

**May 2026**

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## Sutton County Agriculture/Horticulture Newsletter

### Upcoming Programs

#### Private Water Well Screening

Residents in Kimble, Sutton, and Edwards Counties are invited to participate in water well screenings and results meetings this May.

The Texas Well Owner Network, TWON, is hosting an upcoming event May 20 - 21 to allow residents to have their well water screened along with a "Well Educated" session being held in Roosevelt. The Texas Well Owner Network program is for Texas residents who depend on household wells for their water needs.

The TWON program was established to help well owners become familiar with Texas groundwater resources, septic system maintenance, well maintenance and construction, and water quality and treatment. It allows them to learn more about how to improve and protect their community water resources.

Water samples will be screened for contaminants, including total coliform bacteria, E. coli, nitrate-nitrogen and salinity. Well owners are encouraged to bring water samples from all of the wells on their property and before and after any water treatment systems that may be attached to the wells.

For Sutton County, water samples can be dropped off on Wednesday, May 20th, from 8:30-11 a.m. at the AgriLife Extension office for Sutton County, 1700 N. Crockett Street, Sonora or the Sutton County Underground Water Conservation District, 301 S. Crockett Ave., Sonora. There will be a \$15 per sample cost for the water well screening. This effort is also being made available to Kimble and Edwards Counties.

The follow-up meeting to explain the results of the screenings for Kimble, Sutton and Edwards Counties will be from 9:00 a.m. till 1:00 p.m. on Thursday, May 21st at the Simon Brothers Café, 3861 W. State Loop 291, Roosevelt. Topics covered will include water well basics, water well's 101, septic systems, water quality and sample results.

A water sample form must be completed for each sample submitted. Collection instructions will be available at the AgriLife Extension Office and the Sutton County Underground Water Conservation District. You can also visit <https://twon.tamu.edu> for a printable version of the collection instructions and the sample information sheet.

The screenings are presented by AgriLife Extension and Texas Water Resources Institute (TWRI). For more information, call the Sutton County Extension Office at 387-3101 or the Sutton County Underground Water Conservation District at 387-2369.



Save the date.....[Ranch Equipment Maintenance Workshop](#),  
June 16, 2026 at Sutton County Civic Center

This workshop will feature presentations which offer material to help maintain ranch equipment which gets regular use and wear. Details such as Skid Steer Maintenance Tips; Trailer Wiring and Maintenance; Sprayer cleaning and calibration; But there will also be topics such as herbicide updates, herbicide mixing order, and more.

...Watch next month's Ag newsletter for details.



### Emergency Use Authorization Granted for New World Screwworm Treatment ~ Excerpt from FDA press release

On April 27, 2026, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration issued an Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) for Negasunt Powder (coumaphos, propoxur, and sulfanilamide topical powder) for the prevention and treatment of New World screwworm (NWS) infestations (myiasis).



The FDA has concluded that based on the scientific evidence available, it is reasonable to believe that Negasunt Powder may be effective for the prevention and treatment of NWS myiasis in cattle, swine, goats, sheep, horses, donkeys, domestic hybrid equids (e.g., mules), and captive wild, exotic, and zoo mammals, and that the known and potential benefits of the product outweigh its known and potential risks.

Currently, Elanco US Inc., the drug sponsor, intends to limit distribution of Negasunt Powder to the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) for further distribution to authorized users. Prior to an incursion of NWS into the U.S., Negasunt Powder is only available for use by employees of federal, state, local, and federally recognized tribal agencies, and people working under their authority and at their direction. If there is an incursion of NWS into the U.S., the product may also be used by or on the order of a licensed veterinarian in NWS-infested zones and adjacent surveillance zones as defined by the USDA in the NWS Response Playbook (page 9). There are no NWS-infested zones in the U.S. because, to date, NWS is not currently in the U.S.

Coumaphos and propoxur, two of the active ingredients in Negasunt Powder, can cause neurotoxicity. The EUA sets specific requirements to address this risk for people, animals, and the environment.

