Top of the Windmill News

Summer 2019

Kerr County AgriLife Extension Service
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By: Roy Walston – CEA-Ag/NR

Calendar of Events

Aug 16-17	Texas Sheep & Goat Expo in San Angelo
Sept 14th	Wildlife Management and Research Seminar
Sept 30-Oct 1	2019 Bennett Trust Land Stewardship Women's Conference
Oct 1st	Kerr County Hay Show entries due
Oct 5th	Kerr County 4-H Wild Game Dinner

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5th Texas Sheep and Goat Expo set for Aug. 16-17

(Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service photo)

SAN ANGELO – The fifth Texas Sheep and Goat Expo conducted by the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service is set for Aug.16-17 in San Angelo's 1st Community Federal Credit Union Spur Arena on the San Angelo Fairgrounds.

The statewide event, billed as one of the largest sheep and goat industry educational programs in the world, focuses on many different segments of the industry as well as the issues challenging producers in Texas and across the U.S., according to organizers. "The expo is unique in that it offers hands-on activities and speaker interaction for participants," said Robert Pritz, event coordinator and AgriLife Extension regional program leader in San Angelo. "The format will remain the same as years past with both general and concurrent sessions over the two-day period covering issues for new and experienced sheep and goat raisers. We are fortunate to have a very active planning committee who consider it a standing priority to procure top speakers and to keep the topics new or approached from a different perspective than done previously."

Pritz said the 2018 expo evaluations indicated 91 percent of the sheep and goat producers attending plan to adopt at least one practice or technology offered during the event. "Also, 80 percent said they anticipate an economic benefit from information gathered from the expo," he said.

Agendas, registration and sponsorship info can be found at the following link.

https://agrilife.org/agrilifesheepandgoat/

Land Stewardship Tips Focus of Women's Conference
Sept. 30-Oct. 1 in Fredericksburg

FREDERICKSBURG – Women landowners and operators will find answers to questions and hear about conservation management practices essential to their property at the 2019 Bennett Trust Land Stewardship Women's Conference.

"Tips for the Trade" will be the theme of the conference set for Sept. 30-Oct. 1 at The Inn on Barons Creek, 308 S. Washington St., Fredericksburg. Cost is $100 and includes the opening breakfast as well as all other meals, break refreshments and tour transportation.

Funded in part by the Ruth and Eskel Bennett Trust, the conference is an effort to reach women landowners who want to learn more about stewardship of the land, said Dr. Larry Redmon, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service program leader and associate head, Texas A&M University soil and crop sciences department, College Station.

"We believe women from throughout Texas and the surrounding states will find a lot of value in this event," Redmon said. "Our excellent slate of speakers and topics to be covered extend far beyond the Edwards Plateau region, so we welcome everyone to come and learn with us."

This year's keynote speaker, Dr. Susan Ballabina, Texas A&M AgriLife deputy vice chancellor, College Station, will address conservation of natural resources.

Other speakers and their topics on Sept. 30 include:

– Quail, Amanda Gobeli, AgriLife Extension associate with the Texas A&M Institute of Natural Resources, College Station.

– 1D1 Wildlife as Agriculture, Redmon.

– Agriculture Laws Every Landowner Needs to Know, Tiffany Dowell Lashmet, AgriLife Extension, Amarillo.

– Financial Considerations on the Ranch, Jae Thompson, Capital Farm Credit, Uvalde.

– Path to the Plate, Whitney Whitworth, AgriLife Extension family and community health agent, Llano County.

– Brush Busters/Prescribed Fire, Dr. Morgan Treadwell, AgriLife Extension range specialist, San Angelo.

– Guts and Glory: Finding Your Place, Dr. Megan Clayton, AgriLife Extension range specialist, Corpus Christi.

On Oct. 1, conference attendees will travel to outdoor sessions on plant identification, skeet shooting and archery in the morning. Following lunch, the group will tour a ranch in the Fredericksburg/Kerrville area.

For more information, go to https://agrilife.org/bennetttrust/, or contact Redmon at l-redmon@tamu.edu or Linda Francis, l-francis@tamu.edu.

