CORYELL AG NEWS

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension

Coryell County Agriculture Newsletter

Mosquito-Proof Your Yard!

This year we've started off with a lot of rain which means, Mosquitos are out in full force!

Look for standing water in and around your backyard. Before you dismiss this as something YOU don't have to worry about in YOUR backyard, go outside and take a hard look. If you or your neighbors are washing the car or running irrigation systems, there is always possibility of standing water in small containers, drainage catchment basins, and city storm drains next to your home. Also, check overflow dishes in potted plants and neglected bird baths. After summer showers make sure that buckets, wheelbarrows and children's toys are emptied. It only takes a little soil, compost or a few leaves, and water that stands for 1-2 weeks, to breed mosquitoes.

Drain or treat standing water. Standing water in sewer lines or catchment basins can be treated with mosquito dunks or an insect growth regulator called methoprene. Methoprene granules or briquets last the longest, but both products will kill mosquito larvae when you can't drain the water from a breeding hole. Remember, koi ponds, streams or creeks with fish generally don't need treatments–fish do a pretty good job in most cases of controlling pest mosquitoes.

Ridding your yard of breeding sites is not the full answer, because mosquitoes will disperse into your yard from neighboring properties. Use an aerosol or propane fogger to clear mosquitoes temporarily from a yard. Having a picnic this weekend? One of the short-lived insecticides like pyrethrins or resmethrin can be applied to shrubbery, tree foliage and shady areas around the home to kill resting mosquitoes. Effects of such sprays can last for a few hours to a couple of days.

Use your garden sprayer to apply pyrethroid sprays to treat shady areas around the house, especially around entryways where resting mosquitoes are more likely to come indoors when you enter and leave the home. Sprays like lambda-cyhalothrin, cyfluthrin and others can provide several weeks of mosquito killing power on soffits and wood siding. Applications made to brick are a little tricky and may need to be reapplied more frequently.

If you are ready for more drastic action, several manufacturers make hose-applied pyrethroid insecticides for general backyard insect control. While I'm not generally a fan of broadcast applications of insecticides to the backyard (because of possible effects on beneficial insects), these products can provide extended control of disease-carrying mosquitoes. Sprays should be applied to shady lawns, shrubs, trees and shady areas of the house exterior where mosquitoes hide during the day.

Coryell - Pecan Management Clinic

Pecan Management Clinic **Date: May 7, 2015** **Location: Bay Pecan Orchard - Mound Texas**

The entrance to our orchard is right behind the Mound post office at the intersection of FM 1829 and CR 318. The entrance is the very first left as you turn off of 1829 onto 318 it's a dirt road that runs between the back side of the post office and the first house on the left.

9:30 AM	Registration
10:00 AM	"Homeowner Management of Your Pecan Trees" Mr. Monte Nesbitt, Extension Program Specialists
11:00 AM	"Pecan Tree Pesticide Use for Insect Management" Mr. Bill Reel; Extension Program Specialist III – IPM

1 IPM CEU will be offered for this program

Registration fee will be $10.00 Please be aware this program will be outside bring your OWN CHAIR the day of program.

Please come by Coryell County Extension Office to pay your registration fee by May 5th.