It is important that authorized users of this product review all human and animal safety information, including the boxed warning and limitations of authorized use, and closely follow its conditions of use and disposal instructions as detailed in the [Fact Sheet: Emergency Use Authorization of Negasunt Powder \(coumaphos, propoxur, and sulfanilamide topical powder\) for New World Screwworm \(NWS\)](#).

Food safety information:

- Treated animals must not be slaughtered for human consumption within 28 days of the last treatment.
- A milk discard time has not been established for this product; do not use in animals producing milk for human consumption.
- A withdrawal period has not been established for this product in pre-ruminating calves; treated calves and calves born to treated cows must not be processed for veal.

This EUA will be effective until it is revoked or the HHS Secretary terminates the declaration that the potential public health emergency presented by NWS justifies the emergency use authorization of animal drugs for NWS.

**Negasunt Powder is sponsored by Elanco US Inc. based in Indianapolis, Indiana.**

### Skyrocketing Wool Prices Are Turning Heads for Good Reason ~ excerpt from article by Lila Nolan in Morning Ag News

Over the past month, wool prices have jumped nearly 10%, and they're up more than 50% compared to this time last year. After years of decline, trending downward since around 2018, that kind of movement is hard to ignore. Wool prices are climbing, demand for natural fibers is resurging, and conversations across the industry are beginning to sound a little different.



For an industry that has long treated wool as an afterthought, this sudden momentum raises a big question: Is this just a short-term spike, or the comeback wool producers have been waiting for?

For years, wool has taken a backseat in American agriculture, often overshadowed by meat production and struggling to justify the cost of shearing. But with prices climbing, global demand for natural fibers rebounding, and sustainability conversations gaining traction, wool is starting to find its way back into the spotlight.

So what's really going on, and more importantly, is now the time to take a closer look at wool?

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## *Skyrocketing Wool Prices Are Turning Heads for Good Reason ...Continued*

### What's Driving Wool Prices Right Now?

With a tight supply and demand starting to go up, the story is awfully familiar to how wool's prices are starting to skyrocket. Australia leads the way in wool production by a long shot, followed by China and then the U.S. Currently, Australia is seeing a noticeable drop in production. Forecasts for the 2025/26 season show output down nearly 9% overall, with declines expected across every major region. That kind of decline in supply on the global stage adds even more upward pressure on prices worldwide.



Not to mention the fact that wool futures are priced in Australian dollars. When the Australian dollar is low, like it has been since 2022, the value of wool goes up because it takes more Australian dollars to purchase it. Although the Australian dollar has been rising in value since the beginning of the year, meaning these prices might not be a direct result of this aspect.

What is probably helping is the fact that global demand for wool is up, especially in China. As brands and consumers move away from synthetics, wool is regaining attention for being renewable, biodegradable, and durable. Outdoor apparel companies, textile manufacturers, and even smaller niche markets are all contributing to renewed interest. Whether this interest will continue is the question of the day.

Now, if we focus on the U.S., the U.S. sheep industry has been shrinking for years, and with fewer sheep comes less fiber. Many producers have shifted focus toward meat production rather than wool. Put it all together, and you get a classic squeeze: less wool available, more interest in using it, and a global market that's starting to heat up again.

### The Reality of Wool Prices

Wool prices are skyrocketing, and that is super exciting. However, the reality of this market is a bit more complicated than that. Wool tends to struggle to cover its own cost. Between shearing, handling, and transportation, the value of the wool hasn't always justified the effort. So, while a 50% increase sounds dramatic, it doesn't automatically translate into strong profitability.

Another important factor is quality and market access. Not all wool is priced the same. Fine, high-quality wool from sheep like Merino can bring in a good chunk of change, while coarser wool often brings significantly less. ...So some producers are benefiting more than others.

