

# AG & NATURAL RESOURCES

Connecting West Texas Farmers & Ranchers  
with Texas A&M AgriLife Extension

## Connecting West Texas Farmers and Ranchers with Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service

A little history for you first: Texas A&M University (then Agriculture and Mechanical College of Texas) was organized by the state legislature in 1871 under the provisions of the Morrill Land-Grant College Act to teach agriculture, the mechanic arts, military tactics as well as science and classical studies to the nations working - class. With the Hatch Act of 1887 Texas A&M's mission was expanded to include research to solve critical problems confronting agriculture. While they were doing great research it wasn't till congress approved the Smith - Lever Act in 1914 creating the extension service that the great reasearch was taken out to every farm and community.

THE SHORT VERSION: Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service agents and specialists work to bring you unbiased, apolitical, research based information to you to solve any issues you may be having!

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Agents work to bring you relevant information through educational programs! The team that works to bring you this newsletter has also been working on some great educationl programs that work to fulfill the mission to bring the scientific inforamtion out to every farm and community - we hope you can join us!

### ON THE LINE WITH AGRILIFE

Join us on the 3rd Tuesday of each month at 8:30 AM for "On The Line with Agrilife"! AgriLife Extension agents and specialists will share a brief presentation that will give an update on relevant information followed by a Q&A session for participants to ask agents/specialists questions. Participants can join virtually online or via teleconference. Get Reminders About Upcoming "On the Line with AgriLife" Programs by Texting @OTLWA to 81010!

Upcoming Topics:

- June 16th: Economic Impact of COVID-19 on Cotton
- July 21st: Drought Management Considerations for Landowners
- August 18th: Pasture Management/Hay Production

### WEST TEXAS FARMER AND RANCHER CONVENTION

Join us for the 1st Annual West Texas Farmer and Rancher Conference July 31st & August 1st at the Ward County Event Center in Monahans, TX. The two-day program will include speakers from across the state and allow producers to choose between a crop focused room or range, wildlife, and livestock room on Friday the 31st. Saturday the 1st will have a more general focus for all agriculture producers along with speaker at lunch and the day will be highlighted by Ron Gill wrapping up the conference with a livestock handling demonstration.



CONFERENCE  
JULY 31 & AUGUST 1ST

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**For more information about West Texas Farmer and Rancher Programs go to:**

**<https://valverde.agrilife.org/connecting-west-texas-farmers-and-ranchers-with-extension/>**



## Are your replacement heifers reaching their profit potential?

MULTIPLE FACTORS IMPACT THE SUCCESS OF A REPLACEMENT HEIFER PROGRAM. DEVELOP COST-EFFECTIVE PROTOCOLS TO ENSURE YOUR HEIFERS REACH THEIR PROFIT POTENTIAL. INDUSTRY VOICE BY BOEHRINGER INGELHEIM ANIMAL HEALTH – NOVEMBER 1, 2019

Replacement heifers hold the key to your herd's future. Ensure they are set up for long-term success. There are a number of factors that contribute to the success of a replacement heifer program, including nutritional management, disease prevention techniques and genetic selection. This means producers have many important decisions to make even before heifers give birth to their first calf. "The most significant challenge producers encounter when they develop heifers to be replacements is getting those heifers ready to breed for the first time, and doing so in a cost-effective way," said Richard Linhart, DVM, DACT, Boehringer Ingelheim. "Implementing a solid herd health program plays a huge role in ensuring these heifers live up to their profit potential down the road." Dr. Linhart encourages producers to keep the following strategies in mind when raising replacement heifers:

### **Start with adequate nutrition.**

Nutritional management is critical for developing healthy replacement heifers. Body condition score plays a significant role in both the short- and long-term success of replacement heifers, especially while heifers are still growing. To allow for adequate growth and condition, Dr. Linhart recommends a high-quality ration that includes trace mineral supplementation. "Providing adequate amounts of trace minerals such as selenium, copper, manganese, zinc and cobalt can improve productivity because they are needed for the immune system to function properly," explained Dr. Linhart. "I've seen herds increase pregnancy rates by 10 to 20% just by implementing a complete trace mineral program." Working with a local nutritionist can help producers balance cost and quality of the ration depending on specific herd needs.

