

# LOST PINES COUNTY AGRICULTURE NEWSLETTER

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## HOWDY

Dakota Kempken

Howdy,

My name is Dakota Kempken. I am eager to announce that I will be serving as the county Ag and Natural resources Agent for Bastrop County Extension. I've served as an extension agent for over two years over different parts of the state of Texas.

I am very excited to work with you and begin forming close Relationships with the many ag producers and landowners of Bastrop County. You can reach out to me at any time by calling the Extension Office or by email at [Dakota.kempken@ag.tamu.edu](mailto:Dakota.kempken@ag.tamu.edu).

### WHY IS EVERYTHING SO STICKY UNDERNEATH PECAN TREES?

You might have noticed over the past couple months that everything underneath your pecan trees is coated with sticky droplets. I have received plenty of questions regarding these sticky droplets and have wondered these questions myself. What exactly is this substance? What is causing it? Why is it so bad this year? And importantly, how do I stop it?

Many people believe this substance to be tree sap, however this isn't the case here. In reality, this sticky substance is actually insect waste called Honeydew. This year, much of the state is experiencing an unusually high infestation of sap sucking insects, such as thrips and aphids, feeding on pecan trees and other foliage. These insects feed on the sugary sap produced in the foliage and transported throughout the plant via the phloem. As a waste product, these sap suckers produce a very sticky, sugary sweet substance known as honeydew. It is likely the ongoing drought is influencing the insects to increase their feeding habits. This plus the likely reduced amount of water available for the phloem to transport nutrients (meaning it's a lot more viscous and nutrient-dense than normal), means that the insects are producing a lot more honeydew than they normally would.

So how can you get rid of them? Oftentimes a high pressure jet of water is enough to dislodge them, however more intense means could be necessary depending on how large the tree is. Luckily there is a wide variety of pesticide options available, many of them containing Imidachloprid (Admire Pro, Impulse, Malice 75WSP) and Lambda-cyhalothrin (Warrior, Grizzly Z, Province) which are commercially available. If you are looking for a more organic option, Neem oil sprays have proven effective at controlling sap sucking insects. Consider also promoting natural insect predators, such as lady bugs, spiders, and lacewings.

### PLANTING WINTER FORAGES

Vanessa Corriher-Oleson - Extension Forage Specialist

Late September-early October is the ideal time for planting cool season annual forages such as annual ryegrass, small grains (rye, wheat or oats) and/or cool season annual legumes. Anytime we are incorporating new forages into our production systems it is important to make sure to match the forage species to your location (soil type, average annual rainfall, intended use, etc). If you have questions about forages appropriate for your area contact your [local county extension agent](#).

Three methods for establishing cool-season annual grasses include planting into a prepared seedbed, the light disking method and over-seeding or sod-seeding into undisturbed soil.

**Over-seeding warm-season perennial grasses with cool-season legumes offers several benefits:**

1. Grazing can begin 4 to 6 weeks earlier grazing in the spring, which reduces the winter feeding period.
2. Legumes typically have higher nutritive value than do most grasses.
3. Legumes fix nitrogen from the atmosphere and make it available to the pasture system.
4. A good stand of legumes can help control spring weeds by competing for space, water, sunlight and nutrients.

## **TAKE STEPS TO DECREASE RISK OF FIRE**

Not much rain is expected as we transition from the summer to the fall season. And while the rain events earlier this month have been a blessing, severe drought conditions still persist; and with it increased risk of wildfires. Be sure to take appropriate steps to minimize our risk of fires getting out of control:

- Don't let vehicles idle on top of dry vegetation. Any spark produced by the vehicle can cause a fire.
- Avoid welding in areas of high vegetation, and always have a spotter and water on standby.
- Mow down vegetation around structures to be as close to the ground as possible.
- Avoid littering. Discarding lit cigarettes on the ground can potentially start a fire.
- Do not burn trash or brush piles. These can easily get out of control and even continue to burn for long periods of time, even when put out improperly.
- Keep farm/ranch equipment clean, well-maintained, and free of debris. A single spark or overheating can ignite any combustible debris stuck in the equipment

