

June 2026

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Sutton County Agriculture/Horticulture Newsletter

Upcoming Programs

Ranch Equipment Maintenance Workshop

Ranch equipment is worked hard. Things are going to break or wear down and repairs are expensive. To that effect, the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service will be holding a Ranch Equipment Maintenance Workshop on June 16th at the Sutton County Civic Center. This workshop will provide maintenance tips for better use, to extend the life of equipment, and ultimately reduce repair costs.



Topics and speakers :

Trailer Maintenance & (Wire) Troubleshooting- *Century Trailer, San Angelo*

Frequent problems for which customers bring in trailers to you for service. Provide tips for regular trailer maintenance (which will extend the life of the trailer and reduce repair costs) and address a frequent issue (wiring, particularly lights) as well as causes.

Skid Steer Maintenance Tips- *Ben Lawrence; Lawrenco*

Regular use of skid steers in brush control efforts and other ranch applications will result in wear and require repairs. Discuss maintenance practices which extend skid steer life and lessen extent of repair requirements.

Sprayer Calibration and Cleaning- *Dr. Megan Clayton, Extension Range Specialist*

Overview of calibration for brush sprayers; discuss the cleaning process after use to extend the life of sprayer parts, etc.

Herbicide Mixing Order-

Herbicide Selection- *Kye Burris, Corteva Agriscience*

Summary of available herbicide forms, mixes, and selecting the right herbicide for a pest, environmental conditions, etc. Targeting common woody and forb problem species for our area.

\$25 SINGLE/\$40 COUPLE BY JUNE 12TH OR \$30 SINGLE/\$50 COUPLE AT THE DOOR.

The fee covers program materials, refreshments and lunch.

Make checks payable to
SUTTON AG PROGRAM FUND;
Mail to P.O. Box 1047
Sonora, Texas 76950

**3 Texas Department of
Agriculture continuing
education units (CEUs)
are available for those
with a pesticide applicator**

If you are interested in attending this program and require auxiliary aid, please contact the Sutton County Extension Office at 325-387-3101 to discuss your needs.

For more information or to register, call the **Sutton County Extension Office** at **(325) 387-3101**

*Brought to you by
Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service*



SHEEP & GOAT PREDATOR MANAGEMENT BOARD

Biennial Election

The Sheep & Goat Predator Management Board (SGPMB) is busy preparing for another biennial election to elect one director from each of their three districts. Directors whose terms expire in 2026 are: **Ty Allen** from **District One**, Johnny Mayo, Jr. from District Two, and Glen Stegemoller from District Three.

Start thinking about who you would like to see as a director to represent your District. Forms have been developed for producers to nominate candidates to be placed on the official ballot for each district. Nomination deadline is July 2, 2026 and nomination forms are available from the County Extension Office or the SGPMB office in San Angelo. Completed nomination forms should be mailed to the SGPMB Office as soon as the required ten signatures of support by producers have been obtained. Note that producers supporting the nomination must be eligible to vote in the election. For more information call Julie Reese at the SGPMB office at (325) 659-8777.

Formal date of the election will be August 3, 2026, and all ballots must be postmarked prior to midnight of that date to be considered valid.

Ballots will be mailed to county extension offices in the referendum area and any producer may request a ballot at their county extension office or at the SGPMB office. Ballots will also be available at the Texas Sheep & Goat Raisers Annual meeting in Fredericksburg in July of 2026. Any person residing in the referendum area that is in the business of producing, or causing to be produced sheep and/or goats for commercial purposes within the referendum area, or who is required to pay the assessment, is eligible to vote in the district of their legal residence.

DISTRICT 1 **Will M. Black**

Curry Campbell

Ty Allen

Counties: Brewster, Crane, Crockett, Culberson, Ector, Glasscock, Hudspeth, Irion, Jeff Davis, Loving, Midland, Pecos, Presidio, Reagan, Reeves, Sterling, Sutton, Terrell, Upton, Val Verde, Ward, Winkler

Window Open For Mesquite Spraying

Many of us have been biding our time to spray. Is there a best time, and if so, when is it?

