

Atascosa Ag Newsletter

Courtesy of: Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Office Atascosa County

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Check out our website at Atascosa.agrilife.org

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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 opportunities throughout Texas A&M AgriLife. The Texas A&M University System, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the County Commissioners Courts of Texas Cooperating.

FALL ARMYWORMS

Cooler temperatures and recent rain events have forage and crop producers scrambling to fight armyworms. Armyworms are green, with brown or black colorations and can be identified by the white Inverted Y on their head. They can grow up to 1 inch in length when mature. The pest got its name because they appear to march across hay fields, consuming the grass in their path.

Armyworms moths can lay up to 2,000 eggs that hatch in two to three days, according to a 2019 report by Allen Knutson, Ph.D., AgriLife Extension entomologist, retired.

Corriher-Olson states that drier, hotter conditions slow their life cycles. Moths lay fewer eggs and caterpillar growth is slowed. But rainfall and cooler temperatures can trigger major infestations when local populations, new hatches and migrating moths descend on areas with quality food sources. "They are there the whole time, we just may not see them due to their size, numbers or both," she said. "It just takes the right weather conditions, and you can see an explosion in a matter of days."

Corriher-Olson said armyworm caterpillars are picky eaters and prefer high-quality, fertilized forage typically found on fields maintained for hay production. They are a common pest of Bermuda grass, sorghum, corn, wheat, rye grass and many other crops throughout Texas.

Producers should scout each morning for armyworms, she said.

Armyworms are primarily night feeders unless conditions, such as cooler temperatures with overcast skies, allow, but they try to avoid warmer daytime temperatures.

Armyworms are extremely destructive, especially when infestations escalate out of control. Dalton Ludwick, AgriLife Extension entomologist, Corpus Christi, estimated two armyworms per square foot can consume 84 pounds of foliage per acre based on U.S. Department of Agriculture data.

"It's important to act immediately because if armyworms are left unchecked, they can devastate a forage crop in a matter of hours," Corriher-Olson said. "I've seen entire hay meadows that were consumed overnight."

FALL ARMYWORMS CONT.

Be ready, Be proactive

Pesticides are the only way to prevent armyworms from consuming existing stands or new growth post-harvest and available products are directed at controlling armyworms in the larvae stage.

Corriher-Olson recommends insecticides labeled for armyworm control in pastures and hayfields, including pyrethroids, which are effective in killing the caterpillars. But a combination of pyrethroid and growth inhibitor is recommended.

“The pyrethroid only takes care of the ones that are in the field while the growth inhibitor provides a residual affect that will kill new hatches and any caterpillars that migrate into the field,” she said.

Applicators should always follow all label instructions on pesticide use and restrictions, she said.

Corriher-Olson said she was not aware of any pesticide shortages, but suggested producers should have products on hand and be prepared for immediate action when armyworms near threshold.

“I thought there might be short supplies due to trucking or workforce, but I have not heard any complaints from producers or concerns among suppliers regarding product availability,” she said. “But you want to have products on hand and ready. Just follow the proper storage directions and it will be fine.”



HOW TO FIGHT AGAINST STICKERS

Whether you call them stickers or sandburs, a Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service expert can help you win the war against these prickly little pain dispensers. Sandburs, also known as grassbut or sandspur, are an annual and/or perennial grass. The sharp, spiny burs are a seed pod that can latch on to passersby for distribution to other locations.

“weed control is ultimately up to the end-user, but sandburs are one of those weeds that can be a painful reminder that our yards may need some attention,” said Chrissie Segars, Ph.D., AgriLife Extension statewide turfgrass specialist, Dallas. “If you’ve ever been stuck by them or removed them from a child or pet, then you likely want some advice on how to get rid of them.”

Pre– and Post-emergent applications for sand burs

Segars said there are ways to fight sandburs with herbicides that kill plants after they emerge or prevent plants from emerging from seeds. Timing is critical when applying pre- or post-emergent products. Sandbur seed can begin early germination at a soil temperature of 52 degrees and peak at 72 degrees, she said.

