

TABLE OF CONTENTS

- **Annual 7-Hour CEU Seminar**
- **Pesticide Applicator Training Course**
- **November Cattle Program**
- **Annual 8-Hour CEU Program**
- **Blackland Income Growth Conference**
- **BIG Recertification**
- **Environmental Stress on Tress**
- **The 5th Annual Harvest Celebration**
- **Facebook and E-Mail Information**
- **Cocklebur Control**
- **Early Release of Program Dates: 2026**
- **Last Chance CEU's Program**
- **2025 Crop Result Demonstrations**
- **From the Top Rail by Dr. Shane McLellan**
- **2025 McLennan County Crop Result Demonstrations Data**

Annual 7-Hour CEU Seminar

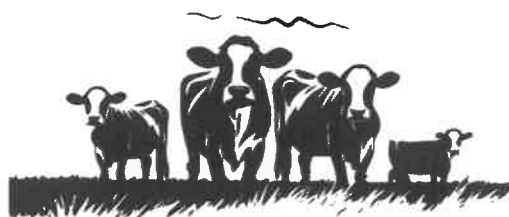
The annual 7-hour CEU Beef Cattle and Forage Management Seminar will be held on Monday, October 27, 2025, at the *Pidgeon Community Center, 351 Cooks Lane, Franklin*. The cost for the event is \$60. Registration & payment is required beforehand to reserve your spot and to make sure our meal counts are accurate. Check in at the event will begin at 7:00am with the program starting at 7:30am and will conclude at 3:00pm. Seven TDA continuing education units will be offered with the first five hours covering all requirements for Commercial License holders. Participants can stay for the entire seven hours of the program or fit the hours you need for your specific license, just let Dana know when you register. This meeting will be in-person only, with in-person speakers. Preregistration and payment are required to attend this event. To RSVP, call the Robertson County Extension Office (979)828-4270.

Pesticide Applicator Training Course

A private pesticide applicator is someone who uses or supervises the use of restricted-use or state-limited-use pesticides or regulated herbicides to produce an agriculture commodity. Persons interested in obtaining a Private Pesticide Applicators License must attend a training program. We will offer this training on Wednesday, October 29, 2025, at the *McLennan County Extension Office, 4224 Cobbs Drive, Waco*. The program will begin at 8:30am and adjourn before noon. The cost for this course is \$70, which includes breakfast and study material. Please call our office at (254)757-5180 to RSVP. TDA now uses Metro Institute to conduct examinations. Once you complete the training you will send your application paperwork to TDA. TDA will then send you information on how you can register with Metro Institute and schedule your exam.

November Cattle Program

There will be a multi-county Early Winter Cattle Program on November 20, 2025, at the *Hill County Exhibits Building, 205 Stadium Drive, Hillsboro, 76645*. The cost of the program is \$20 and includes a steak tip lunch. Please RSVP by November 12 by calling Hill County Extension Office (254)582-4022. There will be three TDA CEU's offered (two General and one IPM). Registration will begin at 8am, the program starts at 8:30am and will adjourn at 2:30pm. Topics include Winter Nutrition-Are Tubs Right for Me, Feral Hog Management, Maximizing and Protecting Hay Quality, USDA/FSA Update, Cool Season Grass Management, Cattle Market Update.



4224 Cobbs Drive – Waco, Texas 76710 – (254)757-5180

Annual 8-Hour CEU Program

The annual District 8 Farm & Ranch Seminar, 8-hour TDA CEU program will be on December 11, 2025. This multi-county program will be offered in multiple locations across District 8. The McLennan County location will be at the *McLennan County Extension Office, 4224 Cobbs Drive, Waco 76710*. Registration will begin at 7am and the program begins at 7:30am. The cost to attend is \$60, with breakfast and a BBQ lunch included. This program will offer a 5-hour or an 8-hour option for those attending. The first 5 hours will meet all the requirements needed for Commercial/Non-Commercial License holders. To attend the McLennan County location, please call the office (254)757-5180 to RSVP. Topics and speakers are: Corn Pest Management-Tyler Mays (IPM), Weed Management in Hay-Dr. Vanessa Olson (Gen), New World Screwworm update-Dr. Sonja Swiger (IPM), Updates TDA Laws and Regs-Elizabeth Prokop (L&R),), General Laws & Regs-Dr. Don Renchie (L&R), Herbicide Mode of Action-Zach Howard (Gen), Forage Pest-Dr. David Kerns (Gen), Bee Management-Dr. Garrett Slater (IPM).

