

# Nueces Agriculture

“IMPROVING FOOD & FIBER PRODUCTION”

VOLUME 14, ISSUE 4

JUNE 2021



## Thank you to our 2021 Nueces County Field Crop Tour

AgBiTech ..... Anthony Hawes  
 BASF—FiberMax & Stoneville ..... Butch Roecker  
 Bayer Crop Science ..... Danny Gonzalez  
 BH Genetics ..... Travis Janak  
 Capital Farm Credit ..... Joe Newcomb  
 Cropguard Group, Inc. .... Casey Clipson  
 DuPont Pioneer ..... Slade Price  
 Felder Crop Insurance ..... Royce Felder  
 Hlavinka Equipment Company ..... Michael Koegel  
 Hopkins Agricultural Services, Inc. .... Sid Hopkins  
 King Ranch Ag & Turf ..... Allen Menn  
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 Plains Cotton Cooperative Association ..... Cris Gwinn  
 Rob-See-Co ..... Chris Cernosek  
 Secret Crop Insurance..... Daniel Bluntzer  
 Smith Gin Co-op ..... Lee Tiller  
 South Texas Cotton & Grain Assn., Inc ..... Jeff Nunley  
 Warner Seeds, Inc..... Cheb Krueger



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To watch the video, please go to: <https://bit.ly/2021CropTourRecording>

### PRIVATE APPLICATOR TRAINING

**When:**..... Tuesdays, 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, 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.



Find us on Facebook at  
 NuecesCountyAgriculture

## Texas Agriculture Pest Management Updates

1. Open camera app on your phone
  - a. Make sure your camera setting is enabled to scan QR codes
2. Point camera at full QR code
3. Click on the link when prompted
4. Select the region for which you would like weekly updates
5. You can sign up for more than one region
6. Click “Signup to get a text message when a new post is made.”
7. Enter your phone number and a description of you (e.g., producer, consultant, etc.)



### **Almost Time to Re-register Brands**

Texas and Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association (TSCRA) cooperates with the 254 County Court Clerks offices to provide Brand Registration. Texas does not have a statewide brand registry database. Texas counties may have county-level brand archives. Brands must be registered in the county or counties in which you operate.

Every 10 years, Texas requires that brands be re-registered in the county or counties in which you operate. The next brand re-registration period begins Aug. 31, 2021, and concludes Feb. 29, 2022.

Producers are given this six-month period in which to register these brands and marks and the location on the animal which they are currently using, after which time any unrecorded brand will be available for use on a “first-come” basis.

In Nueces County the filing fee for issuing and recording a brand is \$21.00 for the first location and \$11.00 for each additional location and can be done through County Clerk Kara Sands, 901 Leopard St. Corpus Christi, TX 78401. The owners will have an MARK AND BRAND APPLICATION to fill out which can be obtained off the Nueces County website. The County Clerk’s office can be reached at (361) 888-0580. After February 29th any brand that has not been re-registered is available to anyone wishing to register it.



Below is an excerpt from 2005 Texas Agriculture Code CHAPTER 144. MARKS AND BRANDS regarding the use of marks and brands in Texas.

Section 144.041 of the Texas Agriculture Code addresses recording of marks and brands:

#### § 144.041. MARKS AND BRANDS TO BE RECORDED.

- (a) Each person who owns cattle, hogs, sheep, or goats shall record that person's earmarks, brands, tattoos, and electronic devices with the county clerk of the county in which the animals are located.
- (b) A person who owns a horse shall record an identification mark authorized by Section 144.001(b) with the county clerk of the county in which the animal is located.
- (c) The county clerk shall keep a record of the marks and brands of each person who applies to the clerk for that purpose.
- (d) A person may record that person's marks and brands in as many counties as necessary.
- (e) A person may record any mark or brand that the person desires to use if no other person has recorded the mark or brand, without regard to whether that person has previously recorded a mark or brand.
- (f) Not later than the 30th day after the date a county clerk receives a record relating to cattle or horses under this section, the clerk shall forward a copy of the record to the association authorized to inspect livestock under 7 U.S.C. Section 217a (Texas and Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association).



TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY  
Colonias Program



# OPERATION HEALTH & WELLNESS

OFFERED TO THE PUBLIC AT NO COST - NO APPOINTMENT NEEDED

Tuesday, June 15 thru Thursday, June 24

Mon - Fri 8 am to 5 pm ▪ Saturday 10 am to 5 pm ▪ Sunday 1 pm to 5 pm

## Choose a convenient location



<b>Banquete</b>	Banquete Elementary 5436 Bulldog Lane	General Medical, including COVID vaccinations + Diabetes Screening; Behavioral Health Back-to-School Physicals/Vaccinations Dental cleanings, fillings, extractions Optometry
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<b>Bishop</b>	Multi-purpose Building 115 South Ash St.	General Medical, including COVID vaccinations + Diabetes Screening Back-to-School Physicals/Vaccinations Dental cleanings, fillings, extractions
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<b>Petronila</b>	Petronila Elementary 2391 CR 67	General Medical, including COVID vaccinations + Diabetes Screening; Behavioral Health Back-to-School Physicals/Vaccinations Dental cleanings, fillings, extractions Optometry
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<b>Robstown</b>	Richard Borchard Fairgrounds 1213 Terry Shamsie Blvd.	Veterinary Services for dogs & cats ONLY Spays, neuters, vaccines, tests, exams
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	Johnny Calderon Building 710 East Main St.	General Medical, including COVID vaccinations + Diabetes Screening; Behavioral Health Back-to-School Physicals/Vaccinations Dental cleanings, fillings, extractions Christus Spohn CareVan – Women’s Services
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	La Nueva Jerusalem Church 2615 Tierra Poniente (Tierra Grande)	General Medical, including COVID vaccinations + Diabetes Screening; Behavioral Health Back-to-School Physicals/Vaccinations Dental cleanings, fillings, extractions
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**Need Transportation? Call RTA one day prior 361-883-2287**

### COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Amistad Community Health Center • Christus Spohn • City-County Health District • Coastal Bend Wellness Foundation  
Del Mar College Dental Program • Lion’s Club • South Coastal AHEC • Texas A&M Corpus Christi and Kingsville  
Texas A&M Irma Lerma Rangel College of Pharmacy • Texas A&M Health Science Center • Gulf Coast Humane Society  
TAMUCC College of Nursing & Health Sciences • Banquete ISD • Bishop Consolidated ISD • CCRTA  
Driscoll Health Plan • Halo Flight • The Caring Foundation of Texas • Nueces County Hospital District  
Nueces County Commissioners Court • Mission of Mercy • South Texas Family Planning • Coastal Bend Food Bank

**PARTNERSHIP • STEWARDSHIP • READINESS**

# IMPACT OF PONDED WATER/FLOODING ON CORN, SORGHUM

MORNING AGCLIPS

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Numerous rain events have resulted in flooding or significant ponding of water in many corn and sorghum fields across Texas. While low-lying areas may be flooded, other areas of fields may be saturated for extended periods of time. How long can corn or sorghum survive under saturated or flooded conditions? What impact will these conditions have on grain yield, if any?



Oxygen is required by plants for respiration, including above ground (shoots) and below ground (roots) plant tissue. Respiration is the process where plants metabolize sugars, producing energy needed for growth and development. Soil contains about 50% pore space that is occupied by air and water. Flooding increases the amount of pore space occupied by water and reduces exchange of air between the soil and atmosphere. Deep ponding has the same effect on above ground tissue. Oxygen does not easily move through water so saturated or flooded conditions will limit oxygen availability to plant tissue, especially roots. This has detrimental affects on plants.

The growth stage of the crop will influence the plant's ability to withstand flooded conditions. Younger plants are more susceptible to damage or death by flooding, especially when the growing point is at or below the soil surface. Younger plants are easily submerged compared to older, taller plants. Higher temperatures will exacerbate the effects of flooding. Young plants may survive for up to 48 in oxygen limited environments under cool conditions but may not survive 24 hours under warm sunny conditions (>77°F). For this reason, yield loss is typically greater when young plants (< 6 leaves) are exposed to saturated or flooding conditions. Stand losses in early growth stages is a major factor in yield loss. Similar to freeze and hail damage, look for new growth 3-5 days after conditions improve to determine surviving plant populations.

