

Inside:

- Educational Opportunities
- Current Topics
- Horticulture Tips

Sutton County Agriculture/Horticulture Newsletter

Upcoming Programs

Pesticide Applicator Training

With Spring not far away, it will soon be time to control unwanted vegetation. However, you should know that some chemicals are designated general-use pesticides and can be purchased “over-the-counter” while others are restricted-use pesticides and require a pesticide applicator license. So, if you’ve considered acquiring an applicator license, here are some things you should know.

Private applicator licenses are required in order to use or supervise the use of restricted or state-limited pesticides or regulated herbicides in the production of agricultural commodities.

For those seeking a pesticide applicator license, there will be a training opportunity on March 20th beginning at 9:00 a.m. at the Sutton County Extension Office. Call 325-387-3101 to enroll and order manuals.

This license is required for the purchase of restricted-use pesticides which cannot be purchased “over-the-counter”. This license is good for 5 years.

Call if interested so that manuals can be ordered for you. If attending the training, please order by March 13th to allow time for delivery.

Cost for training & manuals is \$50.



CEU credits available



TSGRA
Trapping
Clinic

April 12-14, 2024

Presented in conjunction with the
Sheep & Goat Predator Management Board
and the
Texas Trappers & Fur Hunters Association

\$100.00 for TSGRA members
\$200.00 for non-members
Breakfast & Lunch Provided

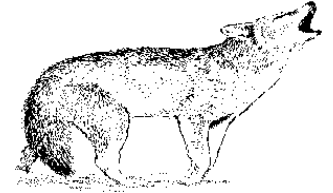
Location:
Williams Ranch
322 FM 3023 S.
Goldthwaite, TX 76844

For more info and to register
Call 325-655-7388
Contact office@tsgra.com
Or visit www.tsgra.com



Sutton County Predator Management Association

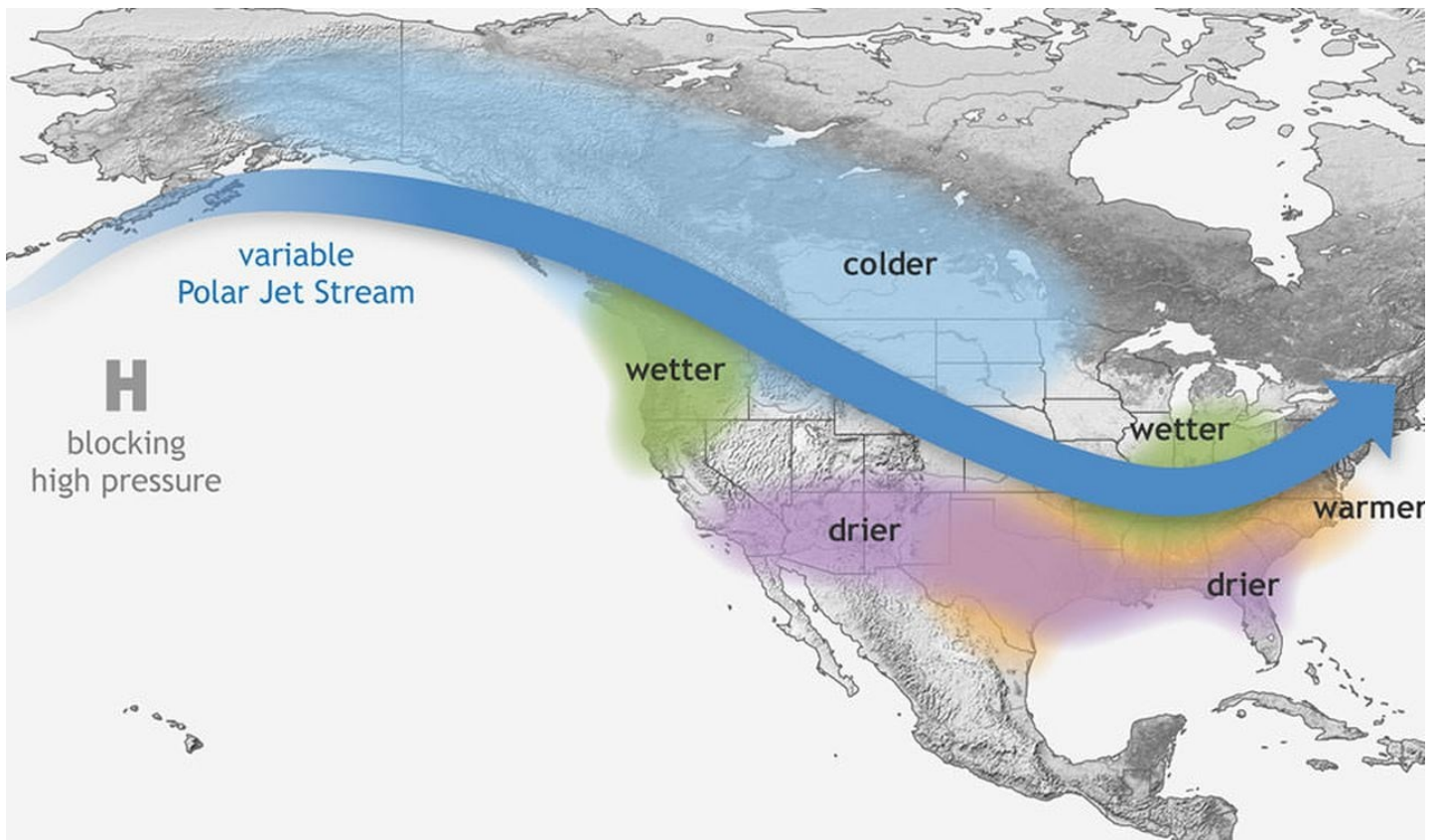
If you are not a member, please consider joining the Sutton County Predator Management Association. If you are, there is also a reminder that it is time to pay annual dues.



