



Denton Agriculture

Aminopyralid (Grazon Next HL) Restrictions

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Many of you are probably aware of the Dow AgroSciences change in GrazonNext to their HL (high load) formulation. This is the same chemistry but in a more concentrated form allowing producers to treat more acres per herbicide container. You should, however, be aware there is a restriction regarding the use of aminopyralid, the active ingredient in GrazonNext, in hayfields. Unless GrazonNext HL is used in a state with a supplemental label, hay produced and treated with GrazonNext HL within the previous 18 months may not be used off farm where it was produced. Fortunately, Texas is one of the

states mentioned in the supplemental label. Applicators of the product are required to inform the landowner/manager regarding the restrictions and sellers of hay treated with GrazonNext HL have the responsibility of telling the hay buyer what they are getting regarding residual activity in the hay. Producers may wish to provide a copy of the supplemental label to the hay purchaser to avoid any potential issues such as the hay being used as a mulch or compost. The same restriction also applies to Milestone or Chaparral herbicides. I have placed these labels on my website <http://denton.agrilife.org/>

[agriculture-natural-resources/publications/](http://denton.agrilife.org/agriculture-natural-resources/publications/) under the heading of Herbicide/Pesticide along with a suggested herbicide advisory form sellers of hay may wish to use when selling hay treated with GrazonNext, Chaparral, or Milestone herbicides. If you have questions regarding the supplemental labels for these products, do not hesitate to contact your county Extension agent.



New TDA Testing Protocol for pesticide licenses

Anyone wanting to take a pesticide licensing test will now have to follow the guidelines listed here: [http://texasagriculture.gov/Portals/0/Publications/PEST/private%](http://texasagriculture.gov/Portals/0/Publications/PEST/private%20testing%20protocol.pdf)

Preventative measures can minimize trich impacts

Trichomoniasis is a sexually transmitted protozoan disease that causes pregnancy loss or abortion in the cow, prolonged calving intervals and high open rates in infected herds. An infected bull can quickly spread the disease to a high percentage of females in a

herd. Several states have adopted rules to reduce the risk of transmission. Bulls are asymptomatic and there is no treatment for the disease. Currently 6-7% of US herds are showing an incidence of infection and annually there is an economic impact of \$65 million. Preven-

tative strategies

- use AI exclusively
- import only virgin bulls
- test older bulls
- vaccinate

TrichGuard is the only vaccine available and it must be given in two doses.

Beef Checkoff Referendum



Upon request of the Texas cattle industry, the Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA) will conduct a referendum on the establishment of a refundable assessment on cattle sales or ownership transfer in Texas.

Only an individual or legal business entity who has owned cattle any time in Texas from June 6, 2013 to June 6, 2014 is eligible to vote in the referendum.

Eligible Texas producers of

cattle will vote to determine if a refundable maximum assessment of \$1.00 per head of cattle will be collected at each point of ownership transfer. The Beef Promotion and Research Council of Texas (BPRCT) will set the assessment rate each year, not to exceed the maximum assessment rate. The assessment will be used for promotion, marketing, research and educational efforts regarding beef and beef products.

The referendum will be held by physical balloting. Ballots will be available at Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service county offices beginning June 2, 2014. Eligible producers may vote at Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service county offices June 2-6, 2014 during each office's regular business hours. If an eligible producer is unable to access a Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service county office, beginning May 19, 2014, a ballot may be requested from TDA until no later than June 2, 2014.

Texas Grazing and Hunting Lease Checklists

Are you one of the many landowners that doesn't know where to begin when it comes to leases? Well, we can help with that. Tiffany Dowell, Ag Law Extension Specialist, has developed two new checklists for you. You can locate them by going to the Agrilife Bookstore or on my website under lease checklist

<http://denton.agrilife.org/agriculture-natural-resources/publications/>.

A large majority of landowners and lease holders continue to work on verbal agreements only and a firm handshake but what happens when you don't discuss who is in charge of maintaining the fence? Leases

don't show distrust between parties, they are simply an opportunity to keep a record of which party is responsible for what. Do your self a favor and use the checklists. Having a contract between two parties is always in each others best interest.

New Sorghum Pest



Yellow Sugarcane Aphid

A New Pest of Sorghum has infested grain sorghum in South and East Texas, southern Oklahoma, eastern Mississippi, northeastern Mexico, and central, northeast, and southwest Louisiana.

In 2013, large populations of sugarcane aphids (*Melanaphis*

sacchari) developed on sorghum plants. They produced large amounts of honeydew, which choked combines and caused lost grain in northeast Texas and Louisiana. Growers lost up to 50 percent of grain sorghum yield in infested fields during 2013. We just received word that a Section 18 emer-

gency use exemption has been approved for Transform WG against sugarcane aphid in sorghum. The Section 18 label and authorization letter are attached to this e-mail. The exemption expires 31 October 2014. Contact your county Extension agent for more information.

Blister Beetles

Blister beetles are very common to this area and much of the southern United States. We see them feeding on pollen in our gardens and usually don't think twice about them until we find one in our hay. What causes animals to get sick is a chemical produced by the beetle called Cantharidin. Cantharidin is only produced by the male beetle and can cause serious irritation of the lining of the stomach, small intestine, bladder and urethra of the

horse.

