

From the Field

“Improving the knowledge and skills of Victoria County’s farmers & ranchers”

From the Field

April, 2017

Special points of interest:

- Brush Control Management
- Victoria County Crops Tour and Program
- Sugarcane Aphid on the move!
- Path to the Plate begins

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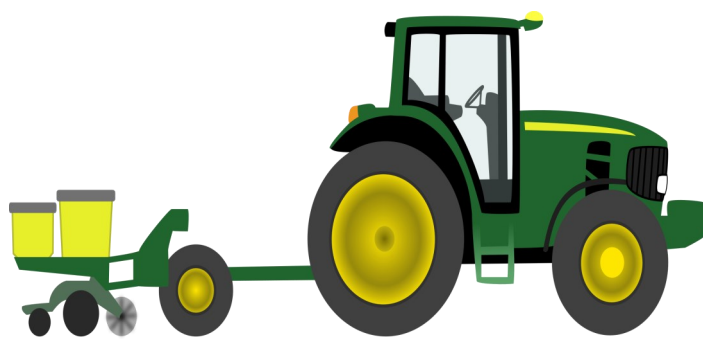
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Spring is here? Or is it an early Summer?

It seems like spring started about 2 days after we had the 2 days of freezing weather that killed my citrus trees. Ever since that killing freeze, we have been nothing but above the average temperature. The good news is that we have had more than adequate rainfall so pastures and crops (those currently planted) are thriving! Farmers were in the field the last week of January this year when historically, we don’t begin planting corn until Valentine’s Day. Those farmers that planted early are seeing great growth with all the rain and harvest will come early for some fields. However, the rains have also hurt some farmers that didn’t plant early and also many cotton farmers that historically plant later anyway.

Currently, we have almost all the corn and grain sorghum and just getting started on cotton. Farmers are trying to figure out how to remain profitable with commodity prices lower than normal. In the cattle business, pastures are in excellent condition and we have a huge surplus of hay in storage. Cattle remain in excellent condition even though prices seem to be lower than most would expect. Spraying of pastures

for weeds and brush is in full swing as weeds got started early with the lack of winter. Happy Spring everyone! May the Lord continue to send the rains that we need to continue to grow and reap His harvest. Happy Easter to all. All the best and God Bless!



Upcoming Programs

Brush Control Workshop, May 10th, 7:30AM-4PM, Julie Wimberley Memorial Building in Goliad. Cost; \$30/person. Lunch included and at least 5 hours of CEU credit.

Victoria County Crops Tour, June 13th, Da Costa Hermann Sons Hall, 1:30pm, Sponsored supper and refreshments, 3 CEU’s

South Texas Farm & Ranch Show, October 25-26, Victoria Community Center, 12-13 hours of CEU credit in the 2 days. \$20/person each day includes luncheon program. Agenda being finalized.

PLAN TO ATTEND! This workshop will be an outstanding opportunity to learn about various brush control techniques and also receive CEU credit. Trying to finalize how many hours with TDA but it will be at least 5 hours. We are working with multiple organizations to bring this training to you.

BRUSH CONTROL WORKSHOP

HOSTED BY: VICTORIA SWCD, GOLIAD SWCD, AND COASTAL PRAIRIES GLC

DATE: MAY 10, 2017

PLACE: GOLIAD COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS, JULIE WIMBERLEY BUILDING

AGENDA:

7:00 AM – 7:45AM	REGISTRATION (COST \$30)
7:45 AM – 8:00 AM	WELCOME BY STEPHEN DIEBEL & JAMES FULLER, DISTRICT CHAIRMEN
8:00AM – 9:00AM	UPDATE ON HUISACHE EVAPOTRANSPIRATION STUDY, BY STEPHEN DEISS – USDA-NRCS
9:00AM – 10:00AM	DRIFT MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS BY ANDY BIERY, DANIELS FLYING SERVICE
10:00AM – 10:30AM	BREAK
10:30AM – 11:30AM	LAWS & REGULATIONS, BY GREG BAKER, TDA
11:30AM – 12:30PM	CATERED LUNCH – ADDRESS BY KEN CERALEY, TX AG LAND TRUST
12:30PM – 1:30PM	INTEGRATING FOLLOW UP PRACTICES, BY KIRK FEURBACHER, TNC & BRETT HUEGELE, MCFADDIN ENTERPRISES
1:30PM – 2:30PM	HERBICIDE SAFETY, BY KEVIN ISOM & MISTI THOMPSON, USDA-NRCS
2:30PM -3:00PM	BREAK
3:00PM – 4:00PM	INDIVIDUAL PLANT TREATMENT BY MEGAN CLAYTON, AGRILIFE EXTENSION

Victoria County Crops Tour & Program

June 13, 2017

Hermann Sons Hall

DaCosta, Texas 1:30PM

Cost: FREE

- **3 hours of CEU credit for Pesticide Applicator Recertification (1 IPM, 1 L&R, 1 General)**
- **Field Tour Stop and Indoor Program**
- **Sponsored Meal & Refreshments**

RSVP to Victoria County Extension Office prior to June 9th at
361-575-4581



Sugarcane Aphid Update from Robert Bowling, Extension Entomologist

Danielle Sekula-Ortiz is reporting geographic expansion of sugarcane aphid on sorghum in the Rio Grande Valley. Wil- lacy county has joined Cameron and Hidalgo counties where sugarcane aphid has been identified on sorghum. Popula- tions of sugarcane aphid on sorghum are on the rise in Hidalgo and Cameron counties and an increasing number of fields are being identified where the aphid has become established and building its populations.