### **Consider estrus synchronization.**

By taking some of the guesswork out of the breeding program and syncing first-time heifers, producers can increase the likelihood of them calving on time in future breeding seasons. "The primary influencer of calf weaning weight is not genetics, it's when the heifer calves," said Dr. Linhart. "If a heifer has her first calf late, she's more likely to calve late in the future. The timing of calving is critical for heifers, because one of the major challenges in managing a beef herd is getting those young females to re-breed. Estrus synchronization programs allow heifers more opportunities to be bred; their calves often weigh more and tend to be healthier when they're born earlier in the calving season."

### **Establish an effective vaccination program.**

"Think of vaccinations as insurance," Dr. Linhart continued. "You buy flood insurance before a flood, not after. Calfhood vaccinations prepare replacement heifers to withstand respiratory and reproductive disease challenges, so they can maintain adequate condition and produce healthy calves in the future." Bovine viral diarrhea virus (BVDV) is one case in which we can ultimately see the health of the cow impact the calf. If a pregnant cow is exposed to BVDV at certain stages of gestation, that virus can then be transmitted to the fetus, and the calf is born persistently infected (PI) with BVDV and is known as a PI calf. These calves can be devastating to a herd's profitability, as they shed the BVD virus to any animals they come in contact with, resulting in reduced reproductive efficiency and increased susceptibility to disease. "Make sure you're choosing vaccines that are labeled for the diseases you're trying to prevent, and follow the directions closely," stated Dr. Linhart. "BVDV is a major cause of economic loss for many producers, as it impacts both respiratory and reproductive health." It's very important that replacement heifers receive reproductive vaccines to prevent potential abortions and PI calves. Today, 78% of BVDV infections are caused by BVDV Type 1b.1. Knowing the most prevalent subtype of BVDV in your area will help you select an appropriate vaccine for your operation. Administering a respiratory vaccine to calves at 2 to 3 months of age with a booster at weaning, followed by a pre-breeding vaccination, will provide the highest level of protection for replacement heifers—helping to both maintain pregnancies and protect the health of their future calves. Once you have selected your replacement heifers, management plays the biggest role in ensuring they live up to both their profit potential and their potential as the future of the herd. "A successful replacement heifer program comes down to a combination of strategic management practices," concluded Dr. Linhart. "It's important to work with your local veterinarian and nutritionist to develop a list of protocols that are cost-effective for your herd."





# Marketing Sheep and Goats

## WHEN TO SHIP?

TEXAS A&M  
AGRI LIFE  
EXTENSION

Noteworthy Marketing Opportunities\* - Goats and Lambs

Holiday

Consumer Preferences

Goat

Lamb

Western Easter- April 12 Eastern Easter - April 19	young, milk fed <40lb live weight	30-55 lb live weight, fat
Passover- April 9 -15		30-55 lb live weight, fat, no blemishes
Cinco De Mayo - May 5	grilling size, usually <65lbs live weight	
Ramadan - April 24	no permanent teeth, 45-80 lb live weight	60-80 lb live weight
Memorial Day - May 25	grilling size, usually <65lbs live weight	
Eid al-Fitr- May 24 - 26	no permanent teeth, 45-80 lb live weight	60-80 lb live weight
July 4th	grilling size, usually <65lbs live weight	
Caribbean Holidays- August	yearlings and older intact bucks, 80lb+	
Eid al-Adha- July 31 - Aug 3	no permanent teeth, 45-80 lb live weight	prefer blemish free yearlings, 60-100 lb live weight
Labor Day - Sept. 7	grilling size, usually <65lbs live weight	
Rosh Hashanah- Sept. 19 - 20		forequarters, from 60-110 live weight
Christmas	young, 15-25 lb live weight	young, 15-25 lb live weight

\*To capitalize on these opportunities, animals must usually be marketed at least 7-10 days before the holiday/event occurs.

