TEXAS A&M AGRILIFE EXTENSION

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Montgomery County Agriculture and Natural Resources Newsletter for Livestock, Equine and Forage Producers

Electronic Newsletter Available

If you would like to receive this newsletter via an electronic mailout, meaning that you would receive it in your email inbox please send an email to April Fagan at the Extension Office indicating your intent to be added to that mailout. Send that email to: amfagan@ag.tamu.edu

Upcoming Programs

Where's The Beef Program

Economic & Legal Considerations for Direct Beef Sales

Monday May 8th, 2023, 8:30 am- 4:00pm

Montgomery County Extension Office

Tom LeRoy Building

This Program includes legal and economic topics such as; Necessary Permits, selecting a slaughter facility, budgeting, calculating break-even costs, liability considerations, meat quality and palatability factors, and much more!

BBQ Lunch is Provided and Registration is $100

Register online: https//tx.ag/Where'stheBeefConroe

Private Applicator Training

Tuesday, May 23rd, 2023, 9:00 a.m.

Montgomery County Extension Office

The training program will begin at 9:00 AM and last about 4 hours. Study material must be purchased ahead of time to assist with preparation (included in the registration fee). The study guide is utilized during the training portion of the program.

There is $60.00 cost for the training to cover program materials, and related costs. The registration fee can be paid when reserving your seat. Contact the Montgomery County Extension Office by Monday, May 15th to reserve your seat. The documentation will be provided at the conclusion of the training to be used in securing a test date.

Freeze Branding Clinic for All Equine

Tuesday, May 23rd, 2023
Montgomery County Fairgrounds Expo Arena
6:00 PM till 7:30 PM

- Brands should be registered with the appropriate County Clerk's Office.
- The Montgomery County Adult Horse Committee will have a variety of stock irons available.
- Horse owners are welcome to bring in their own irons for use.
- Branding Fee: $20.00 per animal
- Call 936-539-7822 by Monday May 15th to make a reservation.
- Horse owners must make a reservation to secure a time.
- Theft Prevention Information will be provided for equine owner benefits.

Sponsored by:
Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service - Montgomery County
Montgomery County Adult Horse Committee

Texas A&M Beef Cattle Short Course

August 7th-9th, 2023
Texas A&M University Campus- College Station, Tx.
Rudder Tower

Courses include over 20 Sessions covering basic practices, new technologies, and hot topics.

- 50+ Hours of Training
- 140 Exhibitor Trade Shows
- **7+ Pesticide CEU's**
- Live Animal Demonstrations
- Enjoy the famous Fightin' Texas Aggie Prime Rib Dinner

Course is available both **In Person ($260) and Online ($160)**
Registration Cost increases after August 2nd
Register Online at https://beefcattleshortcourse.com/event-registration/

CEU PROGRAM OPPORTUNITIES

36th Annual Dr. O.D. Butler Forage Field Day

Date: Friday May 19th, 2023

Location: Circle X Ranch **-** 4927 Camp Cooley Ranch Rd. Franklin, Tx.

3 CEU's Provided: 1 L&R, 1 IPM, 1 General

Lunch Provided

Description: This field day will address many concerns over high input costs and feature excellent tour stops and vendor presentations.

Topics:

- Hay Field, & Pasture Weed Control
- Feral Hog Trapping w/ demos
- Hay Cutting Height and stubble height on Forage Recovery

Speakers: Dr. Don Renchie & Dr. Vanessa Corriher-Olson

Registration is $35.

Register Online at htpps://www.eventbrite.com/e/2023-dr-od-butler-forage-field-day-tickets-619897950457

Call the Robertson Co. (979)828-4720 or Brazos Co. Offices (979)823-0129 with questions.

Pond Management Field Day

Hosted by the Montgomery County Soil and Water Conservation Board

Date: Saturday, June 10th, 2023 *(RSVP June 5th, 2023)*

Time: 10:30 am – 1:30 p.m.

Location: Lonestar Community Center

2500 Lone Star Parkway, Montgomery, TX 77356.

Topics: Aquatic Vegetation Control & Fisheries & Pond Management.

Dr. Todd Sink, Aquaculture Extension Specialist Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service: *Fish Stocking Rates, Types of Fish and Annual Harvest Rates*

Brittany Chesser, Aquatic Vegetation Management Program Specialist Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service: *Aquatic Vegetation Control*

AGRICULTURAL ISSUES

Fall Armyworms- Spodoptera frugiperda

Located: Bermudagrass, sorghum, corn, wheat and rye grass and many other crops in north and central Texas. **Outbreaks occur following rain.**

Color: Larvae of fall armyworms are **green, brown** or **black** with white to yellowish lines running from head to tail. A distinct white line between the eyes forms an inverted "Y" pattern on the face. Four black spots aligned in a square on the top of the segment near the back end of the caterpillar are also characteristic.

