

# Nueces Agriculture

“IMPROVING FOOD & FIBER PRODUCTION”

VOLUME 14, ISSUE 2

MARCH 2021



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Spring planting has been underway, halted by Winter Storm Uri, and has resumed. Uri left his mark on pipes for livestock water, early planted corn, and some small grains within the county. Corn acres impacted by Uri could be replanted or shifted to grain sorghum. While wheat has shown signs of freeze damage, it is uncertain how much yield reduction that might translate to. This March we will again offer our Grass Grower's Gathering and a portion of that discussion will address rehabilitating pastures impacted by Uri. Up to 3 CEUs are offered for those who attend, as updates on rangeland herbicides will be given. Meeting the nutrition need of livestock with varying seasonal forage quality will also be discussed. Homeowners' landscapes were significantly damaged by the freezing conditions as well. Everyone should fight the urge to immediately prune freeze-damaged plants, as any foliage that is still green is needed to help it to recover. Minimize plant stress by providing adequate water. Use a complete fertilizer; as P and K will help with new root and shoot development. However, fertilizer applications need to wait until the plant has started to green up as they can also stress the plant. A Coastal Bend Landscape Conference is also planned for March and offers CEUs for those who attend.



TexasSpeaks is being conducted in Nueces County and across the State of Texas to allow the citizens of Texas to provide their input on the assets and issues in their communities. The local branch of the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service has a rich history of providing educational programs that address the most critical issues in the county, and invites your participation in the TexasSpeaks process. Additional information can be found within, and we strongly encourage our newsletter recipients to take 5 - 10 minutes to respond to this survey.

Weed management remains a critical issue for many growers who are concerned about increasing populations of herbicide-resistant weeds. In February, Farm Progress ran an excellent article on the importance of herbicide stewardship using multiple modes of action that is included in this newsletter as well.

### PRIVATE APPLICATOR TRAINING

**When:**..... Tuesdays, 3/2, 6/1, 9/7, 12/7      **Pre-Registration Required:**.....(361)767-5223  
**Time** .....8:00 am—11:30 am                      **Where:**.....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.

### FARM WORKER PROTECTION SAFETY TRAINING

**When:**.....Fridays, 5/7, 9/3                      **Time** .....9:00 –11:00 am  
**Where** .....Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Office

Pesticide handlers and workers must be trained every year unless they are certified applicators. All participants in this training will be issued cards verifying they have successfully completed the required training and given a copy of the sign-in roster for their employer's files.

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# WHAT IS TEXAS SPEAKS?

TexasSpeaks is a state-wide online survey conducted by Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service with the purpose of listening to Texas citizens as they identify the strengths and needs of their communities.

Data from the survey will be aggregated at local levels and provided to local stakeholders. Additionally, statewide data will be aggregated and made available to state agencies and decision makers.

## WHAT IS THE GOAL?

To engage as many Texas citizens as possible to create the most accurate and helpful data to support Texas communities at both the state and local levels.

## QUICK FACTS ABOUT THE SURVEY

- Online
- Open to the public
- Anonymous
- Takes 10 minutes
- Includes an opportunity to collect open-ended feedback



**PARTICIPATE TODAY!**  
<http://tx.ag/texasspeaks>

**Contact**  
 Dr. Scott Cummings  
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 979-229-3187



track the progress >> [TEXASSPEAKS.TAMU.EDU](http://TEXASSPEAKS.TAMU.EDU)

# 10 Things Your Cattle Buyer Wants You to Know (and do)

*Beef Cattle Browsing—January 2021*

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Scientists at the U. S. Meat Animal Research Center (MARC), Clay Center, NE, studied effects of passive immunity in calves. Blood samples were collected 24 hours after calving to assess amount of passive maternal immunity obtained from colostrum, the first milk produced at birth. Calves were classified as either “Inadequate” or “Adequate” passive immune status based on that blood sample. Rate of gain and health were monitored from birth to weaning, and after weaning through finishing.

Lowest levels of passive immunity were in calves that were sick or died prior to weaning. Calves with Inadequate passive immunity had 6.4 times greater risk of sickness during the first 28 days of life, a 3.2 times greater risk of sickness any time prior to weaning, and a 5.4 times greater risk of death before weaning, compared to calves with Adequate passive transfer. Passive immune status also was indirectly associated with rate of gain through effects on health. Sickness during the first 28 days after birth was associated with a 35-pound lower expected weaning weight.