Source: Marketing Goats & Sheep - Dr. Machen

## Specialist Highlight



Reid Redden, Ph.D.

Associate Professor & Extension  
Sheep & Goat Specialist

Reid's primary responsibility is to develop and support educational programs that benefit the state sheep and goat industry. Texas has the most sheep and goats of any state in the nation and has a long history as a leader in this industry.

His programs are designed to provide solutions to current problems facing sheep and goat raisers. In addition, he strives to develop programs that will assist the industry reach new milestones.

Educational programs not only focus on improving existing sheep and goat operations, but assist in the development of the next generation of sheep and goat ranchers. He strives to bring all aspects of the industry together so that it work together to continue to build upon a vibrant sheep and goat industry.

Above you will find a chart that lays out the holidays through the year where lamb and goat are traditionally consumed. According to Extension Sheep and Goat Specialist Dr. Reid Redden, these times are when there will be an uptick in the lamb and goat markets. Typically, retail lamb sales will hold steady through the year with a sharp peak in early to mid-April and another rise in December. These two peak seasons can be associated with Easter, Christmas, and Chanukkah.

As far as the effects of COVID-19 on the lamb market, Dr. David Anderson, Extension Economist, says to expect a lower demand and lower prices. Not only will food service be heavily effected, which accounts for 50% of the American lamb, but Anderson expects consumers to have less disposable income and opt for cheaper protein options such as ground beef or chicken.

To stay up to date on the most recent news in the in the sheep and goat industry you can check out <https://agrilife.org/sheepandgoat/> and utilize the Sheep and Goat Marketing App in the App Store!



# Control Weeds in Your Pastures with Rotational Grazing

BY: DAKOTA KEMPEN - GLASSCOCK COUNTY ASSISTANT EXTENSION AGENT-ANR

Controlling weed growth and spread is a constant battle for producers when managing improved pastures. Overgrazed land can only make this problem worse, as target forage species, such as bermudagrass or ryegrass, are not able to grow properly due to the intense grazing pressure caused by continuous grazing. Overgrazing allows undesirable weed plants to grow and spread in the place of desired forage. “Overgrazing is the most common cause of weed problems in pastures,” according to Charles Stichler, Eric Prostko, and Steve Livingston, associate professors and extension agronomists and professor and extension agronomist with the Texas A&M University System. “At least a pound of grass can be grown for every pound of weed controlled.” There are a variety of methods available to producers and landowners to manage for weeds on their property, but there is one method that is often overlooked that can not only help curb the spread of weeds in your pasture, but also improve the overall health and forage yield of your pasture as well. This can be achieved by looking at alternative grazing systems, specifically rotational grazing.

Rotational grazing is a grazing system that involves subdividing a pasture into multiple smaller pastures, or “paddocks,” and rotating your livestock through each paddock to allow recently grazed sections a rest period. This rest period is essential for the health of desired forage plants, as it allows them to regrow, rebuild nutrient content, and establish a deeper root system, which will help the plant bounce back from grazing pressure and better survive droughts. Continuously grazed pastures do not allow the plants to rest and regrow and will oftentimes prevent the plant from regrowing at all (Stichler, et al.). This is what allows weeds to spread and choke out your desired species. Producers should utilize this rest period to eliminate present weeds while forage can regrow and take the weed’s place. This rest combined with effective weed control can potentially increase the forage yield of a producer’s pasture. According to the article, Pastures for Profit: A Guide to Rotational Grazing by the USDA NRCS, “Rotational grazing also can

increase the amount of forage harvested per acre over continuous grazing by as much as two tons dry matter per acre” (Undersander, et al.). When managed effectively, rotational grazing offers more benefits than just weed control. Rotational grazing is known as an intensive grazing system because deciding when to move livestock is dependent on the height of forage after grazing, and stocking rates are heavily evaluated. As a rule of thumb, animals should be moved into a new paddock when forage reaches about four inches in height after grazing (Undersander, et al.). Because of this, the state of forage should be checked daily to ensure livestock are rotated on the appropriate day and overgrazing is avoided (Stichler et al.). How many paddocks should be installed is up to the producer and the pasture in question, as there are multiple factors to determine paddock set-up, including established fencing, water sources, etc. When setting up paddocks, fencing can either be permanent or temporary to allow the producer to change the layout of their system as they see fit.