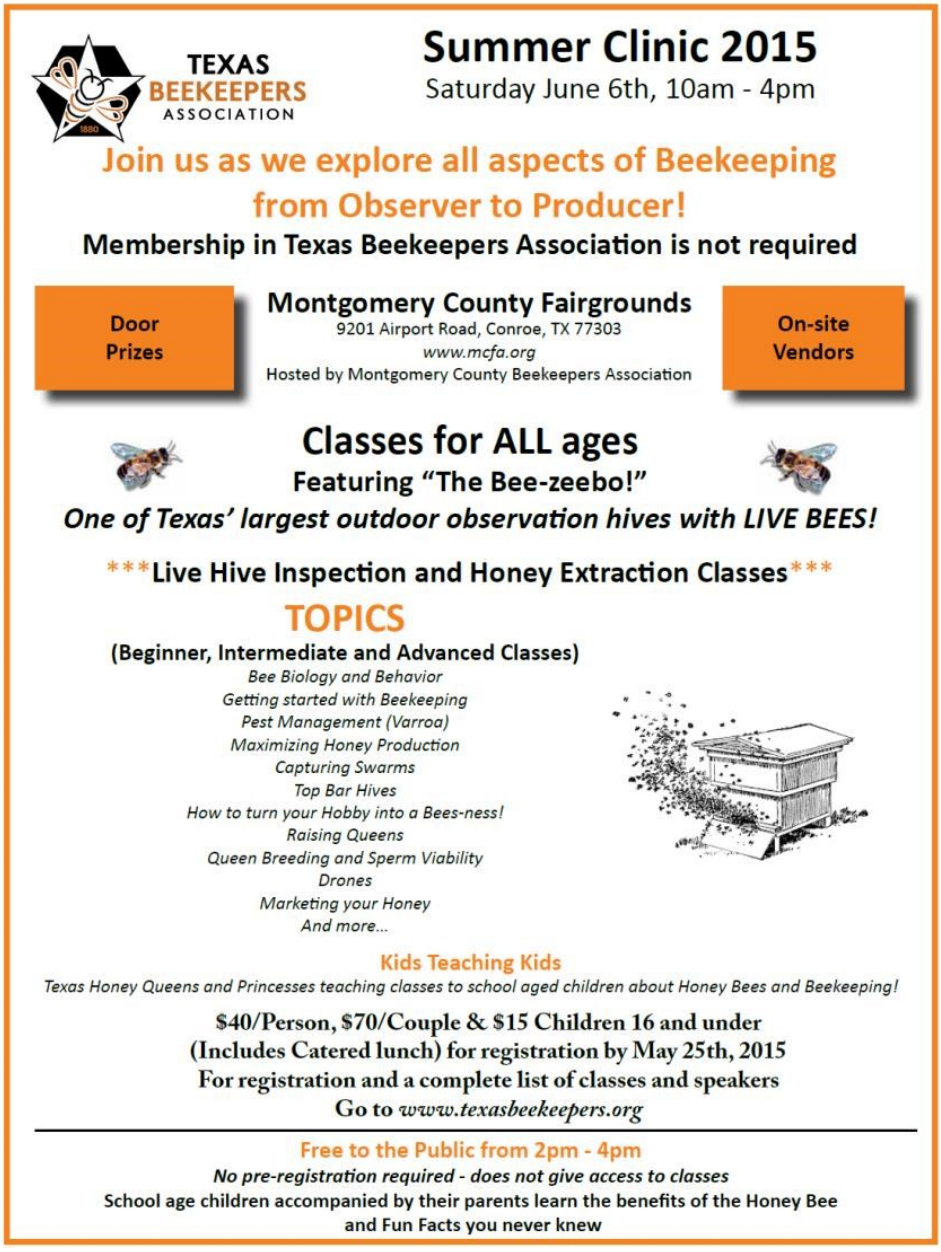
Vector Abatement & Mitigation Workshop

The McLennan County Extension office of Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service will be hosting a Vector Abatement and Mitigation Workshop on April 21st, 2015. This program is designed to train persons that work to lessen the mosquito population in city and urban environments. This program will be a one of a kind workshop to educate those attending on mosquito identification, biology, ecology, trap usage, surveillance of populations, and overall mosquito control options. As an addition, other biting insects and vector-borne diseases that have been affecting Texas will be discussed.

The program will be held from 9 am to 3 pm at the Waco Association of Realtors building, located at 2025 North 44th Street in Waco. Registration will open at 8:30 am and you will be able to purchase the Texas Mosquito Manual for an additional $10 if you are interested in doing so. Those private, non-commercial and commercial applicators will be able to receive 5 hours of CEU's; 3 CEU's will be offered for those needing structural hours; and those needing Animal Control CEU's can obtain 4.75 CEU hours.

