

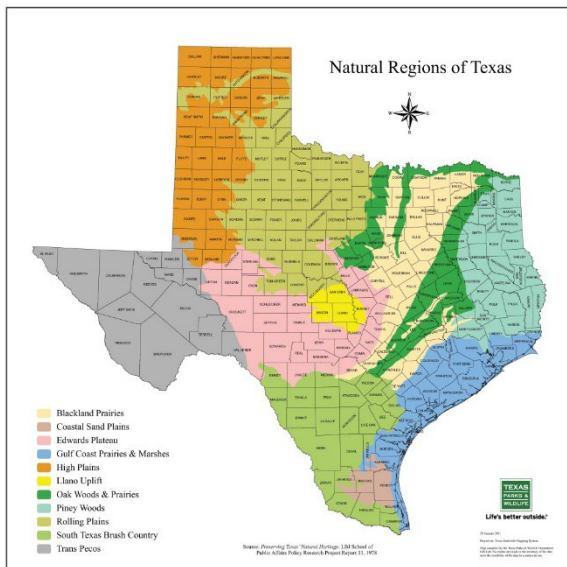


# What's Up, Doc?

## Grayson County Agriculture and Natural Resources Newsletter

Vol 2: Issue 8 (August 2023) by D. Chad Cummings

<b>Contents:</b>	<b>Page</b>
USDA Crop Report Summary.....	2
New Landowner 101: What to do in August?.....	3
2023 Grayson-Fannin County Results Demonstrations Overview and Early Evaluations.....	4
Small Ruminant Predator Deterrent Methods.....	15
Plants, Insects, and Diseases Active Now.....	16
Events Coming Up in Ag and Nat Resources.....	20



### Natural Regions of Texas

by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department

The Bluestem Master Naturalist (BMN), located in Grayson County, begin their initial training for new members on August 10<sup>th</sup> (See pg 17 for more information). On August 17, 2023, D. Chad Cummings will be discussing Ecosystems and Ecoregions of Texas to the BMN initial training class. To join the initial training class, register at:

[www.txmn.org/bluestem](http://www.txmn.org/bluestem)

## USDA Crop Report for early Aug 23 (Grayson County)

**August 3, 2023**

While Grayson County is still not listed in drought, several areas are becoming very dry, and the heat has led to stressed plants across the region. Soils are hardening off and cracking from the heat and lack of recent moisture. Most locations have not received moisture since early July.

Overall crop condition and pasture conditions are still above average for the season. Corn harvest began in Grayson County this week for grain, and some forage sorghums/sudans are being chopped now. Many producers report good to excellent grain yields on early planted corn. Grain sorghum is mature and stands look uniform and well filled out.

Pasture conditions are good to excellent, along with the livestock condition. Weeds and brush are becoming increasingly heat stressed. Bermudagrass and other forages are still growing well in deeper soils, but in shallow or caliche soils the heat/local drought stress is quite evident. Ponds and tanks are still relatively full. Livestock water intake has increased dramatically over the last 2 weeks, so ensuring livestock have access to abundant, good quality water is vitally important in the heat.

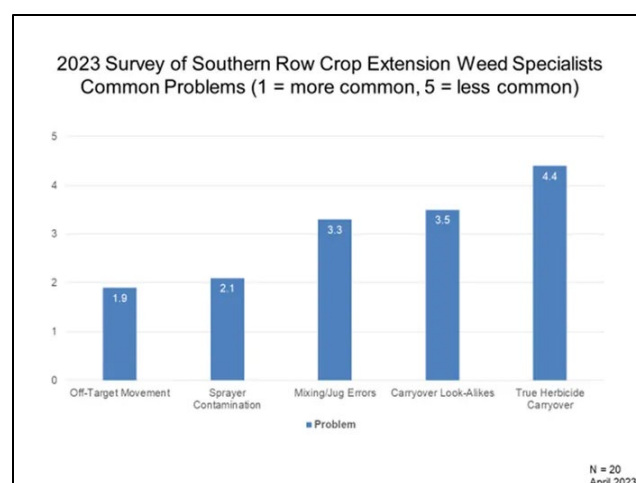
No insect or disease outbreak pressures currently in any crop or pasture. Grasshoppers are relatively high, but normal for the season. Nuisance flies are high again in cattle production.

We have had numerous calls to the Extension office for residents concerned with urban tree injury or apparent death. In many cases these are trees which had been injured in the extreme weather events from the past 2 years.