There's also the issue of volatility. Wool markets have a history of ups and downs, often tied to global demand, fashion trends, and competition from synthetic fibers. What looks like a strong rebound today could level off just as quickly if demand shifts.

### Should You Get Into Wool?

Prices are up, the market's looking good, so why not get into wool? Well, it's all about how you approach it. For producers who are already raising sheep, this could be an opportunity to capture more value from something you're already producing. Paying closer attention to wool quality, marketing channels, and timing could turn what was once an afterthought into a more meaningful revenue stream.

If you have a diversified farm with a variety of animals, sheep could help with grazing cover crops and provide another meat source. Wool would then become a piece of a larger, more resilient operation.

Where things get more complicated is for anyone thinking about getting into sheep purely for wool production. The startup costs, labor requirements, and market variability make it a challenging entry point, especially without a clear plan for selling into higher-value markets. Commodity wool alone is unlikely to carry the operation.

So, is this the comeback wool has been waiting for? Maybe. But more importantly, it's a reminder that even long-overlooked parts of agriculture can find their way back.

For full article: <https://www.morningagclips.com/skyrocketing-wool-prices-are-turning-heads-for-good-reason/>

## May Horticulture Tips

### PLANT:

•It's warm enough now to plant warm season grasses including St. Augustine, bermuda, buffalo grass and zoysia.



### PRUNE:

•Thin fruit on peaches, apricots, and plums to 5-6 inches apart on the branches. The result will be larger, better quality fruit.

### FERTILIZE:

•Plants in containers and hanging baskets should be fertilized with 20-20-20 or a complete, balanced fertilizer. The fertilizer could be liquid, water soluble or time released. Don't apply fertilizer to dry soil. Water plants before fertilizing.

•Fertilize warm season turf grasses, such as Bermuda or St. Augustine. Soil tests will accurately tell you the needs of your lawn. Most lawns in our area will need a high nitrogen fertilizer. High alkaline soils will also need an application of iron.

•Trees, shrubs, vines and ground-covers should be fertilized at this time. The fertilizer you use on your lawn can also be applied to trees and shrubs. Do NOT use "Weed and Feed" type fertilizers around desirable plant material. Always be sure to water thoroughly after fertilizing.

### BE ON THE LOOKOUT

•Broadleaf weedkillers can be used to control non-grassy weeds in turf. Read the label carefully before applying. St. Augustine is susceptible to damage by many types of weedkillers.

•ONLY if you applied pre-emergent for grassburrs and crabgrass in March is it time to put down the second application.

•Look for early blight on tomatoes which will cause lower leaves to develop large yellow blotches. Treat with a registered fungicide.

## Buffalograss As Turf

**Description:** Buffalograss is a warm-season, native turfgrass that spreads laterally by stolons and is best suited as a low-input, low-use turfgrass. It is unique from other turfgrasses in that it has male and female flowers on separate inflorescences. These are usually present on different plants (dioecious) but can also be found on the same plant (monecious).

**Strengths:** Drought tolerance, cold tolerance, low disease potential, low mowing requirement, and low fertilization requirement.

**Weaknesses:** Shade tolerance, salinity tolerance, weed encroachment, and traffic tolerance. It also does not do well in east Texas where annual rainfall exceeds 30".

**Recommended Mowing Height:** Home Lawns: 2.5 to 4 inches; Natural areas:  $\geq$  4 inches or un-mowed.

**Recommended Mowing Frequency:** Every 14 days using a rotary mower

**Fertilization Requirements:** 0 to 2 lbs of N per 1,000 ft<sup>2</sup> per year applied during the summer growing season. Single application rates should range from 0.5 to 1 lb of N per 1,000 ft<sup>2</sup>.



## Parting Thoughts..... Don't Forget Mother's Day!

Hand that Rocks The Cradle- Glenn Campbell

There ought to be a hall of fame for mamas  
Creation's most unique and precious pearl  
And Heaven help us always to remember  
That the hand that rocks the cradle rules the world

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