

Houston County Fall Agriculture Newsletter

Fall 2012

September 17, 2012



Dates of Interest

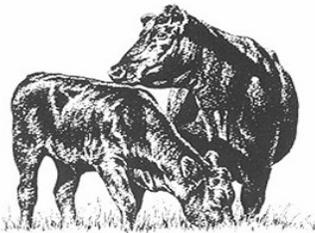
October 3, 2012
Hay Show Samples Deadline

October 3-5, 2012
Landowners Assoc. Of Texas
Convention, Crockett

October 5, 2012:
Master Gardener Rose Sale

October 25, 2012
Cow Country Congress

October 30, 2012
Davy Crockett/Trinity Hay Show



Inside this issue:

Texas Pecan Mgmt	1
Cow Country Congress	1
Bale Size	3
Armyworms	3
New Agent	3
Hay Show	4
Rose Sale	4
Feral Hog	4

Texas Pecan Pest Management

Bill Ree Extension Program Specialist II – IPM
Statewide Pecan IPM Programming (Bryan, TX)

INSECTS

Black Pecan

Aphids: In the orchards that I have visited, although damage can be quite evident, black pecan aphid populations have dropped below the treatment threshold of 3 per compound leaf. Treatments for this aphid could still be justified through September **IF** populations exceed the treatment threshold. Adults and nymphs can be found on both the upper and lower surfaces of leaflets.

Yellow and blackmargined aphids:

Blackmargined aphid populations have dropped significantly but will increase where insecticides are applied for pecan weevil. As mentioned in previous newsletters if control of yellow aphids has been poor or less than desire, you should switch to a different group numbered compound. For example if you have been using imidacloprid which is a Group 4A com-

pound, consider switching to pymetrozine which is a Group 9B.

Stink Bugs/leaffooted bugs: I've received several calls and emails lately concerning control of stink bugs and leaffooted bugs. As a group these insects can feed directly through the shell which can make them a threat up to harvest. Green stink bugs and leaffooted bugs are easier to control than the brown species. In

Continued on page 2

2012 Cow Country Congress

The 2012 Cow Country Congress program will meet at Porth Ag Arena in Crockett. The program is scheduled for Thursday, October 25, 2012. Sign in will start at 7:30 am.

Topics discussed will be Winter Pastures and Fall Armyworms, Hay Program, What is Bessie worth, Body Condition scores of cattle and a live cattle handling demonstration on Low Stress

Handling. Registration is \$20, which includes a steak lunch. **Pre-register by October 16.** For more information or to register call the Houston County Extension Office at 936-544-7502 .

my insecticide trials I never obtained desirable results with the organophosphate insecticides. Best results have always been with the pyrethroid based compounds.



Figure 1 Brown stink bug, *Euschistus servus*



Figure 2 Leaffooted bug, *Leptoglossus phyllopus*

With the possibility of damage occurring close to harvest, the preharvest interval or PHI for the various insecticides needs to be followed. The closest PHI for the pyrethroid class of insecticides is 7 days for Respect EC (zeta-cypermethrin). Information on preharvest intervals and labeled insecticides for various pests can be found in the insecticide search section under the tool box link at <http://pecan.ipmpipe.org>.

Pecan weevil: With drought conditions still prevailing over much of the state we will be seeing some drought delayed emergence of adults. Continue to run adult emergence traps up to harvest. Also, I encourage producers to keep records of damage and all activities related to pecan weevil management. This information will tell you how your pecan weevil management program is doing and will give an indication what to expect in the coming year.

Walnut sphinx moth: Walnut sphinx caterpillars are still active in the Comanche and San Saba county area and from observations in San Saba on August 7th where all life stages were found on back yard trees it is evident that this one will be with us the rest of the season. WSC seem to be easy to control so insecticide applications for other late season pests – pecan weevil, stink bug, shuckworm, etc. should also control this one.

3rd generation pecan nut casebearer: I must admit here that not as much attention has been given to this generation as we probably should. Earlier this week I did see some significant damage from this third generation and although the pecans remained on the tree, kernel quality was definitely affected.

Third generation PNC can be distinguished from hickory shuckworm by the frass that will be evident at the base of the nutlets as shown in figure 3. With hickory shuckworm all frass will remain within the shuck.