The beetles are not all bad, however. They are a predatory insect of grasshopper larva and consume large amounts in a short period of time.

Typically we see them in alfalfa bales we buy from out of state that have been cut with a mower conditioner or crimper. It is important that you have a conversation with your dealer or producer and ask about their harvesting methods.

When a crimper is used it can crush the insect which then becomes part of the bale. If a crimper is not used the beetle simply vacates the mowed hay.

The animal would need to ingest a certain percentage of its body weight depending on their health. If you suspect your horse is showing signs of Cantharidin poisoning, contact your veterinarian immediately. If you want a beetle identified your county Extension agent can help.



Agricultural Applicator Convenience Testing

As of June 1, 2014 individuals who want to hold a private pesticide applicators license from TDA will no longer be able to take the test the same day as the training in the same location. A company called PSI has been contracted to provide the testing. I will still hold my quarterly training but you will be required to follow

several steps necessary to sign up for a testing day and location closest to you. Applicators will continue to purchase books from their county Extension agents or from College Station. There will be testing locations in Dallas and Ft. Worth but their exact location is not known at this time. I will keep you informed on

their locations. One other new change to take effect on June 1 is that the PA-404 document that I sign certifying that you have taken the training will now be good for five years instead of one. Information will be posted on the TDA site <http://texasagriculture.gov/RegulatoryPrograms/Pesticides.aspx>

Stewardship

Stewardship, according to the Merriam-Webster Dictionary is "the careful and responsible management of something entrusted to one's care." According to 2013 Denton Central Appraisal District totals there were 13,313 1-D-1 agricultural use evaluations comprising 329,638 acres. Consid-

ering that Denton County's total land area is 613,120 acres, that's more than half. I want to encourage the majority land owners to pass the land on to the next generation in better shape than it was received.

My responsibility as County Extension Agent is to provide

county residents and landowners with unbiased, research based information so the landowner can make a more informed decision when it comes to land and livestock management. I have dozens of research publications and hundreds of Extension specialists at my disposal to help you be-

come a better land steward. My hope is that I can educate and inform to a degree that I begin to effect change and that landowners take on more responsibility and transform from land and livestock owners to land and livestock stewards.

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Improving Lives, Improving Texas

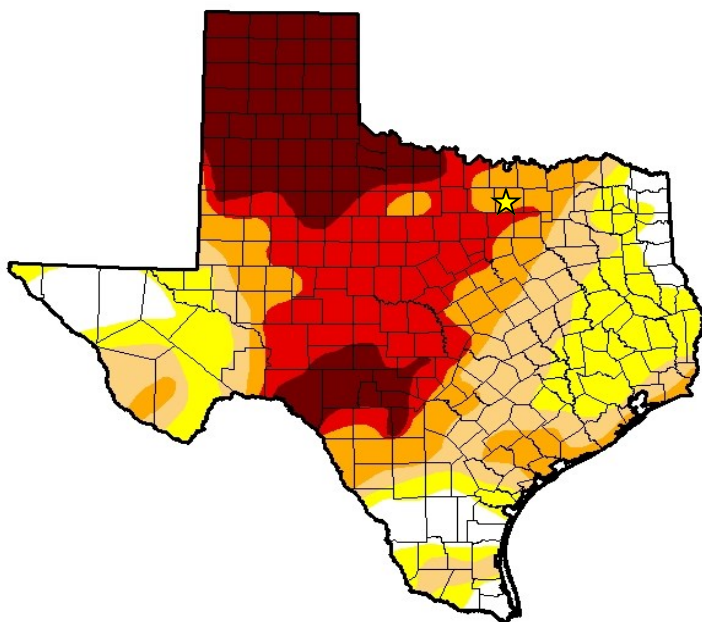


The Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service is a unique education agency with a statewide network of professional educators, trained volunteers, and county offices. It reaches into every Texas county to address local priority needs. Some of our major efforts are in mitigating drought impacts; conserving water use in homes, landscapes, and production agriculture; improving emergency management; enhancing food security; and protecting human health through education about diet, exercise, and disease prevention and management.

AgriLife Extension demonstrates the latest technology and best practices to improve the state's food and fiber system, which serves all Texas consumers and contributes nine percent of the gross domestic product. Texas 4-H, our primary youth program, engages some 600,000 youth every year in learning projects, leadership development, and community service.

Collaborative programs enable extension educators and their partners to extend resources and prevent duplication of services. In 2012, planned extension programs involved a total of 208 collaborators—diverse private sector and nonprofit entities—and hundreds of school districts.

U.S. Drought Monitor Texas



May 13, 2014

(Released Thursday, May 15, 2014)

Valid 8 a.m. EDT

Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	8.82	91.18	73.05	56.10	39.88	20.73
Last Week 5/6/2014	5.11	94.89	83.35	65.13	46.17	21.28
3 Months Ago 2/11/2014	12.49	87.51	54.43	22.97	8.33	0.71
Start of Calendar Year 12/31/2013	28.48	71.52	43.84	21.15	5.82	0.79
Start of Water Year 10/1/2013	6.62	93.38	70.95	25.08	4.01	0.12
One Year Ago 5/14/2013	2.84	97.16	90.55	68.71	36.09	12.05

Intensity:



The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. See accompanying text summary for forecast statements.

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<http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/>