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- Glyphosate Resistant Waterhemp & Palmer Amaranth
- Entomology Update
- Sugarcane Aphid Program Flyer
- Coastal Bend Spring Wheat Field Day
- South TX Agriculture Symposium
- Grain Storage & Handlers Safety Conference Flyer

Special points of Interest:
- Private Applicator Training
- TX Community Futures Forum
- Farm Worker Protection

PRIVATE APPLICATOR TRAINING

When .............1st Tuesday of even months
Time ........................ 8:00 am—11:30 am
Pre-Registration Required...(361) 767-5223
Where ........TX A&M AgriLife Ext. Office
710 E. Main, Robstown, TX
Fee: $50.00 (Includes study manuals)

A Private Applicator is defined by law as a person who uses or supervises the use of a restricted-use or state-limited use pesticide for the purpose of producing an agricultural commodity.

TEXAS COMMUNITY FUTURES FORUM

The process of identifying relevant issues is fundamental to the program development model for Extension. Therefore, the Texas Community Futures Forum is being held in Nueces County to assist local Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service Agents and the Leadership Advisory Board identify the most critical issues affecting local citizens. Our local Extension program has a rich history of providing educational programs that address the most critical issues in the county, related to Agriculture and Natural Resources, Families and Health, Youth Development and Community Development. In order to make sure that the programs being planned for the future are on target, we invite your participation in the Online Issue Forum by completing the quick survey at http://goo.gl/forms/8NSwm9x4Lz. By participating in the survey below you can help our Leadership Advisory Board identifying issues relevant to the county. Issues will then be discussed and ranked during our Texas Community Future Forum on April 16th.

We also invite your participation in the Texas Community Futures Forum to be held on April 16th at 11am at the Johnny Calderon Building in Robstown. Our expectation is that the forum will last less than two hours, as we understand the value of your time. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the Extension office at 361.767.5223. Please RSVP to the same telephone number with your ability to join us. Thank you very much for your involvement in this forum, and we look forward to seeing you on April 16th.

FARM WORKER PROTECTION SAFETY TRAINING

When ...............Jun. 5, and Oct. 9, 2015
Time ........................9:00 –11:00 am
Where ................................................................. Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Office
Johnny Calderon Building) 710 E. Main, Robstown
Pesticide handlers and workers must be trained every five years unless they are certified applicators. All participants in this training will be issued cards verifying they have successfully completed the required training.
You’ve all seen the horror stories about glyphosate (Roundup) resistant pigweed infestations in the Southeastern United States. Texas farmers largely dodged the bullet until 2005, when reports of resistance started to trickle in. Texas A&M AgriLife Extension and Research first confirmed glyphosate resistant common waterhemp in Central and Southeast Texas. This was followed by the confirmation of resistant Palmer amaranth on the Southern High Plains in 2010.

Since that time, these researchers have conducted numerous field studies to provide recommendations for managing glyphosate resistant weeds as these populations have become more widespread. Given the fact that a single waterhemp or Palmer amaranth plant can shed 500,000 to 1 million seed, one weed left in the field is too many. What follows are recommendations for managing these weeds early in the season.

Often, the most competitive weeds are those that emerge prior to, or at the same time as the crop. These weeds are quite effective at competing for the same consumable environmental resources such as water, nutrients, and sunlight that the crop seedling needs for healthy growth. This is particularly important in cotton, which tends to have a slower growth rate as a seedling compared to other crops. This early-season competition is also highly detrimental to sorghum and corn seedlings as well. If these weeds are not controlled, significant yield losses can be expected. By controlling early-season weed infestations, the yield potential of the crop is protected. Additionally, emerged weeds are easier to control with post-emergence herbicides at this point. Later in the season, weeds can become “hardened-off” due to hot, dry conditions, and will be more difficult to control.

