

Texas A&M AgriLife in the North Region



July 31, 2015

TCAAA Annual Meeting was Great!!!!

Sorry I skipped the blog post last week. I was in beautiful Corpus Christi sweating my rear off in the heat and humidity. Let me just say it was a very good meeting (great job D-11 agents) and the North Region was well represented. The view from my room was incredible and the gulf is great to go "visit". It does reinforce my belief that we live in the best region in this state and I was glad to get home. This morning it was 71 degrees and no humidity but don't tell all those folks that live in that easy bake oven on the coast.

Speaking of the TCAAA conference, we had some agents that received outstanding recognition. Off the top of my head I remember JR Sprague and Mark Brown being recognized for their outstanding programming in Sorghum and Cotton. There were several D-1 agents recognized by the specialists association for their programming efforts on the Farm Bill. Congratulations to Leonard Haynes for receiving the Achievement Award and D-2 having a very distinguished Man of the Year recipient. I believe Austin Voyles and Gary Roschetzky received the new agent recognition from each district and Robert Scott was recognized for work he did this past year in video programming. I hope I have not left anyone out that was recognized and sorry if I did. Great job and once again proving you guys get it done.

Retreat Recap

We held the first retreat in Muncy, TX (thank you Cristen) and had 31 agents and specialists in attendance. The agents and specialists representing Beef/Range/Wildlife came with ideas and I thought it went well and we accomplished a great deal. During the morning we worked on program indicators, discussed result demonstrations ideas, and developed professional development programs for 2016. It was fun to cruise around and hear all the discussion and communication regarding these topics. In the afternoon we broke into small groups and discussed multi county, district, and regional efforts. The idea was to discuss planned county in-depth programs, look for areas of need around those programs, identify 1-2 issues to be addressed, ways to provide focused/detailed programming towards these issues, and discuss appropriate specialists needed. There are some outstanding programs being planned in all 3 areas throughout the region. It is amazing what we can accomplish when we all "row in the same direction". Great job to everyone that attended!

You all have on your calendars the upcoming Small Grains/Feed Grains/Dairy Retreat (August 24 Amarillo) and the Cotton Retreat (August 27 Lubbock). The pressure is on to make sure these are as productive as the one just completed. I'm confident they could be even better.

Sugarcane Aphid

I am noticing the tremendous effort being extended to producers and others regarding this pest. You have done a great job with meetings, media presentations, newsletter blasts, and individual scouting/discussion with producers regarding SCA. Keep up the great work! D-1 agents, this pest has been found and sprayed as far North as Perryton and Dumas. Review the materials and be prepared to address the situation going forward. As always, great job when they need you the most.

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Cotton Training Opportunities

Cotton Growth and Development Training – Dr. Kelley would like to meet with anyone interested on **Friday, August 7, 2015**. That is next week. We will start at 9:00 a.m. at the Research and Extension Center in Lubbock and proceed to the field. This will be a great supplement to the training held in July but will focus on nodes above white flower, cotton cutout, and irrigation decisions. All agents are invited and particularly those agents involved in “varieties and pre-plant considerations” programming are encouraged to attend. You could attend PCG bi-weekly meeting at 7:30 and then head to the center for some cotton training. See you on the 7th.

Weed Symptomology Training -- Plan to attend this training on **Friday, August 28th** with Dr. Peter Dotray. We will meet at the Research and Extension Center in Lubbock at 8:30 a.m. and proceed to the field from there. Dr. Dotray has established some symptomology demonstrations involving different herbicides, practices, and crops and we will visit these plots and spend whatever time is needed to take advantage of his time and these visuals. This program would be appropriate for any agent involved in field crop counties regardless of commodity. Those of you attending the Cotton Retreat on the 27th can stay over for the next morning’s training. If you are traveling some distance and would like to stay in Lubbock the night of the 27th, **no later than August 14th**, and I will secure a room for you. . This is a unique training opportunity so don’t miss it.

Planning Reminder

Thanks to all of you who got plans in to me in a timely manner. I am reviewing those as quickly as possible and sending back corrections. Remember that your plans need to be “approved” by 5:00 p.m. on August 7th. If not, you will need to come to Amarillo on the 17th. No exceptions.

July/August Dates to Remember

- 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
 - PCG Bi-weekly Meeting 7:30 a.m.
 - Cotton Training 9:00 a.m. Lubbock
- 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 28 – Symptomology Training -- Lubbock
- August 29 – District 2 Sheep/Goat Clinic -- Lamesa