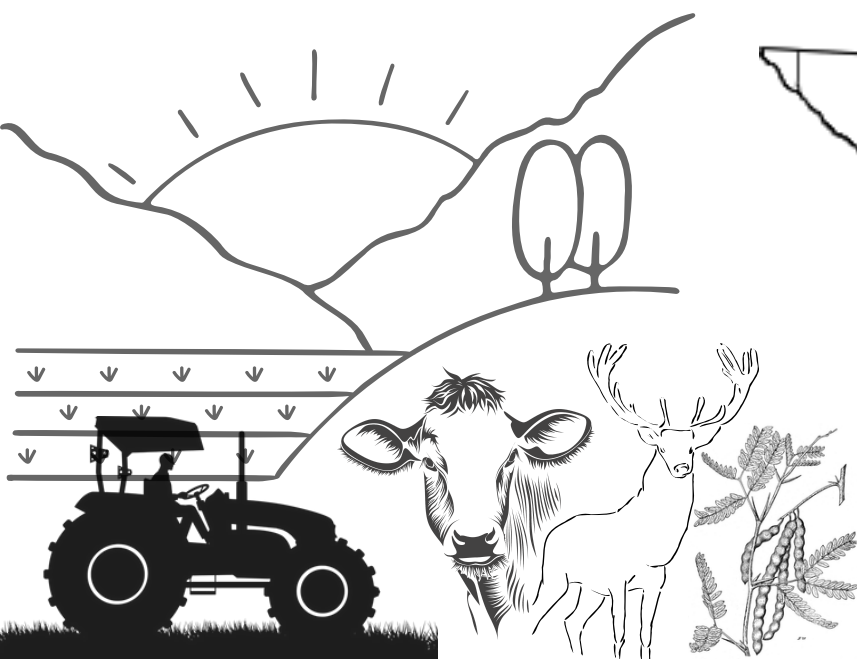




ZAVALA COUNTY

AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES

February 2023
Newsletter



Texas A&M AgriLife is committed to providing safe and non-discriminatory learning, and work environments for all members of the AgriLife community. AgriLife provides equal opportunity in all programs, activities, education, and employment to all persons regardless of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, age, disability, genetic information, veteran status, sexual orientation, gender identity, or any other classification protected by federal, state, or local law.

Zavala County Office
Office: (830) 374-2883
zavala-tx@tamu.edu

Leslie Dominguez
CEA- ANR
(830) 374-2883
leslie.dominguez@ag.tamu.edu



Agricultural Pesticide Waste Collection Event

Wednesday, March 1, 2023 | 8 AM - Noon

City of Hondo Fairgrounds
733 FM 462 N
Hondo, TX 78861

Scan the QR Code



for directions

Unwanted or Surplus Agricultural Pesticides?
Dispose of them Free and Anonymously without leaving your Vehicle!

MATERIALS ACCEPTED

- Outdated, Discontinued or Unwanted Agricultural Pesticides
- Insecticides
- Herbicides
- Fungicides
- Rodenticides
- Nematicides
- Growth Regulators
- Empty, Triple-Rinsed Plastic Pesticide Containers
- Empty or Partial Metal Drums

**PESTICIDES MUST BE KEPT IN ORIGINAL
CONTAINERS, EVEN IF THE LABEL IS NOT PRESENT.**

*Unknown pesticides will be sampled and identified
on site.*

MATERIALS NOT ACCEPTED

- Explosive ordinances and ammunition
- Petroleum-Based Products
- Paints
- Medical Wastes
- Radioactive Substances
- Household Chemicals and Waste
- Tires
- Fertilizers
- Propane or Butane Cylinders
- Fumigant Canisters
- Used motor oil and automobile fluids
- Auto Batteries
- Empty Totes
- Methyl-Bromide Cylinders
- Dioxins (2,4-5T, Silvex, TCDD, etc.)

For questions or additional information contact the Texas Dept of Agriculture (TDA) at (512) 463-7622, TDA San Antonio Regional Office at (210) 820-0288, or the Medina County AgriLife Extension Office at (830) 741-6180.