Figure from *Southeast Farm Press*, May 25, 2023 (Eric Prostko, University of Georgia; 14 states represented, some had several responses from their states).

To read more on common problems, visit:

<https://www.farmprogress.com/weeds/common-weeds-problems-ranked-by-extension-weed-specialists>



## New Landowner 101: What to Do in August?

1. Soil test in food plots and in pastures, lawns, and gardens.
  - a. <http://soiltesting.tamu.edu>
  - b. Get forms from the website above or at our office (Courthouse, A-G-1)
2. Plant fall food plots in late August through September. Seedbed preparation (herbicide to control existing plants or light tillage) is a key to successful stand establishment.
3. Avoid herbicide applications to drought stressed or heat stressed brush or weeds. Herbicides will not work as well and may cause grass injury in extreme conditions. Individual plant treatments to actively growing brush is one method to decrease potential grass injury.
4. Clear trees and shrubs from pond and tank dams (roots can cause leakage, and utilize much water, especially Eastern Red Cedar and Willow).
5. Monitor water quality and turbidity of stock tanks and ponds – minimize fertilizer runoff where possible. Monitor for algal blooms and other aquatic vegetation that may decrease pond productivity or result in fish kill.
6. Apply lime per soil recommendations for cool or warm season crop plantings. Many times, lime may take 3 to 6 months to fully buffer acidic soil pH.
7. Prepare fall gardens, prep soil, clear old growth, plan lay out. Plant species including beans, broccoli, brussels sprouts, cabbage, carrots, cauliflower, chard, collards, mustards, lettuce, potatoes, squash and several other crops can be planted for a fall season or to over winter before producing fruit.





## 2023 Results Demonstration Report – Grayson County Agriculture and Natural Resources

*D. Chad Cummings, PhD*

County Extension Agent – ANR (Grayson County)

[chad.cummings@ag.tamu.edu](mailto:chad.cummings@ag.tamu.edu) | (903) 813-4202 | [grayson.agrilife.org](http://grayson.agrilife.org)

### Table of Contents

County	Title	Page
Fannin	Pasture weed control with various herbicides and two timings....	5
Fannin & Grayson	House fly densities around ag barns (2 locations).....	11



*(Left) House fly bait demonstration – Bells, TX. (Right) West Pasture at the June application timing (Bonham, TX)*

The members of Texas A&M AgriLife will provide equal opportunities in programs and activities, education, and employment to all persons regardless of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, age, disability, genetic information, veteran status, sexual orientation, or gender identity and will strive to achieve full and equal employment opportunity throughout Texas A&M AgriLife. The Texas A&M University System, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the County Commissioners Courts of Texas Cooperating.

# Pasture weed control with various herbicide treatments at early and late timings (Fannin County)

D. Chad Cummings<sup>1</sup>, Cody Maxwell<sup>1</sup>, and Colton Spencer<sup>2</sup>

*1 Texas A&M AgriLife Extension, 2 Corteva Agriscience*

## Introduction

Pasture weed control is an annual concern for our local producers in hay and grazed pasture markets. Goatweed (*Croton capitata*; Euphorbiaceae) is one of the most common annual weed problems in north Texas. Many herbicide options fail to control the species due to lack of activity on the spurge family or incorrect timing of the herbicide application. Corteva Agriscience produces some of the most widely used herbicide products in the range and pasture market.

To better understand the efficacy of various herbicide treatments and application timing, an herbicide application demonstration was initiated in north Fannin County on an established Coastal bermudagrass pasture which was dominated by goatweed, with minor populations of various other warm season weeds. Weed control ratings for herbicide treatments and a mowing treatment will be collected monthly to determine the initial efficacy and season long control of weeds in the grazed pasture for the various treatments and timings.

## Materials and Methods

The study site was established on June 22, 2023, at 382 W FM 1753, Bonham, TX 75418, on an established Coastal bermudagrass pasture.

The location is 6 miles south of the Red River, 5 miles north of highway 82. Soils are a Crockett Silt loam, with gentle slope to no grade. The Coastal bermudagrass stand is greater than 10 years in age. The West Pasture (June treatment) had been grazed continuously through 2022 and 2023. The East Pasture (July treatment) had been rested periodically through 2022 and 2023.