She recommends a split application of preemergence products with active ingredients Dithiopyr, Indaziflam, Oryzalin or Pendimethalin for sandburs because of their long germination period. Apply the product to prevent sandburs from emerging and follow with another application depending on label instructions, soil type and weather.

HOW TO FIGHT AGAINST STICKERS CONT

Unfortunately, most postemergence herbicides available to homeowners at big box stores are not labelled for sandbur, Segars said. There are three selective, post-emergence products that are labeled to address sandburs in turfgrass. Katana, Celsius WG and Image 70 DG are more professional-gear products but can be purchased online. The most homeowner friendly – Image Kills Nutsedge – is available online and in home and garden departments.

BRANDING AND VACCINATION OF FALL BORN CALVES

Cool nights, warm days and rain showers sure beat the weather we had this summer. At the same time, those temperature swings can be hard on young cattle. It is essential to start priming the immune system of fall born calves against common diseases. For September calving herds we are a month from the start of breeding season. If we haven't already now is the time for administering boosters to the cowherd and “branding time” for fall calves. Vaccination programs begun at branding time can reduce disease and death losses. Additionally, this allows the calf to return to its familiar environment, including nursing its dam after the procedures have been completed. Returning the calf to its familiar environment minimizes some of the stress of handling, allowing the calf to perform more closely to its genetic potential, hence, increase production.

Here are basic program considerations to discuss with your vet:

- Individually identify (if not already performed): brand ear tag
- Castrate
- Dehorn
- Growth implants
- Vaccination for viral respiratory diseases
- Vaccination for Clostridial: 7– or 8-way (blackleg)
- Parasite control program



These recommendations all have caveats and are region specific. The choice of brand or type of vaccination will depend upon the geographic location of the herd and the amount and type of risk in the population. Additional procedures may be necessary for your herd. If not already done, sit down with your veterinarian to discuss the vaccines and procedures that will result in the best economical return to your operation.

HUNTERS CAN HELP PROTECT TEXAS DEER FROM CHRONIC WASTING DISEASE

Here's everything you need to know about testing your fall harvest for a deadly disease. Texas Parks and Wildlife have suggested that Texas deer need your help here is some ways and reasons we should test for CWD.

Why—hundreds of captive or free-ranging deer in more than a dozen Texas counties have tested positive for CWD over the past decade. If left unmanaged CWD can have catastrophic, long-term impacts on the most beloved game animal in the state.

How—if you're deer hunting in Texas this fall, test your harvest for CWD. It's mandatory in affected zones and voluntary elsewhere. With your participation, biologist can gather statewide data to aid in CWD management strategies and reduce the risk of CWD spread.



Where—CWD containment and surveillance zones are found in various areas across the state. These zones have special rules, including mandatory testing. You can find everything you need to know at the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department or Outdoor Annual websites. Here are quick Answers to common CWD questions.

Why Sample for CWD?

Surveillance is an essential part of managing CWD. Testing for CWD allows wildlife biologists and animal health officials to get a clearer picture of the prevalence and distribution of the disease across Texas. Proactive monitoring improves the state's response time to a CWD detection and can reduce the risk of the disease further spreading to neighboring deer populations. With each discovery of a new CWD-positive area in the state, CWD zones are established as a strategy to manage and contain the disease.

Which counties have mandatory testing?

So far, CWD has been detected in multiple areas across the state. To see if your hunting location is in a CWD zone, check the [map](https://tpwd.texas.gov/huntwild/wild/diseases/cwd/#checkMap) at the TPWD website. If you harvest a deer in a CWD Zone, it is mandatory to bring the deer to a check station within 48 hours of harvest to have a CWD sample collected from that deer. There are no exceptions to the regulation. <https://tpwd.texas.gov/huntwild/wild/diseases/cwd/#checkMap>

What do I need to bring to the check station?

TPWD staff will collect a tissue sample from the head of the deer for testing purposes. The head may be attached to the carcass or separated. If you separate the head from the carcass, it is very important to include the first two to three vertebrae to keep the necessary samples intact. Place the head in a plastic trash bag and keep it cool (but not frozen) until you get to the station.

HUNTERS CAN HELP PROTECT TEXAS DEER FROM CHRONIC WASTING DISEASE

Can I take my deer out of a CWD zone?

