

News From Your County Agent
By Marcel Valdez, CEA-ANR
Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service
Zavala County

What a wonderful way to say good bye to May with 3.25 and in some cases 4 inches of rain late last week. Now we begin the month of June and the official start of hurricane season and of course right on cue a tropical disturbance in the bay of Campeche that as of Monday had a 60 percent chance of cyclone formation, **which** may affect our weather pattern but we shall wait and see. Greetings to all of you and thank you for reading this week.

Steer Validation and Deadline To Get Beef Projects Will Be Here Soon

If you have been thinking about showing a steer project in Zavala county or in a major show in Texas you only have a few days to get these projects and make plans to attend the county and state validation event. The annual steer validation for all steer projects in Zavala County will be held on Saturday, June 22, 2019 beginning at 9:00 a.m. at the Chaparrosa Ranch facilities located south of La Pryor. If you plan to show a steer at the county show you will need to have purchased these animals by this day and bring the animals to the validation site in order for your to be eligible to show in the 2020 Zavala County Junior Livestock show. If you plan to show a steer project in San Antonio, Houston, Austin or any other major show in Texas you must also have these animals validated on this date. You must have PREVIOUSLY ordered a state validation tag before you can have your animals state validated for the state validation program. Tags were ordered in April as per state guidelines. If you need assistance in locating a steer project or need more information about the steer validation process contact the Zavala County office of the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service at 830-374-2883.

If You Have Never Attended The Annual Stiles Farm Field Day - Consider It

The Annual Stiles Farm Field Day in Thrall (Northeast of Austin) is set for June 18 and will feature presentations on soil health, fertilization and weed control strategies. The field day is hosted by the Stiles Farm Foundation and the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service. There is no registration fee courtesy of the Williamson County Farm Bureau. Lunch and door prizes will be provided to field day participants courtesy of local agribusiness sponsors.

This year's field day will feature topics on soil health and stability. There will be a few soil scientists at the field day to help answer questions on strategies on improving long-term soil structure and other soil questions attendees may have regarding soil health. Registration will begin at 7:30 a.m. with the program and field tours beginning at 8:30 a.m. Speakers include: Dr. Tony Provin, AgriLife Extension soil chemist, College Station, discussing pH and compaction issues in soils, Dr. Michael Peterson, Orthman Manufacturing Inc. agronomist, discussing fertilizer placement and strip tilling and Dr. David Kerns, AgriLife Extension entomologist, College Station, discussing latest integrated pest management developments and reviewing 2019 plot work.

The program will move to the Knights of Columbus Hall in Taylor at 11:45 a.m. for lunch and afternoon programming. Perry Cervantes, coordinator for pesticide certification and compliance with the Texas Department of Agriculture, Austin, will give a laws and regulations update. Scholarships

and the Agriculturalist of the Year Award will also be presented. The field day will conclude at 1:30 p.m. Three continuing education units will be offered for Texas Department of Agriculture pesticide license holders: one unit each in laws and regulation, integrated pest management and general.

The Stiles Farm Foundation was established by the Stiles family at Thrall in Williamson County. According to the foundation, J.V. and H.A. Stiles wanted to commemorate their father, James E. Stiles, and the land he worked. They also wanted to help neighboring farmers and others throughout the Central Texas region to learn new farming practices. In 1961, the Stiles Farm Foundation was established and became part of the Texas A&M University System. The farm is used by AgriLife Extension and Texas A&M AgriLife Research, which conduct field experiments and use the facility as a teaching platform. For more information on the Stiles Farm, go to <https://agrilifeextension.tamu.edu/programs/stiles-farm-foundation/>

Tip of The Week: Be Aware Of Grub Worm Threats and How to Control Them

If you have noticed brown beetles gathering around your porch light at night and early morning lately this is a sure sign of grub worms problems to come if you do not have them already. Adult beetles, commonly referred to as June beetles are ½ to 5/8 inches long, and reddish brown. White grubs are “C”-shaped larvae, up to 1 inch long, with cream-colored bodies and brown head capsules. During adult flights large numbers of beetles can be attracted to lights. Peak flights occur in mid to late June in Texas but from seeing these beetles accumulating on my front porch looks like they are getting ready for an early start in our area. Females will tunnel 2 to 5 inches into the soil and deposit eggs. In 3 to 4 weeks, small grubs (larvae) hatch from eggs and develop through three stages (instars), with the first two stages lasting about 3 weeks. The last larval stage remains in the soil from the fall through spring. In spring and early summer, white grubs pupate 3 to 6 inches deep in the soil. Adults emerge from pupae in about 3 weeks. There is one generation per year in our area of these pest.

The mouthparts of these white grubs are for chewing. In our area they love turfgrass, particularly Bermudagrass and St. Augustine grass or what most folks call carpet grass. They also like tall fescue grass. Feeding in large numbers of grubs causes lawns to turn yellow and die. Severely damaged grass can be “rolled up” like a carpet. Grubs also feed on the roots of weeds, vegetable transplants and ornamental plants. In agriculture, they are important pests of forage, corn, sorghum and sugarcane. Most severe injury to plants is caused by large (third stage or instar) grubs feeding on roots in the fall and spring. White grubs are frequently encountered tilling garden soil or by sifting through soil underneath damaged turfgrass.

To confirm whether you need to treat for grubs, examine several soil sections at least 3 – 4" across and 4" deep. A good rule of thumb is to examine several soil plugs (up to one square foot per 1000 square feet of turf) from widely scattered parts of the lawn. Take care to include areas at the edges of suspected grub damage. Finding more than five white grubs per square foot justifies treatment, although some lawns with even higher numbers of grubs may show no damage. Imidacloprid is most effective against small- and medium-sized grubs but may kill some grubs larger than 1.2" long. Imidacloprid trade names include Bayer Advanced Lawn Season Long Grub Control and Scott's Grub-Ex. You can apply an insecticide, like Sevin, to the lawn and then water the lawn to get the insecticide into the soil. Grub nematodes can also be applied to the soil to kill June bug grubs. Sevin or similar insecticides can also be applied to affected plants if the adult June bug is eating your

plants.

If you are looking for an organic way to control June bug grubs you are in luck. You can use Heterorhabditis, which are tiny worms that attack white grubs and other soil inhabiting insects. These microscopic worms can be purchased through garden supply catalogs. You may also use beneficial nematodes within the genera Steinernema. Commercial nematode products are usually designed to be mixed with water and applied to lawns using a hose-end or hand-held sprayer. Recent research shows that under good conditions, commercially available nematodes can reduce white grub populations by 50% or more. If you see frogs and toads in your yard don't get rid of them because they can also help get rid of June bugs as these are predators of this pest. For additional information on June beetle or grub control in your lawn contact the Zavala County office of the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service at 830-374-2883 and ask for Extension publication E-211 titled "White Grubs in Texas Turfgrass".

The information given herein is for educational purposes only. Reference to commercial products or trade names is made with the understanding that no discrimination is intended and no endorsement by the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service is implied. Use pesticides only according to the directions on the label. Individuals who use chemicals are responsible for ensuring that the intended use complies with current regulations and conforms to the product label. If the information does not agree with current labeling, follow the label instructions. The label is the law. Always remember to read and heed six of the most important words on the label: "KEEP OUT OF REACH OF CHILDREN". Have a wonderful week. M.V.

June 3-7th 2019.

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