

TEXAS A&M AGRILIFE EXTENSION



Volume XV, Issue II

Jackson County Agri-News

April 2020

Important Dates

- April 14—Agricultural Symposium Online
- May 7—Private Applicators License Training—JSCB Kitchen
- May 15—FSA Acreage Reporting Dates
- May 26-29—Prescribed Burning School—Calhoun County Ext. Off.
- June 15—Jackson County Ag Tour
- June 30—Eagle Lake Rice Field Day

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Coronavirus (COVID-19)

Overview

Coronaviruses are a family of viruses that can cause illnesses such as the common cold, severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) and Middle East respiratory syndrome (MERS). In 2019, a new coronavirus was identified as the cause of a disease outbreak that originated in China. The virus is now known as the severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2). The disease it causes is called coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19).

Cases of COVID-19 have been reported in a growing number of countries, including the U.S. Public health groups, such as the World Health Organization (WHO) and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), are monitoring the situation and posting updates on their websites. WHO declared a global pandemic in March 2020. These groups have also issued recommendations for preventing and treating the illness.

Symptoms

Signs and symptoms of COVID-19 may appear two to 14 days after exposure and can include:

- Fever
- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing

Other symptoms can include:

- Tiredness
- Aches
- Runny nose
- Sore throat

The severity of COVID-19 symptoms can range from very mild to severe. Some people have no symptoms. People who are older or have existing chronic medical conditions, such as heart or lung disease or diabetes, may be at higher risk of serious illness. This is similar to what is seen with other respiratory illnesses, such as influenza.

When to see a doctor

Contact your doctor or clinic right away if you have COVID-19 symptoms, you've been exposed to someone with COVID-19, or you live in or have traveled from an area with ongoing community spread of COVID-19 as determined by CDC and WHO. Call your doctor ahead to tell him or her about your symptoms and recent travels and possible exposure before you go to your appointment.

Anyone with respiratory symptoms who hasn't been in an area with ongoing community spread can contact his or her doctor or clinic for further recommendations and guidance. Let your doctor know if you have other chronic medical conditions. As the pandemic progresses, it's important to make sure health care is available for those in greatest need.

Causes

It's unclear exactly how contagious the new coronavirus is. It appears to spread from person to person among those in close contact. It may be spread by respiratory droplets released when someone with the virus coughs or sneezes. It may also be spread if a person touches a surface with the virus on it and then touches his or her mouth, nose or eyes.

Risk factors

Risk factors for COVID-19 appear to include:

- Recent travel from or residence in an area with ongoing community spread of COVID-19 as determined by CDC or WHO
- Close contact with someone who has COVID-19 — such as when a family member or health care worker takes care of an infected person.

Complications

Complications can include:

- Pneumonia in both lungs
- Organ failure in several organs

Death

Prevention

Although there is no vaccine available to prevent infection with the new coronavirus, you can take steps to reduce your risk of infection. WHO and CDC recommend following these precautions for avoiding COVID-19:

- Avoid large events and mass gatherings.
- Avoid close contact (about 6 feet) with anyone who is sick or has symptoms.
- Keep distance between yourself and others if COVID-19 is spreading in your community, especially if you have a higher risk of serious illness.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, or use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol.
- Cover your mouth and nose with your elbow or a tissue when you cough or sneeze. Throw away the used tissue.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth if your hands aren't clean.
- Avoid sharing dishes, glasses, bedding and other household items if you're sick.
- Clean and disinfect surfaces you often touch on a daily basis.

Stay home from work, school and public areas if you're sick, unless you're going to get medical care. Avoid taking public transportation if you're sick.

CDC doesn't recommend that healthy people wear a face mask to protect themselves from respiratory illnesses, including COVID-19. Only wear a mask if a health care provider tells you to do so.

WHO also recommends that you:

- Avoid eating raw or undercooked meat or animal organs.

Avoid contact with live animals and surfaces they may have touched if you're visiting live markets in areas that have recently had new coronavirus cases.

If you have a chronic medical condition and may have a higher risk of serious illness, check with your doctor about other ways to protect yourself.

