

HARRIS COUNTY AGRICULTURE & NATURAL RESOURCES NEWSLETTER

July 2021



TEXAS A&M
AGRI LIFE
EXTENSION



Articles of Interest

Shannon Dietz, Harris County Extension Agent, ANR



Ag Pesticide Applicator Update 2021

COVID-19 Pandemic (Grace Period ends 12.31.2021)

During the COVID-19 pandemic and the rise of positive cases across the state, the Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA) extended the exemption of agriculture Continuing Education Unit (CEU) requirements. To address the CEU's and licensure requirements for Ag Pesticide applicators, the TDA will work with the ag pesticide applicators and CEU course providers of Texas during this critical time. Licensed applicators with expiring licenses or needing CEU's will be allowed to renew their license even if they have not met their CEU requirement for their current licensing period through December 31, 2021. To learn more click the link below:

[Visit the TDA website for more information.](#)

Shoo Fly, Don't Bother Me. Or my Cows!

by Haley Zynda, AgNR Educator, OSU Extension Wayne County



Farming in the winter is usually not a livestock producer's favorite time of the year. But, if I must give it a positive aspect, the lack of flies and other flying pests make it somewhat enjoyable compared to when those same critters burst forth in full swing come summer.

Flies, mosquitoes, and biting gnats can cause a plethora of problems on the farm, including the spread of disease and causing undue stress to stock, leading to diminished performance.

[Click here to view the entire article.](#)



Consumers can expect higher beef prices at grocery stores

Despite a recent dip after the typical seasonal peak around Memorial Day, according to a Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service expert. Consumers are seeing high prices at grocers. High demand, tight supplies and high production costs mean prices are likely to remain higher than normal. David Anderson, Ph.D., AgriLife Extension economist, Bryan-College Station, said retail beef prices remain above the five-year average, as supply and demand factors continue to contribute to higher-than-normal prices.

[Click here to view the entire article.](#)

Articles of Interest

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Drone tech's next big target: insect pest management

–Entomological Society of America



Drones keep getting smaller, while their potential applications keep getting bigger. And now unmanned aircraft systems are taking on some of the world's biggest small problems: insect pests. From crop-munching caterpillars to disease-transmitting mosquitoes, insects that threaten crops, ecosystems, and public health are being targeted with new pest-management strategies that deploy drones for detection and control. A variety of these applications are featured in a new special collection in the Journal of Economic Entomology.

[Click here to view the entire article.](#)

Agriculture byproducts can help produce eco-friendly, biodegradable plastics



A bioenergy sorghum crop is harvested near College Station.
(Texas A&M AgriLife photo)

Bioplastics — biodegradable plastics made from biological substances rather than petroleum — can be created in a more economical and environmentally friendly way from the byproducts of corn stubble, grasses and mesquite agricultural production, according to a new study by a Texas A&M AgriLife Research scientist.

[Click here to view the entire article.](#)

What is Coastal, Tifton 85 and Jiggs?

by Vanessa Corriher, Professor, Forage Extension Specialist
Soil & Crop Sciences, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension



Tifton 85 sprigs

Most people think these forages are a species of their own. But they are not. They are hybrid varieties of Bermudagrass (*Cynodon dactylon*). Bermudagrass is a warm-season perennial grass that spreads mainly by rhizomes (underground stems) and stolons (horizontal aboveground stems). The grass tolerates a wide range of soil types and soil pH values, thus making it adapted to most of the southern US.

[Click here to view the entire article.](#)

Articles of Interest



Beef Cattle Short Course

August 2 - 4, 2021 in Brazos County



The Texas A&M Beef Cattle Short Course has a rich tradition and historical place in the programs emanating from the Department of Animal Science at Texas A&M University. The Cattleman's College features more than 20 concurrent sessions. Topics include animal health, nutrition, reproduction, breeding, genetics, selection, research, marketing and handling. Management sessions will cover business, forage, range, and purebred cattle. Topics such as landowner issues and fence building will be featured at this BCSC. Sessions are designed for everyone, from the newest member of the industry to the most seasoned producer. A number of pesticide CEUs and veterinarian CECs are available to attendees. Additionally, over 150 agriculture related businesses and trade show exhibitors annually attend the course and attest to the fact that it is the most highly attended activity of its kind anywhere in the United States.

