

LOST PINES COUNTY AGRICULTURE NEWSLETTER

MAY 2026



COOL AND WET SPRING EXTENDS THE COOL SEASON

Dakota Kempken

I have never been happier to be more wrong in my March newsletter! The influx of moisture we have seen in April has done wonders for the health of rangeland and pastures throughout the county, triggering rapid growth of forage and other plants. Another thing I have noticed around the county because of the rain is an apparent prolonging of the cool season. Cool season forages like ryegrass are continuing to see growth despite the warmer weather in between rain events. This can be beneficial for livestock grazing, but may end up delaying warm season hay cutting unless cool season grasses are controlled.

UNDERSTANDING THE IMPORTANCE OF SOIL ORGANIC MATTER

When thinking about soil fertility, nutrient application via fertilizers often takes the center stage by land managers, producers, and growers. However much more goes into increasing plant nutrient content, improving water holding capacity, and building plant vigor than applying organic and synthetic fertilizers.

Organic matter (decomposed plant and animal material) is a core component of soil's makeup, alongside minerals, air, and water and performs multiple key functions. Organic material functions as a stabilizer of sorts, balancing water holding capacity by affecting soil pore size. Organic matter can both increase water-holding capacity in sandy, high drainage soils, and improve drainage in poor drainage soils by loosening and breaking apart clay. Additionally, soil organic matter functions as a slow-release fertilizer, adding nitrogen, phosphates, and other mineral nutrients to the soil as the material decomposes. One of the biggest contributors to soil fertility that organic matter provides, though, is the microbiome.

The soil microbiome is an entire ecosystem located within soil that hosts beneficial bacteria and fungi. These microbes benefit plants by essentially making soil nutrients more accessible, either through building a microscopic connection to plant roots or by aiding in the breakdown of organic material and releasing the nutrients they contain. Without this microbiome, most plants often struggle to survive and result in bare patches that struggle to host plant life. If soil lacks an adequate microbiome, organic matter can be tilled into the soil profile to promote beneficial fungi and bacteria reintroduction. Sources of organic matter can come easily to producers as well. Oftentimes it takes the form of poultry litter available for purchase, compost, or tilled in plant and animal litter on rangeland and pastures.

Texas Pecan Growers Gather for Annual Conference This July

Pecan growers from Texas and around the world are gearing up for the 105th Texas Pecan Growers Association (TPGA) Annual Conference and Trade Show, set for July 12–15, 2026, at the Embassy Suites by Hilton San Marcos Hotel Conference Center in San Marcos, Texas. With the hotel and conference center under one roof, attendees can enjoy a convenient, all-in-one venue designed for learning, networking, and industry connection. Attendees will enjoy returning favorites like the lively Casino Night and the Wednesday orchard tour at Comal Pecan Farm, which includes an IPM field day, along with several exciting new additions to the program.

“Pecan producers in Texas represent a wide range of geographic regions, production methods, and cultures. The Texas Pecan Growers Association works to assist each of its members in producing Texas’ native nut,” says Blair Krebs, Executive Director of TPGA. “The TPGA conference and trade show is the once-a-year opportunity for pecan growers from every region of the state and country to gather for an educational program, trade show, networking events, and fun.” Throughout the conference, growers and industry members can visit with vendors from across the country, attend an educational program addressing the most pressing issues facing pecan producers, and earn Continuing Education Credits (CEUs).



Special events throughout the week offer additional opportunities to network, connect with service providers, and participate in hands-on pecan-focused activities. “TPGA looks forward to hosting all attendees and would like to thank all of our exhibitors, sponsors, and speakers for

helping to provide a spectacular event for Texas pecan growers,” Krebs adds. The Conference and Trade Show will be free for all active TPGA members, and anyone interested in learning more about growing pecans is welcome to attend.

Network with fellow growers, gain practical insights and create lasting memories that go beyond the conference floor. With a diverse array of seminars, Q&A sessions, contests and family-friendly fun, there’s truly something for everyone in the pecan community!

Be sure to attend this [year’s trade show](#), as the full event won’t be back until 2028.

For more information

TPGA Executive Director Blair Krebs available for comment. Please contact the TPGA office:

tel.: 979-846-3285

fax: 979-846-1752

Email: pecans@tpga.org

HERBICIDE RESISTANCE: WHAT, WHERE, AND WHY

Extension Weed Science Newsletter

What is herbicide resistance?

