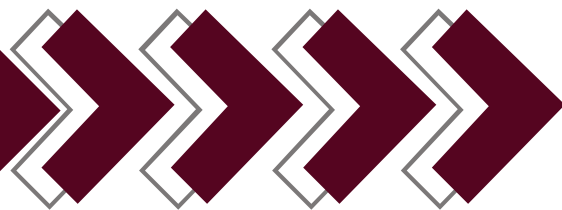


Zavala County- Agriculture and Natural Resources

September 2025 Newsletter



Welcome to this month's Agriculture and Natural Resources Newsletter! This publication aims to keep you informed about upcoming programs and provide valuable insights into agriculture and natural resource topics relevant to our area.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Contact Information:

Leslie Dominguez
County Extension Agent- Agriculture
& Natural Resources
(830) 374-2883
leslie.dominguez@ag.tamu.edu



[https://agrilifeextension.tamu.edu/
counties/zavala-county/](https://agrilifeextension.tamu.edu/counties/zavala-county/)



Zavala County- Texas A&M AgriLife Extension

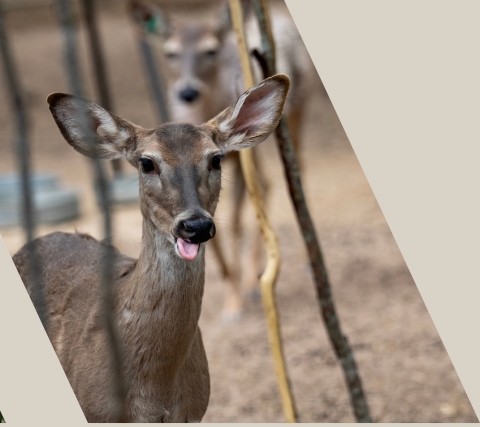
Inside This Issue:

- Upcoming Program Flyers
- Office Updates
- Plant of the Month
- BQA Tips

Upcoming Programs:

- Private Pesticide Applicator Training (9/29/25)
- Private Water Well Screening (10/7/25)
- Water Well Virtual Program (10/8/25)





JOIN US

Zavala Ag and Natural Resources Committee Meeting

Date: September 10, 2025

Time: 6:30 PM

Location: La Pryor Nutrition Center
(544 E Rue St., La Pryor, Tx 78872)



PRIVATE PESTICIDE APPLICATOR TRAINING

Date: September 29, 2025

Time: 9 AM- 12 PM

Location: AgriLife Conference Room
217 N 1st Ave, Crystal City, TX

Cost: \$10 for training only or
\$55 for training + study materials

**Please RSVP or submit payment for order of
optional study materials by September 22, 2025,
at our office. (Cash or Check).**

Zavala Co. AgriLife Extension Office
221 N 1st Ave, Crystal City, Tx 78839

830-374-2883

leslie.dominguez@ag.tamu.edu

You are encouraged to participate if you need a Private Pesticide Applicator License. The Private Pesticide Applicator License is required by TDA for a person who uses or supervises the use of restricted and/or state limited pesticides to produce agriculture commodities.

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. Persons with disabilities needing accommodations for effective participation in the meeting should contact Zavala County AgriLife Extension office at least a week in advance of the meeting to request mobility, visual, hearing, or other assistance.



*MULTI-COUNTY
WATER WELL SCREENING
ZAVALA COUNTY*

Have you tested your private water well?

Samples will be screened for: Fecal coliform bacteria,
nitrates, salinity, and hydrocarbons

Cost: \$15 per sample (Cash only)

Samples drop off date: October 7, 2025

Samples drop time: 8-9 AM

Drop off location: AgriLife Extension Office
221 N 1st Ave, Crystal City, TX

Samples can be submitted in clean plastic bottles

Let the pump operate ten minutes to an hour before taking the sample. Take the sample as close to the pump as possible.

*Questions?
830-374-2883
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UNDERSTANDING AND CARING FOR YOUR WATER WELL

VIRTUAL EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM

HOSTED BY: ATASCOSA, DIMMIT, FRIO, LA SALLE, MCMULLEN AND ZAVALA COUNTIES

Date: October 8, 2025

Time: 5:30 PM

Location: Zoom

[https://agrilife.zoom.us/j/92155964434?
pwd=6hvtsOnJzDGXdlbbxwFvnzmRySpY0b.1](https://agrilife.zoom.us/j/92155964434?pwd=6hvtsOnJzDGXdlbbxwFvnzmRySpY0b.1)

Topics: Interpreting your results& how to care for your
water well

Speaker: Mr. Joel Pigg, Extension Program Specialist

2025 Texas

Custom Rate Survey



TEXAS A&M
AGRILIFE
EXTENSION

AGRICULTURAL
ECONOMICS

HELP US UPDATE THE 2025 TEXAS CUSTOM RATES SURVEY

For over 40 years, the Texas Custom Rates Survey has been an important resource for farmers, ranchers, and agribusinesses across the state, providing accurate information on current rates paid or charged for a wide variety of agricultural custom work, machine operations, and services.