Based on 24-hour proteins (most of which are antibodies or immunoglobulins) in the blood, risk of sickness in the feedlot was also three times greater for Inadequate compared to Adequate calves. Respiratory disease in the feedlot resulted in 0.09 lb. lower expected average daily gain. Thus, passive immunity obtained from colostrum was an important factor in health both pre- and post-weaning and indirectly influenced rate of gain during both periods.

Some factors to consider in passive immunity are:

- Calves born to first-calf two-year-old heifers can be more likely to have lower passive immunity. Breeding heifers to known or documented calving-ease bulls should reduce difficult births and sluggishness in calves at birth. Such calves can be reluctant or unable to nurse as soon as desirable and thus do not receive adequate colostrum.
- Cow calf producers can benefit themselves and any future owners by properly growing replacement heifers, providing a good health program for cows and heifers, and providing natural or commercial colostrum products to calves that do not receive it in adequate quantities.

Most transfer of antibodies from colostrum to the calf occurs in the first 6 hours after birth. The first day sets the stage from there on!

“I want you as an operator to get outside your box. Think outside your operation,” Greg Goudeau, owner and manager of Navasota Livestock Auction in Navasota, Texas, told a packed house at the 2019 Texas A&M Beef Cattle Short Course.

Goudeau shared with producers some key insights he has received from a lifetime of working in several facets of the cattle industry. He said that marketing calves doesn’t take away the flexibility of selling calves whenever the time is right. “You can be a marketer and still bring them to the sale barn any given day.”

Know what the industry is looking for: quality -

“Auction markets do not work against you. We want you to make money. We want to reward you, but we can only work with what you bring us,” he said, and reminds producers that as a cattle buyer, he works on commission. “The higher the price that we can get for you, the better we do, and the better you do.”

Goudeau stressed that knowing what the industry is looking for is critical to marketing your calves. Thanks to success stories like the Certified Angus Beef program, black-hided cattle are en vogue at the moment, so keep that in mind when planning for next year's calves.

“You have got to stay out of the elimination categories. You have got to stay in the mainstream because that is what the order buyers want,” he said. “They get paid on commission. Do you think they really want to sit there and watch a whole bunch of spotted calves at the sale if they don't have an order for them?”

Goudeau says “novelty breeds,” including but not limited to miniature breeds, dairy breeds, long-horns, Corrientes and show cattle will face severe discounts in the sale ring and are not generally wanted in the feedlot. Additionally, Goudeau said packers don't like breeds with big-base horns, including longhorns, Corrientes and some Brahman-influenced cattle because the big horns can make cattle difficult to process and can slow down production, so cattle buyers working for packing plants will be hesitant to buy such cattle.

“When you bring us these novelty breeds, we sale barns will take them and do the best job that we can to get them through,” Goudeau said. “But you are a true price taker, not a marketer, when you get down to this.”

Implementing a herd health program is critical to setting calves up for success. Goudeau advised including both your vet and your buyer when working up a herd health program. The buyer, who is in tune with the cattle market and has the inside track on what is and is not desirable in a calf at the sale, and who, at the end of the day, will be the one buying calves, will have valuable insights on what a good vaccination program should include.

A solid herd program also starts while the calf is still on the cow. Don't wait until it's time to send them to the sale barn to start their health program. Goudeau stressed the use of modified vaccine on calves. As a buyer, he says he won't buy calves that haven't been vaccinated. “Proper vaccination is your responsibility, and in my opinion, a major part of animal welfare,” he said. “We do a great job as producers of going to a bull sale and buying the best bull, the best cows, buying everything – and forgetting herd health. We have got to get these calves prepared; we have got to get them ready for the next level.”

Castration is also a must. Goudeau gave an example of the price difference castration makes. If a 780-pound bull calf brings \$1.05 per pound, and a 780-pound steer brings \$1.25 per pound, there is a price difference of more than \$150. “You became a price taker by sending that bull calf there. You would have been a marketer, even in a sale barn, if you had made him a steer and brought him to the barn as a steer.”

