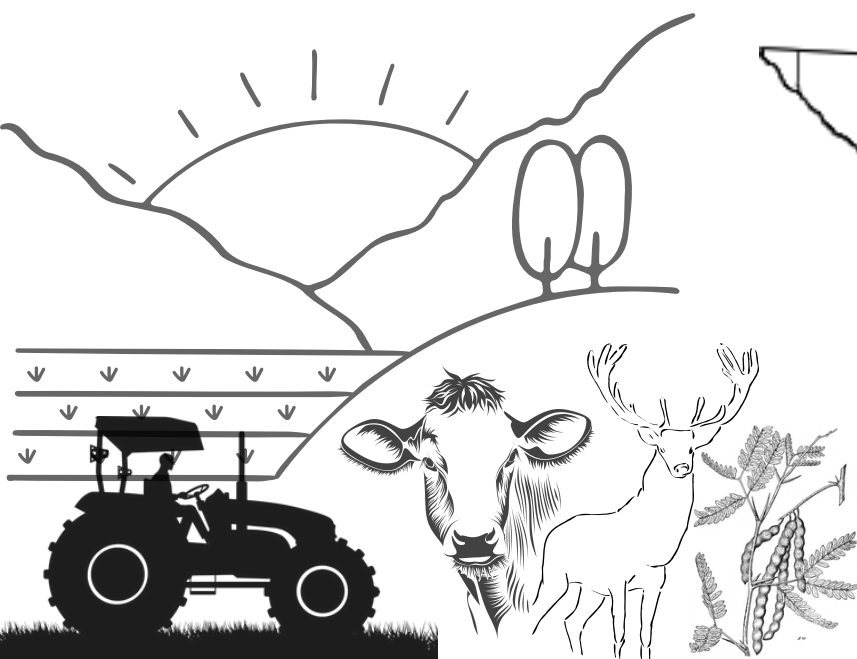
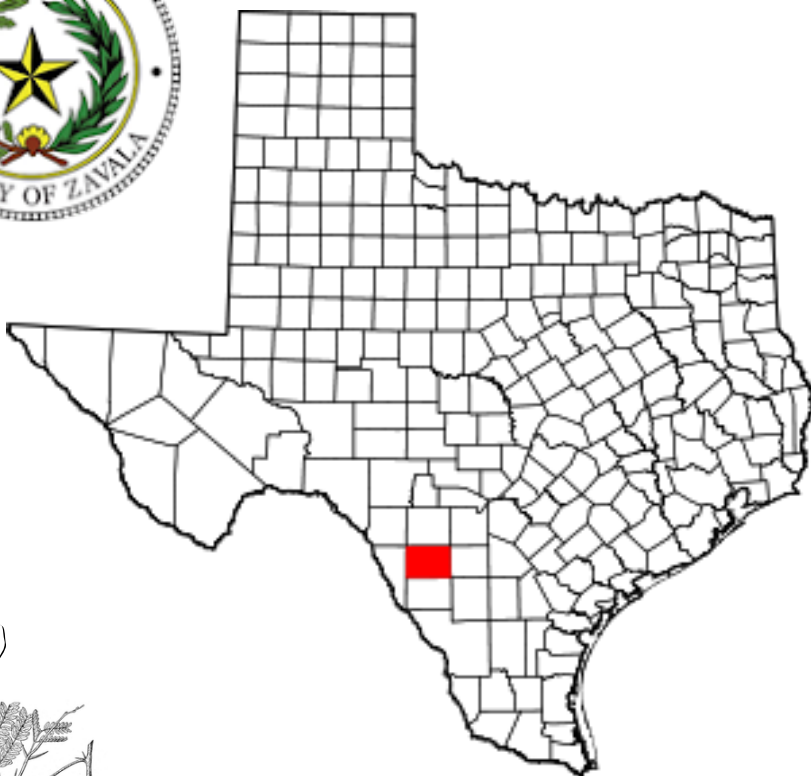




# ZAVALA COUNTY

## AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES

September 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](mailto:zavala-tx@tamu.edu)

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# Southwest Texas Prescribed Burn Association

Kinney, Medina, Uvalde, and Zavala Counties



## Benefits of Prescribed Burns:

- Lowers risk of more dangerous fires
- Increases water availability through plant removal
- Increases plant diversity
- Helps control invasive/unwanted species
- Reduces tree competition
- Improves wildlife habitat
- Minimizes the spread of pests and diseases