Extended periods of saturation will affect plants of all ages. Root tissue can die and new growth will be stunted or delayed under saturated conditions. Reduction in root volume will reduce the capacity for uptake of water and nutrients during later growth stages. Flooding can induce nutrient deficiency symptoms. Nitrogen will be remobilized from older (lower leaves) to younger (upper leaves) resulting in yellowing of lower leaves. Purpling of leaf tissue is possible due to accumulation of carbohydrates in the shoot tissue under flooded conditions, a symptom usually associated with phosphorus deficiency. In addition, denitrification and leaching of nitrate can result in loss of nitrogen from soil and potentially reduce yield. Damaged root systems and associated stress can increase the potential for various plant diseases, including root and stalk rot diseases. The degree of flooding will ultimately determine the potential for yield loss.

How much nitrogen is lost during extended periods of flooding or saturation? Should you apply more nitrogen fertilizer? There is no simple answer to these questions. Extended periods of saturated soil may result in loss of soil nitrate-nitrogen, through denitrification and/or leaching of the nitrate ion. Many factors will affect how much nitrogen is lost. Factors include the amount of nitrate present in soil (affected by source, rate, and timing of nitrogen fertilizer), soil temperature, and duration of saturation. Bacteria in soil will convert nitrate-nitrogen to gaseous forms ( $N_2O$  and  $N_2$ ) when soils are saturated and soil oxygen becomes depleted. It normally takes a day or two of saturation for this to begin. From there, 1 to 5% of soil nitrate-nitrogen can be converted to gaseous forms and lost during each additional day of saturation. Considering nitrate may be deeper in the soil profile and labile carbon, the bacteria food source, may be limited compared to other regions in the U.S., nitrate-nitrogen loss from Texas soils is likely lower than levels reports from Midwestern states. The other thing to consider is the growth stage of the crop. Corn or sorghum that have larger plant size (late vegetative or flowering) already contain the majority of nitrogen it will use in the plant tissue. This reduces the potential for loss.

If significant nitrogen loss is suspected or if nitrogen fertilizer applications were delayed or prevented, late applications in corn and sorghum can provide yield response. Corn has shown the ability to recover grain yield when nitrogen fertilizer is applied as late as R1 (silking) when at least 25% of the nitrogen fertilizer was applied earlier in the season (V5) (Mueller and Vyn, 2017). Some yield loss was observed when all of the nitrogen was applied at silking but severe yield loss was avoided. If fields are relatively weed free and plants have good size, rescue nitrogen fertilizer application may be warranted. Applications can be made using high clearance equipment and dribble nozzles or y-drops to apply UAN. Aerial applications of urea are also an option. Some minor burning from aerial applied urea can be expected, especially if leaves are wet during application. However, benefits of the nitrogen fertilizer will outweigh any minor burning of plant tissue. When making rescue or late applications of nitrogen fertilizer, rain will be needed to move the nitrogen into the root zone for quick uptake. If this process is delayed, it will limit the response to the late application.

A brief period of flooding will likely have minimal impact on grain yield, especially for older plants. Repeated or long-term saturation/flooding will increase the potential for yield loss due to a variety of complications. Take note of the location(s) within individual fields where flooding/saturation or other visual indicators suggest the impact to corn/sorghum are greatest. Factors including compaction, inappropriate pH, salinity, fertility limitation, shallow soils, or other factors influencing rooting depths and rooting development will cause the observed symptoms to occur first and result in greater impairments and lower yields. These field areas should be evaluated individually after the flooding and saturating conditions have subsided for rooting and fertility limitations.

— Ronnie Schnell, Associate Professor and Cropping Systems Specialist  
Texas A&M AgriLife Extension, College Station

— Tony Provin, Professor and Extension Specialist – Soil Chemistry  
Texas A&M AgriLife Extension, College Station

# NOMADIC TENDENCIES OF WILD PIGS

*Aaron Sumrall, PhD  
Texas A&M University*

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The wild pig (*Sus scrofa*) is truly an amazing animal, and I do not say that in a positive manner but one of awe as it relates to the intelligence of the species. The success of the species is attached directly to many traits and tendencies that make them highly adaptable to just about any given landscape. The dietary range of wild pigs expands the range of the animal to not only seek food above ground but to pit the chisel-plow nose in the ground and exploit a totally new menu.

The duration and extent of wild pig usage of a given area or food source depends on some driving factors that relate to overall dispersal across the landscape. Wild pigs are lazy at their core. Once in an area, wild pigs will focus on the easy food sources first (berries, grains, seeds, etc.) before expelling necessary energy going below ground. If given the opportunity, wild pigs would prefer to remain in the area of a sufficient food source until that source is depleted before moving on to a new area.