Size: very small (1/8 inch) to full grown at 1 – 1½ inches long.

Damage: Fall armyworms can damage entire fields or pastures in a few days.

Life Cycle: Once the armyworm larva completes feeding, it tunnels into the soil to a depth of about an inch and enters the **pupal** stage. The **armyworm moth** emerges from the pupa in about **ten days** and repeats the life cycle. The fall **armyworm moth** has a wingspan of about **1 1/2 inches**. The front pair of wings is **dark gray** with an irregular pattern of light and dark areas.

Nocturnal: Moths are active at night when they feed on nectar and deposit egg masses.

- A single female can deposit up to 2000 eggs and there are four to five generations per year.

Environment: The fall armyworm apparently only does not survive north Tx. Winters, but survives the winters in south Texas. **Populations increase** in south Texas in **early spring** and successive generations move northward as the season progresses**.**

Management: Rain creates favorable conditions for eggs and small larvae to survive in large numbers. Hay fields with a dense canopy and vigorous plant growth are often more susceptible to armyworm infestations than less intensely fertilized and managed fields. Irrigated fields are also susceptible to fall armyworm infestations, especially during drought conditions. Also monitor volunteer wheat and weedy grasses in ditches and around fields which may be a source of armyworms that can move into the adjacent crop.

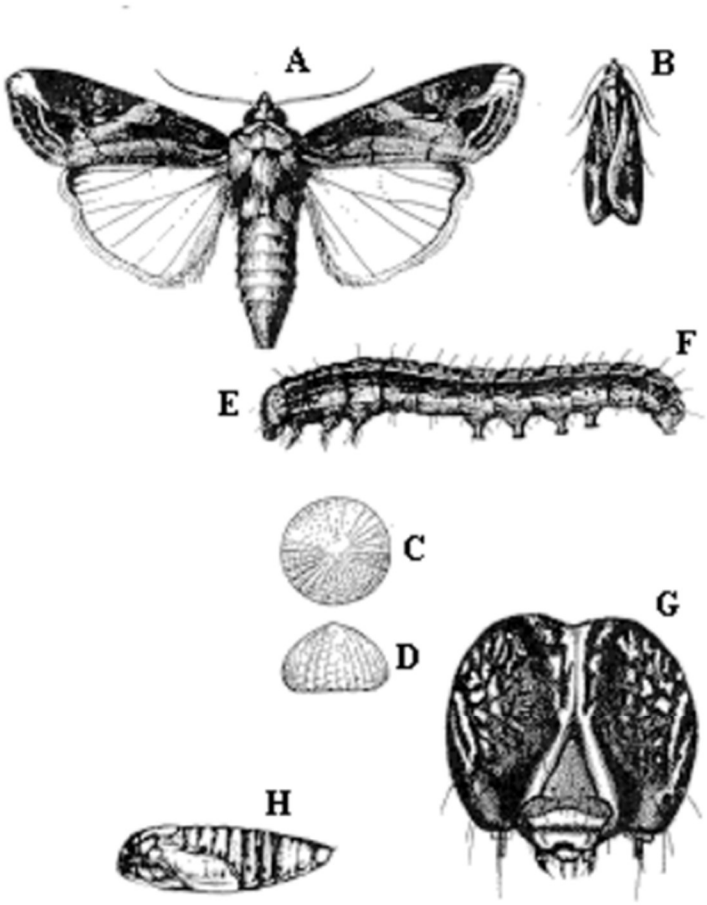
If Cool Cloudy Weather- look for fall armyworm larvae feeding in the crop canopy during the late evening and early morning and during cool, cloudy weather.

If Hot Weather: look for armyworms low in the canopy or even on the soil surface where they hide under loose soil and fallen leaves.

Useful Products: A sweep net is very effective for sampling hay fields for fall armyworms. When fields are wet with dew, armyworms can stick on rubber boots worn while walking through the field. Small larvae chew the green layer from the leaves, creating a "window pane" effect and later notch the edges of leaves. The key to managing fall armyworms is frequent inspection of fields to detect infestations before they have caused economic damage.

Larvae Appetite: larvae more than ¾ inch long, the foliage consumption increases by 80% in their final 2-3 days of feeding.

Insecticide Use: depends on the stage of crop growth and value of the crop. **Seedling plants** can **tolerate fewer** armyworms than established plants. Infestations of more than **2-3 armyworms (1/2 inch or longer) per square foot** may justify an insecticide application.



Fall armyworm. A & B, Adults. C- E, Eggs (enlarged) and egg mass. F & G, Larva with front view of head. H, Pupa.

Armyworm Pesticide Application: early in the morning or late in the evening when armyworm larvae are most active and therefor most likely to contact the insecticide spray.

