

The Pesticide Periodical

Agricultural & Environmental Safety Unit

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TEXAS A&M
AGRI LIFE
EXTENSION

What Happened?!

Mr. Jake Wightman, Extension Program Specialist, Editor

I know what you may be thinking, “Wow! Two AES newsletters in the span of two weeks? How lucky am I?” Here at Texas A&M AgriLife Extension we strive to give the people what they want, and folks were adamant that they just could not go any longer without some pesticide safety education.

All jokes aside, I wanted to let you all know to expect The Pesticide Periodical in your inboxes around the middle of each month from here on out. We feel that this more appropriately matches the news cycle and flow of information coming out of institutional and industry-based sources. Plus it now gives you, the reader, some fuel to push through and finish the month strong as ever.

As always, we have got some useful information to share in this edition. Pesticide safety is not exclusive to any single industry, so it is important that we consider commercial agriculture and landscape as well as structural applications while assessing and reassessing the current state of operations. Knowing what you need to improve upon is as important as knowing what you do well!

Upcoming Programs

8-Hour General Standards Technician Training

- April 15th (Austin, TX)
- April 30th (Rosenberg, TX)
- May 14th (Tyler, TX)
- May 21st (Virtual)
- May 28th (Plano)

8-Hour Termite Category Training

- April 17th (Virtual)
- May 13th (Tyler, TX)
- May 19th (Virtual)

8-Hour Pest Category Training

- April 23rd (Austin, TX)
- May 7th (Plano, TX)

8-Hour Practical Pest Training

- May 8th (Plano, TX)

8-Hour Landscape Maintenance Category Training

- April 30th (Richmond, TX)

8-Hour Vegetation Management (Right-of-Way) Category Training

- May 7th (Katy, TX)





Catching Up



Bee More Aware! Mr. Jake Wightman, Extension Program Specialist, Editor

Earlier this month, commissioner Sid Miller and the Texas Department of Agriculture [announced a partnership](#) between the agency and a non-profit company called FieldWatch® Inc. Texas joins as the 27th U.S. state, along with a few Canadian provinces, to employ the use of FieldWatch as a tool for farmers, ranchers, and beekeepers to be aware of what is going on around their land.

This new technology provides users with free mapping tools that allow landowners and pesticide applicators to view their property from a bird's eye view. Sensitive crop areas, apiaries, and other non-target locations can be identified by various icons and drawn borders established by other users. Information about what makes certain areas sensitive is available at the discretion of that specific site's landowner.

Pest Profile, New World Screwworm Miss Avery Brooks, AES Student Worker

History

In November 2024, The United States Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) [halted all shipments of cattle and bison from Mexico due to the detection of New World Screwworm \(NWS\)](#). The screwworm is a destructive parasite of all warm-blooded animals including livestock, game animals, pets, zoo animals, and occasionally humans. Female screwworm flies typically lay eggs in open wounds on warm-blooded animals, which can be caused by branding, dehorning, castrating, ear-marking, or shearing. [According to the Food and Agriculture Organization \(FAO\)](#), New World Screwworm was most prevalent in the southern portions of Florida, Texas, California, and Arizona, but has been commonly reported in the central U.S. and occasionally reported near the border of Canada. The New World Screwworm was eradicated from the southeastern U.S. in 1959 and from the southwestern U.S. in 1966.

Management

As of February 1, 2025, APHIS has implemented a gradual resumption of cattle imports from Mexico after the development of [pre-clearance and treatment](#)

FieldWatch has a few programs that are included in the state's free membership. DriftWatch™ is for crop producers, BeeCheck™ is for beekeepers and apiaries, and FieldCheck™ is for pesticide applicators that want to be proactively drift-conscious and make well-informed decisions on their applications. While this technology is new, the idea is not; pesticide applicators have been fighting drift for ages. The Agricultural & Environmental Safety Unit welcomes FieldWatch as a useful tool that will help inform pesticide applicators as to how they can safely and responsibly conduct pest management operations on farms and ranches.

Learn more about FieldWatch at their website, [here](#).



[protocol](#). The screwworm can be economically devastating to a cattle herd, so livestock producers, especially in the southern parts of Texas, should be aware of this risk and understand how to control it. Effective control techniques include surveillance or cultural methods, such as manure management and pasture rotation. You can also use chemical control methods, if necessary, which include the application of larvicides to open wounds and oral or pour-on insecticides for fly prevention. If chemical control methods are used, consider rotating insecticides to avoid resistance.

Looking Forward

Integrated Pest Management (IPM) should be practiced by first monitoring animals for signs of injury, especially open wounds. A newborn calf's navel and any human-induced wounds are common sites for screwworm infestation. Although infestations are being heavily monitored at the southern U.S. border, screwworm populations have spread north of the Central American barrier over the past two years with the development of new farming areas. Due to this spread, it is important to be aware and practice prevention techniques to avoid infestations in your herd.



Announcements



Want to put something in our newsletter?

Email jacob.wightman@ag.tamu.edu

Latest from School IPM...

Ms. Janet Hurley, Senior Extension Program Specialist

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In Texas, the School IPM rules require that schools set thresholds and have action steps to take depending on the specific pest problem. Management plans help schools and their applicators avoid routinely spraying or applying the same product repeatedly over a period of time. Management plans also help serve as guidance documents to engage other departments, staff, and teachers on their roles in pest problems. Another requirement of the Texas School IPM rules is that school districts also have a written IPM program. The written IPM program is a separate document from the IPM Policy statement adopted by the school board. The program document should be designed to assign more roles for the IPM program and assist with communication between departments.

Check out Texas A&M AgriLife Extension's Pest Management Plans for IPM in schools [here](#).

Fire Ants...

Arm yourselves with knowledge! Visit Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Entomology's Fire Ant FAQ page to aid you in the fight against one of the south's most prolific pests. See their page [here](#).

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Student Worker Positions

Mrs. Tina VanHorn, Business Coordinator

AES is looking to fill student worker position openings!

As a student worker you are allowed to work up to 20 hours a week, we will work around your school schedule.

Duties include:

- Perform word processing, powerpoint, excel, desktop publishing, presentation, and data management activities, and assist staff with the use of these applications.
- Compose correspondence, reports, publications, and presentations, including editing and proofreading.
- Greet visitors, answer and screen calls, provide information and referrals.
- Post information to agency records and modify forms or records.
- Verify, process, and review forms, reports, and other documents.
- May deliver, pick up, or receive cash payments, documents, supplies, equipment, or materials.
- Other duties as required.

Interested students should express intent to apply and email their resume/CV to

tina.vanhorn@ag.tamu.edu

"There are 86,400 seconds in a day. It's up to you to decide what to do with them." - Jim Valvano

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