The Coastal bermudagrass was actively growing (5-15 inches tall) and continuously grazed by cattle and horses at a heavy stocking rate (3 acres per animal unit). The pasture had not been fertilized for 2 years prior to the study. No herbicide treatments were applied in 2022, due to the drought conditions.

**Table 1. Application Information**

Timing	June	July
Date	June 22, 2023	July 6, 2023
Time	09:00	14:30
Temp	81 F	87 F
RH	62 %	63 %
Wind	5-8 mph E	5-7 mph SE
Goatweed	3-15 inches; vegetative and reproductive	4-24 inches; vegetative and reproductive



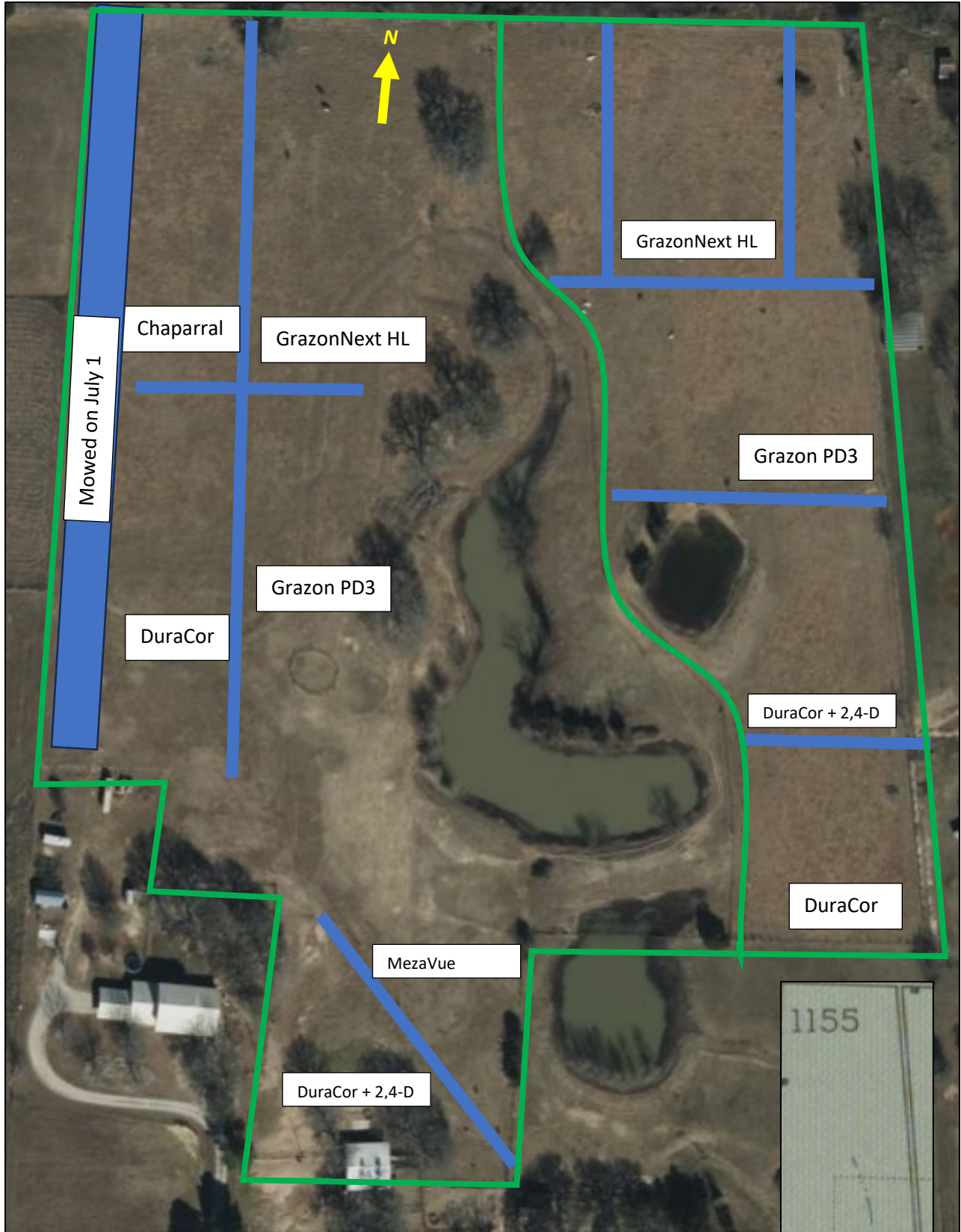
Goatweed sizes at the July application timing, Bonham, TX

Plant and pasture conditions at the time of application in June and July were good to excellent in terms of soil moisture and plant health. Additional weed species in the treatment area included prostrate spurge (*Euphorbia maculata*), bitter sneezeweed (*Helenium amarum*), late boneset (*Eupatorium serotinum*), western ragweed (*Ambrosia psilostachya*), dallisgrass (*Paspalum dilitatum*), and broomsedge bluestem (*Andropogon virginicus*).