The registration fee is $40 and can be made by check payable to Texas A&M AgriLife Extension. Registration and payment should be mailed to Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service, Attn: Dr Sonja Swiger, 1229 N. US Hwy 281, Stephenville, TX 76401. For more information contact the District 8 Extension Center at (254)968-4144 or the McLennan County Extension office at (254)757-5180 or you can go to http://livestockvetento.tamu.edu

Beekeepers Summer Clinic 2015



Useful Websites:

- Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Result Demonstrations - http://agrilife.org/resultdemos/category/region/central/
- Texas Row Crops - http://agrilife.org/texasrowcrops/current-news/
- Forage Fax - http://foragefax.tamu.edu/
- Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service in Coryell County - http://coryell.agrilife.org/
- Plants of Texas Rangelands - http://essmextension.tamu.edu/plants/
- Soil Testing Forms - http://soiltesting.tamu.edu/webpages/forms.html

Join Our Ag Email List!

We send out a bi-weekly ag email with upcoming dates and information. Send an email to coryell@ag.tamu.edu to be added!

Westside Row Crops Tour

June 19th, Crawford Texas

2 General, 1 IPM CEU's

$5 registration fee

Breakfast provided by Lone Star Ag Credit

Lunch sponsored by McLennan and Coryell Row Crop Committees and various other Ag Businesses

Corn Demonstration plot: Greg Westerfeld, Milo Demonstration plot: Mark Wiethorn

Program:

7:30-8:00	Registration @ Grain Sorghum Field
8:00-8:15	Sponsor walk through Grain Sorghum plots
8:15-8:25	Move to Corn Plot
8:25-8:55	Sponsor walking tour through Corn plots
8:55-9:15	Move to Crawford Community Center
9:15-9:45	Chemical Tolerant Grain Sorghum – Dr. Case Medlin
9:45-10:25	Texas Grain Sorghum and Ag Commodity Update – Katelynn Luckett, Texas Grain Sorghum Producers
10:25-10:35	Break
10:35-11:15	Herbicide Resistance in Weeds – Dr. Case Medlin, DuPont Field Development
11:15-12:05	Sugarcane Aphid Update - Raul Villanueve, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Entomologist
Noon	lunch & update from FSA – McLennan or Coryell County FSA office

Small Grain Tour

April 24th, McGregor Texas

3 General CEU'S

$10 registration fee

Breakfast provided by Capital Farm Credit
Lunch sponsored by Niemeier Feed and Grain, McGregor (and other Ag Businesses to be named later)

7:30-8:00 am	Registration @ Canola Demonstration Plots off Plainview Road
8:00-8:45	Tour Canola and Small Grain Result Demonstrations – Dr. Clark Neely, Extension Small Grain and Oilseed Specialist
8:45-9	move to Niemeier's barn
9-9:40	Marketing of Grain – Mark Welch, Extension Grain Economist
9:45-10:25	Proper Small Grain Seeding Rate & New Herbicide/Fungicide for Small Grains – Dr. Clark Neely
10:25-10:35	Break-Update from McLennan County Farm Service Agency – Mike Maedgen
10:35-11:15	Integrated Pest Management (discuss latest on sugarcane aphids and hessian fly research in McLennan County) – Dr. Allen Knutson, Extension Entomology Specialist
11:20-noon	Small Grain Fertility Management – Dr. Tony Provin, Extension Soil Chemist

Noon Meal

Hosted by Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Offices in McLennan, Limestone, Hamilton, Falls, Coryell, Bosque and Bell Counties.

6 Tips for Cost-Effective Weed Control

Herbicides are most cost-effective when used at the right rate at the right time. To get the most benefit from your pasture weed spraying, Dow AgroSciences weed scientists offer these six tips.