## AROUND THE COUNTY

### AUCTION BARN REPORTS

#### Giddings Livestock Auction

September 19<sup>th</sup>, 2022

Steers		
Weight	Avg	High
150 - 300	179	232.50
300 - 400	170	222.50
400 - 500	165	220
500 - 600	160	202.50
600 - 700	149	171
700 - 800	129	164
Heifers		
150 - 300	153	195
300 - 400	161	190
400 - 500	157	185
500 - 600	151	183
600 - 700	140	157
700 - 800	130	145

## HAY, SOIL, WATER TESTING CAMPAIGN TO BEGIN OCTOBER 3<sup>RD</sup>

To assist our livestock and hay producers meet their supplemental feeding needs, Bastrop County AgriLife Extension will be sponsoring hay, soil, and water tests from 8:00 am October 3<sup>rd</sup> through 12:00 pm October 21<sup>st</sup>. Select tests will be offered at a discounted rate.

### Hay

- NIR Analysis - \$5 per sample. Analyzes protein, fiber, estimated TDN

Hay Testing probe available at the Extension Office. Rental period is for two days and must be returned to the Extension Office. A \$50 deposit will be due at the time of rental and will be returned when the probe is returned undamaged. Please call ahead to reserve.

### Soil

- Routine Analysis - \$8 per sample. Analyzes soil pH, Nitrogen, Phosphorus, Potassium, Calcium, Magnesium, Sodium, Sulfur, and soil conductivity
- Routine + micronutrient - \$15 per sample. Includes Zinc, Iron, Copper, and Manganese

### Water

- Routine Analysis - \$14 per sample. Analyzes conductivity, pH, Potassium, Calcium, Magnesium, Sodium, Sulfur, Chlorine, Boron, Nitrate, hardness, Zinc, Copper, Manganese, and Phosphorus
- Bacteriology Analysis - \$12.50 per sample. Analyzes coliform bacteria, nitrates, and salinity **\*Must arrive at the lab the same day sample was collected. Samples will only be accepted by noon on October 5<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup>, and 19<sup>th</sup>.\***

Samples will be mailed weekly to the TAMU Soil, Water, and Forage Testing Laboratory. Results will be mailed to your home address. For any questions, please contact the Bastrop County Extension office.

**AUCTION BARN REPORTS**

**Gonzales Livestock Market**

September 17<sup>th</sup>, 2022

# **PRIVATE APPLICATOR TRAINING ON OCTOBER 7<sup>TH</sup>**

A fall private applicator training session will be held at the Bastrop County Annex building's downstairs conference room, 804 Pecan St. Bastrop, Tx on Friday, October 7<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 am. Registration will be \$75 per person due to the Extension office by 5:00pm, September 29<sup>th</sup>. This is to ensure enough materials can be ordered ahead of time if needed.

## **BASTROP COUNTY 4-H YOUTH COMPETING IN TEXAS STATE FAIR LIVESTOCK SHOWS**

Please wish our county 4-H livestock exhibitors good luck and safe travels as they travel to Dallas in October to compete in the State Fair of Texas youth Livestock Show!

**Steers**

<b>Weight</b>	<b>Price</b>
150 - 300	240.00 - 245.00
300 - 400	217.00 - 235.00
400 - 500	193.00 - 200.00
500 - 600	185.00 - 188.00
600 - 700	165.00 - 181.00
700 - 800	148.00 - 160.00

**Heifers**

150 - 300	195.00 - 198.00
300 - 400	175.00 - 185.00
400 - 500	167.00 - 169.00
500 - 600	163.00 - 166.00
600 - 700	136.00 - 158.00

**Yearling Bulls**

700 - 900	95.00 - 100.00
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**Stocker Cows**

	600.00 - 1,100.00
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**Cow/calf pairs**

	850.00 - 1,300.00
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