Kerr County Hay Show

This year's hay crop looks to be one of the better crops in recent history. Early rains this spring set hay producers up for some good early cuttings. Of course, July and August had to be dry and we are in need of some much needed moisture to go into the fall. Hay producers interested in participating in the Kerr County Hay Show may bring their hay samples by the Texas AgriLife Extension office in Kerrville by Wednesday, October 1st. Entries will include one bale. A producer may enter as many bales as they wish. In cases of round bales an entry may be cored or consist of 20 pounds of hay sacked, bound and tied. If you need to borrow our hay core you are welcome to it. Classes include; Sorghum Sudan, Winter Annuals, Legumes, Perennial Grasses, Coastal Bermuda, and other bermudagrasses. Bermudagrasses will be divided into irrigated and dryland. This is a good opportunity for producers to get their hay tested and determine the quality of your hay as a feed supplement for this winter. Entry fee for the show is $10.00 per sample. For more information contact the Kerr County AgriLife Extension Office at 830-257-6568.

Path to the Plate

When consumers are making connections between agriculture and health, there is concern about where information is obtained. Many turn to the easiest and quickest source of information, the internet.

There is an abundant supply of information on the internet that is correct and useful to the consumer. The problem that many run into, is the amount of information being shown to them. Consumers have to sift through thousands of search results to find the information they seek and they trust. For this reason, digital misinformation has become so pervasive that the World Economic Forum has listed it as one of the main threats to human society.

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension has developed a response to the questions consumers are asking titled Path to the Plate.

Path to the Plate is a comprehensive, educational approach to providing relevant, current, and factual information to consumers. Our goal is to educate consumers so they can make informed
decisions when it comes to agriculture and their health.

Path to the Plate is an unbiased examination of agriculture, the food we eat, and the connection to our health. The program is designed to deliver correct, research-based information via a variety of methods.

The overarching goal of the Path to the Plate program is for all Texans to make informed decisions based on truthful and accurate information. More specific objectives of the program include:

- To work with organizations, agencies, communities and individuals to provide Texans with a wealth of information and perspectives so they may make better informed decisions about the food they eat.
- To present the important role of agriculture in our daily lives – from production to harvest to how It arrives at your table.
- To deliver correct, research-based information in order to educate the consumer in regards to agriculture and health.

For more information on Path to the Plate and topics like food labels and marketing go to: https://pathtotheplate.tamu.edu/topics/food-labels/

Summer Pecan Pests

Fall webworm

I have yet to see fall webworm as a serious issue in commercial orchards, especially those treated with methoxyfenizide.

Figure 1. Fall webworm egg mass

Figure 5, Fall Webworm web

Most of the inquires I receive for this insect are from the urban areas. Management of FWW can be achieved by: removing webs; tearing open webs to allow predator access or spraying an insecticide. Fall webworm egg masses differ from walnut caterpillar in that they are covered with scales from the female moth and are usually two or three layers deep.

Walnut Caterpillar

The best defense for preventing defoliation from this insect is to recognize a problem before it is too late. Watch for defoliated terminals, and cast skins on the trunk. Insecticides recommended for Lepidoptera pests can be found in the table at the end of this letter.

Figure 2.Colony of walnut caterpillars.

Figure 3. Egg mass with first instar larvae.

Although trees will re-foliate after defoliation, the impact of defoliation can/will severely impact the crop.

Pecan Weevil Control

With the onset of some drier weather on us here in August, it is time to begin thinking of controlling the pecan weevil if he has been a problem in your pecans in the past. These pests raise their ugly red-heads in December when you are just ready to harvest this year's crop. You will crack nuts and if you do not already see the tell-tale sign of the shot hole in the pecan you will find the red-headed larvae in the pecan rather than the nut meat you were hoping to find. These weevils begin to emerge around the 10^{th} -20^{th} of August, or during the gel stage of the pecan nutlets, depending on soil moister. If your fields are exceptionally dry this may be delaying some of the emergence until we see moisture in September when we are more likely to receive rainfall. Adults pierce the nutlets and can lay eggs in the nutlets anytime during the gel to dough stage through shuck split. The female weevil emerges and does not lay eggs until after her fifth day of emergence.

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If adult emergence traps are continuing to catch weevils following the sixth day following a spray application than a follow up spray on the 10th day would be necessary. If no weevil emergence is detected following the initial treatment than a follow up treatment is not necessary. Treatments are no earlier than 10 days apart are necessary. The best method to controlling weevils in pecans is through monitoring their emergence, several monitoring methods have been used and developed over the years including traps, and knock-down sprays.