1. Identify the weed problem. Your choice of herbicides and recommended application rates will vary by weed species and timing. For most broadleaf weeds, GrazonNext® HL herbicide will be the cost-effective choice, but Chaparral™ herbicide controls some species – including Pensacola bahiagrass and many species of brush – that GrazonNext HL does not. Consult your dealer or Dow AgroSciences representative for a specific, local recommendation matched to your situation.

2. Use a calibrated sprayer or a professional applicator. Calibration prevents both the waste and expense of over-application, and reduced control from under-application. It's the only way to get both the result you want and your money's worth. Don't guess.

3. Spray at the right time with the right rate. Annual weeds in pastures are generally most susceptible early in the season when they're small and growing actively, and soil moisture is adequate. Using GrazonNext HL or Chaparral at their highest labeled rates will provide longer soil residual activity to control weeds that germinate *after* spraying. You can get several weeks control of many weed species.

Spring is here!
High cost of fertilizer, make sure to consider obtaining a soil test now! We have soil test kits available at the Coryell County Extension Office.

4. Recognize that drought-stressed or mature weeds will be more difficult to control. Effectiveness will be reduced if weeds don't have adequate moisture and aren't growing. Mature weeds have already limited your grass production. Don't spray unless you're willing to increase the rate within the labeled range or accept less control.

5. Follow label directions for application and mixing. For ground broadcast, apply the recommended rate of herbicide in 10 to 20 gallons of total spray mixture per acre. Use the recommended rate of an agricultural surfactant to thoroughly wet the foliage. Consider a drift-control additive to reduce drift and improve deposition.

6. Remember soil residual activity and plant residue. While GrazonNext HL and Chaparral may provide season-long control of weeds in permanent grass pasture, they should not be used on cropland *or on land to be rotated to crops.* Remember too, grasses treated with any soil residual herbicide may carry herbicide residue that can be transferred to the soil by hay, livestock manure or urine. Be sure to read and observe all label precautions.

2,4-D and Sensitivity in Small Grains

The growth regulator type herbicide, 2,4-dichlorophenoxyacetic acid, or 2,4-D, has a long history of versatile weed control in U.S. agriculture for many crops. Two main formulations exist for 2,4-D: 1) "esters", which tend to have a higher level of chemical activity on weeds, but more potential injury for small grains, especially on jointing stage through near boot stage; 2) "amines", which are softer than ester formulations, with a slightly reduced injury potential, and are less prone to vapor drift. Purdue University's "Amine or Ester, Which is Better?, http://www.btny.purdue.edu/weedscience/2004/articles/amineester04.pdf, explains well these key differences between the two formulations.

Vapor drift is a concern with nearby sensitive crops, and the "low volatility" formulations of the ester form, LV4 and LV6, are commonly used to reduce the potential for off-target movement of the chemical.

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension has for a long time has taken a conservative approach to the use of 2,4-D products as well as MCPA (2-methy-4-chlorophenoxyacetic acid) in wheat due to injury concerns. Former state extension small grains specialist Dr. Travis Miller discusses 2,4-D in relation to wheat growth and development in "Growth Stages of Wheat: Identification and Understanding Improve Crop Management," http://varietytesting.tamu.edu/wheat/docs/mime-5.pdf

In this wheat growth guide, Dr. Miller notes that by Feekes growth stage 6.0—first node visible (which means jointing is occurring (Figures 1 & 2)—all applications of phenoxy herbicides like 2,4-D, MCPA, and dicamba should have been applied. These chemicals can be translocated to the growing point (developing head) and cause potential injury. In contrast, sulfonylurea herbicide products are labeled to initial boot stage or even initial flag leaf emergence.