But, as important is what is happening south of the border. Much of the sorghum in Mexico is in reproductive develop- ment with some fields in the dough stage. Sorghum farmers in San Fernando, Tampico, and Rio Bravo have been spray- ing sugarcane aphid in their fields as they are dealing with exploding populations of the aphid. And, these aphids are on the move.

Large numbers of winged sugarcane aphid are being reported in Mexico and the Lower Rio Grande Valley. Strong southerly winds will be carrying aphids into the lower Gulf Coast and possibly northward. In short, they are now migra- tory. Keep in mind that all of this is happening about a month ahead of last year. It is certainly a testament to the mild winter and dry conditions in the Valley and south of the border this year.

I believe these flights from Mexico and the Valley are the major source of field infestations of sugarcane aphid on sor- ghum grown along the Coastal Bend and the Winter Garden areas. Overwintering populations along the coast and into the Winter Garden areas contribute to infestations along field edges and are most likely the source of the soft edge effect we typically see in south Texas but not so much in areas to the north where sugarcane aphid is not known to overwinter.

What should we expect moving forward? I believe sugarcane aphid will likely infest sorghum in the Coastal Bend and Wintergarden areas about a month earlier than last years infestations. I expect reports of sugarcane aphid from Kleberg, Nueces, Jim Wells, and San Patricio counties cropping up as early as next week. Early seeded sorghum will be at the greatest risk of infestations by sugarcane aphid as seed treatments are losing their activity and fields are developing can- opies.

What about late seeded sorghum and sorghum ‘highly tolerant’ to sugarcane aphid? Here are some reminders from the last newsletter.

- Residual activity of insecticide seed treatments is generally 30 up to 50 days after planting. Regardless of insecticide seed treatment and planting date, now is a good time to initiate early detection of sugarcane aphid in your sorghum. Pay close attention to field borders, more especially if volunteer sorghum remnant sorghum, or Johnson grass borders these fields.
- Scout all sorghum! Many farmers will plant sugarcane aphid tolerant sorghum this year. It is important to remember that no sorghum hybrid is immune to sugarcane aphid. All fields should be treated as though they were susceptible to the aphid to avoid possible surprises.

Transform did receive approval on sorghum for use against sugarcane aphid in 2017. The label is the same as it was in 2016. This insecticide is a go-to for sugarcane aphid as it is providing outstanding control (at 1 oz/a) of sugarcane aphid when used as directed by the label. If you need to review the label see the following link: <https://www.texasagriculture.gov/Portals/0/Publications/PEST/Sect18/16TX02%20Transform%20WG%20Sec%2018%20Directions.pdf> . Sivanto is available and the 4 oz/a rate is providing excellent performance against this aphid in south Texas.

Current environmental conditions are favorable for sugarcane aphid migration and optimal for its reproduction. But, early detection of sugarcane aphid in the Valley does not necessarily mean this will be an aphid year on sorghum. However, the best way to handle any crop pest is routine scouting, utilizing thresholds (average of 50 to 125 aphids per leaf for Texas with exception to the High Plains), spraying once thresholds are reached (highly suggested to do so within 3 days after the population reaches the threshold), and use enough carrier (minimum of 10/gallons per acre by ground or 5 gal- lons per acre by air) to penetrate the canopy and maximize coverage on lower leaves.

New Extension Initiative: Path to the Plate**Goal:**

The goal of the Path to the Plate program is for all Texans to make informed decisions related to the food they eat based on truthful, relevant and accurate information.

Objectives:

To provide comprehensive educational program related to agriculture and health for consumers so they make informed decisions related to the food they eat.

To deliver correct, research-based information in order to dispel myths, promote truths and educate the uninformed in regards to agriculture and health.

To develop resources and learning modules to support the Path to the Plate program.

To develop a youth component which teaches the connection between food and health.

I am honored to be named on the team of Path to the Plate Champions for this inaugural program! Look for more new and exciting information as the team continues the training....



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Individuals with disabilities who require an auxiliary aid, service, or accommodation in order to participate in any Extension event are encouraged to contact their County Extension Office at 361-575-4581 at least one week in advance of the program in order for arrangements to be made.

If you have name, address, phone, or email changes, please contact the office at:

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