Goudeau told producers to “quit being a hero” and get rid of their wild cows – the ones that lurk at the far end of the pasture and are the first to jump and run – even if they produce a calf every year. “There are way too many cattle in the industry to be dealing with something like this,” he said. “They produce genetics too. What do you think their calves are going to be like?”

Loading cattle properly can make a big difference in stress levels and condition when they get to the sale barn. “You've worked hard to raise these calves, and when they arrive at the sale barn all stressed and dirty, it does not reflect well on you.” Goudeau encouraged using the separator gates in stock trailers to keep calves from piling on top of each other during loading and transit and avoiding overcrowding loads.

The price of calves at the sale barn is constantly changing. A lot of different factors impact the sale price, and staying aware of those factors, whether they directly affect you or not, helps you keep tabs on the current cattle market. “We are in a total global market these days.” Keep up with the market via the reports that are easily accessible online from most livestock auctions or ag publications.

Avoid selling your cattle during fall run. “As a rule of thumb, do not sell calves between Labor Day and Thanksgiving,” Goudeau said. “The whole system is not set up to handle all of these calves from everybody at one time that are unvaccinated, unweaned and high risk.” Also, the temperature swings during the warm days and cold nights can wreak havoc on travel-stressed calves.

Is animal ID coming, or is it already here? Goudeau said the transition to an active animal disease traceability program will have to be market driven. “If they find out that a tagged calf is worth 150 dollars more a head, all of a sudden, we’re going to get a lot smarter on tagging,” he quipped. “If they’re worth 5 dollars more a head, the response might not be as enthusiastic.” Although the USDA has suspended their national traceability plan for the moment, the issue is not going away.

Goudeau strongly advised disposing of extremely sick and injured animals at the ranch instead of sending them staggering into the sale ring, where their poor looks and performance reflects negatively on both the sale barn and the rancher, from a consumer standpoint. “Don’t expose her to the rest of the industry. Don’t jeopardize everybody else by the decision that you make to try to get another 25 to 50 dollars,” he says. “It’s not worth it to the whole industry.”

Dr. Rhonda Miller, Texas A&M Animal Science Professor and Meats Scientist, raised several important points in a review of the history and of animal cell cultures and potential issues with their use as food. The culturing of cells is not new, since the 1970s cell culture tissues have been used in research to “understand basic muscle tissue growth, the impact of disease states on tissue growth and development, and the development of medical treatments”.

Dr. Miller addressed the meat science challenges with cultured meat including the classification of cell-cultured products as “meat”. How does the conversion of cells into meat occur? Meat contractile state, pH, and color are all affected by the process and all affect shelf life, meat palatability, and consumer acceptance.

Another factor of tremendous importance is cross-contamination. In traditional harvesting and processing, the strategies, or interventions to prevent cross contamination of meat are well documented and time tested and may not be applicable to cell cultured products. In addition, there is a concern about the nutrient content of the product and how the product would react to different cooking or preparation methods (curing, smoking, drying, etc.). Knowing all of these factors are vital to consumer acceptance.

Dr. Miller discusses in detail regulatory issues and the responsibility of USDA and FDA and summarizes the history and products of several current cell culture food companies. She indicates that initially these products were seen by the food animal industries as competitors, and there still could be some competition, in the short term the cell cultured protein industry will be providing a product for specialty markets or up-scale or sustainability-minded customers. She reminds us that as the world population grows, the cell cultured protein industry may provide ways to locally produce animal-based protein in areas where livestock production is limited.

# Feral Hog Abatement Program

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Nueces County is once again offering a feral hog trap loan out program for county landowners. The program is using traps fully complete with M.I.N.E.<sup>TM</sup> Gate control box and M.I.N.E.<sup>TM</sup> wireless digital camera capable of remotely triggering the M.I.N.E.<sup>TM</sup> gate using a cell phone. Any landowner in the county is encouraged to take advantage of the trap loan out program at no cost. Three traps are available and will be lent out on a first come first serve basis, with priority given to landowners within the Lower Nueces and Oso Creek Watersheds, followed by agricultural producers experiencing the most significant feral hog damage.