However, most 2,4-D labels as well as MCPA state that wheat can be treated up to just prior to boot stage. Texas A&M AgriLife Extension's "Weed Control Recommendation in Wheat," (2008) (http://varietytesting.tamu.edu/wheat/otherpublications/B-6139%202008%20Weed%20Control.pdf) repeats label directions for 2,4-D and MCPA with these prolonged application windows. Several of these labels caution, however, that producers should either refrain from 2,4-D applications or reduce the rate if injury is not acceptable. AgriLife weed scientists and chemical company representatives suggest that MCPA ester is much safer on small grains than either 2,4-D formulation and is a thus a safer choice if using a phenoxy for later applications (but also slightly less effective).

Feedlot, Packer Margins Improve, but Re-Main Negative

Feedlot margins made another strong push last week, improving another $43. Despite two weeks of $40 gains, however, feedlots lost nearly $129 per head the week ending March 28, according to the Sterling Beef Profit Tracker.

Fed cattle also had a positive week, climbing more than $2.30 per hundredweight to $165.77 last week. Feeder steer placements weighing between 750 and 800 pounds averaged $214.63 per hundredweight last week, up from $207 the previous week. Last year at this time, feeder placements were averaging $175 per hundredweight. Breakeven prices for placements also rose last week, topping $162 per hundredweight compared to $157 the previous week. Breakeven prices for marketings last week was $175.68, according to Sterling Marketing, Inc.

Packer margins improved slightly last week, to negative $46.57 per head, compared to negative $48.40 the previous week. The beef cutout value was more than $2 higher at $248.13 per hundredweight last week.

Farrow-to-finish margins dropped last week, falling to negative $16.97 per head, compared to negative $15.46 per head, according to the Sterling Pork Profit Tracker. Lean hogs were down again, falling to $58.46 per hundredweight, compared to $60.62 the previous week.

Pork packer margins improved last week, averaging $6.95 per head compared to $5.04 the previous week. The pork cutout value finished the week at $67.02 per hundredweight, down from $68.37 the previous week.

The Sterling Beef Profit Tracker for the week ending March 28:

- Average feeder margins: -$128.80 per head.
- Average beef packer margins: -$46.57 per head.
- The Sterling Pork Profit Tracker for the week ending March 27:
- Average farrow-to-finish margins: -$16.97 per head.
- Average pork packer margins: $6.95 per head.

The Sterling Beef and Pork Profit Trackers are produced by Sterling Marketing Inc. and John Nalivka, president, Vale, Ore., and are published weekly by Drovers/ CattleNetwork, and PorkNetwork.

Protocols for Artificial Insemination

The Beef Reproduction Task Force has a list of protocols or plans for AI in beef cattle. For heifers there are three plans using heat detection only, three using heat detection followed by timed AI, two short-term plans using timed AI without heat detection, and two long-term using timed AI without heat detection. Plans for cows differ from those for heifers. For cows there are three plans using heat detection only, three using heat detection followed by timed AI, two fixed-time AI plans, and one fixed-time AI plan for Bos indicus cows only. Details can be accessed at http://beefrepro.unl.edu/resources.html

Value of Pre-Conditioned Calves

Preconditioning can increase value, especially in special sales with strict qualification requirements. Special sales were held in the fall of 2014 involving 4327 calves in 318 lots. To be certified, calves must be: home raised, bulls castrated and healed, dehorned and healed, weaned ≥ 45 days**,** Beef Quality Assurance guidelines followed, identified with the official program tag, and follow one of three approved vaccination programs. Details can be accessed at http://www.oqbn.okstate.edu/ .

