



“Rio Blanco” Integrated Pest Management Update

Vital Crop Production Information for *Crosby* and *Floyd* Counties

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☞ **Happy New Year** and Best Wishes for a successful new program year in 2005 !!

☞ As is required every year, we must update our mailing list for the upcoming season. Mail recipients of this newsletter will receive a post card enclosure that will need to be returned in order to be added to our 2005 mailing list. If you do not receive a card, please advise my secretary, Esperanza Flores, and one will be sent to you. E-mail recipients do not have to bother with this formality as our e-mail list is carried over automatically. Should someone not be interested in the e-mail newsletter service, please send a request to the above address to have your subscription terminated.

☞ Esperanza has completed one year as my very capable secretary and I'm proud to have her help. Sue Starkey, Steve Young's secretary, works in close proximity with Esperanza and they share many duties in this office and complement each other nicely. If you have a chance to speak with either of them, tell them what a great job they are doing. They both make our program work and make the Agents' job much easier. I would be remiss if I didn't mention Donna (Floyd County Office). She has also been very helpful in the overall Extension Program, especially when Caprock Cotton Conference needs must be met. Thanks to all support staff.

☞ Speaking of the **Caprock Cotton Conference**, it has been scheduled for January 26th at the Baptist Encampment for another year. We are truly grateful to Steve Dean and his staff for making us welcome at the Baptist Encampment each year. Mail recipients will also receive an agenda enclosure for that meeting / e-mail recipients have one attached to this newsletter.

☞ Several **other meetings of interest** have been scheduled for the next few months to promote local findings for 2004 and to ensure that those individuals needing **Continuing Education Unit Credits** will have that opportunity. If there are some that I fail to mention in this letter, please call them to my attention so that everyone may be informed.

January -

☞ **Jan. 13**-West Plains Cotton Conference at the Women's Building (1921 Black Gold Rd.) in **Levelland**. Conference begins at 8:30 a.m. Three C E U's will be offered. Call the Extension office in Hockley County at (806) 894-3159 for more details.

☞ **Jan. 26**-Caprock Cotton Conference at the Plains Baptist Assembly south of **Floydada**. From 8:00 to 4:30 with four CEU's offered.

☞ **Jan. 27**-Southern Mesa Ag Conference at the Dawson County Annex Building (609 North First) in **Lamesa** begins with registration at 8 a.m. Five continuing education units will be offered. Call the Extension office in Dawson County at (806) 872-3444 more details.

☞ **Jan. 28** - Llano Estacado Cotton Conference at the Bailey County Coliseum in **Muleshoe**. Conference begins with registration at 8:30 a.m. Five continuing education units will be offered. Call the extension office in Bailey County at 272-4584 for more details.

February -

☞ **Feb. 9**-The Terry County Ag Conference and Trade Show at the Nikki Vinson Youth Center (110 East Hill St.) in **Brownfield** from 8 a.m. to 2:45 p.m. with three continuing education units offered. Call the Extension office in Terry County at (806) 637-4060 for more details.

☞ **Feb. 10**-The Sandyland Ag Conference at the Gaines County Civic Building in **Seminole** begins with registration at 8 a.m. and runs until 4 p.m. Five continuing education units will be offered. Call the Extension office in Gaines County at (432) 758-4006 for more details.

☞ **Feb. 10** - The Hale and Swisher County Cotton Conference in **Plainview** begins at 8:30 a.m. and runs until 4 p.m. Five CEU's will be offered. Call the extension office in Hale County at 291-5267 or in Swisher County at 995-3726 for more details.

☞ In **other news** of interest:

➤ **New Private Applicator Training DVDs on the Way** - from *Dr. Don Renchie*, TAMU County Extension Agents (CEA's) Ag statewide should be receiving a new **Private Applicator Training program** consisting of 2 DVDs. Thanks to assistance from the Texas Department of Agriculture, the entire training program is on 2 DVDs for convenience and use. They can be used alone or integrated into an interactive program in which the agent teaches a portion of the class. Sorry, they cannot be borrowed as out video tapes are currently.

➤ **EPA Issues Final Reminder of "Stop Sale" Date for Diazinon**

From Dr. Mary Ketchersid, TAMU

An organophosphate pesticide, diazinon has been one of the most widely used insecticides in the United States for household lawn and garden pest control, as well as for indoor residential treatments. All **indoor** use product registrations have been canceled, and retail sale of these products ended on Dec. 31, 2002.

EPA is issuing a final reminder notice to pesticide retailers that the stop-sale date for **ALL outdoor** diazinon home, lawn and garden products is Dec. 31, 2004. After that date, it will be unlawful to sell diazinon outdoor non-agricultural use products in the United States. This provision is part of an agreement between EPA and diazinon registrants to phase out and eliminate virtually all residential uses of the insecticide. Discontinuing diazinon use in home, lawn and garden care is part of EPA's ongoing effort under **the 1996 Food Quality Protection Act** to reduce the risk of pesticides, especially to children.

After Dec. 31, 2004, diazinon registrants are offering a "buy back" program to assist with removing these products from the market and preventing further sale. The registrants will repurchase any unopened, unused outdoor residential products from retailers or formulators.

As of Jan. 1, 2005, retailers should remove **all** diazinon outdoor home, lawn and garden products from store shelves and store them safely until these products can be sold back to the manufacturers or disposed of properly.

Consumers may continue to use diazinon residential products according to label directions and precautions. If consumers choose to discontinue use, they should contact their state or local hazardous waste disposal program or local solid waste collection service for information on proper disposal. Consumers are advised not to dispose of pesticides in sinks, toilets, storm drains, or any body of water. The local government may recommend that consumers take diazinon products to a household hazardous waste collection site.

Information on the Texas Commission for Environmental Quality (TCEQ) Agricultural Waste Pesticide Collection Program can be found at:
<http://www.tnrcc.state.tx.us/exec/oppr/agwaste/agwaste.html>

Texas Country Cleanup and Household Hazardous Waste Collection Events can be found on the TCEQ Calendar found at:

<http://www.tnrcc.state.tx.us/admin/calendar/events.html> by selecting the month of interest.

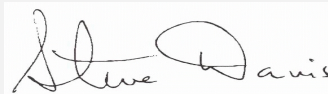
Copies of the "Diazinon Notice to Retailers" are available through the "National Service Center for Environmental Publications" at 1-800-490-9198. Also, more information on diazinon is available at:

<http://www.epa.gov/pesticides/op/diazinon.htm>

Hope to see you all at the

Caprock Cotton Conference !!!

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Crosby and Floyd Counties

Texas A&M University System, U.S. Department of
Agriculture and the County Commissioners Courts of Texas
Cooperating