To prevent delayed emergence of these weevils it is best to irrigate to encourage their emergence. This will allow for you to make two applications rather than three or four and then not getting good control. The best product to use is still 80%WP Sevin.

For more information on trap types, etc. and controlling the Pecan Weevil you may visit the Kerr County web site under publications. That address is http://kerr-tx.tamu.edu/

Table 4. Suggested insecticides for controlling pecan nut casebearer, walnut caterpillar, and fall webworm. This information is provided for educational purposes. Read and follow label directions.

		Insecticide	
Active ingredient	**IRAC group**	**Brand name**	**Remarks**
Bacillus thuringiensis	11A	Javelin-WG® Crymax® Deliver®	Bt insecticides have short residual activity, multiple applications may be needed for control
Methoxyfenozide	18	Intrepid® 2F	Grazing allowed
Spinetoram	5	Delegate®	Grazing allowed
Spinosad	5	Entrust*® SpinTor® 2SC, Success®	Grazing allowed
Tebufenizide	18	Confirm® 2F	Do not graze livestock in treated orchards
Chlorantraniliprole	28	Altacor	Grazing allowed
Methoxyfenozide + Spinetoram	5 18	Intrepid Edge	Grazing allowed
Flubendiamate	28	Belt SC	Grazing allowed

*The spinosad formulation of Entrust is approved for organic production by the Organic Materials Review Institute (OMRI).

Note: Other insecticides, including chlorpyrifos, pyrethroid insecticides, combinations of these active ingredients, and malathion, are also labeled for PNC control in pecans. However, these broad spectrum insecticides can have a negative impact on beneficial insects and increase the risk of outbreaks of other pests. For this reason, only insecticides that target primarily pecan nut casebearer and other related caterpillar pests are included in this table. See Table 12 for list of all insecticides labeled

Table 10. Suggested insecticides for control of pecan weevil. This information is provided for educational purposes. Read and follow label directions.

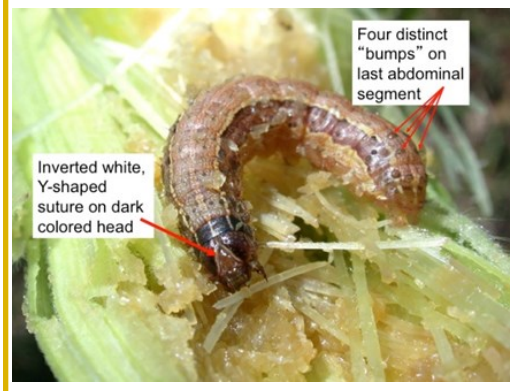
		Insecticide		
Active ingredient	**IRAC group**	**Brand name**	**Pre-harvest interval**	**Remarks**
Bifenthrin	3A	Brigade® WSB, Brigade 2EC, Bifen 2 AG Gold, Bifenture EC Bifenture 10F, Fanfare ES, Fanfare 2EC, Sniper	21 days	Do not graze treated orchards.
Carbaryl	1A	Sevin® 80WSP, Sevin®80S, Carbaryl® 4L, Prokoz Sevin® SL	14 days	Grazing allowed
Lamda-cyhalothrin	3A	Warrior®, Warrior II®, Grizzly Z® Kaiso 24® WG, Karate® w/ zeon® tech, Lambda-CY® EC, Province®	14 days „	Grazing allowed
Zeta-cypermethrin	3A	Mustang Max® EC, Mustang Max® Respect® EC	21 days	Do not graze treated orchards.
Zeta-cypermethrin and bifenthrin	3A and 3A	Hero®	21 days	Do not graze treated orchards.

Being Prepared is the Best Defense for Fall Armyworms

With a dry summer like we are seeing now, if we are lucky enough to have some showers this fall and start seeing some green up in the bermudagrass or small grain fields, I would recommend being on the lookout for the Fall Armyworm. Homeowners may be facing these insects this fall especially if their lawns are the only green grasses in the area.

These larvae can cause severe and sudden defoliation and damage to lawns, small grain fields, bermudagrass fields and numerous other crops.

Armyworm caterpillars will vary in length from 1/16" inch in the first instar to 1½" – 2" inches as mature larvae. The larvae have stripes running the length of their body; one stripe is present on each side and another stripe runs down the middle of the back. They are hairless caterpillars having a base color ranging from yellow-green to a dark brown to gray color.