**Table 2. Herbicide treatments, rates, and timings for the 2023 pasture weed control demonstration (Bonham, TX)**

Treatment in June was in the West Pasture, treatment in July was in the East Pasture. All treatments included 0.25%v/v Non-ionic Surfactant (Stick'em surfactant 90%). Applications made at 16 GPA total spray volume with a UTV boomed sprayer, air induction flat fan 11003 nozzles.

Timing	Trt No.	Herbicide Trade Name	Rate per Acre	Treatment Area
June	1	DuraCor	16 fl oz product	0.75 acre
June	2	Grazon PD3	20 fl oz product	0.75 acre
June	3	Chaparral	2 oz product	0.75 acre
June	4	GrazonNext HL	24 fl oz product	0.75 acre
June	5	DuraCor + 2,4-D amine	14 fl oz + 12 fl oz product	0.5 acre
June	6	MezaVue	18 fl oz product	0.5 acre
Mowed	7			0.75 acre
July	1	DuraCor	16 fl oz product	0.75 acre
July	2	Grazon PD3	20 fl oz product	0.75 acre
July	3	GrazonNext HL	24 fl oz product	0.75 acre
July	4	DuraCor + 2,4-D amine	14 + 12 fl oz product	0.75 acre



Aerial photo of Bonham weed control demo. (Inset) Soils map of the demonstration pasture (Cs - silt loam).

**Table 3. Herbicide component information for 2023 Results Demonstration of pasture herbicides in Bonham, TX.**

<b>Herbicide Trade Name</b>	<b>Components in Herbicide</b>
DuraCor	Rinskor + Aminopyralid
Grazon PD3	Picloram + 2,4-D Choline
Chaparral	Aminopyralid + Mestsulfuron Methyl
GrazonNext HL	Aminopyralid + 2,4-D amine
DuraCor + 2,4-D amine	Rinskor + Aminopyralid + 2, 4-D amine
MezaVue	Aminopyralid + Picloram + Fluroxypyr

**Table 4. Efficacy of herbicide treatments for the control of goatweed and other weed species in bermudagrass pasture, Bonham, TX (MAT = Month after treatment; WAT = Weeks after treatment; GW = Goatweed)**

<b>Timing</b>	<b>Trt No</b>	<b>Herbicide Trade Name</b>	<b>GW Control 1 MAT 07/22/23</b>	<b>All Weed Control 1 MAT 07/22/23</b>	<b>GW Control 2 MAT</b>	<b>All Weed Control 2 MAT</b>	<b>GW Control 3 MAT</b>
June	1	DuraCor	95	90			
June	2	Grazon PD3	98	95			
June	3	Chaparral	95	95			
June	4	GrazonNext HL	98	98			
June	5	DuraCor + 2,4-D	98	95			
June	6	MezaVue	98	95			
Mowed	7		70	75			
July	1	DuraCor	85	85			
July	2	Grazon PD3	90	85			
July	3	GrazonNext HL	90	90			
July	4	DuraCor + 2,4-D	90	90			

\*MAT ratings for each timeframe will be at the MAT for June treatments and at -2 weeks for the July treatments (Ex. 1 MAT for June is 2 WAT for July treatments).







## House Fly Densities around Ag Barns and Dairies in North, East and Central Texas (Grayson and Fannin Counties)

Sonja L. Swiger, PhD<sup>1</sup>, D. Chad Cummings, PhD<sup>2</sup>, Cody Maxwell<sup>3</sup>

*1 Extension Livestock Entomologist, 2 County Extension Agent – Grayson, 3 County Extension Agent - Fannin*

**Problem/Justification** - House flies pose a serious pest for barn/stable operators and dairy operators throughout the United States. When the population rises well above a manageable rate they begin to travel to nearby houses and businesses. House flies do not bite but are extremely annoying and are not appreciated by the public. Although most livestock can tolerate several hundred house flies at one time, people become discouraged at the sight of one house fly. In addition to their nuisance status, house flies have the ability to mechanically transmit over 200+ pathogens that cause disease to humans and animals. Therefore, it is important for barn/stable operators and dairy operators to keep their house fly numbers suppressed.

