

Making a Difference

Jackson County Field Crops

2020 Outreach Program Results

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Relevance

Row Crop production accounts for nearly 100 million dollars annually in Jackson County. Agricultural operating costs continue to rise nationwide while commodity prices remain low. Producers are forced to pay close attention to all production decisions - from farm program alternatives to fertilizer and pesticide choices. Commodity prices and flood or drought conditions have led to an increased interest in available choices to help stabilize crop yields and income from year to year. COVID-19 threw a big kink into everything from decreased commodity prices to worker safety. Increased weed resistance along with crop pests including sugarcane aphids, bollworms, and feral hogs have kept producers seeking answers from AgriLife Extension. Integrated Pest Management (IPM) is a practice that is encouraged to producers which can reduce input costs. Spraying crops is an ongoing practice to reduce pests when economic thresholds are reached. Producers are required by law to be trained and licensed to use regulated and restricted-use pesticides. License holders are required to receive continuing education to renew existing licenses.

Response

Working with the Jackson County AgriLife Extension Field Crops Committee, Farm Bureau, Capital Farm Credit, KIOX Radio, DuPont Crop Protection, Nutrien Ag Solutions, Jackson County Herald Tribune, Victoria Advocate, the following educational events, demonstrations and programs were conducted:

- **Regional Agronomic Cotton Evaluation** – A replicated cotton variety trial was conducted on the Brent Batchelder farm on CR 476, west of Palacios. 10 varieties were used in this trial replicated 4 times. The trial was planted on March 25 and harvested August 1. Yield was over 3 bales in most of the plots.
- **Sorghum Demonstration** - Kulak Farm planted a sorghum trial located on CR 325 or Inez Rd, just north of LaSalle. This trial was planted on March 10 and replicated twice. It was harvested on July 17. Yield ranged from 6081 to 7268 lbs./acre.
- **Corn Demonstration** – Gabrysch Farms planted the corn trial on February 21. It was harvested on August 13. Yield ranged from 124 to 151 bu./acre.
- **Chicken Manure Demonstration** – A replicated chicken manure demonstration was done on the Stephen Heard Farm near Francitas. Rates of 2, 3 and 4 tons per acre along with a check were replicated 3 times across the field.
- **Mass Media:** Jackson County Agri-News mailed quarterly; News Articles in local Jackson County Herald Tribune, Victoria Advocate, Port Lavaca Wave & El Campo Leader News; Radio Program (bi-weekly to 90,000 listening audience); Email List (over 240 subscribers).
- **Ag Day** – Was cancelled this year due to COVID-19.
- **Agricultural Increment Report** – annual summary of the incremental revenue that is generated by crop and/or livestock production for Jackson County for the past production year. This information is used by commodity groups and agribusinesses for the policy making side such as the governor,

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legislature, senate, county judges, county commissioners, Councils of Government and various Chambers of Commerce.

- **Chemical & Seed meetings** – In cooperation with Nutrien Ag Solutions, informative seed and chemical meetings bringing in approximately 50 producers, were held to pass along results from 2020 demonstrations and trials.
- **5 Hour CEU Event** – The Field Crops committee and the Beef & Forage Committees sponsored a 5 Hour CEU Event held on December 5, 2019. Topics included: Texas Pesticide Laws and Regulations; Brush and Weed Control; Flies Mosquitos & Ticks; Soils and Soil Fertility; Livestock Diseases, Insects, Parasites, and their Control. 96 people were in attendance.

Results

Ag Tour: Participants at the Ag Tour were administered a post retrospective evaluation instrument to determine the level of knowledge change and economic benefits based on the row crops tour. 60% of participants who completed a survey estimate an economic impact benefit from their participation in this Extension program. The attendees who turned in surveys represented 22,010 acres, appreciated the program by placing a value of between 1 to 10 dollars per acre farmed. The total value for the program according to the survey was \$80,550



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5 Hour CEU Event –We had a 74% response rate (71/96) evaluation.

Increase in Knowledge:

- 75% of Brush control methods and their timings
- 76% of Best management practices for controlling weeds
- 78% of Mosquito development and behavior
- 82% of Tick biology and control
- 76% of How soil physical conditions influence weed pressure and growth of forages and crops
- 76% of How timing of fertilizer applications can impact pesticide usage and weed competition
- 78% of Recordkeeping requirements for pesticide license
- 65% of TDA license renewal process and CEU requirements
- 69% of Which vaccines are most appropriate, modified live or killed products

Intentions to Adopt: Definitely and Probably Will:

- 68% Weed and Brush management this winter
- 71% Practice of draining standing water
- 63% Meet storage requirements for pesticides as required by TDA laws and regulations
- 52% Enlist veterinarian to assist with herd health program

VALUE

Crop and Forage Production Education



Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service programs targeted to producers of crops and forages are increasing profitability and productivity of farmers, thereby helping to build and sustain rural economies and support jobs.