The adaptable nature of this highly intelligent species may cause them to vacate a given area before a food resource is depleted sometimes leaving land and wildlife managers scratching their heads as to why? The possibilities for the unanticipated movement can vary making population management difficult. Typically, mature boars will remain in each “territory” the large majority of the time depending on the nutrition of that area to sustain them only leaving for short periods on breeding excursions. Sounder dynamics for wild pigs will begin with a matriarchal sow surrounded by other mature females and their offspring. Young boars will be forced out of sounders as they near breeding age. So, what does this have to do with the nomadic tendencies of sounders regarding nutrition?

The abrupt disappearing act of wild pig sounders from an area with seemingly sufficient nutrition may be due to a predatory avoidance response of a very intelligent species. Research is not void of ample examples of only few predators impacting wild pigs after they are just a few months of age. With that said, wild pig litters from birth to shortly after weaning can have observed mortality >50% with predation of piglets carrying the lion’s share. During the first few weeks of a wild pig’s life are about the only time where predation from predators such as coyote, bobcat, and the occasional brave fox, is a legitimate possibility.

Turning an eye to sounder dynamics may be the wise observation of land and wildlife managers. Mature, experienced sows will abruptly leave an area only after short stays in an effort to minimize predation of piglets. Sounders remaining in a given area for a prolonged time will allow predators to home in on sounder behavior influencing litter mortality. This nomadic behavior may provide the necessary time for young wild pigs to remain somewhat undetected by predators and always moving to an unfamiliar area will result in young pigs staying exceptionally close to mature individuals affording protection.

Land and wildlife managers can and should put this possibility in the scope of management focused on wild pigs. Sounders do develop patterns of movement based on food availability, environmental conditions, and sounder dynamics that can provide sufficient information to land and wildlife managers to anticipate upcoming management strategies and efforts.

# 67TH ANNUAL TEXAS A&M BEEF CATTLE SHORT COURSE WILL BE LIVE ON AUG. 2-4

*AGRI LIFE TODAY*

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The prime rib will be in the smokers and the participants will be there in person to eat them at the 67th annual Texas A&M Beef Cattle Short Course on Aug. 2-4. The event is hosted by Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service and the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences' Department of Animal Science at Texas A&M University.



“We are excited to invite everyone back to the Texas A&M campus to join us for this year’s event,” said Jason Cleere, Ph.D., conference coordinator and AgriLife Extension beef cattle specialist in the Department of Animal Science. “Not only are we going to be able to serve up our traditional Texas Aggie Prime Rib Dinner, but we’ll be offering all our live demonstrations for participants for all to see.” Cleere said this is the largest beef education event in the U.S. and is steeped in tradition. The three days will include more than 20 sessions covering basic practices, new technologies and hot topics. There also will be six live demonstrations and a trade show featuring an estimated 140 exhibitors.

More than 2,000 ranchers, beef industry representatives and exhibitors are expected to gather on the Texas A&M University campus once again after COVID-19 forced last year’s event to be virtual. However, Cleere said, they will carry over some features of last year’s virtual conference, allowing those who can’t attend to log in from their ranches around the world.

The cost is \$210 for in-person attendance and \$160 for online. The prices go up to \$250 and \$200, respectively, after July 27. To register, go to [www.beefcattleshortcourse.com](http://www.beefcattleshortcourse.com) or call 979-845-6931 for more information. “We try to bring our attendees that cutting-edge information, give producers some heads-up on potential issues,” Cleere said.

The Market Outlook and Weather Outlook presentations are always a big draw, he said. Additionally, speakers will be addressing various challenges or hot issues such as land values and increasing urban sprawl.

Educational sessions will address forage and beef cattle management, health, nutrition and reproduction, record-keeping, genetics, purebred cattle and more. Demonstrations will cover live cattle handling, chute-side calf working, brush management, tractor safety and beef carcass value determination.

“We want to help producers focus on efficiencies in their operation,” Cleere said. “Many expenses are going through the roof, so they need to focus on where to invest and where to possibly cut some corners. That will be highlighted throughout the short course.”

With proper management, there is a little bit of light at the end of the tunnel for beef cattle operators, he said.

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

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<http://nueces.agrilife.org>



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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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