**Objectives – 1)** to record the number of house flies present throughout the 2023 fly season in livestock housing facilities; **2)** to determine if one house fly baiting product is more efficient than another.

**Methods/Materials** - House fly numbers will be recorded during the fly season in Texas (May – October) for the 2023 year by using bait stations with three – four different types of baits (QuickBayt, QuikStrike, Cyanarox, and Golden Malrin), fly sprays (a new spray that is in need of field testing for those interested) and non-toxic fly traps. The number of flies collected will be recorded for each method of control. The products will be compared to find which is the most effective at collecting and killing house flies. The site location and the geographical location will also be recorded to see if this impacts the house fly numbers.

The specialist will acquire and distribute the pesticides to each agent for each location. County Agents throughout the Central, East, and West Central Regions of Texas will assist with this plan by finding **1 (one) location** to set up the bait stations, fly strips and non-toxic traps, as well as making monthly visits to the barn to collect the flies. Two barns could be possible in a county if supplies permit. The counting of the house fly densities will begin in May and continue until the last week of October 2023.

**Timeline** – The products will first be placed out between June 1 and June 17. Dead house flies will be collected, and new products will be placed out every 4 weeks. The counting of the house fly densities will begin in June and continue until October 31, 2023.

**Table 1. Data collection for table for the house fly bait demonstration in Grayson County, TX. Location: 3429 Dugan Chapel Rd, Bells, TX 75414.**

County	Agent	Set up Date			
Grayson	Chad Cummings	July 3, 2023			
Location	Month 1	Month 2	Month3	Month 4	Month 5
		July 14	August	September	October
QuickBayt		108			
Golden Malrin		38			
QuikStrike		79			
Cyanarox		34			
Fly Terminator Pro		0.5"			

**Table 2. Data collection for table for the house fly bait demonstration in Fannin County, TX. Location: 382 W. FM 1753, Bonham, TX 75418.**

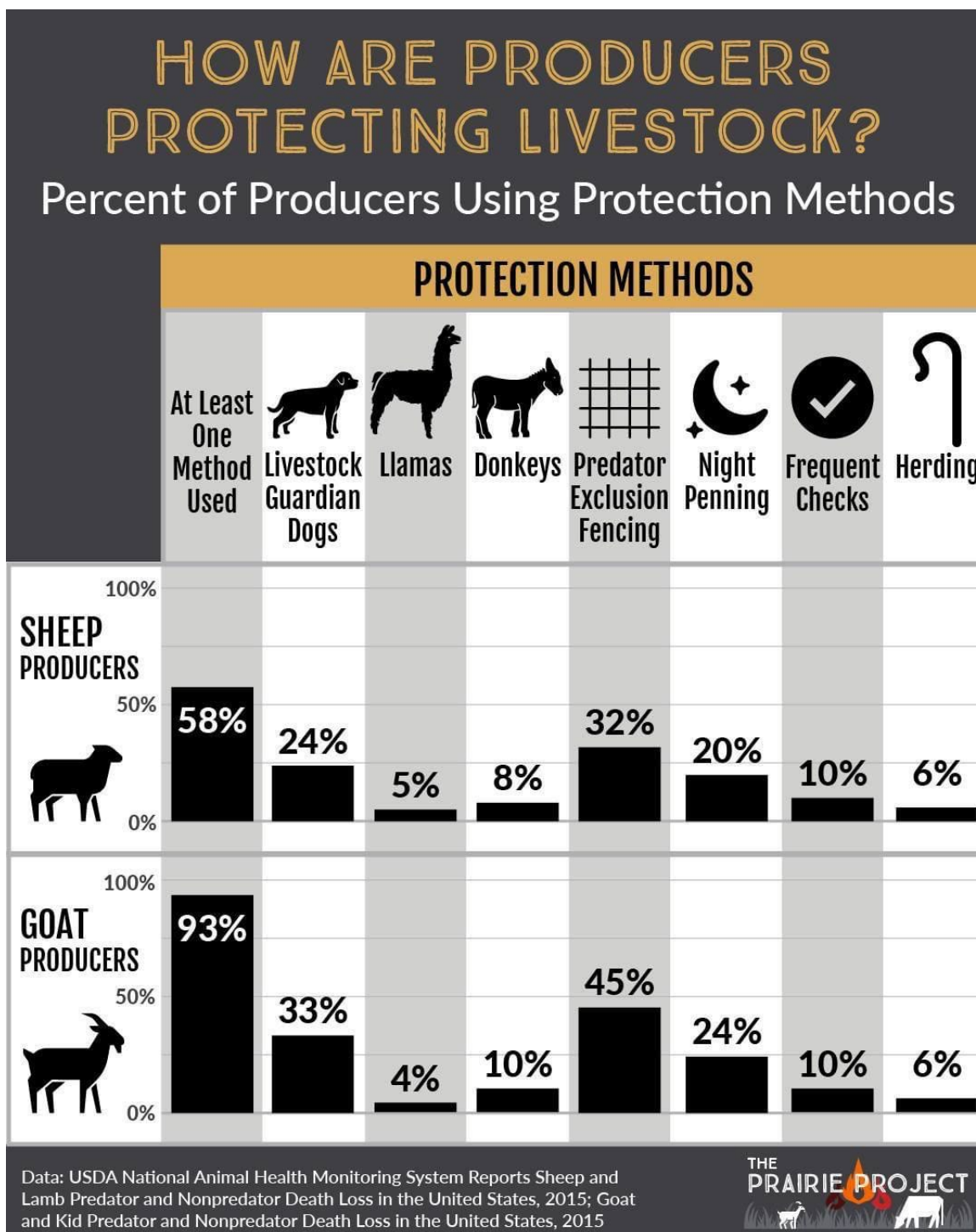
County	Agent	Set up Date			
Fannin	Chad Cummings/ Cody Maxwell	June 22, 2023			
Location	Month 1	Month 2	Month3	Month 4	Month 5
		July 14	August	September	October
QuickBayt		116			
Golden Malrin		36			
QuikStrike		84			
Cyanarox		41			
Fly Terminator Pro		0.3"			