Prior to planting, emerged weeds should be controlled with preplant burndown herbicides or tillage. Due to widespread problems with glyphosate resistant weeds in Texas, consider using a tank mix partner when applying glyphosate as a burndown, especially if the field has a history of glyphosate resistant weeds. Adding a soil residual tank-mix partner to burndown applications will provide some insurance against early season weed competition from later emerging weeds. Remember that rainfall, irrigation, or mechanical incorporation is required to move residual herbicides into the soil and “activate” them. When using soil residual products, keep in mind the planting interval and crop rotation restrictions of the product(s) used, if planting intentions change. Also, the plant-back residual activity may not start until after an inch of rainfall or irrigation.

As planting time approaches, the application of residual herbicides prior to, or at planting is critical. Figures 1 and 2 below show the vast difference in weed density between an non-treated cotton plot and one that has received a pre-plant application of a residual herbicide. Ideally, these applications will overlap the pre-emergence weed control provided by pre-plant burndown applications that included a soil residual herbicide. This will extend pre-emergence weed control longer into the season, and lessen the pressure placed on post-emergence herbicides such as glyphosate, thus reducing the risk for developing glyphosate-resistant weed problems. If these programs still don’t adequately control waterhemp or Palmer amaranth, there are many options for managing them with post-emergence (POST) products. The key to POST herbicide efficacy is treatment timing; most applications will require treatment of pigweeds species less than four inches in height. Many times, farmers have assumed that failures in control are due to application errors, and will follow up with another application of glyphosate. By the time that application has had a chance to work yet still doesn’t control the weeds; it’s too late for treatment with any other post-emergence herbicide. Because of these problems, it has become more important than ever to diligently scout fields for weed escapes and treat them with alternative products. Please understand, we are not recommending the elimination of glyphosate from your herbicide program, it is still very effective on many of our weed species. However, if glyphosate resistant weeds are a possibility on your farm, partner glyphosate with other pre-plant, pre-emergence, and post-emergence herbicides.
CORN: Much of the 2015 south Texas corn crop is planted and has emerged. Abundant fall and winter rain has filled soil moisture profiles and the prospects are high for an above average corn crop. Monitoring insect pests is critical to avoid bumbs that could derail production goals. Early season pests that may interfere with normal early-season plant development include cutworms, flea beetles, and chinch bugs.

Cutworms: Several moth species commonly known as cutworms can be severe pests of corn. The larval or immature stages are smooth and colored dingy to grayish-black. Cutworms are active at night and damage corn by cutting the stalk just above ground level. Large cutworm populations may be found in grassy or weedy areas. Most cutworm species hide below the soil close to plant stalks during the day. Some Bt corn products, such as SmartStax®, and Powercore™, Optimum® Intrasect®, provide good to very good suppression of black cutworm. Insecticide seed treatments may be inconsistent and their performance against cutworms. Monitor all corn for cutworm damage through the 5th leaf stage. When cutworms are damaging plant stands, an application of insecticide by ground will usually provide adequate control. Best results are obtained when insecticides are applied in the late afternoon. Dry, cloddy, or crusty soils at time of treatment may have a negative impact on insecticide performance against cutworm.

Chinch Bugs: Adult chinch bugs are black with whitish wings and approximately 1/6” to 1/8” long with black bodies and reddish-yellow legs. When fully developed, the white wings are marked with a triangular black spot near the middle of the back on the outer wing margin. Immature chinch bugs are reddish to blackish with a white band across the middle of the back. Adult and immature chinch bugs suck plant juices and cause reddening of the leaves. Large numbers of chinch bugs can move into a cornfield by crawling or flying from wild bunch grasses or small grains. Once in the field they congregate and feed behind the leaf sheaths of the corn plant and below the ground line on plant roots and crowns. Damage by chinch bugs normally occurs from seedling emergence until the plants are 18 inches tall. Stressed plants wilt and die from prolonged feeding. Damage is usually confined to the outside few rows. However, when chinch bugs are abundant, field-wide infestations may develop.

In fields with a history of early-season, economically damaging chinch bug populations, the use of at-plant soil-incorporated insecticides can suppress the development of chinch bug populations. Granular formulations may provide 2 to 3 weeks of protection, provided sufficient rainfall is received following application to wash the insecticide off the granules. Young plants should be closely monitored for chinch bugs and feeding damage after germination and particularly during dry periods, even when at-plant insecticides are used. Make at least five random checks in the field. Insecticide should be applied when two or more adult chinch bugs are found on 20 percent of the seedlings less than 6 inches high. On taller plants apply insecticides when immature and adult bugs are found on 75 percent of the plants.

