

**TCAAA AWARD
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NEWSLETTER**

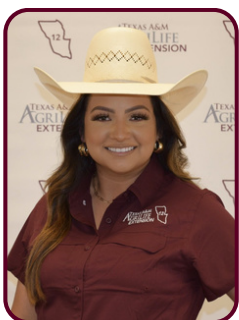
TEXAS A&M AGRILIFE EXTENSION - FRIO COUNTY FRIO COUNTY AGRICULTURE & NATURAL RESOURCES NEWSLETTER

Photo By: Texas Beef Quality

Dear Agricultural Producers:

We are pleased to be able to provide you with information contained in this newsletter. The Frio County Agriculture & Natural Resources Newsletter is a Monthly newsletter beginning September 2023. Best efforts have been made to include Agriculture & Natural Resources information that should be of interest to you and helpful in the management of your agricultural operations. A wide variety of educational publications are available upon request or by accessing the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension website at www.agrilifeextension.tamu.edu. Our office hours are from 8:00 a.m.- 12:00 p.m. and 1:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m., (Monday-Friday). It is recommended that office visits be scheduled in advance or by appointment as there will be times that I'm not in the office.

You are encouraged to read this newsletter and keep informed of all on-going agricultural events and activities. Try to do your best to attend Extension educational programs, workshops, etc., throughout the year as they are sponsored by your local Extension committees for your educational benefit. We would like to acknowledge the Extension Agricultural Specialists and cooperators including: TSCRA, US Drought Monitor, Texas Beef Quality, The Peanut Grower, AgriLife Today, Aggie Horticulture, and the Texas A&M Beef Cattle Browsing, who contributed and provided the educational information for this educational newsletter. For any further questions regarding your agricultural operation, please contact the Frio County Extension Office (830) 505-7474, located at 400 S. Pecan St. Pearsall, Texas, or e-mail brianna.gonzales@ag.tamu.edu. Visit the Frio County AgriLife Extension website at <https://frio.agrilife.org>.



Sincerely,

Brianna G. Gonzales
County Extension Agent- Agriculture & Natural Resources
Frio County



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Helpful Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service Websites:

- agrilifetoday.tamu.edu
- texaswater.tamu.edu
- soiltesting.tamu.edu
- aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu
- livestockvetento.tamu.edu
- animalscience.tamu.edu
- texashelp.tamu.edu
- SouthTexasRangelands.tamu.edu



DECEMBER BQA TIP



IMPORTANCE OF VITAMIN-A IN FEED SUPPLEMENTATION

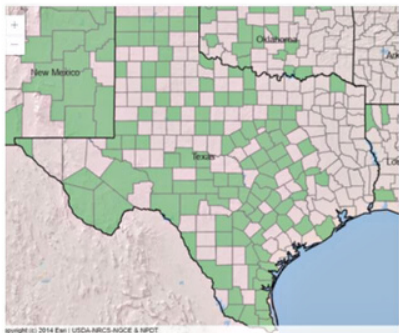
- Vitamin A is a fat-soluble vitamin that is important for reproduction and several metabolic functions. Requirements for vitamin A are generally met from green growing forages. During drought conditions it is important to provide supplemental vitamin A to cattle.
- Mineral supplements with 150,000 to 200,000 international units of vitamin A per pound can be used to provide vitamin A if cattle consume close to the 4-ounce target intake. Some cubes and other feeds contain vitamin A as well. Four or more pounds per day of a feed with 15,000 international units per pound would supply enough vitamin A for most cows.

For more information:

<https://texasbeefquality.com>

RANGELAND PLANT IDENTIFICATION

By: Stacey Hines Ph. D., Assistant Professor, Rangeland Habitat Management Specialist



Distribution Map Credit: USDA Plants Database @ plants.usda.gov

Buffalograss Distribution

Buffalograss is found throughout most of Texas. It is found throughout the central states in the USA (USDA Plants Database).



Buffalograss Look-a-Likes

In the vegetative state, blue grama (*B. gracilis*) looks like buffalograss. To distinguish, wait for the dew to fall in the morning and you will see buffalograss shine a lot because dew sticks to hairs on buffalograss while blue grama is not as shiny because it has fewer hairs.