Blackland Income Growth Conference

Put it on your calendar, the annual BIG Conference and MidTex Farm & Ranch Show will be here on January 6 & 7, 2026. This event will have multiple TDA CEU opportunities on both days. On the first day during the agriculture commodity meetings, participants can attend the educational sessions in Beef & Forage, Cotton & Row Crops, and Landowner Management, which will offer TDA CEU's. The BIG Registration for the first day is on-site only. The cost for day one of the BIG Conference is \$25, which includes lunch. Registration will open at 8am on Jan 6 at the BASE building. There will be a guest speaker with more program information that will be available as we get closer. The location will be same as before, at the *BASE Building at Extraco Events Center, 4601 Bosque Blvd, Waco 76710*.

BIG Recertification

The annual 5-hour recertification will be hosted on the second day of the BIG Conference on Jan 7, 2026, at the *BASE building at Extraco Events Center*. Preregistration is required for this event. Please call the extension office (254)757-5180 to register. The cost to attend is \$65. Registration will begin at 7:30am, with the program starting at 8am and will conclude at 2:30pm. Attendees will receive five TDA CEU's (two L&R, two IPM, and one Drift). Topics and speakers include Aquatic Plant Management-Steve Bardin, New World Screwworm Update-Dr. Sonja Swiger, Weed & Brush: Use the Correct Herbicide-James Jackson, Laws & Regs-Dr. Mark Matocha, and Invora Picolinic Acid Chemistry Training. New this year is the one-hour training on Invora Herbicide. Enjoy a BBQ plate for lunch. Watch for More information to come.

Environmental Stress on Trees

Each tree in the environment is unique, with having its own immunity, health, and stress level that it can tolerate. The environment is the primary factor a tree will not be healthy. Too much rain, not enough rain, too hot, too cold, digging, trenching, compaction, concrete, and many other things can all negatively affect a tree. The freeze of 2021, 20 inches of rainfall in 2022, the 15 inches of rain in May of 2022, followed by the lack of rain from June to November 2022, along with many other weather extremes have hurt a lot of trees. People will call and ask me for the secret sauce to heal their tree. The sauce does not exist. Only time and favorable growing conditions can offer a stress damaged tree any chance of survival. So, what are favorable growing conditions? Near normal rainfall and temperature, with consistent-steady moisture and temperature would be favorable conditions.

4224 Cobbs Drive – Waco, Texas 76710 – (254)757-5180

The 5th Annual Harvest Celebration

Our fifth event was the biggest one yet, with 152 people attending. A big thank you to *my coworkers* for helping with setting up, decorating, running charcuterie boards, picking up door prizes, taking care of registration and all the other things you did of which I am not aware. I must also say a huge thank you to the *Extension Row Crop Committee* for your assistance with planning, preparation, setup, cleanup and again, all the stuff you do that I just take for granted. We cannot do this program without our invaluable sponsors that we greatly appreciate! They are: *Ag Southwest Ranch Insurance, AgTrust Farm Credit, Capital Farm Credit, Country Spring Vineyard, Crop & Range Insurance Services, CTWP, Helena Agri-Ent, Hopkins Oil, Ignition Land Services, LG Seeds, Lynch Ag Insurance Services, McGregor General Store, McLennan County Farm Bureau, McLennan County Master Gardeners, Pioneer HiBred Intl, Simplot Grower Solutions, Southwest Agribusiness Consulting, Texas Beef Council, TFNB, United Ag & Turf, VirKim Fertilizer & Chemical and Wilbur Ellis.* Our special guest speaker was *Todd Kercheval, Kercheval & Associates* who delivered a great message and reminder that we all need to be advocates for agriculture. We recognized our *Outstanding Extension Ag Volunteers: Curtis and Mary Timmons, and Melody High.* We also recognized our *Outstanding Business in Support of Agriculture Education: Crunk Ag Services- Wendell and Karen Crunk, and TFNB- Jacaranda Vigil.* It was a great night with great people! Save the date. The 6th Annual Harvest Celebration will be September 24, 2026, at the Tonkawa Falls Event Center. Hope to see you there!

