



# TEXAS A&M AGRILIFE EXTENSION - FRIO COUNTY

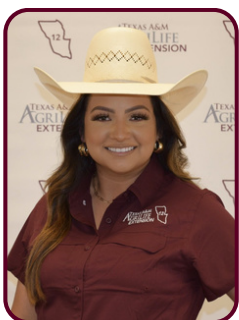
## FRIO COUNTY AGRICULTURE & NATURAL RESOURCES NEWSLETTER

Photo By: Texas Beef Quality

### Dear Agricultural Producers:

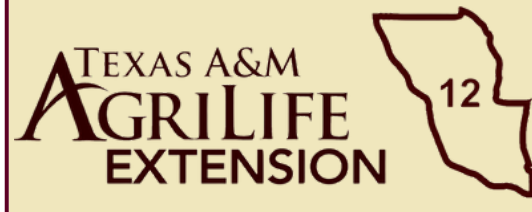
We are pleased to be able to provide you with information contained in this newsletter. The Frio County Agriculture & Natural Resources Newsletter is a Monthly newsletter (Sept. 2023 - August 2024). Best efforts have been made to include Agriculture & Natural Resources information that should be of interest 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](http://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, Tx Ag Law, and the Texas A&M Beef Cattle, 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](mailto: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](http://agrilifetoday.tamu.edu)
- [texaswater.tamu.edu](http://texaswater.tamu.edu)
- [soiltesting.tamu.edu](http://soiltesting.tamu.edu)
- [aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu](http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu)
- [livestockvetento.tamu.edu](http://livestockvetento.tamu.edu)
- [animalscience.tamu.edu](http://animalscience.tamu.edu)
- [texashelp.tamu.edu](http://texashelp.tamu.edu)
- [SouthTexasRangelands.tamu.edu](http://SouthTexasRangelands.tamu.edu)



# JANUARY BQA TIP



Photo By: TSCRA

## **FACTS ON PHOSPHORUS:**

- It is a common misconception that increasing phosphorus intake will improve cattle reproduction.
- Research studies from Texas, New Mexico, North Dakota and Utah did not show any added reproductive benefits once phosphorus requirements were met. Feeding additional phosphorus above requirements only increases costs.
- Loose mineral supplements with higher phosphorus levels are more expensive and less palatable than similar products with lower phosphorus levels.
- In most situations, feeding a high-calcium, low-phosphorus mineral is desired. Even when cattle are grazing dormant native range, a high-phosphorus mineral is not needed if cattle are receiving cottonseed meal, dried distiller grains or similar supplements.

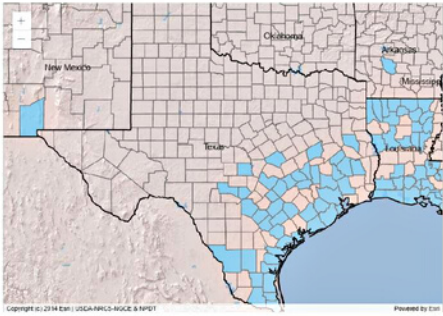
\*Beef Quality Assurance monthly tips can be found on the Texas Beef Quality website along with additional resources that include the Texas Beef Quality Assurance Handbook, Group Processing / Treatment Map, & upcoming BQA events.

*For more information:*

[www.tscra.org](http://www.tscra.org) or <https://texasbeefquality.org>

# RANGE PLANT IDENTIFICATION

Stacey L. Hines, Ph.D., Assistant Professor, Rangeland Habitat Management Specialist  
Texas A&M AgriLife Extension



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

## Durban crowfoot grass

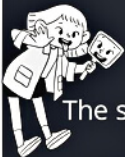
*Dactyloctenium aegyptium*



### Durban crowfoot grass Distribution

Buffalograss is found throughout many South and East TX counties. It is many southern states in the USA ([USDA Plant Database](#)).