[Click here for more information.](#)



Fall Armyworm. (Stock photo via K-State Research and Extension)

The fall armyworm: A pest of pasture and hay

—Allen Knutson, Extension Entomologist, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension

COLLEGE STATION, Texas — The fall armyworm, *Spodoptera frugiperda*, is a common pest of bermudagrass, sorghum, corn, wheat and rye grass and many other crops in north and central Texas. Larvae of fall armyworms are green, brown or black with white to yellowish lines running from head to tail. Armyworms are very small (less than 1/8 inch) at first, cause little plant damage and as a result often go unnoticed. Larvae feed for 2-3 weeks and full grown larvae are about 1 to 1 1/2 inches long. Given their immense appetite, great numbers, and marching ability, fall armyworms can damage entire fields or pastures in a few days.

[Click here to view the entire article.](#)

Fort Bend Regional Vegetable Conference - Summer Session Scheduled (3CEU)

The Fort Bend Regional Vegetable Conference is a celebration of vegetable production along the upper Gulf Coast region. Counties of Waller, Wharton, Harris, Galveston, Brazoria, Colorado, and Austin join with Fort Bend to put on this event focusing on teaching sustainable practices to help producers maximize efficiencies and profitability. Although we were not able to host our annual Vegetable Conference in February, we have put together a short virtual summer session with topics centered around sustainable and organic production, disease and insect management, and variety selection. Partnering sponsors have allowed us to offer this program at a great price. The cost to attend is \$10. We will offer three (3) continuing education credits in the General category for Texas Department of Agriculture Pesticide Applicator license holders.

Come join us virtually at the Fort Bend Regional Vegetable Conference - Summer Session on Thursday, July 29, 2021. The conference will begin at 9:00 am and end at 12:00 pm. To register, please go to <https://tinyurl.com/t86xftbh>. There will be no in office registrations. For general questions, please contact Brandy Rader at 281-633-7029.

Better Living for Texas

Lora Jorgensen, Harris County Extension Agent, BLT

Kristina Brown, Harris County Extension Agent, BLT



Better Living for Texans (BLT) provides research-based nutrition, health, and wellness information to empower individuals, families, and communities to make positive changes for healthier lives. We provide community programs on nutrition, physical activity, and gardening. Check out our programming brochure here: <https://blt.tamu.edu/files/2021/02/BLT-Adult-Program-Brochure.pdf>

For more information on BLT programs, please contact the Harris County AgriLife Extension office at 713-274-0950.

Honey Milk Balls

Servings: 20 balls

Honey milk balls make a great afternoon snack – packed with protein and calcium. They taste like a treat, so be sure to save a few for yourself.

Ingredients

- ¼ cup honey
- ¼ cup peanut butter
- ½ cup dry milk
- ½ cup cereal (crushed)

Directions

1. Wash your hands and clean your cooking area.
2. Mix honey and peanut butter.
3. Gradually add dry milk and mix well.
4. Chill for easier handling.
5. Lightly grease hands with non-stick spray or a little oil and then form mix into small balls.
6. Roll in crushed cereal.
7. Chill on a baking sheet until firm.
8. Refrigerate leftovers within 2 hours.



Photo source: myplate.gov

Note: Honey should not be given to children less than one year of age.