Sorghum: The sugarcane aphid has garnered much attention by Texas sorghum producers since it was found damaging fields in 2013. In 2014 the aphid spread throughout south Texas sorghum production fields and into the northern Texas Panhandle by October. It is hard to say what the aphid will do in 2015 but my best guess is that we should expect much of the same from it as in the previous two years.

Typically, the aphid is found in colonies on the underside of the lower leaves. Overwintering aphids may move to the base of live plants during cold environmental conditions. Morphological characteristics important for sugarcane aphid identification include the dark cornicles (‘tail pipes’) and dark tarsi (‘feet’). Hosts include any sorghum species including grain sorghum, forage sorghum, sudangrass and haygrazer. The aphid needs a live host to overwinter and can be found on any volunteer sorghum or johnsongrass.

Thus far the aphid has been observed overwintering as far north as Matagorda and Wilson counties. The image to the right shows overwintering sugarcane aphid on johnsongrass in Wilson County. To date overwintering colonies have been comprised of wingless adult and nymphs (immature) aphids. Absence of winged adult sugarcane aphids suggests that flights to other areas are not imminent. Efforts will continue to track the aphid throughout the winter and into spring and producers will be alerted when winged adults are observed in the field. Look for updates on overwintering aphid populations and aphid movement as the season progresses.

This year two insecticides have been approved for use on sugarcane aphid in sorghum. Sivanto received registration from the EPA and this product. Numerous efficacity studies have revealed that Sivanto provides excellent sugarcane aphid control in sorghum when used at Section 2ee labeled rates of 4 to 7 oz/ac. Bayer CropScience indicates that this product is compatible with many beneficial insects and predatory mites. Sivanto has a preharvest interval (PHI) of 21 days for dried grain, stover or straw, and 7 days for forage. The EPA granted a Section 18 on Transform for Texas. This Section 18 runs through October 31 and allows for two in-season applications of Transform for sugarcane aphid in sorghum. Labeled rates range from 0.75 to 1.5 oz/ac. The Section 18 allows for two applications per acre per year and not to exceed 3 oz/ac. A higher rate range is recommended for heavy sugarcane aphid populations. This product has a 14 day PHI for grain or straw harvest and a 7 day PHI for grazing or forage, fodder, or hay harvest. Insecticide applications are suggested when sugarcane aphid densities average 50 to 125 aphids per leaf. Please monitor all sorghum fields (including forage sorghum, sudangrass, and haygrazer) carefully throughout the season as this aphid can builds its populations to high numbers in a very short period of time.
Texas A&M AgriLife Research
Monthly Seminar Series

Developing Sugarcane Aphid (Homoptera: Aphididae) Management and Outreach Programs for Sorghum Producers

Robert Bowling
Texas A&M AgriLife Extension

Meetings will be broadcast via the web. Use this link for online meeting location: https://texasrangeclassroom.adobeconnect.com/coastalbend/ and this link for system check: http://ccag.tamu.edu/files/2014/01/online.pdf.

Apr. 6, 2015
Program starts at 1 p.m.
Texas A&M AgriLife Research & Extension Center
10345 Hwy 44
Corpus Christi, TX 78406
Center Auditorium
Contact phone: 361.265.9201
E-mail: s-klock@tamu.edu
Coastal Bend Spring Wheat Field Day

April 7, 2015
9:00 to 2:00
To be held at the
Texas A&M AgriLife Research & Extension Center
10345 State Hwy 44
Corpus Christi, TX

A participation fee of $20 which includes lunch will be charged at the door.
Please RSVP by April 6, 2015
361.767.5223

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service
Nueces County
710 East Main Street
Suite 1
Robstown, TX 78380
Phone: 361.767.5223
Fax: 361.767.5248
E-mail: j-ott@tamu.edu

Workshop Topics

UAV Drone Observations on Wheat
Spring Wheat Variety Performance Data
Insect Management
Dealing With Foliar Disease
Weed Management
Fertility Management

Individuals with disabilities, who require an auxiliary aid, service or accommodation in order to participate in any of the mentioned activities, are encouraged to contact the County Extension Office at 361.767.5223 eight days before all.

