

The Pesticide Periodical

Agricultural & Environmental Safety Unit

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Agrilife.org/aes

TEXAS A&M
AGRI LIFE
EXTENSION

First Things First...

Inside this Issue:

- Letter from the Editor
- Introducing...New Crew Member!
- Upcoming Programs
- What's the Latest in Pesticide News?
- Announcements

New Employee Spotlight!

Brooke Wanjura is a Student Worker for the Agricultural and Environmental Safety (AES) Unit with the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service. She is originally from Weimar, Texas. Having been a lifelong FFA and 4H'er, she is currently working on a Bachelor's Degree in Animal Science with minors in Agricultural Communications and Agricultural Economics. She is expected to graduate in Spring of 2028 and has plans to attend law school.



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Mr. Jake Wightman, Extension Program Specialist, Editor

As we move into Spring, and hopefully warmer weather, activity is going to pick up for both pests and people! Folks will begin their spring cleaning, and inevitably uncover some stowaways and other over-wintering critters in and around their homes and businesses. Outdoors, lawn and landscape pest control has already begun along with the start of this year's long, arduous process of getting the year's rotational crops started. For those of us in the livestock business, life never really slowed down...did it?

While we wake ourselves, and our pests, up out of our brief winter pause, it is incredibly important to reinforce what we already know: pesticides are tools, and the most effective way to use a tool is to use it correctly. As you read through this month's issue of "The Pesticide Periodical" I would like you to consider, for a moment, what worked for me last year? Will I do it again this year? If not, what do I plan on changing, and how will this affect me and my operation?

March Programs

- [8-hour General Standards Technician Training](#)

March 5th, 2025- Virtual

- [20-hour Technician/Apprentice Training](#)

March 18th-20th, 2025- Bryan/CS, TX

- [8-hour Pest Control Category Training](#)

March 3rd, 2025- Virtual

March 12th, 2025- Plano, TX

March 20th-21st, 2025- Bryan/CS, TX (follows 20-hour training)

- [8-hour Pest Control Practical Training](#)

March 13th, 2025- Plano, TX

- [Vegetation Management \(Right-of-Way\) Category Training](#)

March 26th, 2025- Austin, TX

What's the Latest...

Aggie Former Student Heads USDA

Avery Brooks, AES Student Worker

Brooke Rollins was confirmed as the 33rd U.S. Secretary of Agriculture by the U.S. Senate on February 13, 2025. She is the first Texan and the first Texas A&M University former student to hold the position. Rollins is originally from Glen Rose, Texas and she graduated from Texas A&M University in 1994 with a degree in Agricultural Development. During her time in Glen Rose she was very active in her local FFA Chapter and 4-H Programs and was even selected as a Texas FFA State Officer. She was elected as the first female student body president during her time at Texas A&M University. Rollins will oversee the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), which plays an important role in the regulation of pesticides by actively working with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) on the registration of new active ingredients and pesticide regulation review. They also help coordinate Departmental activities and services regarding development, availability, and use of economically and environmentally sound pest management tools and practices.

Read more about Sec. Rollins [here](#), and the USDA OPMP [here](#)



Photo from USDA

You Don't Have To Be Down and Out!

Mr. Jake Wightman, Extension Program Specialist, Editor

"Customer retention" is something that all involved in the commercial pest control realm are familiar with. A few weeks ago I came across an article in [Pest Management Professional](#) that speaks on the cyclical relationship between customers and businesses in pest control. One point that particularly stuck with me is the customers that sign up, get their pest issue "taken care of," then cancel because they think they no longer require services. Those of us in the field know that quality, thorough pest control is a continuous uphill battle, and that with no other services they'll eventually be back. However, cancellations hurt the bottom line and produce a certain degree of financial uncertainty for smaller businesses. How, then, do we impress upon the uninformed the true nature of pest control? Personally, a good bit of my successful customer retention came from explaining the difference between "suppression" and "eradication." As pest control operators, we can strive to eradicate a population of pests, but will almost always find that this is impossible, let alone irresponsible. Therefore, most of the work we do is for suppression of pests. Defining the terms, eradication- the total elimination/killing of a population of any target pest, and suppression- the exclusion, repulsion, and/or **LOCAL** eradication of any target pest, is helpful for setting realistic expectations for your initial treatment and all that come afterwards. Not only may you see a decrease in cancellations, but you may also experience less call-backs, and let's be real for a minute, nobody likes call-backs!

Pesticide Label Updates

Avery Brooks, AES Student Worker



As of December 27, 2024, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) [has proposed a plan](#) for adopting bilingual pesticide labeling. The Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA) was amended to require Spanish language translation of the health and safety sections of pesticide product labels beginning in 2025. [According to the National Agricultural Workers Survey \(NAWS\)](#) conducted in 2019-2020, approximately 68% of farm workers are foreign and majority being from Mexico. The 2015-2016 NAWS Report found that 77% of U.S. farmworkers said that Spanish was the language in which they are most comfortable conversing. Beginning on December 29, 2025, labels for restricted use pesticide products and agricultural use products with the highest toxicity (Toxicity Category 1 - Signal Word Danger) will be required to bear Spanish language translations for the health and safety sections. The rolling schedule will amend pesticide labels with the highest toxicities first, but all pesticide labels must have translations of the health and safety sections by 2030.