Reshaping your grazing management plan into a rotational grazing system is intensive, but the outcome of a rotational system will prove to be an overall benefit to improved grazing land by helping prevent the spread of weeds, and improve the overall forage quality and yield of your pasture. Consult with your local county extension agent for guidance in setting up a rotational grazing system on your property.

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Photo source: <https://agrilifeextension.tamu.edu/library/ranching/rangeland-risk-management-for-texans-patch-grazing-and-sustainable-rangeland-production-2/>





# Coronavirus Creates Uncertainty For Texas Cotton Producers A Texas A&M AgriLife expert says the virus' impact on global production, manufacturing and consumption has caused cotton prices to drop.

BY ADAM RUSSELL, TEXAS A&M AGRILIFE COMMUNICATIONS MARCH 4, 2020

John Robinson, AgriLife Extension cotton marketing specialist, said cotton prices have been dropping due to the disease's effects on global production, manufacturing and consumption. The ripple effect of coronavirus on the global supply chain and U.S. imports and exports is spreading, he said.

"The human toll is evident, but there's also a lot of disruption to commerce, including to cotton," Robinson said. "You've got hundreds of millions of people in Asia who are staying at home. That affects everything from ships not being unloaded to textile manufacturing and consumption."

## Uncertainty spreads with outbreak

The National Cotton Council's prospective planting surveys suggested growers would plant 13 million acres of cotton in 2020, but prices have since plunged. Prices fell 3-4 cents per pound in a week as the U.S. stock market dropped 1,000 points per day for three consecutive days, he said. On Feb. 27, cotton futures were down to 64 cents per pound. Robinson said the average producer needs cotton futures prices to be around the mid-70 cent mark for any possibility of profit.

The recent U.S. Department of Agriculture cotton outlook adjusted U.S. planting expectations to 12.5 million acres. But Robinson said the extent of the coronavirus outbreak could mean further price dips and more producers looking for other planting options. Robinson said 5.4 million bales of cotton may carry over from the 2019 growing season, which is similar to the previous marketing year. However, typical price rallies on cotton futures, which occur March through May during planting season, seem to be in jeopardy.

"I've never seen it like this," he said. "How the information is changing week to week on the prices and acreage outlooks shows the uncertainty regarding how far and wide coronavirus could spread."

## Producers in limbo

Robinson said conversations with cotton growers suggests they're not ready to commit to a crop due to the uncertainty. But options are limited for many growers in parts of the state. Cotton acres have increased north of Amarillo over the last several years, he said. Those acres switched from corn because of irrigation limits and better cotton prices.

"Cotton is more tolerant to drier conditions, and prices helped that trend," he said. "But now you have a lot of farmers who have invested in cotton equipment, and there's been investment in gins. So, this has some growers in a difficult spot." Many dryland growers will have even fewer options because wheat and sorghum prices aren't any better, he said.

"It may come down to which decision will lose less money," he said. "We're hoping the coronavirus will be a short-term problem and that there will be some positive news as we move through the planting season, but right now the unknown has everything in limbo."



# How to Beat Mesquite!

SOURCES: JAMES JACKSON, EXTENSION PROGRAM SPECIALIST AND ROBERT LYONS, PROFESSOR AND EXTENSION RANGE SPECIALIST, THE TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY SYSTEM

Mesquite is one of the toughest most invasive brush species in the Texas rangeland. Mesquite can thrive in rural pastures, or even in urban cities. The leaf spray method can help you effectively control mesquite.

