

The Voice of Agriculture For Baylor County

TEXAS A&M AGRI LIFE EXTENSION

August 2016

Special points of interest:

- Mesquite cutworm
- Veterinary Feed Directive
- Soil Testing
- Wheat variety picks

Upcoming Events:

Sept. 6 @ 6pm

VFD educational meeting at the Extension Office

What is Happening to the Mesquite Trees?

In the past weeks it has become evident that there is a pest preying on mesquite trees. This pest is the mesquite cut worm and it was first noticed off of interstate 20 between Eastland and Baird and appears to be rapidly spreading consuming the leaves off of mesquite trees. While it does not appear that this pest will do any long term damage to the mesquite trees at this time, it does appear that anyone who had plans of foliar spraying

mesquite trees in affected areas this year will have to postpone it and wait another year when mesquite foliage conditions will be more favorable.

The worm is a caterpillar that is dark colored and has various colored spots on it with few short hairs. After the tree defoliates, the larvae will pupate in the soil and become moths later this fall and start a second generation, or could wait until spring to repeat the cycle.



Veterinary Feed Directive (VFD) Educational Event

A Veterinary Feed Directive (VFD) or VFD Order is a written statement from a licensed veterinarian that authorizes a client to obtain and use a VFD drug in or on animal feed in accordance with label directions that are approved or indexed by

the FDA. The VFD is not a new thing, it was established in 1996 and now the FDA has added new medically important antimicrobials to the list of "prescription required" for feed and water usage such as chlortetracycline, sulfa drugs and tylosin to

list a few. This will affect producers and youth that show livestock. Please join us Sept. 6 , 6pm at the Extension Office. We will have veterinarians, feed and pharmaceutical reps and great meal! Please RSVP @ 889-5581 by Aug. 29.

Texas A&M Agrilife Extension Baylor County

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The Texas A&M University System, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the County Commissioners Courts of Texas Cooperating

Soil Testing

It is a good time to take soil samples now. To credit soil residual N, we recommend growers to take soil sampling from 6-24".

Your county extension office provides free soil sample bags and paperwork to get you started.

Soil moisture is our primary limiting factor for wheat growth, followed by N. It is recommended that emphasis be on N rather than micronutrients. The next important nutrients are P, K, and S. Micronutrients will be important, but NPKS (and Ca) will be much more demanding by wheat than micronutrients. As always, the extension office can provide publications that explain in detail application recommendations and methods.



Greer

TAM 114



Top Wheat Variety picks for the Rolling Plains

I would like to thank Richard Morgan, Scott Williamson, Kenneth Moline and Klifton Moline for their help with the wheat variety plot that we planted west of town along the Lubbock hwy. There were 9 forage varieties and 15 grain varieties. A field mtg. was held with Agrilife's agronomist, Dr. Emi Kimura from Vernon to interpret the variety advantages and disadvantages. This was not a

uniform variety trial but rather a service for the producers to see differences in varieties, therefore no data was collected in terms of yield and tonnage.

Here is a website that has a lot of good information regarding small grains and agronomy including our field day photos and recommended varieties.

<http://agrilife.org/txrollingplainsagronomy/>

Table 1. Picks list for 2016-2017 growing season in the Rolling Plains of Texas

	Picks list	Source	3 Years Avg.*	2016 Avg.*
			Bu/ac	
1	Greer	Syngenta	40.7	48.8
2	TAM 114	Texas A&M	37.9	43.3
3	WB Cedar	Monsanto	36.6	40.4
4	Gallagher	Oklahoma St.	34.9	39.0
5	WB 4458	Monsanto	38.2	38.1
6	TAM 304	Texas A&M	33.6	33.2

*Yields are obtained only from dryland trials