**Figure 1. Location for the Grayson County house fly demonstration, north of Bells, TX (Established July 3, 2023)**



Figure 2. Location for the Fannin County house fly demonstration, north of Bonham, TX (Established June 22, 2023)





\*\* As with any other production system, an integrated predator management strategy may increase effectiveness of predator control or protection of small livestock. Be sure to use multiple tools in the toolbox. LGDs plus exclusion fencing are a common combination in our area.

# Plants, Insects, and Diseases Active Now

## Plants

Warm season plants have matured to flowering in many species. Warm season weeds including goatweed, bitter sneezeweed, ragweeds, lambsquarters, marshelder, and sunflowers in flowering stage or beginning to dry down. Fall milkweed growth has been initiated in many pastures.

Second crop of hay is baled across much of the county on improved forages.

## Insects

June bugs, butterflies, moths, grasshoppers, and flies are very active in urban environments. Stable flies, horn flies, and Tabanid flies are active. Some noctuid moths and larva (armyworms, cutworms) are present and feeding, but no major outbreaks currently.

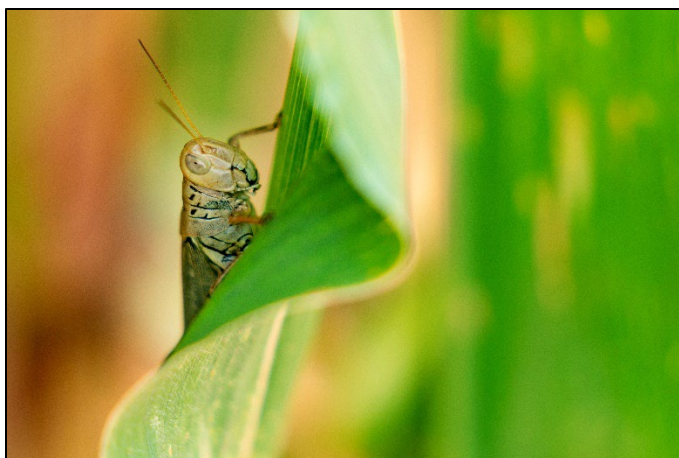
## Diseases

Tree disease or injury/death reports have been common in the office over the last few months. Many are a result of extreme weather conditions over the past 2 years coupled with an insect or disease pathogen stressor. Most healthy trees are very resilient to external stresses. Come see us on August 25<sup>th</sup> in Sherman for more details (see pg. 18 for Tree Clinic information. <https://grayson.agrilife.org/2023/08/02/fall-and-winter-tree-health-seminar-small-acreage-new-landowner-series/>).