The trap loan out program is being administered by the County Demonstration Assistant, JR Cantu, within the Nueces County Agricultural Extension Office. Landowners can schedule appointments with the County Demonstration Assistant to obtain and setup the trap by calling 361.767.5223. There is no cost to borrow a trap and JR will work with landowners to deliver and setup the trap. The trap borrower will be responsible for baiting the trap, as well as harvest and proper disposal of feral hogs. Participating landowners must work with the County Demonstration Assistant to assess and document feral hog damage on the property, follow proper trapping procedures, and report trap catch numbers.

The landowner will be instructed on proper use of the trapping system and baiting procedures. The landowner will be given full access to the trap's remote triggering capabilities for their use and discretion, enabling the landowner the ability to close the trap gate when the entire group of hogs is in the trap and it is convenient for them.

All captured feral hogs will be required to be harvested by the landowner. Research suggests that control methods must eliminate 75% of the population in order to keep up with the hog's annual reproductive capacity; however, the Noble Research Institute has found conventional trapping has an insufficient capture rate of 49%. By trapping the entire sounder at once the landowner reduces the likelihood of developing a trap wise population of feral hogs. Through the practice of pre-baiting the trap and the use of the wireless digital camera and remote trigger gate capture of an entire sounder is possible. Additional benefits of the camera's remote control technology includes: allowing the users to send messages back to the camera, the ability to remotely check the battery charge and cellular signal strength, and remotely turn off the camera after the hogs are captured. This technology saves fuel, time and labor by allowing 24 hour surveillance without wasting daily travel time and expenses to multiple bait sites. Traps are currently available for loan to any county landowner; call to schedule your use today.

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## GRASS GROWER'S GATHERING

Tuesday, March 23rd, 9:00am - 1:00pm  
(1-2pm optional Picolinic Acid Training)

Johnny Calderon Building  
710 E. Main Ave., Ste. 1, Robstown



This year's program will focus on brush control and balancing forage quality with livestock nutritional demands. Participants will gain insight into managing their pasture and range resources. 2+ CEUs offered. The cost to participate is \$15 online or \$25 in person.

**Please RSVP at <http://bit.ly/GrassGrower2021> by March 23rd. For more information contact Lisa at 361.767.5223**

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.

# Dicamba, 2,4-D: Not Standalone Systems

*Farm Progress—February 2021*

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"There is no one recipe," said Dotray as he addressed a virtual audience during the recent Red River Crops Conference. "It depends on the primary weed that needs to be controlled, soil type, irrigation or not. We still have good older herbicides we can use to compliment these auxinic herbicides to get season-long weed control and not put too much selection pressure on the development of herbicide resistant weeds."

Before Dotray shared data from recent weed management studies in auxin technologies, he reminded viewers of the importance of upcoming auxin trainings and label changes for XtendFlex cotton in 2021 and for the next five years.

The changes are as follows:

1. The improved formulations are now specific to dicamba tolerant cotton and soybeans
2. A volatility reduction adjuvant is required in every tank
3. Xtendimax requires a drift-retardant agent (DRA). In 2020, user consulted the website to see if a DRA was required. In 2021, a DRA is required unless otherwise noted on the website
4. Buffer distances have increased
5. The cutoff date is no longer based on a planting date, rather a calendar date
6. Federal labels still have the restriction, "applications can be made one hour after sunrise and two hours before sunset"

"I know some 24(c)'s are going to be filed. I know in Texas one was recently filed," Dotray said. "So, there could be some changes to what I've said, hence the importance of attending the auxin trainings." A 24(c) registration is for state-specific pesticide uses that don't have a Section 3 registration and include product uses that have not been reviewed and approved by the EPA.

Dotray and other weed scientists are observing weed control in auxin technologies in long-term trials. He said while the conclusions aren't earth shattering, there is some new information.

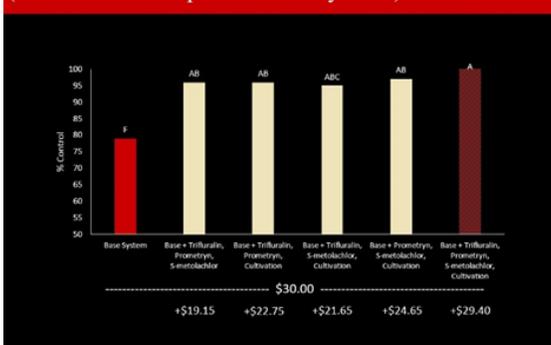
"Looking at weed control over time, tillage and crop rotation and residual herbicides are all important," Dotray said. "Two years into the multiple-location trial the consensus is most effective weed control programs involve soil residual inputs, whether they're inputs preplant, at plant, postplant or early postemergence."