### Durban crowfoot grass Look-a-Likes



The seedhead may look similar to some windmill grasses (*Chloris* species). However, the rachis typically does not extend beyond the spikelets in windmill grasses like it does in durban crowfoot grass. Also, the seedheads on windmill grasses do not have the zipper-like appearance. Finally, most of the seedhead stems on *Chloris* species are not on a flat plane, while durban crowfoot grass' seedhead stems are on a flat plane- similar to looking at tire wheel spokes from above- the spokes radiate out from a central point on a flat plane.

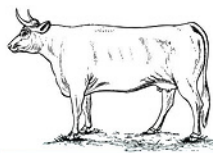
Click on the species name or link below to see some look-a-likes for Durban crowfoot grass.

1. [Hooded Windmillgrass](#)
2. [Rhodesgrass](#)
3. [Tumble Windmillgrass](#)

## Plant Identification Tips

Durban crowfoot grass is a non-native, annual grass. It grows to about 2-feet in height. The most distinguishing characteristic of this grass is the seedhead- it has 3-7 thick branches that have a zipper-like appearance. At the end of each seedhead branch, the rachis extends beyond where the spikelets attach- making a pointy tip. The stems are also thick and may turn red-purple when mature.

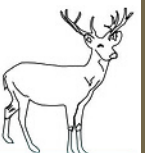
Check out the Neighborhood Plant video on [Durban crowfoot grass](#).



### Livestock & Wildlife Value

Poor grazing for livestock only because it produces little forage- livestock readily consume it.

No reported value for wildlife.



## Management

Durban crowfoot grass is relatively low-growing (2-feet tall). It often appears on disturbed sites, such as sandy fields, roadsides, and other moist disturbed sites. It tends to be more of an issue in weak stands of turfgrass than on rangelands. Maintaining a healthy stand of turf is one of the best cultural control methods.

Parts of this article were derived from:

[Aggie Horticulture: Texas Poinsettia. TX A&M AgriLife Extension.](#)

[Plants of Texas Rangelands.](#)

**Stacy L. Hines, Ph.D.**

Assistant Professor, Rangeland Habitat Management Specialist

361-265-9203 | [stacy.hines@ag.tamu.edu](mailto:stacy.hines@ag.tamu.edu)



# **REMINDER: AGRICULTURE TAX EXEMPTION** **HOLDERS NEED TO RENEW THEIR NUMBERS** **NOW - DEADLINE IS DEC. 31ST**

*Renewal only rolls around once every four years, so the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service is reminding all agriculture producers that the Agricultural and Timber Exemption numbers they currently hold will expire on Dec. 31.*

The Texas Comptroller's Office states: You must renew your number to continue to claim an exemption on qualifying agriculture and timber purchases made after that date. The Comptroller's Office mailed out renewal letters in August, but if the renewal hasn't been completed, the time is short.

"This is one of those housekeeping items that is easy to overlook," said Tiffany Lashmet, J.D., AgriLife Extension agriculture law specialist, Amarillo. "Everyone involved in agriculture in Texas should take the time to ensure they have updated their Agricultural and Timber Exemption registration numbers so they do not run into any issues in the new year."

Agriculture and timber producers in Texas are exempt from paying sales taxes on certain items used exclusively to produce agriculture and timber products, Lashmet said. Tractors, seed, fertilizer and medication for livestock are all examples of items exempt from sales tax for producers with a valid agriculture and timber exemption number.

## **QUALIFYING ACTIVITIES**

Lashmet said the following activities qualify for agriculture tax exemptions: farming, ranching, fiber production, timber production/contract logging, operating feedlots or fish farms, beekeeping, custom harvesting, crop dusting, growing plants for commercial nurseries, veterinary businesses making farm or ranch calls, FFA or 4-H projects, and those teaching an agricultural course.

Those activities that do not qualify for a sales tax exemption include rodeos, horse boarding, training, racing, and trail rides, hunting and fishing operations, those with companion animals, wildlife management and conservation, and kennels and other animal boarding businesses. For a complete list of who qualifies, what activities qualify and what you need to do to apply, visit the Comptroller's Office website.