Common curly-mesquite (*Hilaria belangeri*) has hairy stolons while buffalograss' stolons are not hairy. Common curly-mesquite is more hairy overall with a rougher texture compared to buffalograss

Click on the plant name or link below to learn more about buffalograss look-a-likes.

1. [Blue Grama](#)
2. [Common curly-mesquite](#)

Buffalograss

Bouteloua dactyloides



Plant Identification Tips

Buffalograss is a native, warm-season perennial grass. It does not grow very tall, only reaching 4 to 12 inches in height. The leaves are very slender and buffalograss has male (pictured above) and female plants. Rarely, the same plant will have both the male and female reproductive parts.

Male plants have a grama-like seedhead and female plants have a bur hidden in the leaves of the grass. See [Plants of TX Rangelands](#) for image of the female plant.



Livestock & Wildlife Value

Good grazing for livestock, fair grazing for wildlife.
Provides seeds and nesting material.
Larval host plant for Green Skipper butterfly.



Management

Buffalograss is a low maintenance, native, sod-forming turfgrass. It can be mowed, but there are varieties that can be planted in lawns that grow only 4" tall. It is very drought tolerant and can survive on 1.5" of rain per month. It will turn brown and go dormant during extended periods of summer drought, unless it is watered.

Parts of this article were derived from:

[Lady Bird Johnson Plant Database: Buffalograss](#)

[Plants of TX Rangelands: Buffalograss](#)

Stacy L. Hines, Ph.D.

Assistant Professor, Rangeland Habitat Management Specialist

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Setting Your Poinsettias Up For Success

Texas AgriLife Extension Horticulturists Share Tips and Best Practices

Poinsettias and their classic red and white holiday color will soon be abundant in homes, grocery stores and nurseries. If you want your poinsettia plants to last throughout the holiday season, here are some pointers to help keep your plants happy.

“Bill McKinley, an instructional professor and Benz Endowed Chair in Floral Design; and Navreet Kaur Mahal, Ph.D., instructional assistant professor, both in the Department of Horticultural Sciences in the Texas A&M College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, explain how to care for your poinsettias and provide tips for consumers.

These gorgeous holiday plants, native to Mexico, are the No. 2 dollar-valued potted plant in the U.S. behind orchids. McKinley said poinsettias were introduced domestically by Joel Poinsett in the 1800s and have since been bred to maximize the colors and varieties of the plant.

How to Pick Your Poinsettias

When it comes to picking a good poinsettia plant, the color of the petal you choose doesn't impact how long your plant lasts. You should be looking in the center of the plant to find the healthiest plant.

“The little center of the poinsettia plant, the true blossom, shouldn't be fuzzy,” McKinley said. “They should be tight and yellow.”

Making Sure Your Plants Last

If you want to keep your plant alive during the holiday season, you should keep a light hand when watering your poinsettias. McKinley said one of the most common errors with the plant is overwatering. Poinsettias don't like when the roots are sitting in water, which can happen if they are left in the waterproof container that they are often sold in. The best way to water is to take your plant out of the container so that the water can drain before you put it back in its container, he said. “If you water your poinsettia and leave it in that container, the water will drain down and the plant will be sitting in water, causing root rot,” McKinley said.

How to Make Your Poinsettias Thrive

Where you choose to display your poinsettias can impact your plants. McKinley said it is best to keep your plants in bright but indirect sunlight. It is also important to keep your plants away from heaters or air conditioners.

Mahal said poinsettias should be kept away from areas that fluctuate in temperature. “The ideal room temperature for plants is between 65-70 degrees,” she said. “And avoid exposing them to temperatures below 50 degrees.”

Setting Your Poinsettias Up For Success

Texas AgriLife Extension Horticulturists Share Tips and Best Practices (continued)

Poinsettias and Pets

Contrary to popular belief, poinsettias are not toxic to our furry friends. Mahal said that poinsettias are not a major point of concern with pets.

“The sticky white sap can irritate the mouth and cause mild gastrointestinal symptoms,” Mahal said. “But they are not a threat to animals.”

Keeping Your Plants Year-Round

Consumers should also know that they don’t have to throw out their plants as soon as holiday décor is taken down. With proper care, poinsettias can last years and provide annual blooms each holiday season.

McKinley said to prune the plant halfway up the main stem soon after the holidays and replant them in a larger size pot. Put them in bright light indoors and a shady area outdoors once the temperatures are consistently above 60 degrees. Keep the plant watered.