Figure 3 Third generation PNC damage



Bale Size: Pricing & Cost per Unit of Nutrition

Bale weight and nutrient content are critical factors in determining the value of a given bale of hay. Bale weight affects not only the amount of hay being bought or sold but also the cost of feeding and transporting it. An accurate assessment of nutrient content is also needed to determine the cost per pound of energy. (e.g. TDN) and protein supplied. Round bales are generally described by bale width x bale di-

ameter or bale height. For example, a 5'x6' bale would be five feet wide by six feet in diameter or in height.

Table 1 (shown on page 5) shows the effect bale size has on bale weight by using a 5'x5' bale that weighs 1,100 pounds for comparison; this bale would have a density of 11.21 pounds per cubic foot. If all bales had the same density, those varying sizes would range from 563 to

1,584 pounds. Table 1 also illustrates the percentage difference among various sizes of bales.

- A 4'x4' bale is only 51 percent the size of a 5'x5' bale
- A 5'x6' bale is 44 percent large than a 5'x6' bale

In addition to size, bale density also has a major impact on bale weight. Density as influenced by tightness of wrap or

Continued on page 5

Armyworms in Pastures



Producers need to begin looking at their pastures regularly for a major pest—the Fall Armyworm. Early morning when the grasses are wet from dew is the best time to check for worms. Wear rubber boots and walk through your field. If you have armyworms, you

will see them on your boots. Also, a large number of cattle egrets (Cow Birds) in your pasture also indicates infestations of armyworms. Treatment options include Sevin®, Tracer®, Mustang Max® and Malathion® will

control these damaging pests. If they are 1/2" or smaller then Dimllin 2L will work.

As always, read the label and follow directions of use

New Agent in Town—Jo Petty Smith

Houston County received a new agriculture agent in the summer of 2012.

Jo Petty Smith, a native of Houston County, started with Texas A&M AgriLife Extension in June. After spending 30 days shadowing Aaron Low, Ag Extension Agent in Cherokee County she is now in Crockett at the County Extension office located inside the Sr. Citizens Center.

Jo grew up in Kennard on her family's 100 year old farm and still resides in the historic home her great-grandfather built.

She is married with 2 kids. She graduated Texas A&M University with a degree in Animal Science and is in the process of obtaining her masters degree.

If you would like to contact Jo, her email address is jo.smith@ag.tamu.edu and phone number is 936-544-7502. Or you can stop by her office at 716 Wells Street.



Davy Crockett/Trinity Hay Show

Although this year has been somewhat of a relief from the severe drought that we suffered last year, the cost of producing hay is still very high. This makes it all the more important for beef producers to test hay for its feeding value. Those hay producers that have been fortunate enough to receive rain would also benefit from testing. Producers across the state are searching for hay. If you provided them with an analysis of the hay you have for sale it might make a sale a little easier or for a higher price.

Take advantage of the oppor-

tunity that the Soil and Water conservation board and the Houston and Trinity county Extension Offices have made available of free forage analysis. Producers in Houston and Trinity counties are allowed to submit up to 3 samples free of charge. A sample consist of a 50# feed sack FULL and submitted to the extension offices of either county by October 3, 2012. The actual hay show will be October 30, 2012 at the Porth Ag Arena at 5:30 pm. There will be a weed id contest and hay judging class for adults. The meal, guest speaker and the top 10 samples will

be auctioned off during the night.

You can bring your sample to the Extension Offices in Houston or Trinity County or to the USDA NRCS office in Crockett.

Please call the Houston County Extension Office at 936-544-7502 with any questions you may have.



Davy Crockett Master Gardener Rose Sale

The Davy Crockett Master

Gardener Association will hold its annual Rose Sale on October 5, 2012. The sale will be located at the master gardener demonstration garden in Crockett which is in next to the

SHARE building behind the Methodist Church.

The roses are from the Antique Rose Emporium in Brenham and will only cost \$15 per rose. There will be many varieties available.

All the proceeds from this fundraiser will be used to help

educate the public about horticulture and to buy supplies for the demonstration garden which feeds hungry families in Houston County.

For more information or to pre-order your roses call one of the following numbers: 936-687-5923, 936-544-5204, or 936-546-0677.

Feral Hog Community of Practice - Webinar Series

The Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service and the eXtension Feral Hogs Community of Practice are cosponsoring a lunch-based webinar every month from 12:00 noon to 1:00 p.m. Dr. Billy Higginbotham, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Wildlife Specialist, will present the topic of "Control Techniques and Managing Feral Hog

Populations" on Oct 23rd. To join the webinars, log in as a "guest" to: <https://connect.extension.iastate.edu/feralhog>. There is no charge for the series.

