

# The Pesticide Periodical

Agricultural & Environmental Safety Unit

November 2025

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[agrillife.org/aes](http://agrillife.org/aes)

TEXAS A&M  
AGRILIFE  
EXTENSION

## Programs Through the Year's End

### General Standards/Technician Training

- [December 3rd \(Plainview, TX\)](#)
- December 10th (Virtual)

### 8-Hour Landscape Maintenance Training

- [December 3rd \(Plainview, TX\) \\*\\*Vegetation Management Category also included\\*\\*](#)

## Thankful for Cooperation Mr. Jake Wightman, Extension Program Specialist, Editor

I have said it time and time again, pest control is a business of awkward conversations. If you haven't had an uncomfortable discussion about cultural and/or mechanical changes that need to be made in and around someone's home, you will. I can almost guarantee it! Perhaps it is the homeowner that has just experienced a severe weather event and structural damage is allowing pest entry, or maybe it's the pet owner that doesn't pick up their dog's droppings routinely. In both cases, the scope of work required to get a handle on a particular pest problem may go beyond the expectations of your company or your technicians.



When approaching these conversations it is important to be considerate of the individual who has invited you into their space as someone they see capable of solving a problem. It is at this point that your job as a pesticide applicator pauses and your job as an educator begins. It is awfully easy for us in the industry to get into a rhythm of “barking” instructions for customers to follow and moving on when they don't. This approach doesn't help anyone. Instead, diligent pest management professionals take advantage of the situation to explain cultural pest control and the preventative as well as remedial aspects of it. In eighth grade I was taught a definition of culture that makes sense even years later doing pest control. [Edward B. Tylor](#) defines culture as “that complex whole which includes knowledge, belief, art, morals, law, custom, and any other capabilities and habits acquired by man as a member of society.” A student of one of my structural courses defined culture as how habits are formed. In both cases culture is how folks live, and if the way we live can be modified to be inherently anti-pest, our jobs as pest management professionals will be that much easier.

Read more about “awkward conversations” and asking for cooperation in this [PCT article about bed bug jobs](#).

## EPA Update Miss Avery Brooks, AES Student Worker

On November 5, 2025, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced the registration of the active ingredient cyclobutrifluram, which is used in nematicide/fungicide formulations for turf, ornamental, romaine lettuce, cotton, and soybean seed applications. Cyclobutrifluram contains fluorinated carbon, which has benefits for farmers of specialty crops and minor use crops that are limited in the tools available to protect those crops from pests. Fluorinated carbon products may end up being more effective than other pesticides and could lead to higher crop yields and less water and pesticide usage.

This new active ingredient will be a useful addition to Integrated Pest Management (IPM) programs and can help reduce pesticide resistance in crops and turf. Cyclobutrifluram has been assessed by EPA for any risks and adverse effects posed to human health and endangered species or critical habitats. So far, assessments have not identified any risks to human health, endangered species, or critical habitats. To combat on-field effect to non-target species, label language states to use coarse droplets and there are use restrictions for turf applications to mitigate exposure to flowering plants, and instructions are given to cover or collect any spilled seeds. It may be important to note that cyclobutrifluram is also registered for use in Australia, Argentina, and Brazil, and has been proposed for registration in Canada. [Read the full EPA release here.](#)



## Hay, Why Not? Miss Ava Fenton, AES Student Worker

Cold weather has begun to introduce itself in Texas. This change signals the final moments of summer and the beginning of shorter days and longer nights. Cooler weather not only affects the human condition, but that of our forages as well. Pasture grasses are beginning to grow slower with the change in season leading to a decrease in production as well as nutritional value for livestock to feed on. With lower forage production comes a need to use hay that has been stored for the past few months. Farmers must be strategic with how hay is used to ensure sufficient supply through the winter while also meeting the nutritional requirements of their herd.

Here are some tips on how to best ration your hay supply throughout the winter to prepare yourself for success.

