

Keys to Agronomy

VOL 3

In this issue:

- Producer Spotlight
- TDA & Training Reminders
- Pre-Plant Decisions
- Upcoming Events

PRODUCER SPOTLIGHT



Jay Ray Sageser Hale County

"I know that experimentation is the key to innovation and innovation opens doors to solutions through problematic times."

Over 130 years ago, Jay Ray's great great granddad settled on a piece of land with the intention of pursuing a career in the cotton industry. This area is now known as Cotton Center, Tx, a place Jay Ray, his wife, and 2 boys (3rd on the way) call home! Farming has ran deep in Jay Ray's blood, from farming the carpet in his parents home at a very young age, to filing his first Schedule F at 20 years of age while obtaining his Bachelor degree, to 13 years later being a 5th generation farmer, partnering with his parents and continuing the family tradition. Farming in Hale County, Mr. Sageser rotates crops with a variety of diversity to assist in weed control, nutrient management and soil health. Of course in Cotton Center, cotton would be the main crop but Jay Ray also likes to experiment with different short season crop rotations to capitalize their growing seasons with the timing of rainfall but also plant unconventional crops that have proven to turn a profit with limited inputs. Jay Ray gives credit to the long growing season the South Plains has to offer which allows him to grow a wide variety of crops from corn, wheat, milo, millet, hay, cover crops, and black eyed peas and even sesame in the past. The most limiting factor to farming Jay Ray encounters is the arid climate and limited irrigation. The last decade has produced many eras of drought and adverse weather for growing crops, however, Jay Ray encourages young producers to research as much as you can, learn the earth's biology, and implement new ways of farming to steward the land which is critical to the security of well being of this region, country and world, both now and in the future for generations of farmers for this land. The Sageser's are committed to practicing sustainable, safe, and effective agriculture to deliver food and fiber to the market. They are producers that share the same interests as consumers in their food and fiber. Along with farming, Jay Ray enjoys spending time with friends and family, water skiing, snow skiing, scuba diving, and watching Texas Tech sports! The farm is the best place to raise a family and he looks forward to continuing this tradition with his boys.

Contact Me!

Got an idea, question, or
comment?

Kristie Keys
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325-665-8790

TEXAS A&M
AGRI LIFE
EXTENSION

TDA Update

From: Mark Navarrete
TDA, Agriculture Consumer Protection
Inspector

APPLICATOR LICENSE HOLDERS

Beginning in 2023, applicators must have all the required CEU's to renew their private, commercial, and noncommercial applicator licenses. No Covid considerations. CEUs must be obtained before the expiration date. Certificates of completion must be maintained by the applicator for a period of 12 months after the most recent renewal of your license or certificate. TDA may audit CEUs during an onsite inspection or by requesting copies of certificates of completion by mailed to the department.

- Private applicators are required to obtain 15 CEUs every 5 years (2 L&R, 2 IPM, 11 General)
- Commercial/non-commercial are required to obtain 5 CEUs every year (2 IPM, 2 L&R, 2 Drift, 3 General)

Looking to obtain a private applicator license? See the upcoming events page in this newsletter to find out how to sign up for an upcoming training.

Have you moved recently and haven't changed your address on your applicator license? The Texas Administrative Code (rule 7.20) requires all licensees to notify the department within 30 days of any change in information. You can find the change form on the texasagriculture.gov website

AUXIN TRAINING

AgriLife Extension will provide trainings to satisfy the federal and state requirements for Auxin herbicide use. Certifications and 1 hour of TDA Laws and Regulations will be awarded to those in attendance. This allows licensed applicators to apply or use in Xtend and Enlist Technologies. This is an annual requirement. If you have not attended a meeting to receive your Auxin training, please reach out so I can get a training scheduled.

PARAQUAT TRAINING

This training is only available online and must be renewed every three years for licensed applicators using any type of paraquat formulation. Those without a license are prohibited from using, including mixing, loading, and any other pesticide related activities. This stewardship training is facilitated by the National Pesticide Safety Education Center to satisfy the EPA mandated stewardship training. You can find this training on the following website: <http://npsec.us/paraquat>

Need a private pesticide license?

Contact Castro County Extension Office to be
put on the list for upcoming training.

Date TBD

*Coming
Soon*

Pre-Plant Decisions

VARIETY SELECTION

To assist producers in making educated variety selections, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension conducts replicated agronomic cotton evaluations (RACE) that provide producers regional, on-farm, and unbiased comparisons of top cotton varieties marketed for the Panhandle & South Plains under varying environments and production practices.

The Panhandle RACE trials consisted of 7 locations and the Southern RACE trials had 9 locations. This information is captured in reports by Drs. Jourdan Bell & Murilo Maeda and are available on my website, www.castro.agrilife.org

Valuable information is collected throughout the season on each of these varieties including agronomic information by location, characteristics of varieties, stand counts, lint yield, quality, and loan values. Choose a variety that is adapted to your area and offers a good yield and disease package.

Opportunities to place a RACE trial on your field might be available. Contact me to discuss your options.