For bushy mesquite less than 6 feet tall with many stems at ground level, the leaf spray method may be the best option. Generally, we can begin spraying mesquite in spring, once the leaves change color from light pea-green to a uniform dark green. Soil temperature is critical and should be at least 75° F at 12-18 inches deep. Do not spray when soil temperatures are cooler than 75° F. Soil temperature influences the flow of carbohydrates and absorbed herbicides in the plant.



Broadcast applications should be made within 60 days after reaching the minimum soil temperature.

Herbicides are absorbed by the mesquite leaves and must move down into the roots and the below-ground bud zone for root-kill. Absorbed herbicides flow with carbohydrates. In mesquite, carbohydrates (produced in the leaves during photosynthesis) move down to the roots during two periods, and these are the ideal times to spray.

The first target period is 42-63 days after bud break. In many areas, this will be the last week of May through the first two weeks of June. Spray during this period only if the mesquite flowers are yellow in color, the leaves are dark green and soil temperatures are above 75° F.

The second target period is roughly 72-84 days after bud break, when mesquite beans are fully elongated and maturing. In many areas, this second timing will be during the first two weeks of July, but this is contingent on the year and may vary due to rainfall patterns.

One more thing, do not spray when rain has stimulated new growth at the end of the stems, the leaves are wet from rain or dew, or foliage shows damage from hail, insects, or disease.

The key take-away is this: if mesquites are spending stored carbohydrates to leaf out, flower, or grow beans, do not spray. During these events, the flow of carbohydrates is from roots to canopy (you'll kill the leaves, but no herbicide will be sent down to the roots).

If mesquites have been top killed by fire, mowing, herbicides, or any mechanical methods, allow two full growing seasons before using the leaf spray method. For mesquites with 3 or fewer smooth bark stems coming out of the ground, the stem spray method may be a good option. For herbicide selection, application methods, or other details, contact the Sutton County Extension Office.

Signage Requirements Under Agritourism Liability Acts – What About Texas?

~Excerpt from Tiffany Dowell Lashmet, Texas A&M Professor and Extension Specialist for Agricultural Law on Morning Ag Clips

Tiffany recently co-authored an article for [Southern Ag Today](#) with colleague Jesse Richardson, that raised an important question about signage required under state landowner liability statutes.

Agritourism Act Rulings in Virginia and Washington

In a [Southern Ag Today](#) article, they focused on two court decisions applying their state's Agritourism Act. In Virginia, a trial court held that in order for the Virginia Agritourism Activity Act to apply, the signage should have been individually posted at each different agritourism activity. Posting one sign at the entrance of the property was held insufficient. In 2023, the Washington Court of Appeals reached a similar decision. To read the article and details about the cases, visit <https://southernagtoday.org/2026/04/10/signage-requirements-under-agritourism-liability-acts/>.

What Does this Mean for Texas?

Time will tell. Neither the Virginia ruling nor the Washington Court of Appeals decision are binding on Texas. Although similar, every state's agritourism law has different language and may be interpreted differently by that individual state's court.

In Texas, both the Texas Agritourism Act and the Texas Farm Animal Liability Act require signage to be posted.

Texas Agritourism Act

For the Texas Agritourism Act, an agritourism entity (this includes a rural landowner who opens his or her property for recreational or educational activities) may choose to either hang up the required signage or have agritourism activity participants sign an Agritourism Act release. For those choosing to hang the sign, the statute provides that the landowner must "post and maintain a sign in a clearly visible location on or near any premises on which an agritourism activity is conducted."

How many signs need to be posted? Where, exactly, should they be placed? Is a separate sign necessary for each activity on a given property? Texas appellate courts have not answered any of these questions at this time. That leaves agritourism entities without additional guidance beyond the language of the statute.