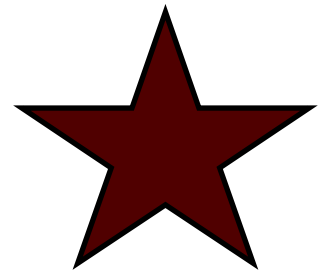
- Start animals slowly on hay to best protect their digestive systems during the transition.
- Know what is in your hay, such as the total digestible nutrients (TDN) and crude protein percentage.
- Consider utilizing a hay ring to decrease amount of hay lost during feeding.
- Ensure you know the pesticides and herbicides that were sprayed on your hay during production.
- Start preparing for the next season early. In order to have an adequate amount of grass for the spring; allow current grass to reach a height of 3 to 4 inches.

[Read more about winter hay management here with Morning Ag Clips!](#)





Send Announcements to  
**[jacob.wightman@ag.tamu.edu](mailto:jacob.wightman@ag.tamu.edu)**  
 For more information, call AES at  
**(979)845-3849**





**TEXAS A&M  
AGRI LIFE  
EXTENSION**

**DECEMBER 2-3, 2025**

**South Plains Applicator  
Conference**

**HOSTED BY:**  
 KRISTIE KEYS (CASTRO/HALE/LAMB COUNTY)  
 (325) 665-8790  
 MARK CARROLL (FLOYD COUNTY)  
 (806) 983-4912

**OLLIE LINER CENTER  
2000 S. COLUMBIA ST  
PLAINVIEW, TEXAS 79072**

**5 CEU's  
Pending TDA  
Approval**

**TEXAS A&M AgriLife  
Extension  
2026 AgriLife Ag Programs  
Through April**

**TEXAS A&M  
AGRI LIFE  
EXTENSION**

**December 2025**

- 2 - Annual Farm Show CEU program (Potter) - Megan Elker
- 2-3 South Plains Applicator Conference (Floyd, Hale) Plainview
- 9 - Fall Producer Meeting (Armstrong) - Sami Hatley
- 16 - Lamb County Crops Conference (Lamb) - Brandon Albus, Kristie Keys
- 17 - Regional Online Program (available in all 42 counties)

**January 2026**

- 5 - Terry/Yoakum Crops Conference (Terry, Yoakum) - Reid Lovorn, Rusty Lanier
- 6 - Southern Mesa Ag Conference Tahoka (Lynn, Dawson) - Sierra Stephens, Hannah Pierce
- 11 - NW Panhandle Beef Conference (Moore, Sherman, Dallam/Hartley) - Marcel Fischbacher
- 14 - Expanding the Cowherd - (Lipscomb) - JR Sprague
- 15 - Castro Crops Conference - (Castro) - Kristie Keys
- 20 - Caprock Crops Conference (Crosby, Floyd) - Mark Carroll, Catlin Frederick
- 21 - Pre-plant Meeting (Randall) - JD Ragland
- 21 - Under the Caprock Producer Meeting (Hall, Briscoe) - Schnitker, Perkins
- 22 - Homeowners Irrigation Workshop - (Lubbock) Christina Reid
- 22 - Mid Plains Ag Expo - (Hale, Swisher) - Andy Hart, Kristie Keys, Jason Wade
- 23 - West Texas Professional Irrigators Conference (Lubbock) - Christina Reid
- 26 - SE Panhandle Ag Conference (Hall, Donley, Briscoe) - Schnitker, Haynes, Perkins
- 27 - Tri-County Small Grains Conference in Muleshoe (Parmer, Bailey, Lamb) - Janelle, Garret, Brandon
- 28 - NW Panhandle Crops Conference Dumas (Moore, Sherman, Dallam, Hartley) - Coker, Fischbacher
- 30 - West Plains Crops Conference (Hockley) - Wes Utley

**February 2026**

- 4 - Sandyland Crops Conference (Gaines) - Millican
- 5 - Insurance/Risk Management Program (Dawson) - Hannah Pierce
- 12 - NW Panhandle Crops Conference Dalhart (Dallam, Hartley, Moore, Sherman) - Coker, Taylor
- 18 - Cow Herd Health (Lipscomb) - JR Sprague
- 20 - Chemical Turf / Ornamental Workshop (Lubbock) - Christina Reid