There are restrictions on which parts of a harvested deer may be transported outside of a CWD zone to help prevent the unnatural spread of CWD.

Parts that may be transported from a zone include:

- cut quarters with all brain and spinal cord tissue removed
- boned-out meat
- cut and wrapped meat
- caped hides with skull not attached
- skull plate with antlers attached and cleaned of soft tissue
- finished taxidermy products
- the skinned or unskinned head of a deer for transport to a taxidermist (A Deer Head Waiver form must accompany the head to the taxidermist.)

Is testing free?

Yes, TPWD will provide free CWD testing for all your hunter harvest samples.

How long does it take to get results?

About two weeks.

How can I tell if a deer has CWD?

Only through testing. Both healthy and sick-looking deer can be CWD positive as visible symptoms do not become apparent until the terminal end-stage of the disease. An animal may be shedding infective prions well before symptoms become apparent. The disease cannot be diagnosed by symptoms alone since other diseases or conditions can cause the animal to exhibit similar symptoms.

What other precautions should I take?

Properly dispose of carcass parts. Leave inedible parts at the site of harvest, or preferably, dispose of them in a landfill or bury them on the property of harvest in any CWD zone.

Is CWD dangerous for humans?

Researchers have found no evidence that CWD poses a serious risk to humans or domestic animals. However, as a precaution, it is strongly advised to test susceptible species harvested in known CWD areas and to not eat meat from CWD positive animals or any sick animal regardless of the disease.

UPCOMING EVENTS & EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

Brush Country Beef 706

Session two will take place **February 4, 2023 at 9:00 am** at Texana Feeders Ltd. 3493 FM 539 Floresville, Tx. Lastly **session three** will be held as a 1.5 day program on **May 2-3, 2023** at Texas A&M University Rosenthal Meat Science Center beginning at 9 am on Day 1 and 7:30 am on Day 2 ending at 1pm.

To read more about each session and the Brush Country Beef 706 Program see attached Flyer. If you would like to register call the **Live Oak County Extension Office at 361-449-1703 by Thursday September 8, 2022**

2023 Let's Enjoy the Outdoors and Wildlife Photography

Our Wildlife photography contest has opened up and will run from October 1, 2022 to April 15, 2023 if you are interested in entering a photo the cost is \$20 per photo for adults and \$10 per photo for the youth. Categories include Wildlife Portraits, Landscape/Scenic, Motion, Game Camera, & Mobile Phone. The contest is open to all photographers at least 8 years of age and reside in Atascosa County. Ages 8-17 years must obtain verified parental or guardian consent regardless of division entered. 18 years or older are prohibited from entering the youth division.

Entries must be submitted as digital files and emailed along with the entry form to atascosawildlife-photo@gmail.com

SAVE THE DATE

Upcoming program that will have more information on soon

CEU Program December 13, 2022 giving you the opportunity to earn multiple CEU hours towards your Private Applicator License .

UPCOMING EVENTS & EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

The District 12– TCAAA is hosting there raffle in support of the 2024 NCAAA National Conference if you would like to purchase tickets feel free to contact our office at 830-569-0034



DISTRICT 12

TCAAA 2022 RAFFLE

— ★ ★ ★ —

IN SUPPORT OF THE 2024 NCAAA NATIONAL CONFERENCE

**1.**

**2.**

**3.**

**4.**

**5.**

**6.**

**7.**

**8.**

**9.**

**10.**



District 12
TCAAA
Gun Raffle

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Donation: \$20/ticket

RAFFLE ITEMS

1. Bergara B14 HMR 6.5 Creedmoor
2. Bergara B-14 Hunter .270 Win.
3. Browning Buck Mark Micro Bull .22 LR
4. Rock River Arms ATH V2 Carbine 223 Wylde 18"
5. Weatherby Orion o/u 20 ga. Turkish Walnut
6. Bergara BMR Micro MFR 22 LR
7. CZ 75 P-09 9mm
8. Sig P320XF 9mm 4.7" 17 Rd BLK
9. Remington 700 SPS Tactical AAC-SD .308 Win 20 BBL
10. Remington 870 12 Ga. 26" Walnut

Drawing: Friday, November 18, 2022

Winners must meet minimum age requirements and pass FFL background check.

