

Keys to Agronomy

VOL 1

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Focus of 2023



Hi! I'm glad you are here. If we haven't met yet, my name is Kristie Keys and I am your new Extension Agent - Agronomy for Castro/Hale/Lamb County. Originally, I grew up in Merkel, Tx on a small family ranch. I have a Bachelor of Science in Interdisciplinary Agriculture, a Master of Science in Agriculture Education with additional hours in Plant & Soil Science, both from Texas Tech University, and a Principal Certification from Lamar University. My husband and I have two daughters who keep us busy showing pigs, rabbits, and competitive gymnastics. I am excited to be back working with the Texas A&M Agrilife Extension Service. I have previously worked for the Extension Cotton Agronomist, been an Ag Science Teacher, floral designer, and at the USDA-ARS. If I can be of any assistance, please feel free to reach out. I am here to serve all Texans and to provide educational programming that fits your needs!

Focus 2023: Soil Health

What has 6 layers, is home to a quarter of the Earth's species, produces a bed for 95% of the food production, and stores 20% of carbon (on the wetlands)? Soil! Just in Texas alone, there are more than 1,300 different kinds of recognized soil. It's important to take care of this soil as we are losing 15-30% annually and from the facts listed above, it's a pretty important natural resource. Here in the High Plains, limited soil moisture, danger from wind erosion, and irrigation water management are the major soil-management problems all while producing major crops like cotton, grain sorghum, and wheat. I believe in good crop production begins with great soil management. Knowing what is in your soil and your yield goals will assist in making educated decisions throughout the year leading to profitable and well managed crops. For this 2023 year, I will have a deep soil sampling program for anyone who is interested. We will quickly chat about your goals and budget for soil sampling and determine depth of soil sampling up to 18 inches. I'll then look at the soil maps and your field, collect the samples and send them off to an accredited lab. When the results come back, we will meet up and analyze the results.



Focus 2023: Production Risk Management



Good plans and focus on details! I'm here to help you do just that. Want to have a profitable year? Of course you do! Focusing on pre-season decisions will allow you to maximize potential return on investments. I'll be looking at putting in a trial or two to help you make decisions for upcoming years. Some of my ideas?

Row spacing- is 80" more profitable than 40"?

Planter settings- uniform planting is important, are you set up for it?

Quality seed- what is cold germ and how could it help you?

Let me know what you think!

Contact Me!

Got an idea, question, or
comment?

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TEXAS A&M
AGRI LIFE
EXTENSION

AgriLife Crop Production and Protection Seminar

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service

December 20, 2022

*(Program approved by TDA for 5 CEU's (1 L&R, 2 IPM, 1 Drift, 1 General)
All Panhandle and South Plains Counties (in-person/speakers via TEAMS)*

Location: Castro County AgriLife Extension Office. 205 N. Broadway, Dimmitt
RSVP at 806-647-4115 by December 19
Cost: \$30 (Lunch included)

8:30 a.m. - **Registration**

9:00 a.m. - **Laws and Regulations/TDA guidelines for licensing**

- Dr. Mark Matocha

10:00 a.m. - **What goes into selecting a variety?**

Ensuring Seed Quality and a Good Stand

Cotton - *Dr. Craig Bednarz*

Feed Grains/Silage/Forage - *Dr. Calvin Trostle*

11:00 a.m. - **How reliable are insect technologies? Efficacy & economic thresholds**

- Dr. David Kerns - Understanding Gene Transfer and Protection

- Blayne Reed - Efficacy of Pesticides and economic thresholds

- Dr. Pat Porter Seed/In furrow Treatments for Pests

12:00 p.m. - **Break**

12:15 p.m. - **Plant Health and Protection Decisions related to Disease, Viruses, & Nematodes**

Cotton - *Dr. Terry Wheeler* (planting decisions, prevention measures, etc.)

Corn/Sorghum - *Dr. Thomas Isakeit* (prevention, awareness, control)

Small Grains - *Dr. Ken Obasa* (identification, prevention, control)

1:15 p.m. - **Management of Resistant Weeds and New Technologies**

- Dr. Peter Dotray



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AGRILIFE
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MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Don't miss these opportunities

- DECEMBER 19 @ LITTLEFIELD: LAMB COUNTY CROPS CONFERENCE
- DECEMBER 20 @ DIMMITT: CROP PRODUCTION & PROTECTION SEMINAR
- JANUARY 17 @ DIMMITT: CASTRO COUNTY AG CONFERENCE
- JANUARY 19 @ PLAINVIEW: MID PLAINS CROPS CONFERENCE
- FEBRUARY 21 @ OLTON: SOIL HEALTH CONFERENCE



Questions? Contact me
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