Dates and topics include:

- ***October 23**—Control Techniques and Managing Feral Hog Populations
- ***Nov 20**—Feral Hog Disease Issues

***Dec 18**—Current and Future Feral Hog Research



Bale Size Continued

bale compression can vary considerably, depending on operator preference and the equipment being used. Most balers have a range of settings that allow the operator to increase or decrease wrap tightness and bale compression. Also, some balers can compress more tightly than can standard equipment; these types of balers are generally used for baling low-density forages like wheat straw.

Another factor affecting bale density is some forages are naturally denser than others. Both plant maturity and forage species influence forage density. As plants mature, the neutral detergent fiber (NDF) content generally increases, which reduces density. Consequently, hay produced from young immature bermudagrass is denser than hay from mature bermudagrass. Differences in forage species also affect density; for example, alfalfa is typically denser than bermudagrass and bermudagrass is denser than wheat straw.

Instead of price per bale, hay should be purchased by the ton. The importance of pricing hay by the ton is illustrated in Table 1. The last column shows what the price per ton would be if all bales—regardless of weight—were priced at \$50 each. The 1,100 lb bales would cost \$90.91 per ton ($\$50 \div 1,100 \text{ lbs} = \0.04545 per lb ; $2,000 \text{ lbs} \times \$0.04545 \text{ per lb} = \90.91 per ton). In comparison, the 563 lb bale would cost \$177.56 per ton.

In addition to cost per ton, the cost per pound of energy (e.g. TDN) and protein should be calculated. To determine nutrient content each load or cutting of

hay should be sampled and sent to a reputable lab for testing. The most appropriate analysis will depend on forage species, intended use and laboratory experience, so producers should consult with a nutritionist for specific testing recommendations.

Reputable labs will report nutrient concentration on both an as-fed and dry matter basis. For example, a lab may report that a sample contains 10 percent moisture, 52.2 percent TDN on an as-fed basis and 58.0 percent TDN on a dry matter basis. Values reported on an as-fed basis are handy when calculating cost per pound of nutrient and values reported on a dry matter basis are useful when evaluating animal nutrient requirements.

The cost per pound of nutrient can be determined with the following equations:

1. $2,000 \text{ lbs} \times \text{percentage of nutrient on an as-fed basis} = \text{lb of nutrient per ton}$
2. $\text{Cost per ton of hay} \div \text{lb of nutrient per ton} = \text{cost per pound of nutrient}$

For example, if a load of hay cost \$130 per ton and contained 52.2 % TDN on an as-fed basis, the cost per pound of TDN would be \$0.125 as shown below:

- $2,000 \text{ lbs} \times 52.2\% \text{ TDN} = 1,044 \text{ lbs of TDN}$
- $\$130 \div 1,044 \text{ lbs of TDN} = \$0.125 \text{ per lb of TDN}$

These equations can be used to calculate the cost per unit of TDN, protein or any nutrients found in hay as well as other feedstuffs and supplements. Depending on nutrient content and price per ton it may be cheaper to purchase hay that is slightly more expensive per ton but has a higher nutrient content.

Calculating cost per pound of nutrient will allow for the selection of more economical sources of hay, resulting in reduced feeding and supplemental costs. Additionally, forage condition (free of mold, foreign objects and weeds), forage species, the potential presence of toxic compounds (such as nitrates), palatability, storage characteristics, and potential feeding losses should be considered when selecting hay and evaluating its value.

Bale Width, ft	Bale Diameter, ft	Bale Volume, ft ³	Estimated bale weight, lb ¹	Bale Size, % of a 5'x5' bale	Price/Ton if each bale costs \$50 ²
4	4	50	563	51	\$ 177.56
4	5	79	880	80	\$ 113.64
4	6	113	1,267	115	\$ 78.91
5	5	98	1,100	100	\$ 90.91
5	6	141	1,584	144	\$ 63.13

1 Assumes all bales are the same density as a 5'x5' bale that weighs

2 Price per ton assuming all bales, regardless of size and weight, cost

Go Smith

PRST STD
US POSTAGE PAID
CROCKETT, TX
PERMIT NO 14

Houston County Extension Office
716 Wells Street
Crockett, Texas 75835

TEXAS A&M AGRILIFE EXTENSION

Houston County Extension Office
716 Wells Street
Crockett, Texas 75835
Hours: 8:00 am to 12:00 pm
1:00 pm to 4:30 pm

Phone: (936) 544-7502
Fax: (936) 544-5321
Email: houston@ag.tamu.edu
Website: houston.agrilife.org

Improving
Texas

Improving
Lives