Texas Farm Animal Liability Act

Although a separate statute, the Texas Farm Animal Liability Act (FALA) is an additional statutory protection for owners of farm animals in the event someone is injured during a farm animal activity. Like the Texas Agritourism Act, there is a signage requirement under the FALA as well. The FALA requires farm animal owners and lessees to post and maintain a FALA sign if they manage or control a farm, stable, corral, or arena where they conduct farm animal activities. The signs must be posted "in a clearly visible location on or near the stable, corral, or arena." Again, there is no appellate case law further defining the meaning of this statutory language, or answering the question about where to place signs if someone were raising cattle in a pasture without the listed structures.

Key Takeaways

Although the out-of-state court decisions (in the article) about do not involve Texas law and are not binding on Texas courts, they do raise an important issue of how, when the time comes, Texas courts will answer these or similar questions. (Dowell tells landowners) It is a lot cheaper to pay for some extra signage than to face a lawsuit without the ability to use the Texas Agritourism Act or Texas Farm Animal Liability Act as a defense.

June Horticulture Tips

PLANT:

There is still time to plant heat tolerant summer annuals. Just be sure to water transplants as needed until roots become established.



PRUNE:

- Removing faded flowers from the plant before they set seed will keep the plants flowering and producing more flowers.
- Frequent mowing every week is best for your grass. Mowing often helps to reduce weeds by preventing seed heads from forming. Alternate mowing directions to keep the turf from developing a "grain".

FERTILIZE:

- A light application of fertilizer every 4-6 weeks to annual flowers.
- Fertilize rose beds every 4-6 weeks with a high N fertilizer for healthier plants.
- Continue to spray zinc on pecan trees and fertilize with nitrogen. Check for case bearer and spray if necessary. Do not spray for aphids. If needed, irrigate to improve the health of your pecan trees.

BE ON THE LOOKOUT:

- Check for insects and diseases. In warm weather, spider mites can become troublesome.
- Continue to spray roses for black spot and insects. Thrips cause buds to fail to open and petal to brown. Apply an approved insecticide for control.
- Look for problems on tomatoes. Bloom-end rot: This appears as a sunken brown spot on the bottom of the tomato. This is caused from irregular watering. Mulch plants and keep them moist to help prevent this problem. Early blight: Plants have yellow blotches or dark circular spots with concentric markings. Spots occur on lower leaves first. Apply approved fungicide at 7 to 10 day intervals. Curly top: Leaves curl and cup upwards and leaves turn light green to yellow with purple veins on the lower sides. Remove plants from the garden and rotate plants next year.

MISCELLANEOUS CHORES:

Water lawns and gardens thoroughly but not too frequently. Soak to a depth of about 6 inches. Watering in the early morning or late evening may eliminate problems with evaporation from high winds. Shade trees need more water than the turf areas do. Soaker hoses coiled at the drip line of the tree are the best way to water large trees.

Parting Thoughts..... About fathers

"My father didn't do anything unusual. He only did what dads are supposed to do—be there."

~ Max Lucado, Author

"Fatherhood is a marathon, not a sprint." ~ Paul L. Lewis, Author

Pascual Hernandez
Sutton County Extension Agent
Phone: 325-387-3101

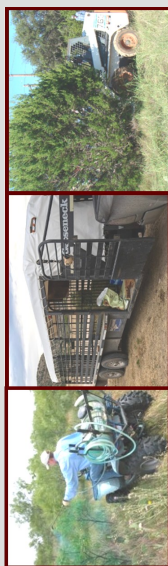


Check us out on the web! <https://sutton.agrilife.org>



<https://www.facebook.com/SuttonCountyExtension/>

Ranch Equipment Maintenance Workshop
June 16, 2026
Sutton County Civic Center
Program starts at 9:00 a.m.



Name: _____
Address: _____
Email: _____
Pesticide Applicator Lic. #: _____
Telephone #: _____

\$25 SINGLE/\$40 COUPLE BY JUNE 12TH OR \$30 SINGLE/\$50 COUPLE AT THE DOOR.

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