The Weed Science Society of America (WSSA) defines herbicide resistance as “the inherited ability of a plant to survive and reproduce following exposure to a dose of herbicide normally lethal to the wild type”. In practice, the specific herbicide, and sometimes the entire mode of action group classification it belongs to, no longer kills the weed at a labeled rate when sprayed on an appropriate sized weed.

When a population is suspected to be resistant, testing confirms the suspicion. This is done by collecting seed, growing these in a greenhouse, collecting seed from these greenhouse grown plants, and germinating these seeds. Once they are a size appropriate for spraying the herbicide of interest, they are sprayed with rates at and above and below the labeled rate. This helps determine the plant’s sensitivity to the herbicide and to develop further testing rates to confirm the level of resistance.

Where is it occurring?

In Texas, herbicide resistance is prevalent in the major cropping regions. A number of weeds may be resistant in these areas. The pigweeds, namely Palmer amaranth and waterhemp, are of particular interest. These weeds can develop herbicide resistance rapidly, within just a few generations.

Palmer amaranth and waterhemp accessions from major row crop regions have been screened for resistance in 2016 and again in 2024 for resistance to dicamba (WSSA group 4), 2,4-D (4), atrazine (5), glyphosate (9), glufosinate-ammonium (10), fomesafen (14), S-metolachlor (15), tembotrione (27), and isoxaflutole (27).

All Palmer amaranth and waterhemp populations can be assumed to be resistant to group 2 ALS-inhibitors. Resistance to older herbicides such as glyphosate and atrazine are common and widespread, especially for Palmer amaranth in the High Plains.

Tembotrione survivorship can occur in small volumes in many populations across the state, but most indications of potential resistance have occurred in the Northern High Plains.

Dicamba resistance has been indicated in multiple Palmer amaranth accessions from the cotton fields in counties around Lubbock, primarily to the West and North of the city.

There is little to no indication of resistance in any accession to glufosinate, fomesafen, or the PRE emergent herbicides S-metolachlor and isoxaflutole.

Why Do Weeds Become Resistant?

The answer to why weeds become resistant is also a helpful explanation for how to delay resistance. Repeated exposure to the same herbicide and/or mode of action group of herbicides, year after year, will select for plants that have already developed a level of resistance. These are the plants that will eventually go on to set seed, and become the dominant population.

Break the cycle, delay resistance onset.

How to Delay Resistance

Including multiple modes of action the weed in question is likely to be susceptible of is a foundational strategy. Build on that foundation by including residual herbicides to limit the pressure on post-emergent herbicides. To add strength to the foundation, include a non-herbicide tactic such as tillage or cover crops to remove and prevent weeds.

What To Do If You Suspect Resistance

- Contact your [County Extension Agent](#) or [Extension Weed Scientist](#) to let them know about the issue. They can help develop a plan to determine if the population is truly resistant or if other issues could be at play.
- Don't let the seed travel. Destroy the plant before seed is produced. Bag or collect any seed that's been made and destroy it.
- Develop a plan that incorporates using multiple modes of action in each herbicide application, a rotation of modes of action, and non-herbicide tactics for weed control to prevent future escapes.

WEED OF THE MONTH: PLANTAIN

Plantain, AKA tallowed, is a collection of low growing plants that can be found across central and west Texas. There are 13 recognized varieties, with most of them being cool season annual plants, but 2 of them are perennials. There is very little difference between each variety. Plantains are an extremely small broadleaf plant that have no stem. All leaves and flowering parts originate from the crown at ground level, forming a circular shape. Leaves will possess varying degrees of hairiness, depending on the species, with narrow leaves. The inflorescence (cluster of flowers) takes a small conical shape, usually a dull white in color with deep violet in the center. Plantains love disturbed and shallow soil sites, and can be frequently found in both drought stressed lawns and overgrazed pastures.

Plantain can easily be controlled with proper grazing management to maintain high forage density, however a broad range of herbicides are available and labeled for control.