In another multi-state study, two in Texas, Arkansas and in North Carolina, weed scientists are studying if over time weed seed amounts are influenced by different herbicide systems in XtendFlex cotton.

"We're one year into this trial, but it's already clear, some of our most effective systems involved residual herbicides at plant and early postemergence. The weed seed numbers are going to decrease and I'm already anticipating, even after year one, we're already going to be observing changes in the weed seed populations," Dotray said. "This is a five-year study. The data will be forthcoming."

Dotray also discussed the outcome of adding different inputs in both dicamba-tolerant and 2,4-D-tolerant cotton. Weed management with solely dicamba can always be improved with additional inputs, he said displaying the slide below.

**End of Season Palmer Amaranth Control  
(Three and Four Input Dicamba Systems)**



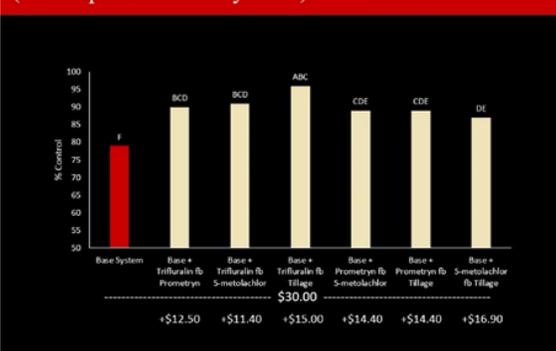
"Our Cadillac treatment on the far right, consisted of dinitroaniline preplant incorporated at plant herbicides like Caparol (Prometryn), and a soil residual herbicide applied early postemergence like S-metolachlor. The Cadillac treatment obviously provided the best control, but the interest was if we start backing away and eliminating some of the inputs, which inputs seem most important? All combinations of three inputs are superior to two applications of dicamba alone."

But what the data suggests, at this particular location, is using dinitroaniline pre-

plant incorporated and tillage. When tillage isn't involved, Dotray said based on the production system, "that puts a little bit more dependence on the need for an additional residual herbicide."

Replacing one of the dicamba applications with a different foliar herbicide has proven effective, Dotray said as he displayed a slide depicting Palmer amaranth sizes at initial application of 4 inches, 4 to 8 inches and greater than 12 inches.

**End of Season Palmer Amaranth Control  
(Two Input Dicamba Systems)**



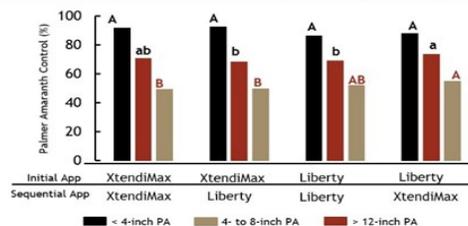
"Most effective control's when the weeds are the smallest. That's not new information but we need to stress that these particular herbicides are good, but they may not be great as far as their ability to control large weeds like experienced in the Roundup Ready era. So, weed size is important." Also, when comparing a sequential treatment of XtendiMax followed by XtendiMax and replacing one with Liberty (XtendiMax followed by Liberty or Liberty followed by XtendiMax), "we didn't lose anything in weed control."

But Liberty has constraints, he noted. "We know carrier volume is important. The health of the weed is also very important. But this dataset, and I've seen several others like this, shows that we can use alternative modes of action, reduce some of the reliance on the dicambas with hopes of maintaining these technologies for a lot longer, as far as how they can effectively control weeds growing seasons down the road."

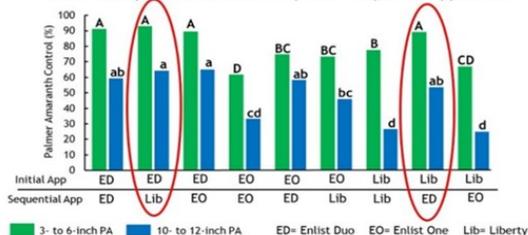
Dotray also discussed data from an Enlist Duo trial. "Again, weed size is important. Weeds that were 3 to 6 inches tall--much more effective weed control following applications for small weeds."