- If the field is near harvest, an early harvest, rather than an insecticide treatment, is an option.
- Always read and follow all label instructions on pesticide use and restrictions.

Active Ingredient	Insecticide	Pre-grazing interval (days)	Pre-harvest interval for hay (days)	Remarks
Beta-cyfluthrin	Baythroid	0	0	Restricted Use
Carbaryl	Sevin (4F, 80S, XLRPlus) Carbaryl 4L	14	14	General Use
Chlorantraniliprole+ Lambda-cyhalothrin	Besiege	0	7	Restricted Use
Cyfluthrin	Tombstone	0	0	Restricted Use
Diflubenzuron	Deimilin 2L	None Listed	1	Restricted use; apply at egg hatch, and larvae less than ½ in. long
Gamma-cyhalothrin	Decalre	0	7	Restricted use
Lambda-cyhalothrin	WarriorII, Karate, Lambda-cy, generics	0	7 for Hay 0 for forage	Restricted Use
Malathion	Malathion 57EC	0	0	General Use
Methoxyfenozide	Intrepid 2F	0	7	General Use. Apply at 1st signs of feeding occur
Spinosad	Tracer, Blackhawk	Allow spray to dry	3	General use, target small larvae or egg to hatch
Zeta-cypermethrin	Mustang Maxx	Allow spray to dry	0	Restricted Use

Parasitic wasps and flies, ground beetles, and insect viruses help suppress armyworm numbers. However, these natural enemies can be overwhelmed when large numbers of migrating moths move into an area and weather conditions favor high survival of eggs and larvae.

Avian Influenza - Poultry Owners – Read This!

TAHC Recommends Enhanced Poultry Biosecurity as Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza Continues to Impact the United States

AUSTIN, TX – The Texas Animal Health Commission (TAHC) strongly encourages Texas poultry owners and producers to take steps to protect their flocks from highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI), as cases rise across the United States.

In January 2022, HPAI was first detected in a wild bird in South Carolina. Since that time, the United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) has confirmed HPAI in commercial poultry, backyard fowl or wild bird populations in 22 states.

HPAI is a highly contagious viral disease that can infect chickens, turkeys, and other birds and can cause severe illness and/or sudden death.

"While avian influenza has not been detected in Texas, we see the disease as a potential and real threat to Texas poultry," said Dr. Andy Schwartz, TAHC Executive Director and State Veterinarian. "Our best defense is for all poultry owners to join together in the effort to prevent disease by following strict biosecurity practices."

Biosecurity refers to practices that prevent possible contamination or disease spread. For poultry, biosecurity practices include:

- Preventing contact with wild birds, especially wild waterfowl;
- Restricting unauthorized people and vehicles;
- Covering and enclosing outdoor feeding areas, and covering stored feed;
- Cleaning and disinfecting any vehicle tires or equipment that has been on other farms or other locations where there is poultry or wild birds;
- Wearing clean clothing, boots, and shoes when in contact with your flock; and
- Isolating new birds.

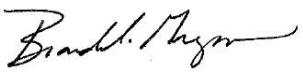
"Protecting domestic birds from wild birds is a key practice in mitigating the spread of this disease," said Dr. Schwartz. "Throughout the current HPAI outbreak, many states have detected HPAI in wild migratory fowl. Because these birds follow migratory patterns, it is important for Texas poultry owners and producers to be aware of recent confirmations in states located in the Central Flyway, such as South Dakota, Nebraska, and Kansas, and vigilantly monitoring birds for any signs of illness."

Symptoms of HPAI include coughing, sneezing, nasal discharge, and other signs of respiratory distress; lack of energy and appetite; decreased water consumption; decreased egg production and/or soft-shelled, misshapen eggs; incoordination; and diarrhea. Avian influenza can also cause sudden death in birds even if they are not showing other symptoms.

If symptoms are observed in your birds, immediately contact your veterinarian. If you do

not have a regular veterinarian, contact the TAHC at 1-800-550-8242.
According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the recent HPAI detections do not present an immediate public health concern. No human cases of these avian influenza viruses have been detected in the United States. Avian influenza does not present a food safety risk. Poultry and eggs are safe to eat when handled and cooked properly.
As part of existing avian influenza response plans, federal and state partners are working jointly on additional surveillance and testing in areas around the affected flock. The United States has the strongest avian influenza surveillance program in the world, and USDA is working with its partners to actively look for the disease in commercial poultry operations, live bird markets and in migratory wild bird populations.
For more information about HPAI, including status of the confirmed cases in other states as well as more information about biosecurity for your flock, go to the TAHC's poultry health webpage at https://www.tahc.texas.gov/animal_health/poultry/ .

Sincerely,



Brandon S. Gregson

County Extension Agent, Agriculture