriLife Research and Extension center in Uvalde on Friday, May 10, 2019. Registration will begin at 7:15 in the morning and will conclude at 8:00 a.m. During registration coffee, refreshments and breakfast tacos will be available. The program will begin promptly at 8:00 a.m. I will be providing 2 CEU's to pesticide applicator license holders. One CEU will be given in the integrated pest management category (IPM) and one CEU in general. Please bring your pesticide applicators license with you to obtain proper credit for attending this program.

Some of the speakers at this event include Dante Galeazzi CEO/President Texas International Produce Association "Understanding fresh produce sales and markets", Dr. Alejandro Castillo "updates on current food safety issues" and other topics related to wheat, watermelons, onions, tomatoes, organic testing, artichokes and many others. A tomato grafting demonstration will also take place at this workshop. Lunch will be provided by First State Bank of Uvalde. In order to get an accurate count for the meals (breakfast tacos and lunch) we need you to RSVP by 5:00 p.m. on Friday May 3, 2019. Please RSVP online at Uvalde.tamu.edu or with Liza Silva 830-278-9151 Ext. 232 or msilva@ag.tamu.edu or with the Zavala County AgriLife Extension Service office at 830-374-2883 or by email to mj-valdez@tamu.edu . There is no cost to attend this event however please RSVP on time for planning purposes. Hope to see you there.

Zavala County Pecan Growers Invited To Pecan Field Day and Short Course

The Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service is holding a Pecan Field Day and Short Course on April 30. The cost is \$15, and three Texas Department of Agriculture continuing education units are available for private pesticide applicator license holders – one in integrated pest management and two general.

The event will begin at 9 a.m. at the AgriLife Extension office for Andrews County at 851 E. Broadway St., Andrews. Registration at the door begins at 8:30 a.m., but RSVPs are requested by April 25 to 432-524-1421. Lunch, refreshments and handout materials will be provided. This is a great opportunity for anyone in Zavala county and statewide who grows pecans to attend this event. Besides networking with other producers there will be experts discussing the latest industry news pertinent to pecans. Plans are in the works to hold this event in Zavala County next year.

The morning session will feature speakers Bill Ree, AgriLife Extension statewide pecan IPM programming specialist, and Bob Whitney, executive director of the Texas Pecan Board. Topics of discussion will include entomology, disease, irrigation and fertilizer. Following lunch, participants are invited to go on a field trip to tour local pecan orchards in Andrews and discuss pecan production.

Tip of the Week: Think and Call Before You Dig-It's The Law

With new pipelines making their way through Zavala county many of these oil, gas and water mains and even buried electrical lines cut through private property. Many farms and ranches have been passed down through a family for generations or operated by a single owner for decades and in many cases absentee landowners buy property to make improvements and re-sale the property within a short period of time. You or someone you know may remember when and where underground utilities were installed on your land. However, the location and depth of these lines can change over the years due to erosion, previous digging projects or uneven surfaces, so it's important to call 811—even if you think you may know what is buried in the area.

Here are some digging Safety Tips I would like to share:

- If you observe any suspicious activity along pipeline right-of-way report it to the Pipeline Operator (PO). Contact information for the PO can be found on signage on the work site.
- If you smell any type of odor that is unusual near a pipeline right-of-way report it ASAP.
- If you notice an excavator working on or near pipeline right-of-way and no pipeline personnel present at the site then report it.
- Develop awareness of where the pipeline facilities are located in your community.
- Be aware of what products/vehicles are being transported to and from the pipelines.
- If you discover any flammable, toxic or corrosive gas or liquid gas escaping from the pipeline, report it to 911 and the PO.
- Observe the information provided on pipeline signs in your community.
- If you suspect anything unusual along the pipeline right-of-way report it to the pipeline operator.
- It may turn out to be nothing, but that's ok. The pipeline personnel are committed to safety, and would like the opportunity to check it out. Better safe than sorry.

Before Digging or Planting: Comply with Texas law. Dial 811 or your local One Call Center to request to have pipelines located before digging or landscaping at least two days before starting your project. One Call is a free service that coordinates with utility companies to mark pipelines and other underground utility lines. 811 is a free, nationwide service designed to keep you safe when digging or excavating. Calling 811 is meant to be a simple process and is always the safest option any time you are moving dirt. Two to three business days before a soil-disturbing project, simply make a call to 811 with important details about your work, including:

- The type of work you will be doing and a description of the area.
- The date and time when excavation will begin.
- Your work site's street address, the road on which it is located and the nearest intersection.
- Driving directions or GPS coordinates.

After the call is made, professional locators will mark underground utilities. Pipelines will be marked with yellow flags or paint so you can conduct your work around them, saving yourself from

potential injury or property damage. Many states now offer online “811” options; visit call811.com/state-specific.aspx to find out if an online option is available in your state. General Questions about TPAA: To request information about the Texas Pipeline Awareness Alliance, or to ask general questions, e-mail info@pipeline-safety.org.

April 22-26, 2019.

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