“You might have to pinch the tips to keep it bushy,” McKinley says, “But in July, you’ll have to stop pinching or you won’t get any flowers.”

The plant should be protected from artificial light after the fall equinox to promote poinsettia blooms. So, bring them inside and place them in total darkness between sundown and sunrise.

“In late October and the first part of November, your plant will start to show color,” McKinley said. “And by Christmas it should be in full bloom.”

For more information:
AgriLife Today - Lawn & Garden

Texas peanut production up this season

Back-to-back seasons of drought continue to impact planted peanut acres making it another tough year for Texas peanut growers, according to a Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service expert.

Emi Kimura, Ph.D., AgriLife Extension state peanut specialist, Vernon, said producers who were able to keep their crop under irrigation throughout the drought were able to maintain growth and produce average yields per acre. However, for those who were not able to keep up with moisture demands during a second season of drought and extreme heat suffered another rough season.

Harvested acres were up compared to 205,000 acres last year, according to an October U.S. Department of Agriculture National Agriculture Statistics Service report. The USDA report also forecasted 107% higher production in Texas than last year – 677 million pounds, compared to 328 million pounds in 2022. Peanut yields this season were up 500 pounds per acre over 2022 production and expected to reach 3,300 pounds per acre.

But Kimura said the USDA report does not depict the 2023 peanut growing season. She said 13,000-14,000 acres of the 230,000 peanut acres in Texas were lost to dry, hot conditions. “It was the second drought season in a row, and that makes it harder,” Kimura said. “Peanuts need even more water, and lower yields in back-to-back seasons makes it hard for growers.”

Peanut Growers Face Tough Conditions

The lack of rain and soil moisture in the ground throughout the season left most peanut growers solely reliant on irrigation, Kimura said. That means a farm’s irrigation capacity greatly influenced individual grower outcomes. The evaporative effect of another arid growing season took its toll on growers’ ability to meet water demands for good pod and peanut development, she said.

Drought delayed crop progress, but there were also weather-related delays at harvest, Kimura said. “Producers waited a week or two longer than normal to harvest their crop since the rain we received in

May and June pushed back planting,” said Kimura. “The drought also slowed down production, so waiting to harvest allowed the crop to mature.”

Progressing Peanut Prices

Pancho Abello, AgriLife Extension economist, Vernon, released the High Plains Ag Week – Peanut Market update Oct. 18. Peanut prices reached the highest level in the last decade – \$545 per ton on average. Abello said demand for peanuts in the U.S. has shifted.

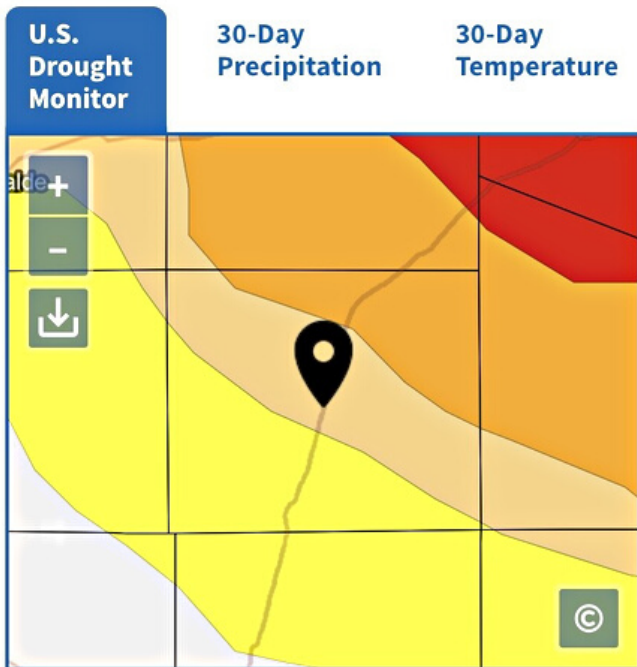
He reported a 9% consumption decrease for peanut candy, snacks and other peanut products, while peanut butter and in-shell peanut consumption increased 6%.

“Even though producers’ yields improved on average, many still struggled to bring in a crop,” Kimura said.