Travel

If you're planning to travel internationally, first check the CDC and WHO websites for updates and advice. Also look for any health advisories that may be in place where you plan to travel. You may also want to talk with your doctor if you have health conditions that make you more susceptible to respiratory infections and complications.

Can Mosquitoes Transmit the new coronavirus?

From the WHO – World Health Organization

The new coronavirus CANNOT be transmitted through mosquito bites.

To date there has been no information nor evidence to suggest that the new coronavirus could be transmitted by mosquitoes. The new coronavirus is a respiratory virus which spreads primarily through droplets generated when an infected person coughs or sneezes, or through droplets of saliva or discharge from the nose. To protect yourself, clean your hands frequently with an alcohol-based hand rub or wash them with soap and water. Also, avoid close contact with anyone who is coughing and sneezing.

From the CDC – Centers for Disease Control

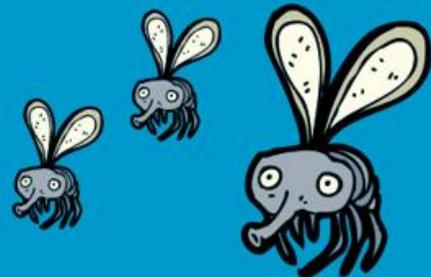
- Mosquitoes and ticks can't spread all types of viruses.
- At this time, we have no data to suggest that COVID-19 or other similar coronaviruses (e.g. SARS, MERS) are spread by mosquitoes or ticks.
- For a virus to pass to a person through a mosquito or tick bite, the virus must be able to replicate inside the mosquito or tick.

To date there has been no information nor evidence to suggest that the new coronavirus could be transmitted by mosquitoes.

The new coronavirus is a respiratory virus which spreads primarily through droplets generated when an infected person coughs or sneezes, or through droplets of saliva or discharge from the nose.

To protect yourself, clean your hands frequently with an alcohol-based hand rub or wash them with soap and water. Also, avoid close contact with anyone who is coughing and sneezing.

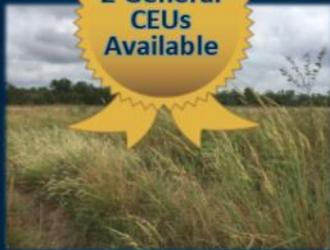
FACT:
The new coronavirus
CANNOT
be transmitted through
mosquito bites



2020 Advocating for Agriculture Symposium

Hosted by Texas A&M AgriLife Extension—Corpus Christi Based Specialists

2 General
CEUs
Available



TEXAS A&M
AGRILIFE
EXTENSION

Tuesday, April 14, 2020

7:30 am - 12:30 pm

*Join us from the comfort of your home!
All you need is a computer/laptop with internet capabilities.*

AGENDA

- 7:30-7:50 Join the Online Symposium
- 7:50 Welcome & Introductions—*Dr. Megan Clayton*
- 8:00 The NOT Beef Burger—*Dr. Joe Paschal*
- 8:30 Update: Hemp Production Laws in Texas—*Dr. Josh McGinty*
- 9:00 Update: New Range & Pasture Herbicides—*Dr. Megan Clayton*
- 9:20 The Scoop on Glyphosate—*Dr. Josh McGinty*
- 9:50 Cattle, Sheep, or Goats? Fitting the Right Animal to your Situation—*Dr. Joe Paschal*
- 10:20 QUESTION BREAK
- 10:30 Path to the Plate & RanchTV.org—*Dr. Dan Hale*
- 10:50 Pesticide Safety & Environmental Health— *Dr. Mark Matocha*
- 11:20 Fertilizing: Options and Accurate Prescriptions—*Dr. Jamie Foster*
- 11:50 Cattle Fever Tick Update—*Dr. Joe Paschal*
- 12:05 The Sustainability Movement—*Dr. Megan Clayton*
- 12:25 FINAL QUESTIONS/ADJOURN

To Register, please visit <https://agriliferegister.tamu.edu/ag>

The cost is \$10/person

Registration closes on April 12th

For more information: Megan.Clayton@ag.tamu.edu

A link to the Symposium will be emailed the day before the webinar

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.