Facebook and E-Mail Information

Keep up to date with program announcements and follow McLennan County Extension - Agriculture on **Facebook @McLennanAgExtension**. If you are not on our email list to receive information about upcoming programs, please email Nicole at nicole.kosier@ag.tamu.edu or call the office at (254)757-5180

Cocklebur Control

The most common weed question I have been getting recently is about cocklebur control. Those that do not know what the weed looks like in early growth stages are getting a big dose of them in the adult stage with cocklebur seed. With the wetter than normal spring and summer has created a big crop of cocklebur. It is too late to spray now. People often do not like my answer on how to get rid of them.... It will be next year's herbicide application. The suggested timing for the first herbicide application (by the book) would be May to June timeframe, when the weed is immature and actively growing. This can be moisture dependent. If soil conditions are dry, the weed may emerge later when moisture is much more readily available. Post emerge applications should be applied when the weed is 10 to 12 inches tall. That might be a May through July window. Mowing is not the best method to control. However, if you must mow, mow when the cockleburs are 10 to 12 inches tall and mow them down to a height of 4 inches or less. There are many effective herbicides to control cockleburs. Timing of the application is important. In a normal year, late season applications will not control cockleburs. As a reminder weed seeds can stay viable in the environment for several years. Decay of seeds depends on weed species, soil conditions, soil disturbance, etc. The average seed "bank" declines fast at first, but many weed seeds will be viable for many years. Research has shown that grass seeds can stay viable for 3-5 years and the worst broadleaf weeds that we do not like can stay viable for decades.

Early release of program dates: 2026

April 7- Pecan Field Day, Russell's Pecans, Gholson
April 22- Small Grain Field Day, McGregor
May 5- Vines and Wines, McLennan County Extension Office
May 26- Sheep and Goat Conference, location to be determined
June 16- West Side Turn Row Meeting, Crawford
Aug 27- McLennan County Hay Show

4224 Cobbs Drive – Waco, Texas 76710 – (254)757-5180

Last Chance CEU's Program

My calendar is planned out a year in advance for major events. It is not too early to get this one on your calendar. We will host the annual Last Chance CEU's on Tuesday, February 18, 2026, at the *McLennan County Extension Office, 4224 Cobbs Drive, Waco 75710*. Registration starts at 7:30am. Participants will have the option of receiving up to 6 hours of TDA CEU's (two L&R, two IPM, one Drift and one General). The cost to attend is \$60. Enjoy breakfast and a BBQ lunch. Please look for more information in the upcoming months.

2025 Crop Result Demonstrations (attached)

Thank you to Kevin Huffman, Mark Wiethorn, and Greg Westerfeld for planting, managing, and harvesting the McLennan County Extension Crop Result Demonstrations and Applied Research Plots this year. These programs provided valuable information for producers on what hybrids/varieties perform in our local growing conditions in a non-biased, real-world farming test. I encourage all producers to utilize information from multiple growing seasons when making decisions on what hybrid/variety to plant on your farms. Each year provides a different growing environment. Decisions based on multiple years' data should provide you with the most reliable information on what hybrids/varieties perform well in our ever-changing growing conditions.