CleanEarth●



TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
COMMISSIONER SID MILLER

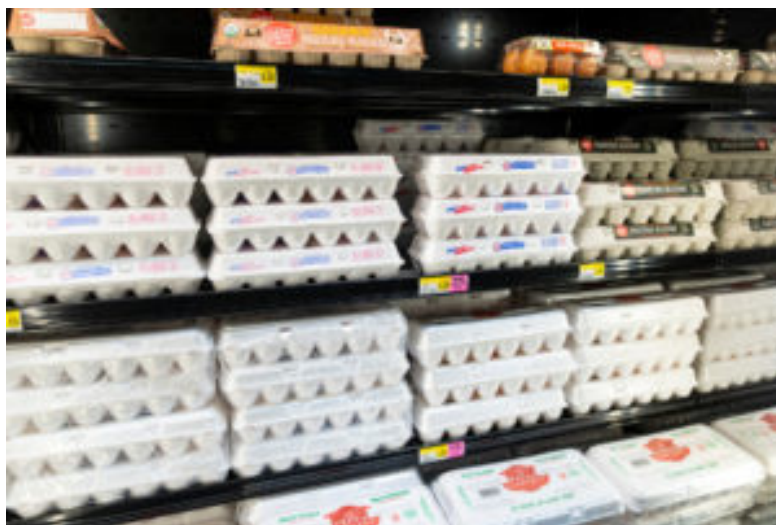
Please Contact the Zavala County Texas A&M AgriLife Extension
Service Office for drop off or pick up
830-374-2883

Egg prices are high, could go higher

Texas Crop and Weather Report – Jan. 24, 2023

Egg prices continue to set all-time per-dozen price records, and a Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service expert does not expect that trend to reverse in the near future.

Cartons of eggs in a grocery store. Cartons of eggs inside a Brookshire Brothers in College Station on Jan. 23. Egg prices have climbed to all-time highs amid the avian flu pandemic. (Texas A&M AgriLife photo by Michael Miller)



David Anderson, Ph.D., AgriLife Extension economist, Bryan-College Station, said inflationary pressure and the worst avian flu outbreak in U.S. history have combined to send egg prices upward over much of the last year.

For a year-to-year comparison, prices reached \$4.25 per dozen on average in December 2022 across the nation, according to a U.S. Department of Agriculture retail egg report. A dozen eggs was \$1.79 at the same time last year.

The previous peak price occurred in September 2015 – \$2.97 per dozen – and was also attributable to an avian influenza outbreak.

Anderson said he has been inundated with media requests on the subject as the topic of egg prices has become a major talking point among the consuming public.

“One reporter in Houston interviewed a backyard producer who told them this is the first time ever that it’s been cheaper to produce eggs than buy them at the store,” he said. “The situation with egg prices is something people are following now, but I think it is also something that happened over the course of time with several factors aligning.”

Egg prices are high, could go higher

Texas Crop and Weather Report – Jan. 24, 2023

Avian flu driving egg prices upward

Higher production and logistical costs like feed and fuel have contributed, but the top factor driving egg prices to record highs is an ongoing outbreak of avian influenza, Anderson said. The highly pathogenic viral disease hit the U.S. poultry industry in early 2022 and cases continue to pop up at poultry farms nationwide.

The USDA-Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, USDA-APHIS, reported almost 58 million commercial poultry birds, including broiler and egg-laying chickens, turkeys and various fowl have been lost to the virus, now reported in 46 states.

The USDA estimated around 43 million egg-laying hens were cut from the U.S. flock through December. The disease hits egg-laying chicken flocks harder because birds are in production much longer than broiler chickens, which increases their risk of exposure to the pathogen.

The losses resulted in U.S. egg inventories that were 29% lower than January 2022, according to the report.

Anderson said the avian flu struck at a time when egg layer numbers had already been reduced.

There were 340 million table egg layer hens in the U.S. flock in December 2019. By December 2020, table layer numbers had been reduced by 13 million hens, to 327 million, as egg production responded to the COVID-19 pandemic and higher feed costs. The number of table layers remained static through December 2021, and then the avian influenza outbreak dropped the number of hens below 300 million by June.

Profit incentive has pushed poultry producers to restore flock numbers amid the outbreak, but egg-producing operations continue to be hit by the disease. USDA-APHIS disease control and containment protocol calls for euthanization and disposal of all birds in a house exposed to the disease.

“We’ve seen producers respond by building back the flock numbers, but farms are still getting wiped out,” he said. “They were up to 308 million by December 2022, but it’s two steps forward, one step back.”

Preparing for Winter Storms

In many parts of Texas, severe winter weather can threaten your safety and the safety of your property. Blizzards, heavy snow, freezing rain, ice, and freezing temperatures occasionally cause havoc in parts of Texas. Winter storms are known as deceptive killers because most deaths are indirectly related to the storm. Some causes of injury and death include hypothermia from prolonged exposure to the cold, carbon monoxide poisoning from defective heating units and/or poor ventilation, and automobile accidents.



According to the National Weather Service, about half of people who die from hypothermia are over the age of 60. The majority of fatalities that occur due to ice and snow happen in automobile accidents; other fatalities occur because people are caught out in the storm. Even if you think you are safe and warm at home, a winter storm can become dangerous if the power goes off. With a little planning, you can protect yourself and your family and keep your property losses to a minimum.

For Winter Storm Resources please visit:

<https://texashelp.tamu.edu/browse/by-type/naturally-occurring/winter-storms/>

