

News From Your County Agent
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Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service
Zavala County

The last week of March is now upon us and we are still hoping for some rain to get our range and pastures into forage production for grazing, and moisture to get our dryland crops up and going. We were supposed to have some chances of rain over the weekend but these chances did not materialize as predicted. I guess we will have to rely on the old saying about April showers will bring May flowers or crops in our case. Greetings to all of you and thank you for reading this week.

Ballots Available At The Zavala County Extension Office For Wheat Board Election

The Texas Wheat Producers Board (TWPB) will hold its biennial election to elect five board members to fill expiring positions. The election, to be held by mail, officially began last Friday, March 22, 2019, and will continue until April 5, 2019. Terms expiring in 2019 include Bryan Clift of District I, Tommy Womack of District II, Chet Creel of District III, and Ken Davis and Jack Norman of District IV. Any person who is engaged in commercial wheat production in Texas is eligible to vote for the district in which they reside. This includes owners of farms and their tenants and share croppers if they are subject to paying the assessment that is collected at the time the grain is sold. For election and voting purposes Zavala county is in District IV.

Ballots are now available at the Zavala County office of the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service located at 221 North First Avenue in Crystal City. Ballots must be mailed to the Texas Wheat Producers Board at 5405 West I-40, Amarillo, Texas 79106, and will not be valid with a postmark date later than April 5, 2019. The ballots are self-addressed and stamped for easy return by voters. For more information contact the Zavala County office of the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service at 830-374-2883 or the Texas Wheat Producers Board office at (806) 352-2191, by email at info@texaswheat.org or visit <http://www.texaswheat.org>.

Missed The Required Auxin Training? You Have Another Chance On Friday

The Texas Department of Agriculture requires an Auxin specific training is prior to applying Engenia, Xtendimax or Fexapan herbicides for any labeled use. That includes labeled uses on dicamba tolerant crops, conventional crops and any labeled non-crop use. Auxin training is also required prior to applying Enlist One or Enlist Duo herbicides over the top of transgenic 2,4-D tolerant crops. To apply Engenia, Xtendimax or Fexapan you must have a certified applicator's license and attend the training which will last NO LESS than 100 minutes in length. Operators are not allowed to apply dicamba formulations in 2019 until they complete this training. To apply Enlist One and Enlist Duo you must have a certified applicator's license or be operating under a certified applicator and attend the training.

If you have not attended one of the trainings that has been offered in the area you have an opportunity to do so on Friday, March 29, 2019. The training will be held at the Hondo City Library located at 2003 avenue K in Hondo. Registration will begin at 8:30 a.m. and the actual training will begin at 9:00 a.m. There is a \$10.00 charge to attend this event. If you plan to attend be sure to

RSVP to the Medina County Extension office by calling 830-741-6180 by Thursday, March 28th. For more information regarding this training contact Marcel Valdez, County Extension Agent in Zavala County at 830-374-2883 or the Medina County Extension office at 830-741-6180.

Tip of The Week: Chickens-Help Defend the Flock

The U.S. poultry industry (producers of thousands of chickens and small back yard chicken growers) is one of the largest in the world and an important sector of our agricultural economy. Keeping birds safe from infectious disease is a top priority and responsibility for all owners, growers, workers, and enthusiasts involved in raising poultry. Disease outbreaks lead to devastation of our flocks and result in job and financial losses, quarantines limiting trade, and affecting prices on eggs, prepared poultry, and other staples.

USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) is committed to helping everyone protect our poultry – from commercial enterprises that raise the poultry and eggs that we consume to individuals in Zavala county who raise chickens and other breeds in their backyards to bird lovers who participate in shows and fairs. We invite you to join the effort to defend our nation's flocks. APHIS offers the ***Defend the Flock*** education program to provide the tools and resources you need to make sure that you are doing everything possible to keep your birds healthy and reduce the risk that an infectious disease will spread from your property to other flocks.

Defend the Flock resources reflect the knowledge, insights, and experience of USDA, veterinarians, professional owners and growers, scientists, and other experts about the practice of good biosecurity. Biosecurity means using all available means and methods to keep diseases and the pathogens that carry them away from birds, property and people.

Through the ***Defend the Flock*** program, APHIS is encouraging and preparing all poultry owners, including backyard growers, to implement diligent biosecurity practices. The program offers checklists and other tools, videos, webinars and educational resources to help you keep your flocks safe and healthy. All materials are available 24/7 at the Defend the Flock resource center found at <http://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/animalhealth/animal-disease-information/avian/defend-the-flock-program/df-resources>. You can also follow *Defend the Flock* on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) for up-to-the-minute news and information. Biosecurity is the key to keeping our nation's poultry healthy. It's a responsibility that we all share. Working together, we can defend all flocks from avian influenza and other infectious diseases.

March 25-29, 2019

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.