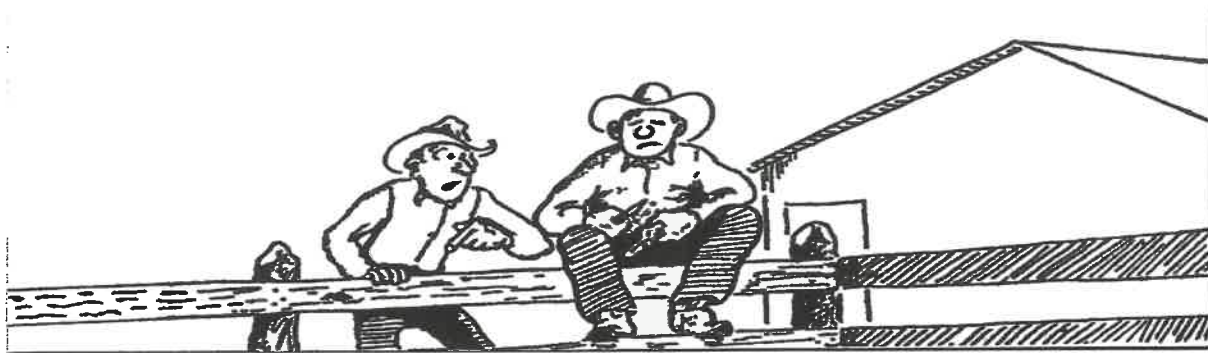
The Kevin Huffman wheat plot consisted of 11 varieties of Hard Red Winter Wheat. The highest yield was High Cotton of 76 bushels/acre, followed by Green Hammer (71 bushels/acre) & WB4440 (70 bushels/acre). The average yield for all varieties was 68.13 bushels an acre. The heaviest test weight was GoWheat9216H (58 lbs/bushel), and the average test weight was 56 lbs per bushel. Lodging scores were all very good as the varieties stood well. The plot was planted on 11/14/24 & harvested on 5/21/25. All Hard Red Winter Wheat entries yielded well.

The Mark Wiethorn Grain Sorghum Replicated plot was planted on 3/3/25 and harvested on 7/28/25.

There were 7 hybrids. Pioneer 84P94 provided the heaviest yield of 7,777 lbs an acre, followed by Warner 2413AT (7378 lbs) and DeKalb DKS44-07. The average yield was 6,876. The heaviest bushel weight was from Dyna-Gro M66GR32 at 59 lbs per bushel and average test weight was 56 lbs per bushel. Plot had a great emergence and early stand. The wetter than normal growing conditions did not seem to negatively affect yield but did make the dry down take longer than normal pre-harvest. All grain sorghum entries yielded well.

The Greg Westerfeld Corn Replicated plot was planted on 2/26/25 and harvested on 8/20/25. There were 10 entries this year. Integra (Wilbur Ellis) 6915TRE provided the heaviest yield at 210 bushels/acre followed by Axis 69A29 at 205.83 bushels and DeKalb DKC68-35 at 205.37. The plot average yield was very good at 186.11 bushels per acre. The heaviest test weight was provided by Dyna-Gro D58TC94 at 62.67 lbs/bushel and B-H 8655 at 62 lbs per bushel. All corn entries yielded very well.

Thank you to all my program area committee members. I greatly appreciate your involvement in my planning, preparation, implementation, and evaluation of these educational program. All my educational outreach efforts start at the grass roots level. No top-down programming from me. I hear you and your concerns, your situations and the challenges you face. When I plan a program, my goal is to provide you with the best, most reliable, factual information so you can make an educated choice about what you do on your operation. It has been a blessing to work beside all of you, and I look forward to what the Fall of 2025 and the 2026 year will hold. Farming is tough, but you're tougher. Agriculture is more than raising food and fiber. Agriculture is a way of life, its habits, its morals, its integrity, its pure, its blood-sweat and tears. The dust in your nose and on your collar brands you as a person of value. Your daily sacrifice and struggles allow the world to eat and be clothed. To all people in agriculture, thank you from the bottom of my heart. I appreciate you!