**For more information:**

**<https://agrilifetoday.tamu.edu> - FARM & RANCH**

# TEXAS AGRICULTURE

## LAW

By: Tiffany Dowell Lashmet, Assistant Professor & Extension Specialist- Agricultural Law



### About the Author & Texas Agriculture Law:

Tiffany Dowell Lashmet is an Associate Professor and Extension Specialist in Agricultural Law with Texas A&M AgriLife Extension. She focuses her work on legal issues affecting Texas agricultural producers and landowners with a primary focus on water law, oil and gas law, leasing, property rights, right to farm statutes, and landowner liability. A wide variety of educational resources and upcoming presentations can be found on Tiffany's Tx Ag Law Blog at <https://agrilife.org/texasaglaw>. Some of which include:

### Handbooks

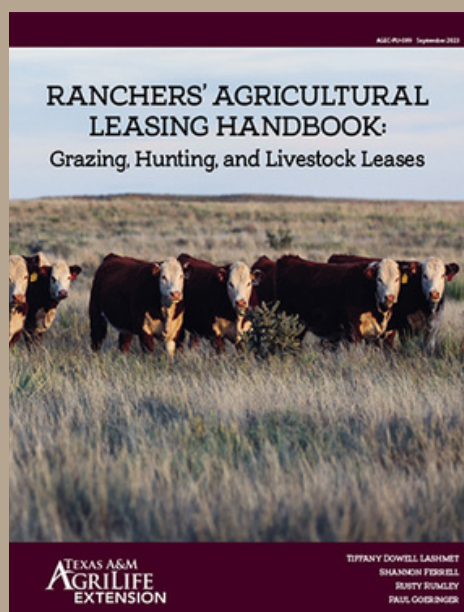
To purchase a hard copy, contact Lacreacia at 806-677-5600 or download a free PDF copy.

- **Owning Your Piece of Texas: Key Laws Texas Landowners Need to Know (Updated September 2023)**
- **Ranchers Agricultural Leasing Handbook: Grazing, Hunting, & Livestock Leases (Updated September 2023)** (co-authored with Shannon Ferrell, Rusty Rumley, & Paul Goeringer)
- **Where's the Beef?: Legal and Economic Considerations for Direct Beef Sales (Updated September 2023)** (co-authored with Justin Benavidez, Garrett Reed, Beth Rumley & Sarah Patterson)
- **Second Edition Five Strands: A Landowner's Guide to Fence Law in Texas (June 2022)** (co-authored with Jim Bradbury, Kyle Weldon, & Sarah Patterson)
- **Eminent Domain in Texas: A Landowner's Guide (March 2020)**
- **Petroleum Production on Agricultural Lands in Texas: Managing Risks and Opportunities (February 2016)** (co-authored with Shannon Ferrell & Rusty Rumley)

### Online Courses

Online courses are available anytime. Once registered, participants can access the course at anytime and watch at their convenience. They may also re-watch any portions desired.

- **Owning Your Piece of Texas: Key Laws Texas Landowners Need to Know (Updated September 2023)**
- **Online Ranchers Leasing Workshop (Updated September 2023)**



For more information:  
<https://agrilife.org/texasaglaw>

# How to Sustainably Dispose of a Real Christmas Tree

Texas AgriLife Extension Horticulturists Share Tips and Best Practices

For many people, nothing can compare to the smell, look and ambience of a real Christmas tree. And when the holidays are over, there are several eco-friendly ways to dispose of or recycle that ornamental piece of holiday tradition.