Fall Armyworm caterpillars will also have stripes but differ in having a yellow-white Y-marking on the head and four dark circular spots on the upper side of each abdominal segment.

Armyworms and Fall Armyworms mainly attack grasses such as small grains, pasture grasses, turf grasses and corn. Within turf and pastures, armyworms inhabit the thatch layer. Under extremely dry conditions they will seek harborage inside soil cracks and underground litter.

Unlike the seemingly indiscriminate diet, of the caterpillars, the female moths can be pretty selective about where they lay their eggs, opting for only the best, most productive pastures and crops for their future brood to flourish in," he said. "However, wet weather can bring on exploding populations like we are currently experiencing. During these outbreaks, 'housing shortages' can occur so moths may lay their eggs on just about any available host plant.

Larvae which successfully overwinter in the soil or under debris in grassy areas will feed and pupate during the following spring. Adults emerge in May and June. Following mating during summer months females will feed for 7-10 days and lay eggs at night in clusters of 25-134 on grass or small grain leaves. A single female may live as an adult for 17 days and produce up to 2000 eggs. Eggs will then hatch in 6-10 days. Young caterpillars then feed on leaves, especially at night or during cloudy weather, usually hiding in thatch during daylight hours. Six larval instars are passed in 3-4 weeks; the last instar consumes 80% of the foliage eaten during the insect's lifespan.

As far as what to spray, Dr. Charles Allen, Extension Entomologist from San Angelo recommends pyrethroid insecticides as they are relatively inexpensive and are normally an effective option for fall armyworm control in wheat, Coastal Bermuda grass and other hay and pasture crops.

"There are lots of products that have a pyrethroid active ingredient," he said. "You can tell if it is a pyrethroid by looking at the active ingredients list on the insecticide label. Many of the pyrethroid active ingredients end in 'thrin.'

"Intrepid, Prevathon, Besiege, Tracer, malathion and carbaryl are other effective options," he said. "Be sure to read and follow all label instructions, paying particular attention to the hay cutting and/or grazing restrictions listed on these insecticide products. Some, but not all control products are labeled for turf grass, but read the label to be sure."

For more information concerning Fall Armyworm or Armyworm damage contact the County Extension office at 257-6568.

Watering

We are finally starting to feel the full effect of the Texas heat as we move into August. Heavy rainfall early in the summer made it possible for many parts of the state to refrain from turning irrigation on until just recently, but you may be starting to feel that old familiar "itch" to crank up your sprinkler system.

When irrigating, take steps to use water as efficiently as possible both to conserve resources and to promote dense, healthy turfgrass growth. For a simple guide to improving water-use efficiency, check out the *Water-Wise Checklist for Texas Home Lawns* on the AggieTurf website.

SCS-2019-15

TEXAS A&M AGRILIFE EXTENSION

WATER-WISE CHECKLIST FOR TEXAS HOME LAWNS

DR. BECKY GRUBBS
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR & EXTENSION TURFGRASS SPECIALIST
aggieturf.tamu.edu

MOWING

TASK	EXPLANATION	RESOURCES & COMMENTS
Mow at the upper end of the appropriate mowing height range for your species of turfgrass.	*Taller Grass = Deeper Roots.* Deeper roots can improve overall water infiltration and access to water deeper in the soil.	
Follow the 1/3 Rule. Mow frequently enough to avoid removing more than 1/3 of the total turfgrass mowing height at one time.	*Scalped grass is stressed grass.* Stressed grass will be less tolerant to heat and drought, and more vulnerable to other pests or fungal pathogens.	For more information on appropriate mowing practices, check out the AggieTurf Website's publications on turfgrass management: https://aggieturf.tamu.edu/publications/