From the Top Rail: Dust or Mud

I often say it is either Dust or Mud in McLennan County. We are either too wet or too dry most of the time. Your tires are either falling apart from dry rot, or you are digging mud out from between the duals, no middle ground around here. We go from one extreme to another with our local weather. 15 inches of rain in May.... to five months of little to no rain for the rest of that year. It makes no sense. A friend of mine says we are in continuous drought with some intermittent flooding. Look at this year's rainfall data from Waco Regional Airport: April 4.44, May 4.35, June 5.58, July 6.27, Aug 2.95, September 2.53. That is 26.12 inches in six months, which is 75% of our normal rainfall. We are halfway through October as I write this, and I haven't had a rain in a while at my place. Rainfall from Jan-March this year totals 4.97, which is only 14 percent of our yearly rainfall. So, if we get 3.91 inches total from Oct 15 to Dec 31, the weather folks will say, another year of average rainfall accumulation. It will not be normal or average, the timing of a rain really is important. These big swings in wet weather or dry weather really set agriculture up for a failure. Too wet or too dry is not good either way. People often talk about 2011 being so bad, so dry. 2022 was worse, in my opinion, like 7 inches of rainfall different. It rained 27.63 in 2011, which is also deceiving as it rained 4 inches on December 31, which destroyed a lot of rainfall insurance policies that were about to pay good. What made 2011 feel so bad, we were very-very dry Oct through December of 2010. That is what I am referring to when I say the big rains or dry spells can set us up for a bad season. Moderate or consistent rainfall is much more beneficial than a gully washer one month and three months of dry weather. 2022 it rained 20.76 inches with a 5.55-inch rain in November, which also makes that total deceiving, before the 5.55 inches of rain. We were barely recording measurable rainfall month to month. The anomaly to all of that was the rainfall this year from April through July. The 4-month total was 20.64 but the average 4-month rainfall was 5.16 inches. If we have 4 months in a row of 5+ inches of rain, with average day and nighttime temperatures that stay below 99 degrees during the heat of the summer we can grow a lot of corn, cotton and grass. We have more hay in storage right now than I have ever seen. Favorable growing conditions, coupled with consistent rainfall equals higher yields. With the cooler temps (staying under 100), we grew very good crops and forage. If we can get dry weather during harvest and low insect numbers, we might can make those low commodity prices work out (if, a big if, we can get that good rain). Moisture continues to be the most limiting factor to agriculture production. Things can always get worse. History proves that. From 1902-2024, we have had 66 years with below average rainfall and 56 years of above average rainfall. The low rainfall year was 1917 with a whopping total of 13.39 inches of rain. Not to be confused with either 1954 when McLennan County received a total of 14.9 inches, or 1956 when we got 15.15 inches of rain, for the year. I haven't started catching horny toads and rubbing their tummy; nor have I been drawing turtles in the dust with a circle around them and spitting in the circle and then doing a rain dance, yet. It is on the dry side but those 4 months of good rain, and two months of spotty showers have carried our warm season grasses a lot further than I thought they would. Right now, we need a good soaking fall rain to replenish soil moisture and germinate cool season forages. It's time, let's get on over to that mud side for a little while. If you get stuck in the mud next week, and call me to pull you out, I will just say it now.....your welcome! Shane sMc.

2025 McLennan County Corn Hybrid Trial

Cooperator(s):	Greg and Brady Westerfeld		
Plant Date	2/26/2025	Nitrogen (lbs. N)	
Harvest Date	8/20/2025	Phosphorus (lbs. P₂O₅)	
Seeding Rate		Potassium (lbs. K₂O)	
Precipitation		Herbicides	

Hybrid	Company	Trait Package	Yield (bu./ac) ^{1/}	Test Weight (lbs./bushel)	Gross Return (\$/Acre) ^{2/}
6915TRE	Integra	Trecepta	210.37 a ^{3/}	59.33 bc	788.85 a
69A29	Axis	VT Double Pro	205.83 ab	58.67 bc	771.76 ab
DKC 68-35	Dekalb	VT Double Pro	205.37 ab	61.67 a	770.16 ab
D58TC94	Dyna-Gro	Trecepta	201.37 abc	62.67 a	755.15 abc
P13841PCUE	Pioneer	Powercore Ultra Enlist	191.37 abc	58.33 c	717.59 abc
66C06 VT2P	LG Seeds	VT Double Pro	183.17 abcd	59.00 bc	686.92 abcd
8655 TRE	B-H Genetics	Trecepta	176.23 abcd	62.00 a	660.90 abcd
65C30 VT2P	LG Seeds	VT Double Pro	171.23 bcd	60.67 ab	642.07 bcd
B14R22 AML	Brevant	AcreMax Leptra	168.97 cd	58.33 c	633.71 cd
NK1523VEZ1	Northrup-King	Viptera	153.20 d	57.67 c	574.45 d
<i>Mean</i>			6876.69	59.83	700.16
<i>Pr>F</i>			0.00	<0.0001	0.0002
<i>CV (%)</i>			11.42	3.012	11.417

1/- Yields corrected to 14 percent moisture. Yield highlighted are the top yield group.