Buying real trees also supports local economies. According to the Texas Christmas Tree Growers Association, 175 Texas Christmas tree farms produce over 200,000 trees each year. However, once the tree has served its purpose of bringing light and beauty into a home for the holidays, many trees end up in a landfill as their final resting place. Baylis said there are several ways to use the tree to add value elsewhere rather than discarding it as trash. “Even though trees are a renewable resource, we should opt to recycle or dispose of them in a way that helps the environment and gives our trees a second life,” said Baylis. “Recycling Christmas trees can reduce our carbon footprint and support a more sustainable holiday season.” The following are some ways to sustainably dispose of Christmas trees:

## **Recycle**

Real trees are biodegradable, and many communities have tree recycling programs. Check with your local city or municipality, local waste management company, a nearby garden center or conservation organization to find out if Christmas tree recycling, whether curbside pickup or a drop-off station, is available in your area. Recycling trees is recommended over burning them to help prevent wildfire danger.

## **Mulch**

The most common recycling option is chipping Christmas trees into mulch, which can be used for a variety of needs around homes and yards. Mulch can be placed around the base of trees and gardens as an insulator to help plants withstand cold temperatures and prevent soil erosion and compaction. Tree limbs are a great way to insulate garden plants, and some cities even have free mulch available after the holiday season.

## **Pond and Wildlife Habitat**

Place Christmas trees in yards, nature landscapes or in bodies of water to create a habitat for wildlife. When trees are sunken into water bodies, they increase the complexity of the aquatic habitat. Woody debris provides a place for aquatic species to flourish, which increases overall biodiversity. In creeks and rivers, woody debris also helps to slow the water flow rate during flash floods, which helps prevent erosion on streambanks. If you do not have a pond or lake on your property, contact local officials to see if there is a suitable body of water to properly dispose of your tree. You can also set your tree in your yard, creating a wildlife habitat and providing birds with shelter. By tying bird feed, orange slices, popcorn and other bird-friendly treats to your tree, you can enjoy the view as birds fill the branches.

## **Fun family crafts**

Keep the holiday spirit alive after Christmas by using parts of Christmas trees to make fun family activities such as “tree cookies” and coasters. Cut the trunk of your tree to make coasters or other decorative accent pieces in your home. Go a step further and let kids paint the trunk “tree cookies” for one-of-a-kind artwork.

Know before you dispose

As the joy of having a Christmas tree in your home ends this season, use one of the many ways to sustainably dispose of your tree to prevent it from ending up in a landfill. Make sure to remove all decorations, such as ornaments, lights and ribbon. If the tree is sprayed with flocking or fake snow, it should not be recycled. For more information on how to sustainably recycle your Christmas tree, contact your Texas A&M Forest Service district office. Visit <https://tfsweb.tamu.edu/ContactUs/> to find contact information.

**For more information: AgriLife Today - Lawn & Garden**

## Texas Crop Progress & Condition

**Note: This is the final weekly crop Progress and Condition report for the 2023 season.**

Cooler temperatures returned to the state. Rainfall ranged from trace amounts to 2 inches with East Texas receiving the most rain. Drought conditions ranged from none to exceptional drought with areas in South Central district and South East Texas being the driest. There was an average of 5.9 days suitable for fieldwork.

**Small Grains:** Winter wheat planting was near completion in parts of the state. As weather conditions remained favorable, moisture was still needed to aid winter wheat emergence. Winter wheat planted reached 92 percent, down 6 points from the previous year. Winter wheat emerged reached 78 percent, down 6 points from the previous year.

**Row Crops:** In the High Plains, cotton harvest continued, while harvest was in full swing in the Southern Low Plains and the Edwards Plateau. Cotton harvest reached 74 percent, down 2 points from the previous year. In South Texas, peanut harvest was near completion. Peanut harvest reached 85 percent, down 1 point from the previous year.

