

## *Zavala County Agricultural Producers Newsletter-Fall 2016*

### **Screw Worms Found in Cattle**

Tallahassee, Florida: Following the first announcement on Oct. 3, 2016, of the confirmation of New World screwworms in Big Pine Key, Florida, the United States Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services today announced that the screw worm has also been detected in other areas of Florida. This is the first local infestation in the United States in more than 30 years. On Oct. 3, 2016, Florida Commissioner of Agriculture Adam H. Putnam declared an agricultural state of emergency in Monroe County, Florida. The Texas Animal Health Commission is closely monitoring the situation. Anyone wishing to report a suspected or confirmed case of a reportable disease to the Texas Animal Health Commission can do so 24 hours a day, 7 days a week by calling 1-800-550-8242. I remember the days of riding horseback in Kinney County as a young man with a bottle of benzol and pine tar oil to treat infested wounds especially around the navel area of newborn calves. At least we know that this pest can be kept in check and irradiation has proven effective and controlled by the use of sterile fly releases.



### **FSMA Update:**

The FDA Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) Produce Safety rule is now final, there is one problem-implementation. I have been attending FSMA Stakeholders meetings in Austin over the past couple of months and the way things look it is going to be a good while before Compliance and enforcement, inspections, education and other components for implementation of FSMA will fully take place. Finally last month the Texas Department of Agriculture was notified by the USDA that a 6 million dollar grant was approved for Texas to develop FSMA outreach materials, hire food safety specialist, establish train the trainer workshops and develop regulatory parameters for FSMA compliance in Texas. Until we get official word from TDA and FDA and USDA it is Business as usual in Texas

### **Referendum to Establish a Texas Grain Indemnity Fund**

The Texas Legislature has acted to allow the Texas Commissioner of Agriculture to conduct a referendum whether to establish a grain indemnity fund for the state of Texas

#### **What is Texas Grain Producer Indemnity Fund?**

The purpose of the fund is to indemnify corn, grain sorghum, wheat, and soybean producers as a result of the failure of a grain buyer. If passed, producers of these four crops would pay 0.2% of the gross sales price of grain to the Texas Grain Producers Indemnity Board. Assessments would begin February 1, 2017.

#### **Who is Eligible to Vote?**

Persons eligible to vote are landowners and producers who have produced corn, grain sorghum, wheat, or soybeans in the last 36 months preceding the close of voting.

#### **Where Will Voting Take Place?**

Voting will be held at local Texas A&M AgriLife Extension County offices from December 5 through 9, 2016. Persons eligible to vote are landowners and producers who have produced corn, grain sorghum, wheat, or soybeans in the last 36 months preceding the close of voting.

#### **Where Can I Get More Information?**

More information on the Grain Indemnity Fund Referendum is available from the Texas Department of Agriculture, either by contacting Stuart Strnad at (512) 463-3285, or visiting their website, <https://texasagriculture.gov/Home/ProductionAgriculture/TexasGrainProducersIndemnityBoard>. Information is also available from the Texas Grain Producers Indemnity Board, (806) 763-0327 or their website, <http://www.texasgrainindemnity.org/>.

NOTE: This information is intended for educational purposes only as part of the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service. This newsletter does not constitute legal advice and is no substitute for competent legal advice from a licensed professional in your state. 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

## International Spinach Conference November 30 and December 1, 2016



For the 5th time Texas will host the International Spinach conference on November 30 and December 1, 2016 in San Antonio and the Wintergarden Area of Texas. The conference consists of a 2 day conference of production and scientific presentations on various aspects of spinach research in San Antonio on November 30, 2016 at El Tropicano Riverwalk Hotel located on 110 Lexington Ave., San Antonio, TX 78205.

This is followed by a field day/tour where various spinach seed companies and breeders have their latest spinach hybrids grown for observation and evaluation in the Winter Garden Area(Zavala, Uvalde, Medina Counties) of Texas including a stop for pictures at the Popeye Statue in Crystal City. The conference is open to all public and private sector personnel interested in spinach. The meeting is well-represented by clientele from the spinach industry and includes people from the seed industry, research and extension, growers, producers, and shippers, and pest management professionals from Australia, Europe, China, Japan and the United States.