## Want to learn more?

**Join us at our next meeting September 12, 2023**

**12 PM @ The First State Bank of Uvalde**

**200 E Nopal, Uvalde, Tx**

**Contact info: (830) 426-2532 ext 3**

# Multicounty Water Well Screening Day

TEXAS A&M  
**AGRI**LIFE  
EXTENSION

## HAVE YOU TESTED YOUR PRIVATE WATER WELL?

Private water wells should be tested annually. The Multi-County Water Screening Program is sponsored by Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service of Atascosa, Dimmit, Frio, McMullen, LaSalle, and Zavala counties.

The offices are hosting a water well screening on **October 11, 2023** to give area residents the opportunity to have their well water tested. **The cost is \$15.00 per sample.**

**Samples will be collected on Wednesday, October 11, 2023 between 8:00 a.m. and 9:00 a.m. Well owners may pick up a sample bag and instructions from their County Extension Office.**

- Atascosa County AgriLife Extension Office, 25 E. 5th Street Leming, TX 78050
- Dimmit County AgriLife Extension Office, 539 Industrial Blvd., Carrizo Springs TX 78834
- Frio County AgriLife Extension Office, 400 S. Pecan Street, Pearsall, TX 78061
- La Salle County AgriLife Extension Office, 119 S. Front Street Cotulla, TX 78014
- McMullen County AgriLife Extension Office, 604 River Street, Tilden, TX 78072
- Zavala County AgriLife Extension Office, 221 N 1st Ave, Crystal City, TX 78839

Results from the water screening will be available **October 12, 2023** for pick up at your local county extension office. The screening is presented by Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service.

### **Samples screened for:**

#### **FECAL COLIFORM BACTERIA**

Presence indicates that feces (bodily waste from humans or animals) may have contaminated the water. Water contaminated with bacteria is more likely to have pathogens present that can cause diarrhea, cramps, nausea, or other symptoms.

#### **NITRATES**

Levels above 10 ppm may cause infants, pregnant, or lactating women, the elderly, and the immune-suppressed to be at risk for methemoglobinemia, a condition which inhibits the ability of blood to sufficiently carry oxygen to tissues and cells.

#### **SALINITY**

Measured by Total Dissolved Solids (TDS). Water with high TDS levels may leave deposits and have a salty taste. Using water with high TDS for irrigation may damage the soil and plants.

#### **HYDROCARBONS**

Presence indicates that oil contamination has occurred.



Education programs of Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service are open to all people without regard to race, color, sex, disability, religion, age, or national origin.

# TEXAS BEEF QUALITY ASSURANCE

## BQA TIPS



Calving Ease

Emily Lochner

9/1/23

Calving ease is influenced by several factors: age, heifer development, genetics (sire and dam), nutrition during the 3rd trimester, calf presentation at delivery, temperature and time of year, and other factors. Heifers should be developed to reach at least 85% of their mature weight before calving. During the 3rd trimester heifers should be fed to gain about 0.8 to 1.2 pounds per day in most cases. Underfeeding heifers can lead to more calving problems, delayed rebreeding, and weaker calves. Calves born during the fall will be a few pounds lighter than those born in the winter or spring.

For more information please visit:

<https://texasbeefquality.com/>



Crossbred Beefmaster and Red Angus cattle at Gattis Cattle Company in Williamson County, Texas. (Mark Matson 4/20/22)

# Texas summer drought affecting corn, sorghum crops

## Texas Crop and Weather Report – August 29, 2023

By: Randi Williams

Heat and drought have taken a toll on Texas crop production. Limited production of corn and sorghum and the unknown future have caused prices for those crops to spike, according to a Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service expert.

Mark Welch, Ph.D., AgriLife Extension economist-grain marketing in the Texas A&M Department of Agricultural Economics, Bryan-College Station, said 2023 crop production for Texas summer-grown crops such as corn and sorghum is better than compared to 2022. However, dry conditions will still take a small toll on producers in certain areas for this year's harvest.

### 2023 Summer Drought

Although much of the state had a decent late winter and early spring rainfall, the 2023 crop production has been “a mixed bag depending on location,” Welch said. The South Texas and Coastal Bend region experienced more rainfall during the early months of 2023, which allowed farmers to gain a head start in crop production.