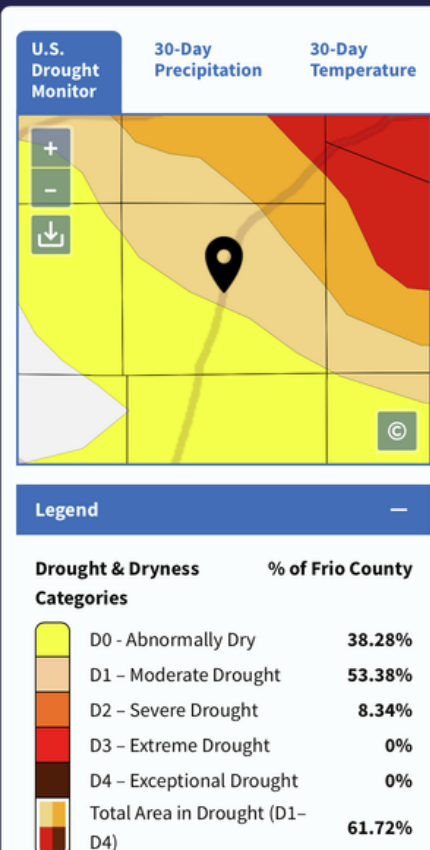
**Fruit, Vegetable, and Specialty Crops:** In the Lower Valley, fall vegetable, citrus and sugarcane harvest continued. In the Cross Timbers and South Central districts, pecan harvest continued.

**Livestock, Range and Pasture:** Producers continued to increase supplementation as cooler weather sets in. Cattle were being turned out on winter wheat. Pasture and range conditions were rated poor to fair. Cool season grasses had greened up and provided additional winter forage for livestock.

**For more Information:**

[https://www.nass.usda.gov/Publications/State\\_Crop\\_Progress\\_and\\_Condition/](https://www.nass.usda.gov/Publications/State_Crop_Progress_and_Condition/)

### Current Conditions for Frio County



## Weekly Crop Report - South Region

Weather conditions remained cool throughout the district. Numerous counties received 1-2 inches of rain. Rangelands and pastures were trying to grow, but more moisture was needed. Small grains were being planted and continued to develop under irrigation. Peanut harvest was completed. Fall vegetable crops continued producing. Strawberry planting was completed, and the crop looked strong. Producers continued supplemental feeding of cattle and slowed culling their herds. The beef cattle market reported below-average volumes but continued high prices for all classes of beef cattle. White-tailed deer, turkeys and doves were active and abundant this season.

**FARM & RANCH - [agrilifetoday.tamu.edu](http://agrilifetoday.tamu.edu)**

# TSCRA LANDOWNER RIGHTS ON THE BORDER- PEARSALL, TX



## **HIGHLIGHTS**

The Texas & Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association hosted a Landowner Rights on The Border Series at the Pearsall Livestock Auction Barn on December 6, 2023. This educational series was targeted towards local and surrounding landowners regarding the border immigration crisis. TSCRA representatives discussed the purpose of the gathering, along with Melissa Hamilton, TSCRA Executive Director of Government Relations that discussed current policies and how landowners can reclaim their rights. Frio County Sheriff Mike Morse and Chief Deputy Peter Salinas shared their thoughts and shared various beneficial programs that are available to all Frio County landowners. Newly assigned TSCRA Special Ranger Kevin Marmor was introduced to landowners in attendance as he will now be assisting Frio County. This TSCRA Landowner Rights on The Border Series was also conducted in Kenedy and Rio Grande City, Tx.



For more information:  
[www.tscra.org](http://www.tscra.org)



# **SOUTHWEST TEXAS BEEF CATTLE KICK-OFF**

## **Pearsall, Tx**



### **PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS**

The Southwest Texas Beef Cattle Kick-Off hosted by Frio, La Salle, Medina, Zavala, Bandera, Dimmit, Kerr, and Uvalde counties was a great success! This educational event was held in Pearsall, Tx on December 14, 2023. Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Specialists Dr. Josh McGinty, Dr. Karl Harborth, Dr. Megan Clayton, and Dr. Yuri Calil delivered great impactful presentations to local and surrounding beef cattle producers. Attendees were educated on beef cattle topics that included pasture management, nutrition/BCS, stocking rates, and a beef cattle market outlook. Attendees also enjoyed a cooking demo conducted by Frio FCH Agent Sara Nicholson. This event couldn't be possible without the continued support of our wonderful sponsors from Capital Farm Credit, Texas Beef Council, Medina Electric Cooperative, and Texas Farm Bureau. Sponsor representatives in attendance included Brandy Bendele, SVP Relationship Manager with Capital Farm Credit and Kaleb McLaurin, Senior Manager of Industry Relations with the Texas Beef Council.



