

Texas A&M AgriLife in the North Region



July 16, 2015

The Heat is On

Summer is in full force this past week and not only regarding the hot weather. There have been multiple trainings, mid-year reviews, hiring's, emerging issues, and video preparation. I understand the effort some of you are making to make a difference in your counties. I appreciate your hard work and dedication. Believe me it is making a difference. I also appreciate those of you who have sent in dates when requested, followed up on emails, and have completed plans early. Thanks for all you do.

Planning Reminder

You all should have received the notice that plan deadlines have changed recently as follows:

- **Friday, July 24** -- First draft on-line
- **Friday, August 7** -- Final day for RPL's to approve re-submitted plans
- **Monday, August 10** – Agents notified if they are required to attend face to face conference
- **Monday, August 17** – Required face to face meeting in Amarillo for agents that plans were not resubmitted and approved by August 7

Remember that the absolute minimum plans that need submitted are 4-H Grows and Youth ANR. All other plans can be submitted by this deadline or the fall planning cycle. I will be approving plans in order of when I get them, so it might be best to not wait to the absolute deadline. Of course that is your choice.

Update on upcoming Retreats

It is barreling down on us and we will be conducting the first retreat in less than two weeks. I'm meeting with specialists next week in preparation for these. Thanks to all of you that have sent in your plans for attending retreats and your in-depth program area. The link to RSVP is <http://amarillo.tamu.edu/facultystaff/danny-nusser/regional-commodity-retreats/>. You will be required to add your 2016 plans for in-depth programs (I've noticed many of you have listed 2015 and need to select a new area). I am asking for this because we will be doing planning by specific program area and grouping specialists and agents. If you need to make a correction, call Jerri or resubmit your form.

New agents, I want you to plan to be at all three of these if you have those commodities in your county. It will be a great opportunity to network with specialists, experienced agents, and have a better understanding of the process. Give me a call if you have a conflict on one of those dates. I would also encourage experienced agents to attend as many as possible. We have an opportunity to work with specialists to plan, interact, and build continuity. Your attendance is critical towards making that happen.

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Sugarcane Aphid

It is my understanding that specialists and IPM agents have found SCA in a few locations north and south of Lubbock. I re-sent you the link of a training webinar on this topic and I hope you will brush up on these pests. It is just a matter of time before you will be getting questions related to them. Call your specialists if you have questions or suspect infestation.

<http://www.texasinsects.org/sorghum.html>

Future Expectations and Suggestions

I'm perplexed! I know many of you probably have other adjectives to describe my thought process but we will leave it at perplexed in this G rated blog. We have had discussions on the best approach to provide quality in-depth educational programs in Agriculture and meet the challenges of the youth program at the county level. They are equally important to me and those of you that know me well have experienced my passion for enrollment and participation in 4-H. I'm just as passionate and determined that we have an equally important role in Adult Agriculture programming. So how do we get there? Here is what I have been proposing for you to be successful and find balance (many of you have heard these before);

- Select, plan, and implement a series of educational events that include a variety of methods, activities, and deliveries. These should target a specific audience and issue. These programs should lead to measurable outcomes through evaluation. In other words, have a high quality Adult Ag focused plan for making a difference in a commodity area in your county.
- Meet the needs of other Adult Ag programming through multi-county, district, or regional events. This might also include tours, demonstrations, programs, etc. This will require you and your committees' involvement in planning, marketing, implementation, and evaluation of these area programs.
- Increased involvement and utilization of volunteers to help grow and maintain quality youth programs. This requires a great deal of planning and implementation but it works.

Put together one solid county in-depth adult Ag/NR program that will allow you to become the expert in a focused area. Shift this emphasis each year to expand your knowledge and credibility. Work with neighboring agents to provide additional quality focused programs to producers. Lastly, pin your ears back and involve leaders to grow quality kids through 4-H programming locally. Achieving the balance you need and still maintaining a successful Extension program in your county can happen.

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July/August Dates to Remember

July 18-22 – TCAAA Corpus Christi

July 23 – RSVP for all retreats and provide in-depth focused are for 2016

Pesticide Training with Dr. Rennie 2-5 p.m. (All Agents)

<https://agrilife-tamu.webex.com/meet/karen.coleman>

July 24 – First draft plans on-line

July 28 – Beef/Range/Wildlife Retreat (Training, Planning, and Scheduling)

August 1 – District 1 Sheep/Goat Clinic -- Amarillo

August 5 – P-4 Training in Canyon for new agents

August 7 – Final Plans approved by 5:00 p.m. on line

August 17 – Required face to face planning (agents with plans not approved by August 7) in Amarillo

August 8 – District 1 Swine Training – WTAMU Nance Ranch

August 15 – District 2 Swine Training – Levelland

August 24 – Corn/Sorghum/Small Grains/Dairy Retreat (Training, Planning, and Scheduling) Amarillo

August 27 – Cotton Retreat (Training, Planning, and Scheduling) Lubbock

August 29 – District 2 Sheep/Goat Clinic -- Lamesa