Prescribed Burning School

TEXAS A&M
AGRI LIFE
EXTENSION

May 26-29, 2020

This four-day training is designed to teach the participant the safe use of fire as a rangeland and wildlife habitat management tool. It provides the formal training necessary to qualify the participant as a Certified Prescribed Burn Manager in the state of Texas.



Instructor

Sandra Rideout-Hanzak, PhD

Associate Professor, Department of Animal, Rangeland, and Wildlife Sciences,
Texas A&M University-Kingsville

Research Scientist, Caesar Kleberg Wildlife Research

Calhoun County Extension Office 186 Henry Barberway Port Lavaca, Texas 77979

Fee \$ 250.00

Please RSVP by May 15 (361) 552-9747

Certified Burn Managers: There will be a one-day workshop held on Wednesday, May 27th for burn managers who are interested in receiving Continuing Fire Training (CFT) (6) credits. Please contact the Calhoun County Extension office to RSVP. Fee \$ 50.00

Lodging: Americas Best Value Inn - (361) 552- 4511

La Quinta Inn & Suites - (361) 552- 8800

Holiday Inn Express and Suites - (361) 552-5700

Best Western Port Lavaca Inn - (361) 553-6800

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2020 Texas Custom Rates Survey

The Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service, Department of Agricultural Economics is conducting the 2020 Texas Custom Rates Survey. Each year our offices receive many requests for current custom rate information and the latest Custom Rates Publication. The survey and publication are the only source to find the going rates paid for these types of services. Questions in the survey include rates paid/charged for tractor rental, tillage operations, planting operations, chemical and fertilizer application, custom harvesting, hay baling, land preparation, brush control, and other miscellaneous operations or services. If you have knowledge of rates in your area, and appreciate the value of publishing this type of market information, please consider participating in the survey which can be found online at: <http://agecoext.tamu.edu/crs2020>

The survey will ask that you only complete the questions that pertain to your operation, therefore most people should be able to complete the survey in 10-15 minutes or less. Hard copies of the survey will be mailed to a limited group, however anyone with knowledge of custom farm and ranch operations is encouraged to participate. We need broad participation to produce an accurate and reliable publication of this market information. The survey will be open from February through the end of April. Your participation will help make sure the published information is the most accurate and reliable possible. If you have any questions regarding the survey please contact Dr. Steven Klose (sklose@tamu.edu).

2020 Ag Tour

The Coronavirus may cause us to cancel this, but just in case things get better, the Jackson County Extension Field Crops Committee will attempt to conduct an Ag Tour on, Monday, June 15, 2020. A Sorghum Hybrid trial has been planted on the Kulak Farm on CR 324. Seven sorghum hybrids were planted and replicated on March 10th. A Corn Hybrid trial has been planted on the Gabrysch Farm on FM 234. Eight corn hybrids were planted on February 21st. A Cotton Variety trial was planted on the Brent Batchelder Farm near Palacios which will not be included on this years tour. After the tour, we will come together at the Jackson County Services Building Auditorium for a meal and programs. Three hours of CEU's for your Pesticide applicators license will be available for \$10. One in IPM, two in General. The tour will start at the Kulak Farm on CR 324 at 4:00 p.m. Certified Crop Advisor hours will also be available.

Tour speakers include: Dr. Ronnie Schnell, Extension Agronomist from College Station; Dr. Josh McGinty, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Agronomist, Corpus Christi.

A meal will be catered by Mustang Creek BBQ in the Jackson County Services Building Auditorium after the tour at 6:00 p.m. Speakers at the auditorium will include: Corina Hutchinson, FSA program director; Jeff Nunley, South Texas Cotton & Grain and Dan Reilly, Warning Coordination Meteorologist with NOAA. For more information, call Jackson County AgriLife Extension Office @ 361-782-3312.

2020 Eagle Lake Rice Field Day

June 30, 2020: Texas A&M AgriLife Research Extension Rice Field Day

David R. Wintermann Rice Research Station, FM 202 just north of Eagle Lake, Texas. Field tour in late afternoon, then move to the Eagle Lake Community Center for dinner and a business meeting.