For over 20 years, university personnel involved in spinach research have organized and hosted the International Spinach Conference as non-profit entities for the benefit of the broader spinach industry. The meeting has also been supported, in part, by generous industry sponsorship. The University of Arkansas and Texas A&M University often have hosted the conference in alternating years. In more recent years, the conference has also been hosted by the University of California Cooperative Extension (Monterey, CA) and Washington State University (Mt Vernon, WA,). In 2011, the International Spinach Conference was held in Amsterdam, Netherlands, Guangzhou, China in 2013 and Yuma Arizona in 2015. The International Spinach conference will move to Murcia Spain and will be held in March 2018 and back to the United States in 2019 to be held in La Conner Washington.

We will have a welcome reception at the hotel on Tuesday evening November 29th at 6:00 p.m. with the all-day educational meeting beginning at 8 am in the hotel meeting room on Wednesday November 30th. Lunch will be provided at the meeting room and will feature Texas grown spinach of course. Then on Thursday morning, December 1st, we will board tour buses and head west to see some of the finest spinach in the whole world. Lunch and dinner will be provided. To experience the full tour it is BEST to ride on the bus. We will tour several grower fields and demonstration plots as well as the Del Monte research farm and spinach nurseries. We will conclude the day with a good ole fashioned South Texas pachanga(! So please make plans to join us. For any questions related to the meeting, please contact Larry Stein by e-mail at [larrystein@tamu.edu](mailto:larrystein@tamu.edu) or by calling 830-278-9151 or Marcel Valdez by e-mail at [mj-valdez@tamu.edu](mailto:mj-valdez@tamu.edu) or by calling at 830-374-2883. See attached flier for more information.

## ANNUAL ZAVALA COUNTY AGRILIFE EXTENSION PESTICIDE APPLICATOR TRAINING OPPORTUNITY– December 28, 2016



The annual Zavala County Pesticide applicators training opportunity will take place on December 28, 2016 at the La Pryor High School Auditorium in La Pryor Texas. This annual event is sponsored by the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service-Zavala County office in collaboration with the Texas Department of Agriculture and the Zavala County AgriLife Extension Service Leadership Advisory Board. Commercial, private and non-commercial pesticide applicator license holders will be able to obtain 6 CEU's at this event. Check out our enclosed information flier for more information about this popular annual producers gathering.





## 2016 International Spinach Conference

When: November 30 - December 1, 2016

Where: El Tropicano Hotel  
110 Lexington Ave.  
San Antonio, TX 78205

### **Registration:**

2/24/16 – 11/01/2016	= \$175.00
Late registration-11/02/16 – 11/23/16	= \$200.00
Onsite Registration	= \$225.00

**Link to register:** <https://agrilliferegister.tamu.edu/index.cfm/productDetails/productid/2010/>

### **Sponsorship Opportunities**

- Bronze - \$500 (1 registration & PR in booklet)
- Silver - \$1,000 (2 registrations & PR in booklet)
- Gold - \$1,500 (3 registrations & PR in booklet)
- Platinum - \$2,000 (4 registrations & PR in booklet)

### **Hotel Information: Room rate is \$105 plus taxes**

The cut-off date for reservations is Sunday, October 30, 2016.

Hotel & Additional Information: <http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/vegetable/international-spinach-conference/2016-spinach-conference/>

Contact: Maribel Alonzo  
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TEXAS A&M  
**AGRILIFE**  
EXTENSION



**6 CEU's  
For Private  
Pesticide  
Applicators**

*Licensed private applicators are required to recertify every five years by obtaining 15 continuing education credits, including two (2) credits in laws and regulations and two (2) credits in integrated pest management (IPM), prior to expiration of the license.*

**This Meeting Will Provide  
Ceus In The Following Categories**

- 1-Laws and Regulations
- 1- Integrated Pest Management(IPM)
- 1-Drift Minimization
- 3-General

**Registration Fee:  
\$10.00 Per Person**

**For More Information Contact:  
Marcel Valdez, County Extension Agent-Agriculture/Natural Resources  
Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service-Zavala County  
830-374-2883 or 830-374-5373 or by e-mail at [mj-valdez@tamu.edu](mailto:mj-valdez@tamu.edu)**

**12th Annual Zavala County  
CEU Training Meeting**

**Sponsored by:**

**Texas A&M**

**AgriLife**

**Extension**

**Service**

**Zavala County**

**TEXAS A&M  
AGRI LIFE  
EXTENSION**



**Wednesday December 28, 2016**

**9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.**

**La Pryor High School Cafeteria**

**La Pryor Texas**

Educational programs of the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service are open to all people without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, disability, genetic information or veteran status. The Texas A&M University System, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the County Commissioners Courts of Texas Cooperating