[FARM & RANCH - agrifetoday.tamu.edu](https://agrifetoday.tamu.edu)

Texas peanut production up this season

Current Conditions for Frio County



Legend

Drought & Dryness Categories	% of Frio County
D0 - Abnormally Dry	37.66%
D1 - Moderate Drought	38.93%
D2 - Severe Drought	23.41%
D3 - Extreme Drought	0%
D4 - Exceptional Drought	0%
Total Area in Drought (D1-D4)	62.34%

Weekly Crop Report - South Region

Weather conditions continued to cool down across the district, and beneficial rainfall was received. Some producers were continuing peanut harvest, small winter grain planting continued and some previously planted were emerging. Pecan harvest was reported as good. Producers started cutting hay and have hopes of a second cutting with the recent rainfall. Beef cattle producers continued supplemental feeding and culling their herds. Local markets were offering average volumes of cattle. Turkey and deer were moving and more visible as cooler temperatures approached.

FARM & RANCH - agrilifetoday.tamu.edu

SOUTHWEST TX BEEF CATTLE KICK-OFF

HOSTED BY: FRIO, LA SALLE, MEDINA, ZAVALA, BANDERA, DIMMIT, KERR & UVALDE COUNTIES



THURSDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2023

Frio County Extension Office
400 S. Pecan St.
Pearsall, TX 78061

Registration—8:30 A.M.

Program—9:00 A.M.—2:00 P.M.

Come out and join us for the morning to discuss beef cattle topics that will include nutrition decisions, body condition scores, pasture management, market updates, and more!!

SPONSORED BY:



TEXAS BEEF COUNCIL



TEXAS
FARM
BUREAU



LUNCH PROVIDED

Topics

- Pasture Management
- Nutrition Decisions
- Increasing Stocking Rates through Brush Control
- Beef Cattle Market Outlook

RSVP Information

- Registration cost will be \$10 (CASH ONLY).
- To RSVP please call 830-505-7474.

2 TDA Pesticide Applicator CEUs

- 2 General CEUs

Educational programs of the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service are open to all people without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, disability, genetic information or veteran status. The Texas A&M University System, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the County Commissioners Courts of Texas Cooperating



Winter Garden Row Crop Conference

ATASCOSA-DIMMIT-FRIO-GUADALUPE-MEDINA-UVALDE-WILSON-ZAVALA
 JANUARY 29, 2024-HERMANN SONS LIFE HALL -HONDO, TX
 CHECK-IN 7:30AM-MEETING 8:00AM -2:15PM

Come join us to kick off the 2024 corn, cotton, and sorghum growing season here in Medina County. Also, make sure to stop by our booths and stick around for a catered lunch followed by an optional Auxin Training!
 Y'all come out!

Registration: \$10/person

RSVP no later than January 24th by contacting the Medina County AgriLife Extension Office at 830-741-6180

Three Texas Department of Agriculture Private Applicator CEUs will be given with this program. Please make sure to bring your license with you and do not forget to pick up your certificates before you leave!

1 additional CEU in Laws and Regulations will be available along with the optional Auxin Certification Training following lunch.

Schedule of events

7:30 AM-Registration and Trade Show opens

8:00 AM-Welcome

- Honorable Keith Lutz, Medina County

8:15 AM-Key Pests of Row Crops

- Noel Troxclair, AgriLife Extension Agent, Uvalde County

9:15 AM-TDA Laws and Regulations Updates

- Vick Alexander, Texas Department Agriculture Assistant Regional Director

10:15 AM-Effective Management of Weeds in Row Crops

- Dr. Ronnie Schnell, AgriLife Extension Agronomist

11:15 AM-2024 Market Panel: Local, State, and National

- Bryce White, Texas Corn Producers
- Florentino Lopez, Creando Mañana, Ilc
- Jeff Nunley, South Texas Cotton & Grain Association
- Brendon Lowe, Mummies
- Nelson Reus, Reus Grains

12:00 PM-Lunch

1:00 PM-Auxin Training

- Dr. Ronnie Schnell, AgriLife Extension Agronomist

2:15 PM-Adjourn

Thank you to our Sponsors!





Merry
Christmas

****For more information please contact:
Brianna G. Gonzales-
Frio County Extension Agent, at
(830) 505-7474
brianna.gonzales@ag.tamu.edu.***



Frio County Texas A&M AgriLife Extension