Announcements

If you have an announcement you would like included in a future newsletter, email Jacob.Wightman@ag.tamu.edu



The Texas Department of Agriculture, along with Texas A&M AgriLife Extension, will be holding a pesticide waste collection event for Dawson County and the surrounding areas. Details can be found on the flyer below!

2025 School IPM Trainings

Ms. Janet Hurley, janet.hurley@ag.tamu.edu

We have the dates and registration page for the Two-Day School IPM Coordinator Training for 2025. Once we have the exact location and registration pages for the fall School IPM classes we will announce those later this year. This year you will have a chance to meet and learn from Mr. Jake Wightman, Extension Program Specialist working with Dr. Renchie's office. He will also be working with me to offer some hands-on training events at the IPM House located in Dallas on general pest and termite categories.

For those of you who need **School IPM Coordinator Training** our spring registrations have opened. If you are a new to School IPM, the Law requires you to attend a 6-hour School IPM Coordinator Training, at AgriLife Extension we call it Day 1. This training follows the core content of the school IPM rules, covers integrated pest management (IPM) and pesticide safety. This class also offers CEU credit for licensed pesticide applicators for AG and/or SPCS. If you have been the designated IPM Coordinator or a licensed pesticide applicator our second day covers specific pests and topics that pertain to IPM and pesticide safety. Day 2 offers 5 TDA CEU credits for SPCS and/or AG.

North Texas Area

March 26 & 27, 2025

Dallas ISD, Maria Luna Food Services Facility, 1515 Al Lipscomb Way, Dallas, TX 75215

Central Texas Area

April 9 & 10, 2025

Round Rock ISD, Kelly Reeves Athletic Complex, 10211 W Parmer Ln, Austin, TX 78717

Class times are **8:30 am to 5:00 pm**, lunch will be provided.

Registration Costs \$240 for both days or \$155 for one day, this will include lunch, a spiral bound book with training materials, and CEU credits for those who have a TDA AG or SPCS license. To register follow this link, <https://agriliferegister.tamu.edu/website/54443/>

A special One Day School IPM Training will be held at **Region 8 Educational Service Center, Pittsburg, TX – March 25, 2025 – 8:30 am – 4:00 pm**. Registration is through Region 8 ESC, please visit their [workshop website to register](#) or call 903-572-8551.

"You can't be great without the greatness of others."

– Coach Nick Sirianni, Philadelphia Eagles, Superbowl LIX Champion

Agricultural Pesticide Waste Collection Event

Wednesday, March 5, 2025 | 8 AM - Noon

**Leeroy Colgan Building
901 S Houston Ave
Lamesa, TX 79331**

Scan the QR Code
for directions

Unwanted or Surplus Agricultural Pesticides?
Dispose of them Free and Anonymously without leaving your Vehicle!
2,000-pound limit per participant

MATERIALS ACCEPTED

- Outdated, Discontinued, or Unwanted:
 - Pesticides
 - Insecticides
 - Herbicides
 - Fungicides
 - Rodenticides
 - Nematicides
 - Growth Regulators
- Empty, Triple-Rinsed Plastic Pesticide Containers (55 gal. max)

Keep pesticides in original containers. If damaged, place into a larger chemical resistant container.

MATERIALS NOT ACCEPTED

- Dioxins (2,4-ST, Silvex, TCDD, etc.)
- Empty Totes
- Fertilizers
- Fumigant Canisters
- Household Hazardous Wastes (HHW)
- Methyl-Bromide Cylinders
- Motor Oil
- Paint
- Pesticide Rinsate
- Phostoxins
- Propane or Butane Cylinders
- Radioactive Substances
- Tires

For questions or additional information, contact the Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA) at (512) 463-7622, TDA Lubbock Regional Office at (806) 799-8555, or the Dawson County AgriLife Extension office at (806) 872-3444.

TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
COMMISSIONER SID MILLER

Practical, Hands-on Training Opportunity

Whether you're an experienced applicator, or brand new to the field, come hone your structural pest control skills with industry and extension professionals at one of our hands-on practical training days! The next one will be in Plano, TX on March 13th. Call (979)845-3849 for more details, or to sign up!

3 SPCS CEUs Offered!

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service is an equal opportunity employer and program

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service provides equal opportunities in its programs and employment to all persons, regardless of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, disability, age, genetic information, veteran status, sexual orientation, or gender identity. The Texas A&M University System, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the County Commissioners Courts of Texas Cooperating.