# UPCOMING TEXAS A&M AGRILIFE EXTENSION PROGRAMS



## Winter Garden Row Crop Conference

ATASCOSA-DIMITT-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, llc
- Jeff Nunley, South Texas Cotton & Grain Association
- Brendon Lowe, Mummies
- Nelson Reus, Reus Ag Services

**12:00 PM-Lunch**

**1:00 PM-Auxin Training**

- Dr. Ronnie Schnell, AgriLife Extension Agronomist

**2:15 PM-Adjourn**

Thank you to our Sponsors!



TEXAS A&M  
**AGRILIFE**  
EXTENSION

SOUTH TEXAS  
PEANUT GROWERS  
ASSOCIATION  
-ANNUAL MEETING-  
HOSTED BY ATASCOSA & FRIO COUNTIES

**MARCH**  
**03.05.2024**

**Location:**

Atascosa County Extension Office  
25 E. 5th Street  
Leming, Tx 78050

**Contact:**

Dale Rankin, (830) 569-0034  
Brianna Gonzales, (830) 505-7474

**SAVE  
THE  
DATE**

**CEU'S OFFERED!**

The Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service provides equal access in its programs, activities, education, and employment, without regard to 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.

**Save the date and come join us in Leming, Tx for the 2024 South Texas Peanut Growers Association Annual Meeting on Tuesday, March 5, 2024. Don't miss out on this great opportunity to increase your knowledge, obtain CEU credit hours, and network with industry personnel. Official flyer will be released soon!  
RSVP now by calling (830) 569-0034 or (830) 505-7474.**

# PRIVATE PESTICIDE APPLICATOR TRAINING

FRIDAY, JANUARY 19, 2023

8:30AM - 12:00PM

FRIO COUNTY EXTENSION OFFICE

400 S. PECAN ST. - PEARSALL, TX 78061

- This training is intended for individuals seeking a TDA Private Applicator License in order to apply or supervise the application of restricted-use or state-limited use pesticides or regulated herbicides during the **production of agricultural commodities**.
- This training prepares individuals for the Texas Department of Agriculture **Pesticide Private Applicators License Exam** and is **required** before taking the exam.
- Due to TDA regulation changes, no testing will be offered after this training. This exam will be administered by the Texas Department of Agriculture. This training is only for individuals who currently **do not hold** a Private Pesticide Applicators License. This is **NOT** a Continuing Education Unit (CEU) training. There will be **No CEU Credits Awarded** for attending this training.
- This training is only for Agricultural Producers who currently **do not hold** a Private Pesticide Applicator License but are wanting to obtain one to use on their private property.

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**THE COST OF THIS TRAINING IS \$10 (CASH ONLY)  
INCLUDES TRAINING & ADDITIONAL RESOURCES  
-REFRESHMENTS PROVIDED-**

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**CONTACT FRIO COUNTY EXTENSION AGENT-  
BRIANNA GONZALES TO RSVP FOR THIS TRAINING  
(830) 505-7474  
BRIANNA.GONZALES@AG.TAMU.EDU**

The member of Texas A&M Agrilife will provide equal opportunities in program 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 opportunity throughout Texas A&M Agrilife.



Happy  
New Year

***\*Join our mailing list! For more information please contact:***

***Brianna G. Gonzales-***

***Frio County Extension Agent, at***

***(830) 505-7474***

***[brianna.gonzales@ag.tamu.edu](mailto:brianna.gonzales@ag.tamu.edu)***

***Website: <https://frio.agrilife.org/agriculture-natural-resources/>***



**Frio County Texas A&M AgriLife Extension**