

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

Greetings to all of you and thank you so much for reading this week. It seems like only a few days ago we were watching the effects of hurricane Dorian and now another tropical wave is following Dorian's path. Hurricane forecasters were right about an active hurricane season in the Atlantic this season. We can only hope for a light tropical wave to make its way to our neck of the woods and bring us much needed rain. Keep your hopes up and maybe we can get some rain soon.

Validation Is Here-Event Will Take Place Saturday

This Saturday, September 21 is the validation for all Zavala county lamb and goat exhibitors for the 2020 junior livestock show in January. Lambs, breeding ewes, meat goats and does will be validated at the ZAE stockshow grounds in Crystal City. Market lambs and breeding ewes will be validated starting at 9:00 a.m. and meat goats and breeding doe's will be validated starting at 10:00 a.m. Please remember that the ZAE will be collecting a \$20.00 validation fee per family and \$5.00 per tag for each animal validated. If you need additional information about this validation event please contact the Zavala county office of the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service at 830-374-2883.

Watershed Protection Proposals Being Accepted

If you are interested in obtaining funds to support the Texas clean water act you can apply for competitive funds. The Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board (TSSWCB) is requesting proposals for watershed assessment, planning, implementation, demonstration and education projects seeking funding under the FY2020 Clean Water Act §319(h) Nonpoint Source Grant Program. Proposed projects should focus on agricultural and/or silvicultural nonpoint source pollution prevention and abatement activities within the boundaries of impaired or threatened watersheds. Up to \$1 million of the TSSWCB's FY2020 Clean Water Act §319(h) grant will be eligible for this request for proposals. A competitive proposal review process will be used so that the most appropriate and effective projects are selected for funding.

Specific activities that can be funded with §319(h) grants include the following: development of nine-element watershed protection plans including the formation and facilitation of stakeholder groups, surface water quality monitoring, data analysis and modeling, implementation of nine-element watershed protection plans and the nonpoint source portion of total maximum daily load implementation plans, demonstration of innovative best management practices, technical assistance to landowners for conservation planning, public outreach/education, and monitoring activities to determine the effectiveness of specific pollution prevention methods. To obtain a complete copy of the TSSWCB's request for proposals and proposal submission packet, please visit: <https://www.tsswcb.texas.gov/programs/texas-nonpoint-source-management-program> or contact Jana Lloyd at (254) 773-2250 ext. 224. Proposals must be received electronically by 5:00 p.m. CDT, Friday, September 27, 2019 to jlloyd@tsswcb.texas.gov.

Tip of the Week: Fall Lawn Fertilizing for a Green Spring

Except for this coming weekend for the most part summer temperatures are finally starting to drop, school is back in session along with a couple of football games in the recordbooks can only mean that the deadline for the most important fertilizer application of the year is right around the corner.

A final application of fertilizer each fall helps warm season grasses store up extra energy before going dormant over the winter months. That stored energy is critical for lawns to 'green up' next spring as soon as the weather is warm again. It's important to give enough time for the fertilizer to work before the grass dormancy period starts which in Zavala county is usually around mid to late November and depends

on when the fall temperatures fall into the frost range. So, don't risk applying any fertilizer to your lawns after October 10th.

Hopefully you have a recent soil test analysis to tell you the exact amounts of the nutrients (nitrogen, phosphorus, potassium, etc.) your lawn needs throughout this year. If you have not taken a soil sample and had it tested you need to do that NOW. Come by the Zavala County office of the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service at 221 North first avenue and get a soil sample kit free of charge. The soil test itself is very reasonable at \$15.00. The soil test will tell you exactly what kind of fertilizer to apply on your lawn and how much. The soil test eliminates guessing what your lawn needs and thus helps you save money and provide your lawn with the correct amount of fertilizer this fall.

If you do not have a soil test and you run out of time trying to get one then, applying a recommended maximum of just $\frac{1}{2}$ pound of a soluble nitrogen fertilizer, like ammonium sulfate (21-0-0), per 1,000 ft² of lawn is all that's needed to get your lawn ready for next spring. The number "twenty-one" in 21-0-0 indicates the contents of a bag of ammonium sulfate are 21% nitrogen. By doing some basic math, you'll discover only 2.4 pounds of 21-0-0 fertilizer is required to spread $\frac{1}{2}$ pound of nitrogen over 1,000 ft². However, applying too much fertilizer can damage lawns. So don't be thinking, "If that recommended half-pound of soluble nitrogen is good, a whole pound will be twice as good." It just doesn't work that way with fertilizers or research-based recommendations.

Knowing the size of your lawn and the right amount and type of fertilizer needed can eliminate doubts about which bag of fertilizer to purchase at a garden center and will probably save you some hard-earned bucks, too. So measure your lawn, borrow the kitchen scale, and weigh out and apply the correct amount of 21-0-0 fertilizer before that October 10th deadline. And, be sure to thoroughly water-in the soluble fertilizer into the soil immediately after it is applied. Following this tip will result in a nice green start for your lawn in the spring of 2020. Have a great week. M.V.

September 16-20, 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.