2/- gross returns are based on price from local elevator at time of harvest (\$3.75/bushel)

3/- Means within a column followed by the same letter is not statistically different based on Tukey's HSD (P=0.05). Addition

Notes:



2025 McLennan County Wheat Variety Trial

Cooperator(s):	Kevin Huffman		
Plant Date	11/14/2024	Nitrogen (lbs. N)	
Harvest Date	5/21/2025	Phosphorus (lbs. P₂O₅)	
Seeding Rate	1.1 Mil. seeds/acre (75 lbs.)	Potassium (lbs. K₂O)	
Precipitation		Herbicides	

Variety	Company	Yield (bu/ac) ^{1/}	Bushel Weight (lbs./bushel)	Lodging (0-5) ^{2/}	Gross Return (\$/Acre) ^{3/}
High Cotton	OK Genetics	76.20	56	5	\$ 373.58
Green Hammer	OK Genetics	71.20	56	5	\$ 348.79
WB 4440	WestBred	70.90	56	5	\$ 347.63
WB 4523	WestBred	70.20	55	5	\$ 343.82
Amigos	Adaptive Genetics	68.60	56	5	\$ 335.99
Ok Corral	OK Genetics	68.40	52	4	\$ 335.10
Gallagher	OK Genetics	65.90	56	5	\$ 322.68
Bob Dole	AgriPro	65.90	56	4	\$ 322.68
GoWheat 9216H	Stratton Seed	65.30	58	5	\$ 320.17
Smiths Gold	OK Genetics	65.00	55	5	\$ 318.31
WB 4418	WestBred	61.90	55	5	\$ 303.23
<i>Mean</i>		68.13	56	4.82	\$ 333.82

1/- Yields corrected to 13.5 percent moisture. Yield highlighted are in the top 25 percent of yield.

2/- lodging score is on a 0-5 scale where 0= all plants laying down, and 5= all plants remaining upright.

3/- gross returns are based on Hard Red winter wheat price at time of harvest (\$4.90/bushel)

Educational programs of Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service are open to all citizens without regard to race, color, sex, disability, religion, age or national origin. The information given herein is for educational purposes only. References to commercial products or trade names are made with the understanding that no discrimination is intended and no endorsement by Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service is implied.

2025 McLennan County Grain Sorghum Hybrid Trial			
Cooperator(s):	Mark Wiethorn		
Plant Date	3/3/2025	Nitrogen (lbs. N)	82 lbs.
Harvest Date	7/28/2025	Phosphorus (lbs. P ₂ O ₅)	0 lbs.
Seeding Rate	75,000 seed/acre	Potassium (lbs. K ₂ O)	0 lbs.
Precipitation	25.02 inches	Herbicides	Dual+Atrazine @ Pre-plant

Hybrid	Company	Yield (lbs./ac) ^{1/}	Bushel Weight (lbs./bushel)	Lodging (0-5) ^{2/}	Gross Return (\$/Acre) ^{3/}
84P94	Pioneer	7777.73 a ^{4/}	57.33 ab	5.00	\$ 427.74
2413AT	Warner	7378.53 ab	55.67 ab	5.00	\$ 405.79
DKS 44-07	DeKalb	7009.3 bc	56.00 ab	5.00	\$ 385.49
BH 4220	B-H Genetics	6777.37 c	54.00 ab	5.00	\$ 372.74
M66GR32	Dyna-Gro	6763.1 c	59.00 a	5.00	\$ 371.97
LG 5220	LG Seeds	6739.53 c	58.00 ab	5.00	\$ 370.68
G3665	Integra	6734.23 c	53.33 b	5.00	\$ 370.37
ADV G2165	Advanta Seeds	5883.73 c	55.00 ab	5.00	\$ 323.58
Mean		6876.69	56.04	5.00	\$ 122.90
Pr>F		<0.0001	0.0214	ns	ns

1/- Yields corrected to 14 percent moisture. Yield highlighted are the top yield group.

2/- lodging score is on a 0-5 scale where 0= all plants laying down, and 5= all plants remaining upright.

3/- gross returns are based on price from local elevator at time of harvest (\$3.08/bushel)

4/- Means within a column followed by the same letter is not statistically different based on Tukey's HSD (P=0.05).

Notes: Sugarcane aphids were treated late in the season when they reached the local economic threshold. Rains near harvest let to greenup of the field, and glyphosate was applied as a harvest aid at a rate of 1 quart/acre.