How to participate?

Complete our short online survey: tx.ag/crs2025

Takes less than 15 minutes for most participants

Individual responses are confidential

Learn more:

For past survey results and more details:

agecoext.tamu.edu/resources/custom-rate-survey

Questions?

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Dr. Manuel Garcia
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SURVEY QR



TX.AG/CRS2025

Thank you for your help and
contribution to Texas
agriculture.

Office Updates

New Website Alert

All county sites can be found on the AgriLife Extension Hub.

Our Zavala County county site is up and running, so please refer to:

<https://agrilifeextension.tamu.edu/counties/zavala-county/>

In our site you can find:

- Newsletter Sign-Up
- Contact Information
- Past ANR Newsletters
- Result Demonstration Summaries
- Upcoming Programs
- Resource Links

[County Offices](#) / Zavala County

AgriLife Extension Service Office

ZAVALA COUNTY

Zavala County is in Southwest Texas, bordered by Uvalde, Dimmit, Frio, and Maverick counties. Its county seat, Crystal City—known as the “Spinach Capital of the World”—is located in the southwest area. Other communities include La Pryor and Batesville, both unincorporated



ZAVALA COUNTY

Contact Us

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📠 (830) 374-3351
✉ zavala-tx@tamu.edu



Plant of the Month



Brasil, Bluewood Condalia, Brasilwood
Condalia hookeri
Rhamnaceae (Buckthorn family)

Plant Description:

Brasil is a native, semi-evergreen (evergreen in south Texas) shrub or small tree in the Buckthorn (Rhamnaceae) family. It tends to be thicket-forming. While recognized for its light gray stems and stiff thorns, Richard Taylor in *Common Woody Plants & Cacti of South Texas* says “Smaller Brasil plants or regrowth may be confused with Lotebush, Amaragosa, or Knifefleaf Condalia as a result of the similarity of stems, light gray color, and stiff thorns.” It is commonly multiple-trunked and reaches heights between 6 to 15 ft or 1.8 to 4.6 m, on occasion reaching 9 m with an irregularly shaped crown and spreading branches. New growth is green and velvety, becoming smooth and brown or gray with age. The small leaves (usually < 2.5 cm) are shiny, light lime-green, and alternate or fascicled along a branch that terminates with sharp spines. The leaves are obovate or spatulate with smooth margins, analogous to the branches, and are pubescent at first and glabrous with time. Sometimes they are notched at the tip or have evidence of a single tooth. Brasil has flowers that are quite small (~0.4 cm) and greenish, solitary, or in an axillary cluster of two or three. Its fruit ripens in the summer from a green drupe to a purple or black color. While only 6 mm and hard to harvest because of the thorns, the fruit is edible and quite sweet. Because the fruit ripens over the course of the summer, it has extended availability for wildlife consumption. Brasil's forage value for wildlife is high. The fruit is consumed by a wide array of mammals, and Brasil is used as a nest site for birds as well as cover for both mammals and birds. Its browse value for cattle is low.

Habitat:

Brasil is found mainly on drier soils in mixed-brush areas of South Texas. It is uncommon in North Texas.

Plant Characteristics:

Flower Color: Green
Fruit Type: Fruit/Berry
Duration: Perennial
Stem Texture: Prickly, Spiny, or Thorny
Growth Habit: Shrub (Woody), Tree
Season: Evergreen, Semi-Evergreen

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department Browse Plant Description:

Brasil
Crude Protein: 13-24%

Shrub or small tree; evergreen with spiny branches; shiny, light, lime-green leaves alternate; small greenish flowers followed by red to black fruit in summer.



TEXAS BEEF QUALITY ASSURANCE



BQA TIPS

Key to Safe and Effective Injections

September 1, 2025
Emily Lochner

When giving injections it is critical to make sure needles stay clean and sharp. Regardless of which brand or type of hub (e.g. plastic, aluminum, stainless steel, etc.), needles should be changed anytime they bend, get dull, get dirty, or if they are accidentally bumped against the squeeze chute, ice chest, or something else. Additionally, needles should never be sharpened.

If not changed sooner, then needles should be changed at least every 10 to 12 head.

On some operations producers may choose to use a new needle for each animal to reduce the risk of spreading certain diseases.