Herbicides labeled for plantain:

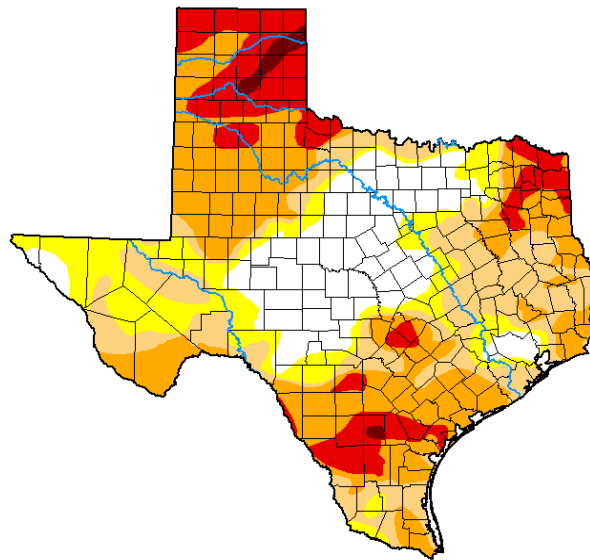
- 2,4-D + aminopyralid:
GrazonNext HL, PasturAll HL
- 2,4-D + picloram: Grazon P+D,
Gunslinger
- Aminopyralid +
metsulfuronmethyl: Chaparral
- Triclopyr + fluroxypyr:
PastureGard HL



TEXAS DROUGHT MONITOR UPDATE

U.S. Drought Monitor
Texas

May 12, 2026
(Released Thursday, May. 14, 2026)
Valid 8 a.m. EDT



Intensity:

- None
- D0 Abnormally Dry
- D1 Moderate Drought
- D2 Severe Drought
- D3 Extreme Drought
- D4 Exceptional Drought

The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. For more information on the Drought Monitor, go to <https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/About.aspx>

Author:

Rocky Bilotta
NCEI/NOAA



droughtmonitor.unl.edu

AUCTION BARN REPORTS

Giddings Livestock Commission – May 11th

Weight	Steers		Heifers	
	Avg	High	Avg	High
150 – 300	\$623	\$715	\$563	\$730
300 – 400	\$565	\$710	\$485	\$600
400 – 500	\$498	\$560	\$464	\$555
500 – 600	\$444	\$540	\$406	\$525
600 – 700	\$403	\$485	\$353	\$400
700 – 800	\$360	\$400	\$258	\$365
Packer bulls				
	Top	\$210 – 410		
	Medium	\$190 – 200		
Stocker Females				
	Stocker pairs	\$2,000 – 4,950		
	Bred cows	\$1,800 – 4,450		
Packer Cows				
	Top	\$165 – 198		
	Medium	\$150 – 160		
	Thin	\$110 – 145		

Lockhart Auction – May 7th

Weight	Steers	Heifers
<300	\$520 – 1,060	\$460 – 960
300 – 400	\$485 – 720	\$405 – 665
400 – 500	\$410 – 585	\$400 – 535
>500	\$305 – 535	\$290 – 495
	Packer Cows	\$105 – 185
	Packer Bulls	\$187 – 215
	Stocker Cows	\$1,650 – 3,500
	Cow/Calf Pairs	\$2,700 – 4,300

Gonzales Livestock Market – May 9th

Weight	Steers	Heifers
150 – 300	\$425 – 860	\$375 – 710
300 – 400	\$420 – 720	\$350 – 500
400 – 500	\$390 – 565	\$320 – 545
500 – 600	\$350 – 505	\$315 – 455
600 – 700	\$320 – 465	\$335 – 375
700 – 800	\$335 – 365	
	Yearling Bulls	\$245 – 325
	Stocker Cows	\$1,200 – 4,100
	Pairs	\$1,800 – 4,600

Rangeland Plant ID Workshop

Thursday, May 28th
9:00am - 1:30pm

2 Pesticide Applicator CEU's Offered

Paige Community Center
117 Main St, Paige, TX 78659



- Rangeland Forage Management in the Post Oak Savannah
- Range Plant ID Field Tour Courtesy of Pines and Prairies Land Trust
- Rangeland Brush Management - **1 General CEU**
- Rangeland Restoration - **1 General CEU**



**\$20 registration
fee**

\$10 late fee after May 21st
Exact change or check payable to Bastrop
County Ag Demonstration Fund

Doors open at 8:30am

**For questions or to pre-register, please contact the Bastrop County AgriLife
Extension Office**

15 American Legion Dr. Bastrop, Tx 78602
512-581-7186
dakota.kempken@ag.tamu.edu

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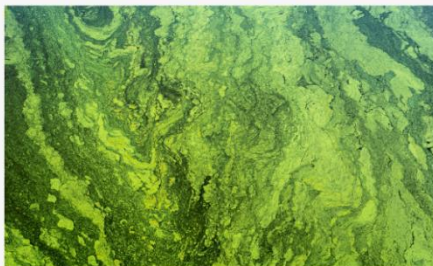


