

# MCCULLOCH COUNTY AG NEWSLETTER

JANUARY

## TRI COUNTY RANGE AND LIVESTOCK PROGRAM

Concho, McCulloch, and Menard counties will be hosting a Tri County Range and Livestock program on Thursday January 24, 2019. The program will be held at the Menard County Show barn. Registration is set to begin at 8 am with program beginning at 8:30. Speakers and topics will include:

- Renee Burks, Texas Forest Service- Oak Wilt & Oak Tree Management
- Bill Thompson, Extension Economist- Rainfall Insurance & LRP Cattle Insurance
- Dr. Morgan Treadwell, Extension Range Specialist- Prickly Pear & Mesquite Control
- Dr. Reagan Noland, Extension Agronomist- Grazing Livestock on Small Grains
- Steve Nelle, NRCS retired- Native Plants for Livestock and Wildlife
- Dr. Sonya Swiger, Extension Livestock Entomologist- Controlling Internal Parasites in Livestock

Second Hand Smoke will be providing the meal, and Central Texas Farm Credit in Brady is sponsoring the meal. Mr. Jeff Bedwell (representative from Central Texas Farm Credit) will give a short update before lunch. Three Texas Department of Agriculture Continuing Education Units will be given at the program. For any questions please contact county agents Travis Bell (Concho County) at 325-732-4304, Justin Klinksiek (McCulloch County) at 325-597-1295, or Lisa Brown (Menard County) at 325-396-4787.

## WEED & INSECT CONTROL IN SMALL GRAINS

### Weed Control

Most weeds can be controlled mechanically during seedbed preparation or with preplant, pre-emergent or post emergent herbicides. Planting weed-free seed and rotating crops reduce weed populations. Be especially careful not to introduce grassy weeds such as cheat or jointed goatgrass by using contaminated seed. Herbicides available for controlling weeds in small grain are provided in the attached portable document format (pdf). "Texas Panhandle, Rolling and South Plains Herbicide Guide for Weed Control in Wheat (SCS-2000-27)". Weeds may be controlled in cropland through cultural, mechanical and chemical means. Judicious use of these methods individually or in combination can effectively manage weeds without causing economic loss or environmental harm. Selecting the proper management strategy depends largely on the target weed(s) and the infestation level. The type of crop will also play a major role in determining the timing of mechanical measures.

1. Use weed-free seed to protect against weed infestations in the row and the introduction of new weed species.
2. Thoroughly clean harvesting equipment before moving from one field to the next or require custom harvesters to clean their equipment before entering the field.
3. In conventional tillage systems, use mechanical tillage or preplant burndown herbicides to remove initial weed flushes before planting. This will reduce or eliminate the potential for continued infestation.
4. Rotate crops that physically outcompete certain weeds, resulting in their gradual decline. Remove light or spotty infestations of weeds by hand hoeing or spot cultivation to prevent weed seed production and the

spread of rhizomes or roots. When plowing perennial weeds, take care to prevent the transport and spread of plant parts to other areas of the field.

### **Insect Control**

Insects and mites attack small grains from planting until grain is nearly ready to harvest. The ability to identify damaging pests and beneficials, and to determine population levels, is a basic requirement for managing these pests. Inspect fields weekly when weather conditions are favorable for rapid pest population development. Information on these and other small grain pests and pesticides suggested for their control is presented in the attached PDF. "Managing Insect and Mite Pests of Texas Small Grains" (B-1251). Wheat is planted in Texas on more than 6 million acres each year. Approximately 40 percent of the wheat acreage is grazed to some extent, and approximately 30 percent is used only for forage. Oats, barley, rye and triticale also are used for livestock forage. Small grains pastures are usually seeded after there is adequate moisture in September or early October, and cattle are allowed to graze after the plants have established a good root system. Grazing of small grains suppresses aphid and winter grain mite infestations. However, where aphid populations are above the economic threshold after small grains are well established, livestock may be placed on part of the pasture and the remainder treated. After the re-entry interval for grazing (specified on the insecticide label), the livestock can be turned into the treated portion of the pasture. The grazed area should then be inspected to determine if aphid control is still needed. Under heavy grazing, it is unlikely that the aphid infestation will still be above the economic threshold.



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