Similar to dicamba, rather than using sequential treatments of Enlist Duo, Dotray said adding an alternative mode of action such as Liberty, did not change the end result. Lastly, Dotray discussed data from a field trial in Halfway, that has a "tremendous population" of Palmer pigweed. "In this case, Engenia was our dicamba. Engenia followed by Engenia compared to Liberty followed by Liberty, we saw much better activity from the dicamba. Then we started introducing Liberty in one of those sequential

XtendiMax-Liberty: Visual Control 21 Days After Sequential Application



Enlist- Liberty: Visual Control 11 Days After Sequential Application



timings and the control was certainly better than Liberty alone. "But the winner in this particular trial is when that first foliar herbicide contained a soil residual herbicide in the tank mix. In this particular case, we used Outlook." But the winner in this particular trial is when that first foliar herbicide contained a soil residual herbicide in the tank mix. In this particular case, we used Outlook." Warrant and Dual were previously used. "The importance of the residual is that it extend the control a little longer into the growing season that may delay or possibly even replace the need for that second foliar application." For more information or to view the Texas A&M AgriLife handout, "2020 Weed Control Programs for the Texas High Plains Cotton Growers," visit <https://bit.ly/3al5DmP>.

# Brush Busters Cost Calculator App Now Available

AGRILIFE TODAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2021

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The [Brush Busters Cost Calculator](#), a new app for estimating the cost of herbicide plant treatment applications on brush, can now be downloaded free from both Apple and Google app sites.

The [Brush Busters Cost Calculator](#), a new app for estimating the cost of herbicide plant treatment applications on brush, can now be downloaded free from both Apple and Google app sites.

The app was designed and made available by [Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service](#) range specialists as a means of calculating the cost of conducting individual plant treatments with foliar, stem/basal or cut-stump methods of herbicide application. It can be downloaded from the [Apple Apps Store](#) and [Google Play Store](#) sites.

“The Brush Busters Cost Calculator is designed to take the guesswork out of calculating the cost of herbicides for brush control,” said Megan Clayton, Ph.D., AgriLife Extension range specialist based in Corpus Christi and one of the app’s designers.

To estimate cost using the calculator, the landowner or manager will need to enter specifics on the application method, the herbicide and/or surfactant being used, labor costs and plant density.

Bob Lyons, AgriLife Extension range specialist based in Uvalde and app co-designer, said herbicide information will include the herbicide name, cost per gallon and application rate. Surfactant information will include cost per gallon and application rate. Labor cost will include the total hourly labor rate for all workers combined and time estimated to complete an acre. Plant density will be the number of plants per acre of land to be treated.

“The cost calculator also provides the ability to name and save the projects should you want to refer to them later,” Lyons said. “That way landowners and managers can keep track of these type of costs as well as have a somewhat accurate idea of what they might be, should they need to apply herbicides for brush control in the future.”

Both Lyons and Clayton noted that while the accuracy of the estimates this cost calculator provides depends on the reliability of the values entered, it serves as a useful tool for making land-management decisions.

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**2021 VIRTUAL COASTAL BEND  
LANDSCAPE CONFERENCE**

**THURSDAY, MARCH 18, 2021**

**8:30 A.M. - 3:30 P.M.**

*TOPICS*

Pesticide Rules and Regulations

Birding and Nature

Texas A&M Soil Testing Laboratory

Vegetable Pest ID and IPM control strategies

Plant Diseases

Palm Pests: IPM Strategies for controlling insects in palms

Preregistration required by March 14th online at

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2021-coastal-bend-landscape-conference-tickets-138660726967>

Online Registration Fee \$45

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*For More Information*

*Contact:*

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service

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361-767-5217

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Nueces County  
710 E. Main St., Ste. 1  
Robstown, TX 78380

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Visit us online!  
<http://nueces.agrilife.org>



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jason Ott".

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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 361-767-5223 at least one week in advance of the program in order for proper arrangements to be made.

In the event of a name, address or phone number change please contact the office at:

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Robstown, Texas 78380  
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