SOUTH CENTRAL TEXAS AG CONFERENCE

PROGRAM SPONSORED BY GRIMES, LEE, WALLER, AND
WASHINGTON COUNTY EXTENSION OFFICES

5 CEUs

1 Laws & Regs, 2 GEN, 1 drift, 1 IPM



May 27, 2026

Lee County Extension Office

310 South Grimes Street
Giddings, Texas 78942

Registration: 8:30am
Program Starts at 9:00am

\$65 Pre-Registration Before 5/22/2026

\$75 Registration at the Door

Please make checks payable to Lee LAB or exact change. No credit cards will be taken

Topics Include

- Minimizing Drift
- Best Management Practices in Support of Healthy Rural Watersheds
- TDA Laws and Regulations
- New World Screwworm in Wildlife
- IPM for Aquatic Vegetation

For additional information, please contact your
local County Extension Office

Matthew Pfeifer
Grimes County
(936) 873-3907

Matthew March
Waller County
(979) 826-7651

Geri Kline
Lee County
(979) 542-2753

Kyle Despain
Washington County
(979) 277-6212 ext.2

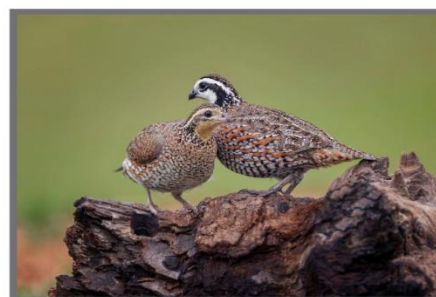
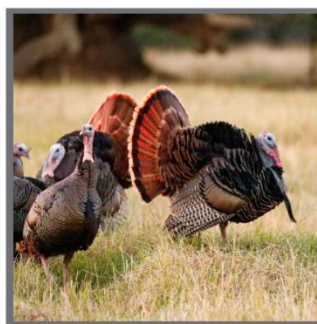
To pre-register call 979-542-2753

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. 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 this meeting are encouraged to contact the County Extension Office at (979) 277-6212 prior to the meeting to determine how reasonable accommodations can be made.

GAME BIRD MANAGEMENT

**THURSDAY,
JUNE 11th**

- Game birds of Bastrop County
- Habitat management
 - grasslands
 - ag land
 - forests
- Challenges in conservation
- predator management



**\$10 due by
Tuesday, June 9th**

Check or exact change
accepted

Bastrop County Community Center
15 American Legion Dr. Bastrop, Tx

Doors open at 10:30am. Program
starts at 11:00am.

Please RSVP by Wednesday, April 22nd

For more information or to RSVP, please contact Bastrop
County AgriLife Extension at 512-581-7186!

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AROUND THE COUNTY

RANGELAND PLANT ID WORKSHOP ON THURSDAY, MAY 28th

Come out to the Paige Community Center on Thursday, May 28th for a field day centered around south central Texas plant ID. This program aims to help landowners, beef producers, and wildlife managers identify common Texas rangeland plants (from native and introduced, to beneficial and invasive) in the field. Additional CEU's will be offered for pesticide applicator license holders through instruction in rangeland brush management and rangeland restoration.

To sign up, please contact the Bastrop County Extension office and submit a registration fee of \$20. Late/same-day registration will include a \$10 late fee. For any questions, please contact the Bastrop Extension office.

GAME BIRD MANAGEMENT WORKSHOP ON FRIDAY, JUNE 11th

Rangeland management and 1-D-1 wildlife exemptions remain increasingly popular among Bastrop County landowners. For those interested in learning about a personally rewarding and potentially entertaining sporting opportunity, join us at the Bastrop County Extension Office (15 American Legion Dr. Bastrop) for a seminar on game bird management on Thursday, June 11th at 11:00am. Attendees will be versed in local game bird behavior and diet, habitat management in grasslands, agricultural land, and forests, and predator management. A \$10 admission fee will be due to the Extension office by Tuesday, June 9th by check or exact change payment. If you have any questions, feel free to contact me at 512-581-7186!