SEED

Quality seed is the first step to a successful crop. Standard germination test are conducted under ideal conditions and won't tell all the story under challenging field conditions. Vigor test, however, gives you information on how well a seed will germinate under adverse field conditions but this information isn't always easy to find, you might have to contact your seed sales rep. In cotton, the cool-warm vigor index can determine which variety you should plant first before warmer weather hits. To figure your CWVI, you take the germination percentages from the warm germ test and a cool germ test and add those numbers together. A number of 150 or greater is classified as excellent indicating an earlier planting opportunity when less optimum conditions are present.

Seed treatments ensure your crop is off to a great start, but which is the best? It all depends on your current situation in your field. The cottonseed is just as economically important as the cotton plant itself.

Are you interested in looking at planting population and/or row spacing on your farm? I would love to talk about the possibility of putting a trial out.

SOIL

It's so easy to think about the part of the plant you can see, but have you thought about all the below ground material that feeds your plant? You can likely tell me all about your soils texture, however, there is no way to tell me what nutrients are available unless you have soil testing completed. You might have had a problem spot in your field last year, have you taken a shovel to that spot to check for problems lying beneath the surface? The off-season is a great time to get in the field and explore.

Soil sampling can provide important information for you to develop a soil management/nutrient plan. If you are interested in testing your soil, give me a call. I will be out collecting samples during February/March. I am able to sample from 0-6 inches up to 24 inches with a hydraulic soil sampling rig. See the flyer below for more information or reach out if you have any questions!

Soil temperature is crucial for seed germination. Finding the optimal temperature for your crop can be done with a quick Google search using reputable websites.

It's best to plant in soil that is free of weeds. Using pre-season residual herbicides to reduce the competition of available water with the newly planted seed and germinated weeds.

EQUIPMENT

Before hitting the field this upcoming spring, take a few moments to check your equipment. The last thing you want is to delay planting because a defective piece of equipment.

Planters- check for faulty parts or a lot of buildup and residue, replace any worn parts

All equipment- check the lights (headlights & warning lights), belts, chains, and all moving parts for proper working conditions

Sprayers- check hoses, tanks, nozzles, and splitters for buildup and debris

Tires- proper inflation, no leaking valve stems

Fluids- these need to be changed regularly like your personal vehicle. Oil, transmission, coolants, and hydraulic fluids

UPCOMING

ALFALFA FOR SMALL ACREAGE GROWERS

TEXAS A&M
AGRILIFE
EXTENSION

Lunch -N-
Learn



COST: \$15

**FEBRUARY 27, 2023
12PM-1PM**



HALE COUNTY EXTENSION OFFICE
225 BROADWAY, STE. 6, PLV. TX



**PIZZA WILL BE
PROVIDED FOR LUNCH**

RSVP BY FEBRUARY 23

REGISTER BY CALLING
HALE CO. OFFICE : 806-291-5267 OR
CASTRO CO. OFFICE: 806-647-4115

**For more information contact
Kristie Keys @ 325-665-8790**

Educational programs of the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service are open to all people without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, disability, genetic information or veteran status. The Texas A&M University System, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the County Commissioners Courts of Texas Cooperating

Rsvp



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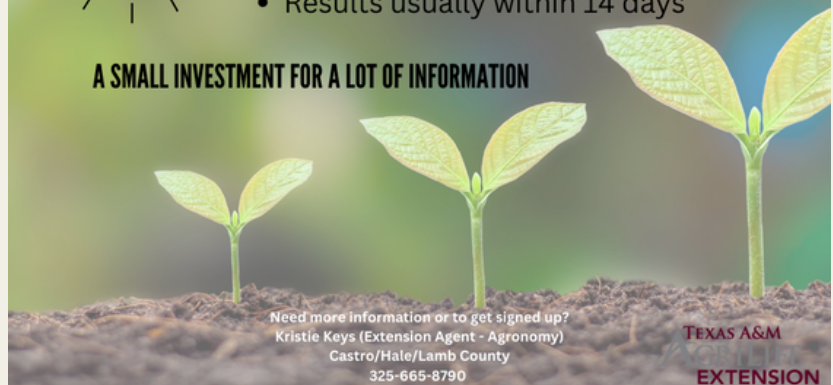
Visit:
<https://castro.agrilife.org/agronomy/>

Need Soil Testing?



- Hydraulic sampling rig
- 0-6 & 6+ up to 24in
- Composite or individual samples
- Local soil lab (no shipping fees)
- Results usually within 14 days

A SMALL INVESTMENT FOR A LOT OF INFORMATION



Need more information or to get signed up?
Kristie Keys (Extension Agent - Agronomy)
Castro/Hale/Lamb County
325-665-8790

TEXAS A&M
EXTENSION

Mark Your Calendars

Feb 21- Soil Health Conference in Olton

Speakers Currently Committed:

- Jeremy Brown, Dawson Co. Producer
- Bob Whitney, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension
- Katie Lewis, Texas A&M AgriLife Research
- Justin Benavidez, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension
- David Parker, WTAMU & Texas A&M AgriLife Extension



<https://castro.agrilife.org/agronomy/>



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

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