Nutrients Per Serving: (2 honey milk balls) 41 calories, 2 g total fat, 0 g saturated fat, 1 g protein, 5 g carbohydrates, 0 g dietary fiber, 5 g total sugars, and 25 mg sodium

Total Cost per serving: \$\$\$\$

HOME GROWN UPCOMING LECTURES



HOME GROWN LECTURE SERIES

JULY - AUGUST - SEPTEMBER 2021

THE LATEST & GREATEST IN BEDDING PLANTS FOR 2022

Paul Winski - Texas A&M AgriLife County
Extension Agent-Horticulture

July 1, 2021 - 10:00 a.m.

GARDEN HUMMINGBIRD SAFETY

Brandi Keller - Texas A&M AgriLife County
Extension Agent-Horticulture

July 15, 2021 - 10:00 a.m.

COOKING SAFELY OUTDOORS

Shannon Dietz - Texas A&M AgriLife County
Extension Agent-Agriculture & Natural
Resources

August 5, 2021 - 10:00 a.m.

FALL VEGETABLE GARDENING

Paul Winski - Texas A&M AgriLife County
Extension Agent-Horticulture

August 19, 2021 - 10:00 a.m.

ENHANCING YOUR DISHES WITH FLAVORED BUTTERS

Shannon Dietz - Texas A&M AgriLife County
Extension Agent-Agriculture & Natural
Resources

September 2, 2021 - 10:00 a.m.

GROWING MICROGREENS AT THE WINDOWSILL

Brandi Keller - Texas A&M AgriLife County
Extension Agent-Horticulture

September 16, 2021 - 10:00 a.m.

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TO REGISTER FOR THIS FREE ONLINE SERIES,
PLEASE VISIT
[HTTPS://HOMEGROWN2021Q3.EVENTBRITE.COM](https://homegrown2021q3.eventbrite.com)

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..

2021 AG SUMMIT

You won't want to miss the 2021 Southeast Texas Ag Summit. Registration will be available soon on Eventbrite.com.

This event will include a Welcome BBQ on Thursday evening with agriculture and natural resources industry leaders. The schedule for Friday includes educational classes with CEUs available, door prizes, catered lunch, and more.



SAVE THE DATE!

2021 Ag Summit

State of Southeast Texas Agriculture

Don't Miss Your Opportunity To Meet Industry Leaders

September 30, 2021 - October 01, 2021

Baytown Community Center

Interested Vendors and/or Sponsorships please contact:
Shannon Dietz, ANR County Extension Agent, Harris County
shannon.dietz@ag.tamu.edu



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. Individuals with disabilities who require an auxiliary aid, service, or accommodation in order to participate in this meeting are encouraged to contact the County Extension Office prior to the meeting to determine how reasonable accommodations can be made.

Upcoming Events

Fort Bend Regional Vegetable Conference *Summer Session*



Registration: \$10.00

Thursday, July 29, 2021

Online Registration ONLY via Eventbrite

8:30 am to Noon

[Click here to register!](#)

Session will be held online via Zoom -
All registered attendees will receive meeting details
including the link to attend

- **Variety Selection for Disease Management**
- **Pesticide Comparison - Organic Vs Conventional**
- **Organic Agriculture Opportunities and Challenges**

For additional information, please contact Brandy Rader,
Administrative Assistant ANR, by phone 281-633-7029 or
by email brandy.rader@ag.tamu.edu

Earn 3 CEU's
for Licensed Pesticide Applicators

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension provides equal opportunities in its programs and employment to all persons, regardless of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, disability, age, genetic information, veteran status, sexual orientation, or gender identity. The Texas A&M University System, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the County Commissioners Courts of Texas cooperating. Individuals with disabilities who require an auxiliary aid, service or accommodation in order to participate in any Extension activities, are encouraged to contact the Fort Bend County Extension Office at 281-342-3034 for assistance five working days prior to activity.

CONTACTS/SOCIAL MEDIA/WEBSITES

CONTACTS



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Social Media/Websites

Harris County Ag & Natural Resources Facebook

Harris County AgriLife Website

Texas Department of Agriculture



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