IRRIGATION

TASK	EXPLANATION	RESOURCES & COMMENTS
Water ***deeply and infrequently.*** Try to water to a depth of approximately 6" each time you water.	Watering this way encourages deeper, denser root growth. Again, this can improve infiltration and access to water deeper in the soil.	Turfgrass can typically be maintained by irrigating **1-2x per week** to provide between **1" and 1.5"** of total water during summer months. Be sure to adjust based on natural precipitation.
Wait to water when **visual wilt** is occurring, and do so late at night or early in the morning.	Watering late at night or early in the morning will reduce evaporative losses, improve water-use efficiency, and reduce length of overall leaf wetness, which reduces disease potential.	
Use the **Cycle Soak Method.**	Because sprinkler precipitation rates usually exceed soil infiltration rates, cycle soaking improves soil water infiltration and reduces runoff by "pulsing" water onto the lawn in small amounts over several hours.	Check out this video from Dr. Richard White on the Cycle Soak Method. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VmrSYbHTjL0&t=27s
Monitor your irrigation equipment **carefully.**	Broken or malfunctioning irrigation equipment can both waste water and create localized dry spots across the lawn. Replace broken heads, and consider a professional irrigation audit by a licensed irrigator.	Want to check your irrigation efficiency on your own? Check out AgriLife Water University's video on the Catch Can Method. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1nNwZ_jmn6w&t=2s

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One thing to remember is that if your warm-season turfgrass undergoes a prolonged period of drought, it has the ability to go into **summer dormancy.** Simply put, your turfgrass will cease growth, turning a tan to golden brown color, then recover when water becomes available again in the late summer/early fall. Many trees and other perennials use similar survival tactics in the landscape, shedding leaves in the summer.

Allowing your grass to go dormant is always an option when you don't want to irrigate on a regular basis during these hottest and driest weeks of the year. After all, when you describe it as a "golden brown", it doesn't sound so bad! If you choose to go this route and allow your lawn to go into summer dormancy, remember to stop fertilizing, as fertilizer products are best applied when turfgrass is *actively growing,* not dormant.

Summer dormancy is contingent on your lawn's ability to develop **deep, healthy roots** during periods of active growth. Remember that many warm-season grasses have the ability to root several feet into the soil under ideal conditions. To encourage deep rooting, implement good cultural management practices that promote deep water infiltration and healthy turfgrass growth. Many of the water-wise practices listed in the factsheet above will help with this.

As we get closer to fall…….

Remember that irrigation practices can have a significant impact on turfgrass diseases. This is especially true as we get closer to fall. As a general rule of thumb, water **early in the morning**. Evening watering can prolong the period of leaf wetness, and promote conditions for disease. Large Patch Disease (*Rhizoctonia solani)* becomes active as soil temperatures start to drop consistently below 70 F, so as we get closer to September and October, scale back watering and fertilizer applications to minimize disease risk. Remember that turfgrass growth begins to slow during this period anyways, and less water and fertilizer are generally required.

Private Applicator CEU Opportunities

If you are in a crunch and are in need of Private Pesticide applicator CEU's to renew your pesticide applicator license, feel free to give us a call at the Extension office at 830-257-6568. We have 8 hours of videos for general, laws and regulations and integrated pest management categories that can be viewed for license renewal. The following link also shows what CEU opportunities are available for license renewal. https://ceusearch.texasagriculture.gov/

Sandbur Control in Home Lawns

This time of year homeowners begin to find the dreaded Sandbur in their home lawns. While it is too late to apply any pre-emergent herbicide control for this year, there are ways to minimize the population for next year.

-Frequent mowing and bagging to remove burs

-Regular fertilization to optimize turfgrass health. Sandburs are more likely in nutrient-poor soils that are under fertilized.

-Late or split preemergence applications. Sandburs germinate later in the season than crabgrass, and there is some speculation that products applied in February may not sufficiently protect against sandburs. Instead, we might recommend a split app (Feb/April).

-Postemergence applications of one of the following: imazaquin (Image) or Celsius. MSMA can no longer be used in residential turfgrass.

KERR WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA
Wildlife Management and Research Seminar

Join us at the Lee and Ramona Bass Conference Facility for discussions on wildlife management and research in the Texas Hill Country.

TOPICS COVERED:

- **Ecosystems Management**

Taking a holistic approach to land improvement

- **Deer Research : Past & Present**

Donnie E. Harmel White-tailed Deer Research Pens

- **Ecology & Control of Feral Swine**

Kerr WMA Feral Swine Research Facility

- **CWD in Texas Update**

What is it and where is it?

Tour of Habitat and Research Facilities to Follow

September 14th, 2019 @ 9 am - 4 pm

B.Y.O.L. (Bring Your Own Lunch)

RSVP at (830) 238-4483

Or

deanna.pfeffer@tpwd.texas.gov

TEXAS PARKS & WILDLIFE

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