**March 2026**

- 3 - Alternative Crops Conference in Otton (Lamb, Castro) - Keys, Albus
- 4 - Spring Mini Ag Conference (Armstrong) - Hatley
- 19 - Small Grains Soil Health, Fertility, Cover Crops - Dalhart (Dallam, Sherman, Hartley, Moore) - Coker
- 23 - Alternative Crops Update (Dawson) - Hannah Pierce
- 25 - Beef Profitability Practices (Lipscomb)
- 26 - Parmer County Beef Conference in Bovina - (Parmer) - Janelle

**April 2026**

- 1 - Brush Control Conference and Alternative Methods of Control (Mitchell) - JJ Caswell
- 8 - Lower Rolling Plains Ag Conference (Garza, Mitchell, Nolan, Scurry) - Coffman, Caswell, Peterson
- 9 - Lunch with the Cotton Specialist (Dawson) - Hannah Pierce
- 10 - The Buzz about Bees (Lubbock) - Christina Reid
- 14 - Cotton and Alternative Crop Updates - (Mitchell) - JJ Caswell
- 15 - Alternative Risk Management Decisions - (Lipscomb) - JR Sprague
- 28-29 - Hemphill County Beef Conference (Hemphill) - Andy Holloway

**DAY 1: CEU CONFERENCE**  
 Training for Municipal/Parks Employees, School Maintenance, Golf Course Grounds Keepers, Landscape Pest Management Professionals, Turf Management Professionals, Lawn Care Companies, Others Interested

- Turfgrass Maintenance & Drift
- Weed Lifecycle, Identification, & Integrated Approach to Weed Management
- School IPM
- Right of Way
- Nuisance Animals
- Hands-On Demonstrations (Start-Up Equipment/Chemical Needs)
  - Commercial/Non-Commercial
  - Structural
  - Drones

**DAY 2: PREPARATION FOR THE TDA COMMERCIAL/NON-COMMERCIAL PESTICIDE APPLICATOR LICENSE TRAINING**  
 Dr. Mark Matocha-Texas A&M AgriLife Extension

Commercial applicator: operates a business or is employed by a business that applies restricted-use or state-limited-use pesticides to the property of another person for hire or compensation.

Noncommercial applicator: is required to be licensed, but does not qualify as a private or commercial applicator. A noncommercial applicator does not solicit pest control but works exclusively on the property of their employer.

Noncommercial political subdivision (NCPS): an applicator employed by a political subdivision of the state of Texas or a federal agency operating in Texas.

Categories:

- Landscape Maintenance (3A)
- Vegetation Management/Right-of-Way (5)

**REGISTRATION & SPONSORSHIPS**



**REGISTRATION CLOSES 11-21-2025**

**DAY 2: PREPARATION FOR THE TDA STRUCTURAL PEST CONTROL LICENSE TRAINING**  
 Mr. Jacob Wightman, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension

Structural Pest Control Service licenses and regulates pest management professionals who apply pesticides in and around structures.

- A review of the Pesticide Applicator General Standards Manual & SPCS Laws & Regulations
- An approved course to fulfill the structural apprenticeship/noncommercial licensing requirement of taking a minimum 6-hour approved technician training course.

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.

Check out Texas A&M AgriLife's North region programs, looking into 2026! Events, locations, and folks to contact can be found on the flyer above!

**"He who is not satisfied with a little is satisfied with nothing." - Epicurus**

**Register for the South Plains Applicator Conference (Plainview, TX) today!**

[8-Hour General Standards/Technician Structural Training Course](#)

[8-Hour Landscape Maintenance AND Vegetation Management Training Course](#) (Two categories in one day of instruction!)

**AES Unit Staff**

[Dr. Don Renchie](#)

[Dr. Mark Matocha](#)

[Mr. Jake Wightman](#)

[Mrs. Tina VanHorn](#)

[Mrs. Shelby Smith](#)

[Miss Avery Brooks](#)

[Miss Ava Fenton](#)

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