Characteristics across all lots were: 88% average flesh, 65% #1 or 1-2 muscling score, 65% large or medium-large frame, and 78% black or black mixed. Prices were reported for weight ranges of 100 lb. There were few animals weighing below 400 lb or above 900 lb for steers and 800 lb for heifers. Bonuses in $/cwt for certified were:

Weight Range	Steers	Heifers
400-499	$25.18	$20.32
500-599	$34.34	$17.94
600-699	$20.68	$10.27
700-799	$11.65	$9.97
800-899	$11.28	

As has been found in some other such sales, bonuses were higher for steers and tended to decline as weight increased. (Oklahoma St. Univ. – Oklahoma Quality Beef Network)

Beef Imports & Exports

In 1980 the U. S. imported about 10 times as much beef as was exported. This difference gradually declined until 2004, when the "mad-cow" scare sharply reduced our exports. Exports gradually climbed back and were about the same as imports in 2010. Since then we've exported more than imported, and our exports are higher priced than our imports. This results in the difference in value of our exports over imports being even greater than the difference in pounds.

The U. S. produces most of the fed, high-quality beef in the world, and it is in high demand in many countries. In addition, many by-product or variety products, such as tongue, are more desired in many countries than in the U. S.; this strengthens prices for these products. Currently, about 10% of the total value of a fed beef carcass is due to by-products/variety meats. And that figure is about 13% for cow carcasses. (USDA/ERS)

Addressing BVD at the Source

Bovine viral diarrhea (BVD) can lead to significant outbreaks of respiratory disease in stocker and feedlot operations, and that is where the disease often is most visible. Control at the cow-calf level however, can help prevent those losses, while also reducing the risk of costly reproductive problems. But, says, Kentucky State Veterinarian Robert Stout, cow-calf producers often do not see or recognize the signs of BVD in their herds.

During the recent National Institute for Animal Agriculture (NIAA) conference in Indianapolis, Stout presented to the NIAA Bovine Committee, discussing Kentucky's efforts to control BVD.

Stout says 60 to 80 percent of cattle in Kentucky probably are exposed to BVD at some time, with huge impacts on productivity and the state's agricultural economy. Many of those exposures result in transient, or temporary infection in cows, but BVD exposure also suppresses immunity and is a leading cause of bovine respiratory disease in stocker and feeder cattle.

Many of those infections occur as a result of persistently infected (PI) calves, which shed the virus constantly, being shipped from farms and ranches. PI calves occur when the gestating cow is exposed to the BVD virus during gestation, generally between days 30 and 110 of pregnancy, and becomes transiently infected. Her calf, if it survives, will be PI at birth and can spread the virus within the cow herd, leading to reduced calving rates, and among other calves it encounters later as it moves through the marketing, back grounding and finishing stages. Stout says transient infections of the dam account for about 90 percent of PI calves, with the other 10 percent resulting from a PI cow, which will pass the infection on to all her calves.

Diagnostic testing can identify PI animals for culling and isolation. PI animals should be removed from the marketing chain, either by euthanasia, shipping directly to slaughter or being finished in a quarantined facility away from other cattle. But, as the committee heard, some producers have knowingly sold and shipped PI calves without disclosing their disease status.

Kentucky, Stout says, is different from most states in that BVD is a reportable disease, meaning producers, veterinarians and diagnostic labs in the state are obligated to report positive results to the state Department of Agriculture. Also, Kentucky has had a law in place for years that forbids sale and transport of animals with communicable diseases. Although the law was created in response to other diseases such as Brucellosis and Tuberculosis, the state's animal health officials have applied it to BVD as well.

Stout notes that producers who find a PI animal can obtain a permit from the State Veterinarian's office to ship the animal directly to slaughter, which provides an option for recovering some of its value. This program, he says, should transmission of BVD, but more education and control steps are critical. Stout says he would like to see more targeted education at the cow-calf level, to make producers aware of the economic losses the disease causes in the form embryonic death, abortions and low calving rates. He also would like to see a system for permanently identifying PI animals such as with brands, and for documenting all their movement. He also says greater incentives for testing and perhaps an indemnity fund to reimburse producers who properly dispose of PI animals could provide long-term benefits in BVD control.

Have lunch with the Masters.

Free Horticulture Seminars in McLennan Co.

Visit http://mclennanmastergardeners.org/ for more information

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