No major disease issues to report currently in crops, lawns, or pastures.

**D. Chad Cummings, PhD**

[chad.cummings@ag.tamu.edu](mailto:chad.cummings@ag.tamu.edu)







**Applications now open for  
Bluestem Master Naturalist  
2023 Training Program**

If you are in Grayson County and have an interest in nature and conservation, we invite you to become a Texas Master Naturalist in the Bluestem Chapter by filling out the application form on the [www.txmn.org/bluestem](http://www.txmn.org/bluestem) website. Select the Become a Master Naturalist tab and then click on the button for the Application form. The training classes begin on August 10th. It is not too late to sign up!



## **Small Acreage - New Landowner Series** ***Fall and Winter Tree Health Seminar***

*August 25, 2023*

1:00 pm to 4:00 pm

Grayson County Courthouse Annex Assembly Room  
(2nd Floor)

### **Insects and Diseases of Urban Trees - Update**

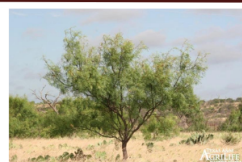
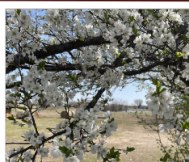
*Michael Sills*, District IV Urban  
Forester, Texas A&M Forest Service  
*D. Chad Cummings*, Grayson County  
Extension Agent - Ag and Nat  
Resources



### **Trees vs. Lawns: How to get both to survive**

*Brad Voss*, Collin County Extension  
Agent - Horticulture

**Fee of \$20.00 on-site or online at [grayson.agrilife.org](https://grayson.agrilife.org)**



Texas A&M AgriLife Extension provides equal opportunities in its programs and employment to all persons, regardless of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, disability, age, or veteran status. The Texas A&M University System, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the County Commissioners Courts of Texas Cooperating.

<https://grayson.agrilife.org/2023/08/02/fall-and-winter-tree-health-seminar-small-acreage-new-landowner-series/>



# TXGLC CROSS TIMBERS COALITION FALL MEETING

**Friday, September 22, 2023**  
**Clint & Betty Josey Pavilion, Dixon Water Foundation**  
 5190 Co Rd 398, Decatur, TX 76234

Join the Dixon Water Foundation as they team up with USDA-NRCS and the Texas Grazing Land Coalition to bring producers together for the TXGLC Cross Timbers Coalition Fall Meeting, education, and fellowship.

9:30 Registration & Coffee  
 10:00 Pasture and Plant ID Walk led by Ricky Linex  
 12:00 Lunch  
 1:00 Rainfall Simulator & Dixon Water Foundation Ranch Tour

There is no fee to attend. To learn more, please contact Hilary Knight by emailing [hknight@dixonwater.org](mailto:hknight@dixonwater.org) or calling 940-626-9848.

RSVP on EventBrite by visiting: [Fall2023CrossTimbersTXGLC.eventbrite.com](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/fall2023cross-timbers-txglc-tickets-704444444444)

Please RSVP by September 18, 2023 for catering purposes.



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Natural Resources Conservation Service

# Events Coming Up in NTX

**Aug 5-9**

- Beef Cattle Short Course (*College Station*)

<https://beefcattleshortcourse.com/event-registration/>

**Aug 8**

- Grayson County Master Gardeners General Meeting (*Sherman; 6:30 pm*)

**Aug 13**

- Bluestem Master Naturalist Chapter Meeting (*Sherman; 2 pm*)

**Aug 17**

- Bluestem Master Naturalist Initial Training: Ecosystems and Ecoregions

**Aug 25**

- Fall and Winter Tree Health Seminar (*Sherman*)

**Sept 15**

- Cow-Calf Production Clinic (*Sherman*)

**Sept 22**

- TXGLC Cross Timbers Pasture Walk & Rainwater Simulation (*Decatur*)

**Sept 29**

- North Texas Cow-Calf Production Mobile Tour (*Bonham, Durant, Leonard, Savoy, Melissa*)

Visit our website at [\(Welcome to Grayson County - Grayson \(grayson.agrilife.org\)\)](http://Welcome%20to%20Grayson%20County%20-%20Grayson%20(grayson.agrilife.org)) (<https://grayson.agrilife.org/>) to sign up for the events.