The Pesticide Periodical

Agricultural & Environmental Safety Unit

August 2025

Volume 1, Issue 8

agrilife.org/aes

Upcoming Programs

General Standards Technician Training

- August 20th (Humble)
- September 3rd (Virtual)
- September 17th (Austin)

20-hour General Standards Apprentice Training

- September 23rd-25th (Bryan)

8-hour Structural Pest Category Training

- August 19th (Humble)
- September 26th (Bryan)

Landscape Maintenance Category Training

- August 27th (Fort Worth)
- September 17th (Humble)

AES August Update

Mr. Jake Wightman, Extension Program Specialist, Editor

August is here! School is back in session, football is back, and we are all dreaming about what it would be like if Texas had fall temperatures **during fall**. This time of year I like to remind structural certified applicators and technicians that **time is running out to get 2025 CEUs and verifiable training requirements satisfied**. For agricultural applicators, now is the time of year to be in touch with your county agents about CEU programs that will be taking place over the fall and winter. Plan ahead, and we hope to see you at a few of them.

Last week, the Agricultural & Environmental Safety Unit attended the 71st annual Texas A&M Beef Cattle Short Course where we held a pesticide recertification workshop. Topics included fire ant and leafcutter ant management in pastures and rangeland, soil health and IPM strategies, as well as pesticide applicator laws and regulations. One thing that really stuck with the unit throughout the entire program was a quote from a session later in the week given during a presentation on ectoparasites, “the best thing you can put on a piece of land is your shadow.” We **should be** reminded to routinely place ourselves in the moment, on the jobsite, and get a true idea of the scale of our operations and/or work. I am not a gambler, but when I can...I bet on myself.

From the Student Workers' Desk **Miss Avery Brooks, AES Student Worker**

The Texas Department of Agriculture, in partnership with Texas A&M AgriLife Extension, hosted a successful **pesticide waste collection activity at the Grimes County Fairgrounds in Navasota, Texas** on July 23, 2025. An estimated 75,000 pounds of unwanted pesticides were collected from more than 100 participants at the event. These pesticide waste collection activities allow school districts, universities, businesses, farmers, ranchers, and agricultural producers to dispose of unwanted or unusable pesticides in a safe and efficient way. These events are free of charge and anonymous with no questions asked. Materials accepted at these events include outdated, discontinued, or unwanted insecticides, herbicides, fungicides, rodenticides, nematicides, and growth regulators. Materials that are not be accepted include dioxins, fertilizers, fumigant canisters, household hazardous waste, methyl bromide cylinders, motor oil, paint, pesticide rinsate, phostoxin, propane or butane cylinders, radioactive substances, and tires. In addition, empty containers are not accepted at these events. However, empty containers of 55 gallons and smaller can be dropped off free of charge at various locations across the state at G. Phillps & Sons. More information on empty container drop off can be found here.

The Agricultural & Environmental Safety Unit is pleased to have been a part of Texas A&M AgriLife Extension's representation at the event serving breakfast, lunch, and refreshments throughout the day to program facilitators. We look forward to seeing you at the next event!

Termite Trouble **Mr. Jake Wightman, Extension Program Specialist, Editor**

The Agricultural & Environmental Safety Unit has the privilege of close, long-standing relationships with regulators and industry professionals. Recently, during a meeting with one of these groups the topic of termite monitoring stations, versus termite baiting systems was brought up. It seems like there may be some misconceptions about the two pieces of technology that I would just like to clarify: monitoring systems are for determining the presence/severity of termites in an area, whereas termite bait stations are a management technology. **Monitoring systems, alone, are not an approved termite treatment and will not be recognized as such by regulators or homeowners**. While monitoring "stations" and bait stations look similar, and are installed in a similar fashion, the key difference is the presence of a termiticide active ingredient. Monitoring systems are untreated and only serve to show the presence of organisms in an area. Bait stations are designed to attract organisms to a termiticide-treated piece of material that will then be dispersed to a population as a means of pest control. Know the difference, because it could save you a lot of trouble down the line!

Send Announcements to

jacob.wightman@ag.tamu.edu

For more information, call AES at

(979)845-3849

Activity Spotlight

Mrs. Shelby Smith, AES Administrative Associate

The Extension Service Club invites **women who reside in the Brazos Valley and are associated with the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service as an employee or employee spouse** to join us at the September Social in the hopes of becoming a member. Annual membership is $20. Meetings are held once a month from September through May which include social time, programs and speakers on topics of interest.

Help! Which license do I need to control mosquitoes?

The Texas Department of Agriculture has published a document that helps applicators figure out which license they need to control mosquitoes depending on different circumstances. View it here.

You can also call the Agricultural & Environmental Safety Unit with questions at (979)845-3849.

"Nothing beats a failure but a try."

-R.J. Smith

School IPM Reminders

Since school is back in full-swing, this is just a friendly reminder that Texas A&M AgriLife Extension has devoted resources for school IPM coordinators and those tasked with pest control in and around schools. Check out the website for IPM in Schools here, and we hope to see some of you at future trainings!

AES Unit Staff	Mrs. Shelby Smith
Dr. Don Renchie	Miss Avery Brooks
Dr. Mark Matocha	Miss Brooke Wanjura
Mr. Jake Wightman	Miss Ava Fenton
Mrs. Tina VanHorn	**Office Phone (979)845-3849**

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service is an equal opportunity employer and program provider.

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service provides equal opportunities in its programs and employment to all persons, regardless of 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.