Central Texas producers did not get the same rainfall as the southern region, which resulted in extreme heat this summer, stunting the growth of crops through sensitive stages.

Panhandle producers, especially corn producers, started irrigating crops during the early summer months. The extreme heat and high winds have made it difficult and expensive for irrigation systems to keep up. Though much is unknown until the completion of harvest in late September and early October, producers are preparing to experience extreme yield loss.

### Change in prices

“This summer has been one of volatile and high variable prices,” Welch said.

The basis price, which is the difference between the local cash price and the future market price, for the feed grain markets has held firm throughout the summer, Welch said. And the drought affecting the nation's Corn Belt has allowed Texas producers who were able to plant their crop in the early planting months, which resulted in good yields, to see a significant increase in prices.

Texas and other southern states have also experienced a spike in forage prices, such as hay and silage, due to the demand for forage from livestock owners and producers. Welch said it will be late September or October before it is known what impact the continued heat and drought is having on 2023 production.

Also causing prices to spike is the war between Russia and Ukraine.

“We have come back down from last year's pre-war prices, but there is still a big concern of grain prices and exports,” Welch said.

“Since the outbreak of the war, exports have continued with rising prices. The grain trade initiative has allowed some cargo vessels from Ukraine to export produce, but during the last few weeks, Russia has ended the grain trade initiative, and prices have spiked again. The bottom number will depend on what happens from now until the end of harvest,” Welch said.



AgriLife Extension district reporters compiled the following summaries:

## SOUTHWEST

Extreme heat conditions persisted for the week. Some areas reported spotty showers of rainfall, which was a relief from the record-breaking temperatures. Remnants of Tropical Storm Harold scattered between 1.25-2.5 inches throughout Kinney County. Cooler and more seasonal temperatures were experienced for a couple of days. Pastures were responding well to the recent rainfall. Sutton County reported spotty showers and less than half of an inch received. Production of most range plants stopped due to drought conditions, and rainfed ponds were mostly dried out. The expected pecan yield was low overall due to insufficient water supplementing irrigation. Caldwell County received no rain this week. Caldwell County and 24 other counties in Texas were declared to be under a state of emergency for severe drought. Cattle markets remained strong. Livestock were in fair condition. Supplemental feeding was necessary for most livestock producers.

## SOUTH

The cotton crop was about 80% harvested in the district, with others still defoliating in hopes of harvesting in the next few weeks. The stalk destruction deadline was approaching quickly, with no extension being planned. Pastures continued to suffer due to the hot and dry conditions. Irrigation districts were reaching a critical point regarding water availability, with almost certain water restrictions to come soon. Forages in rangelands and pastures were beginning to improve. Rapid green-up was already noted, and most were hopeful there was still enough time this season to produce some grass. Beef cattle markets continued to run average volumes and reported solid prices for all classes of beef cattle. All corn and grain sorghum were harvested with very little cotton left in the field, and sunflower and sesame harvest had yet to start. Livestock managers hoped for enough green-up from rains to limit haying and reduce supplemental feeding. Farmers began preparing fields for the next planting season. Stock tanks were slightly replenished. Cotton harvest continued, and it looked to be 75% harvested. Sesame harvest also continued. Citrus, sugarcane and hay meadows continued to be irrigated. Wildlife were abundant and found near water sources.



## Zavala County Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service Soil Sampling

### Analysis Suites offered by our agency:

1. Routine Analysis (R)
2. R+ Micronutrients
3. R+ Micro + Hot Soluble Boron (B)
4. R+ Micro + B + Organic Matter (OM)
5. R+ Micro + B + OM + Texture Analyses (TEX)
6. R+ OM
7. R+ TEX
8. R+ OM + TEX
9. R+ Detailed Salinity (SAL)
10. R+ Micro + B + SAL
11. R+ Micro + B + OM + SAL
12. R+ Micro + B + OM + SAL + TEX

### Prices per sample:

1. \$12
2. \$19
3. \$26
4. \$46
5. \$66
6. \$32
7. \$32
8. \$52
9. \$37
10. \$51
11. \$71
12. \$91

Please stop by our office to pick up a soil sample bag and form

If you have any questions, feel free to reach out to our office, (830) 374-2883 or  
stop by at 221 N 1st Ave, Crystal City, TX 78839



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