\$20 PER TICKET

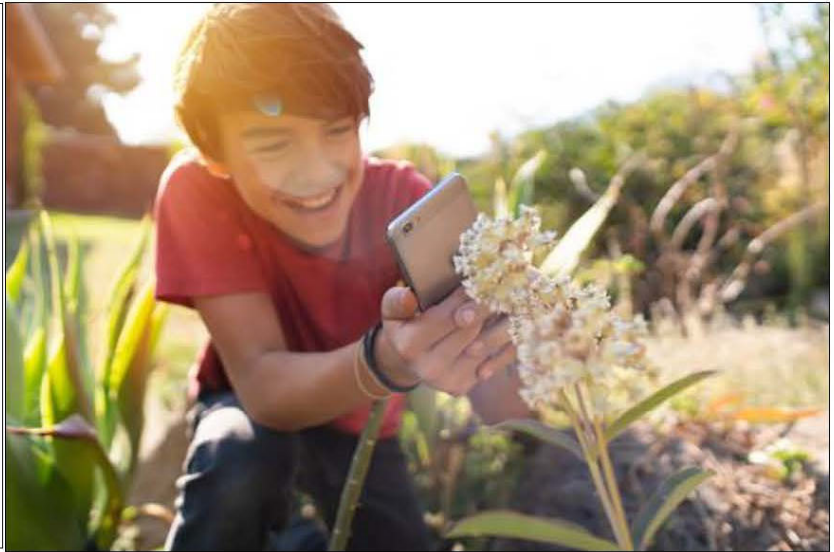
Drawing will be on Facebook live on the Texas County Agricultural Agents Association- TCAAA in District 12 Facebook page at 12:00 noon

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2022



Let's Enjoy the Outdoors and Wildlife! Photography Contest

Hosted by Atascosa
Wildlife & Fisheries and
Atascosa Wildlife Coop



Get Started Right Away...

Entry period is open now through
April 14, 2023.

Adult & Youth Categories are

- Wildlife Portraits
- Landscapes/Scenic
- Motion
- Game Camera
- Mobile Phone

Photos must be captured in Texas. For a complete set of rules and official [entry form](#) visit atascosa.agrilife.org and look at upcoming events on the home page.

Who is Eligible?

This contest is open to all photographers who are at least 8 years of age and reside in Atascosa County. Entrants 8 to 17 years of age MUST obtain verified parental or guardian consent regardless of division entered. Entrants 18 years or older are prohibited from entering the youth division.

How to Enter?

Entries must be submitted as digital files and emailed along with [entry form](#) to atascosawildlifephoto@gmail.com.

Entry Fees: Youth \$10/photo or Adults \$20 per photo. Youth may compete in the adult division but cannot compete in both divisions.

Payment Methods: Payment and [entry form](#) may be submitted via check payable to Atascosa Wildlife & Fisheries, PO Box 379, Leming, Texas 78050. Cash is accepted in person at 25 E. 5th Street in Leming, Texas 78050. Payment may be submitted online through Eventbrite link to come soon. Please note Eventbrite charges an additional fee for their services. Please remember to email us your [entry form](#).

The Atascosa Wildlife & Fisheries and Atascosa Wildlife Coop are non-profit organizations created to connect adults and youth with nature, promote responsible stewards of wildlife, and encourage conservation efforts.



Atascosa Wildlife Photography Contest Entry Form



Contestant Information

Name _____ Phone Number: () _____

Email _____ Physical Address: _____

Age Division (check one) YOUTH ☐ ADULT ☐

Payment Method (check one) CASH ☐ CHECK (# _____) ONLINE ☐

Number of Photos Submitting: _____ TOTAL: \$ _____

I AGREE TO THE RULES, TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF THE PHOTO CONTEST: ☐

INITIALS: _____

Photo Information

Photo ID or file name: _____

Photo Description: _____

Category Entered: _____

Edits Made: _____

Photo Information

Photo ID or file name: _____

Photo Description: _____

Category Entered: _____

Edits Made: _____