New Fire Ant Bait Introduced

It is with great pleasure that Neudorff USA announces the launch of ANTIXX FIRE ANT BAIT to attract and kill foraging red imported fire ants (*Solenopsis Invicta*) and harvester ants.

ANTIXX FIRE ANT BAIT is an efficacious, research driven, and highly palatable ant bait with the active ingredient spinosad. Spinosad is a metabolite of the soil dwelling bacteria *Saccharopolyspora spinosa* and is highly active on insects.

ANTIXX FIRE ANT BAIT is readily taken back into the nest as food for the colony. The active ingredient in the bait is distributed throughout the colony, killing the ants, including the queen. Ants that consume the bait will appear sick and lethargic within 12 to 24 hours. Dead ants will be seen near treated mounds 24 to 36 hours after application. The entire colony, including the queen, will usually be controlled within 3 to 14 days after treatment and will last for up to 2 months.

ANTIXX FIRE ANT BAIT can be used in home greenhouses and gardens, lawns and other turfgrass areas, non-crop areas such as roadsides, industrial areas, parks and farmsteads, recreation areas including golf courses, playgrounds and playing fields.

ANTIXX FIRE ANT BAIT joins the Antixx family of ant baits provided by Neudorff USA that includes Antixx Plus and Antixx Liquid Ant Bait. Antixx Plus (containing spinosad and Iron Phosphate active ingredients) is an OMRI listed, patented, dual-active, easy to apply granular ant bait for outdoor use. Antixx Liquid Ant Bait (spinosad) is a patented liquid ant bait for indoor and outdoor use.

ANTIXX FIRE ANT BAIT has the efficacy of synthetic products and the benefits of sustainable control.

It is available from distributors Winfield United (winproonline.com) and Southern Ag (southernag.com). A fact sheet, label and safety data sheet are available at neudorffpro.com/index.pho?id=1964.



2020 FSA Acreage Reporting Dates

As a farmer or rancher, you should file acreage reports with USDA. It is an important part of determining your eligibility for key programs, including price support, disaster relief, and conservation programs.

A crop acreage report documents all crops and their intended uses and is an important part of record-keeping for your farm or ranch. This report is needed to access many USDA assistance programs.

In order to comply with FSA program eligibility requirements, all producers are encouraged to visit their local FSA office to file an accurate crop certification report by the applicable deadline.

Corn, cotton, grain sorghum are May 15th. Rice, soybeans and all other crop including grass for grazing for 2020 is July 15th. Livestock producers that want to participate in the Livestock Forage Program for 2020 must report their acres by July 15th or they will be charged late file fees to certify those acres.



Agri-News Trivia

Did you know?

- Texas has approximately 1,100 different soils within its borders.
- *Two out of five acres of land in the United States are farmland.*
- A 1000 lb. cow will produce about 4 tons of manure in one year.

Private Applicators License Training

If you plan on using a state limited use or state restricted use pesticide, such as Grazon P+D, 2 4-D, Weedmaster, etc., and need a license, the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service will be sponsoring a **Private Applicator Training at 8:00 AM on Thursday, May 7, 2020** at the Jackson County Extension Office. Books and study materials for the course need to be purchased ahead of time for \$50.00 at the Extension Office. The exam can be taken a location of your choice. If you complete the training portion and score a 70 or above on the examination, you will be eligible to apply for your Private Applicator License, which will allow you to purchase all state limited use and restricted use pesticides used in agriculture. To reserve your spot at the training, contact the Jackson County Extension Office at (361) 782-3312.



Real Learning for Real Life



Newsletter by E-Mail

Due to increased postage costs, we would like to make future newsletters and announcements available to you electronically. If you would like to receive future information by email send an email to mrhiller@ag.tamu.edu. Benefits of having your newsletter sent through e-mail are: pictures and graphs will be in color, easy to store on your computer, no papers to mess with, click-able links to other internet sites, and sooner access.

Mike Hiller, CEA-Ag/NR

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