Educational programs of the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service are open to all people without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, disability, genetic information or veteran status. The Texas A&M University System, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the County Commissioners' Courts of Texas Cooperating.
Program Topics:

When is Black Red?
An overview of current discoveries in beef cattle genetics and genomics, when a gene is not THE gene (is black really black?), can nutrition “whip” genes, and how many EPDs do you really need? Some basic knowledge inheritance (like knowing why you look like your parents) is recommended.

What Drives Calf Prices in South Texas
Rising consumer demand and serious drought have pushed calf prices to record highs. This presentation discusses the impact of various genetic, managerial, and marketing factors on calf prices in South Texas.

Why Did She Eat That?
A ground to ground level view of the passage of feed through a cow’s digestive tract including diet selection, digestion, requirements and supplementation.

King Ranch & Kleberg Bluestem Management
The widespread invasive of old world bluestems has created land management issues for most of the state. Learn what is known about their response to different management practices and how to deal with them once you have them!

Economic Feasibility of Commercial Aquaponics in South Texas
This presentation presents the results of an analysis of the economic feasibility of a commercial scale aquaponics facility in south Texas. The analysis is based on an aquaponics system being tested at the Weslaco AgriLife Center.

The Crop Analyzer Tool
This presentation will describe the best scenarios for using the Excel-based tool. Additionally, a step-by-step demonstration of how the tool works will be given.

The Sugarcane Aphid: A Review and Update
This presentation will provide a review of sugarcane aphid biology and direct and indirect damage to sorghum. The presentation will also provide an update on sugarcane aphid activity, insecticides available (registered and those with a section 18), as well as projects and demos for the upcoming season.

Know Your Enemy: Herbicide Resistant Weeds
An update on the current status of herbicide resistant weeds will be given, as well as a discussion on the mechanisms of resistance, why these problems occur, and management strategies.

Pre-registration required by April 10th by calling
(361) 767-5223
Fee: $20 (includes lunch)
COASTAL BEND
GRAIN STORAGE & HANDLERS SAFETY
CONFERENCE

Location: San Patricio County Fairgrounds—Civic Center
219 W. 5th Street, Sinton, Texas
Fee: $20 (Includes Lunch) payable at the door

Wednesday
April 22, 2015
8:30 am — 3:00 pm

Pre-Registration required by April 17, 2015 by calling (361) 364-6234

TOPICS

- OSHA Updates - Marianne McGee, OSHA compliance Assistance Specialist
- Sweep Augers & Grain Bin Safety - James Shepard, Texas Cotton Ginners Trust
- Fumigation Hazards - Bill Ordner, Town & Country Pest Control
- Confined Spaces - Jason Lee, Planters Coop
- Trauma Concerns - Dr. James Mobley, Ph.D., San Patricio County Health Director
- Live Grain Engulfment Demonstration - Planters Coop - Odem

Lunch will be at Butter Churn Restaurant, 207 West Sinton, Sinton, TX 78387

Sponsored by: Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service, Nueces, San Patricio and Refugio County Farm Bureau, Woodsboro Farmers Coop, South Texas Country Elevators Assoc.

For further information you can also contact Michael Donalson, Refugio County-CEA 361-526-2825 or Jason Ott, Nueces County-CEA 361-767-5223

Individuals with disabilities who require an auxiliary aid, service, or accommodation in order to participate in any Extension event are encouraged to contact their County Extension Office at 361-364-6234 at least one week in advance of the program in order for proper arrangements to be made.

2 CEU’s

219 N. Vineyard
Sinton, TX 78387
361-364-6234

Bob McCool
County Extension Agent
Ag/Natural Resources

The Texas A&M University System, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the County Commissioners Courts of Texas Cooperating.
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In the event of a name, address or phone number change please contact the office at:

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service
710 E. Main, Suite 1 Attn: Ag/NR
Robstown, Texas 78380
(361) 767-5223