Funds collected go towards support equipment for our county trappers. This includes the upkeep of such equipment (4-wheelers, radios, hog traps, etc.). A bounty is also paid on predator pelts. These can be bobcat, coyote, etc. However they must be from properties which have joined the trapping club.

For more information, contact association secretary, Patti Prather, at scpma.sonora@gmail.com.

La Niña Watch 2024 ~ Excerpt from article by –By Ryan Cohick in lonestarlive.com



Even though Texas and the world continue to experience a strong El Niño weather pattern, climate scientists at the Climate Prediction Center are looking ahead and forecasting a return to La Niña later this year.

As a result, they have issued a La Niña watch to give a proactive heads-up of the likelihood of a return to that climate pattern. Forecasters say there's a 55% chance we could see that transition in June or August.

That could mean Texas will be entering a dry period by the end of the summer since La Niña conditions tend to favor drought along the southern tier of the lower 48 states.

El Niño conditions continue through spring, but a transition back to La Niña is likely this Fall. Locally, this will promote a likelihood of returning to drier, warmer than normal conditions in late 2024. It could also contribute to a potentially active Atlantic hurricane season. <https://t.co/FA4AF2n4nJ>

— NWS Austin/San Antonio (@NWSSanAntonio) February 8, 2024

COUNTY FORUM

Developing educational programs based on needs is the foundation of Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service. Extension's ability to meet educational needs depends on knowing what you see as issues that impact your life. There is no way to know the answers to these questions unless they are asked. This Community Futures Forum (TCFF) is designed to do just this.

1) Please list an issue that you would like The Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service address in the next 3-5 years.

What area do you believe this issue best fits?

- Agriculture and Natural Resources
- Health and Families
- Youth Development
- Community and Leadership Development
- Not sure

Do you believe the issue you listed above can be managed or solved at the local level?

- Yes
- No
- Not sure

2) Do you have another issue you would like to submit?

What area do you believe this issue best fits?

- Agriculture and Natural Resources
- Health and Families
- Youth Development
- Community and Leadership Development
- Not sure

Do you believe the issue you listed above can be managed or solved at the local level?

- Yes
- No
- Not sure

3) Do you have another issue you would like to submit?

What area do you believe this issue best fits?

- Agriculture and Natural Resources
- Health and Families
- Youth Development
- Community and Leadership Development
- Not sure

Do you believe the issue you listed above can be managed or solved at the local level?

- Yes
- No
- Not sure

***** Please mail your response to: Sutton County Extension Office P.O. Box 1047 Sonora, Texas 76950*****

March Horticulture Tips

Prune:

Pruning of evergreens and summer flowering trees and shrubs should be completed in early March. DO NOT prune spring flowering trees or shrubs until after they bloom.



REMEMBER, DO NOT TOP TREES!!! Severely pruning trees reduces the life of that tree and allows large entry points for diseases and insects.

Fertilize:

Fertilize pecan trees with 21-0-0 or similar high nitrogen fertilizer early in the month and repeat after 30 and 60 days. Begin zinc sprays at bud break on pecans also.

Be On The Lookout:

Beware of close-out sales on bare-root trees and shrubs. The chance of survival is rather low on bare-root plants this late in the season. Your best bet at this time of year is to depend on container-grown or balled and burlapped plants for landscape use. Look for black spot and powdery mildew on roses and apply fungicide at 10 day intervals. Be on the look out for fire blight on plants in the rose family and pears, apples, Indian Hawthorn and

other susceptible plants. Protect while in full bloom with spray of agricultural streptomycin.

Miscellaneous Chores: Prepare beds for planting flowers and vegetables. You may want to rent or buy a garden tiller to speed up the process. If you have a strong back, the old fashion way of using a gardening fork and shovel still does an excellent job. Our soils in West Texas, have very little organic matter. A good rule of thumb is to add about 4 inches of matter to your beds in the form of peat moss, compost, or shredded pine bark. The organic matter helps to hold water and improves soil texture.

This is an excellent time to have your soil tested. Pick up a soil test kit at the County Extension Agent's office. The cost of testing is about \$12.00. Knowing the nutrient levels in your soil will help you determine the kind and the amount of fertilizer to apply to your flower beds and lawn.

The window to apply pre-emergent weedkillers to prevent germination of crabgrass, grassburs and other summer weeds in your lawn is closing . Use broadleaf weedkillers to eliminate dandelions, clover, henbit, chickweed, plantain and other non-grassy weeds in turf areas. Follow label directions carefully.

Parting Thoughts.....About Spring & St Patrick's Day

"If we had no winter, the spring would not be so pleasant; if we did not sometimes taste adversity, prosperity would not be so welcome." ~ Anne Bradstreet



"You gotta try your luck at least once a day, because you could be going around lucky all day and not even know it." ~ Jimmy Dean
Corbin Crenwelge- 1st Buck Kid; 1st Yrlg Buck; 5th Aged Buck; Res CH Buck; 1st Doe Kid; 6th Yrlg Doe; Res CH Doe

Pascual Hernandez
Sutton County Extension Agent
Phone: 325-387-3101
E-mail: p-hernandez@tam.u.edu