## Leaf Spray Method

Begin spraying in the spring where the mesquite leaves change from light green to dark green. Continue spraying through September. If your mesquite has been top killed by fire, hand cut, or mechanical methods. Wait two full seasons before using the leaf spray method.

## Prepare Equipment

Many types of sprayers work well for this method. Backpack sprayers are the most efficient for small acreage places with high density for mesquite trees. On larger acreage with lower densities, ARV or UTV sprayers are more efficient. Before Spraying make sure that you have adjustable cone nozzle that can deliver a coarse spray with larger droplets to the top of an 8-foot tree.

## Mix Herbicide

You can achieve about a 70-100 percent mortality rate if you use Sendero or you can use a combination of triclopyr ester mixed with clopyralid. To prepare the solution if you decide to use Sendero. Add Sendero at a concentration of 1 percent to the water. If you decide to use Triclopyr ester and clopyralid method add ½ percent of each product to the mix in water. You will also need to add high quality non ionic surfactant to the spray mix. You can add a dye to mark the sprayed plant.

## Spray the Mesquite

Begin spraying in the spring after the soil temperature has reached 75 degrees at 12 inches deep and after the mesquite foliage has changed from light green to dark green. The suggested cutoff date in south and east is July 31, but here in west Texas you can spray all the way through September. Spray all the leaves until the leaves glisten and are wet almost to the point where they are dripping.

## For Best Results

Follow all herbicide label directions. Spray when recent rains have initiated and when mesquite leaves are wet, and when mesquite foliage shows damage from hail, insects, or disease. Finally controlling mesquite is not a one-time job you will need to go over your land periodically to remove unwanted mesquite.

	Ingredient	Concentration in spray solution	1 gal	3 gal	14 gal	25 gal
Option A	Sendero	1%	1.28 oz	4 oz	18 oz	32 oz
Option B	Remedy Ultra, Clear Pasture, Triclopyr R&P and Triclopyr 4 EC	0.5%	0.64 oz	2 oz	9 oz	16 oz
	Pyramid R&P and Clopyra-lid 3	0.5%	0.64 oz	2 oz	9 oz	16 oz
Add to Option A or B	Surfactant	¼%	0.32 oz	1 oz	5 oz	8 oz
	Hi-Lite Blue Dye	¼- ½%	0.32 - 0.64 oz	1-2 oz	5-9 oz	8-16 oz

All spray solutions are mixed in water.





# 5 Ways to Prepare Your Garden for the Summer Months in West Texas

MATLIN SAIN: PRESIDIO COUNTY EXTENSION AGENT

Summer is right around the corner and with that comes the intense heat that often destroys our plants. Here are a list of 5 steps that you can complete to take care of the plants in your garden.

1

## Watering

There is a fine line between under and over watering. It is important to know the needs of your plant, so that you provide the right amount of water. For example, if you had a succulent in your backyard or a desert dwelling plant, you would only want to water once or twice a week.

Additionally, summer is a great time to go ahead and invest in drip irrigation or a soaker hose. These are great tools for watering your garden when you are not available to manually water yourself. Also, the length of time between watering is important. When the length of time increases between watering it will promote longer root growth.

2

## Utilizing Mulch

Mulch is often overlooked when it comes to protecting our plants. When you add a thick layer (recommended 3-4 inches) of mulch, it prevents the moisture in the soil from evaporating as quickly and decreases the temperature of the soil. By doing this, it reduces the amount of stress from the high heat for your plants. Furthermore, mulch prevents those pesky weeds from receiving sunlight, which is a great tool for controlling unwanted growth in your garden. Lastly, the best part of using mulch, is it eventually becomes a dual purpose tool. Over time, the mulch will decompose as organic matter, which you can later use.

3

## Remove Decaying Plants

This is something that should be done throughout the year in your yard, especially during summer. When our plants start to bolt or die, it is important to remove ALL decaying and dead matter to prevent the spread of disease, pests, and nasty fungi growing in the dead plant matter. This also includes dead-heading your flowers.

4

## Shade Cloth

Shade Cloth: If you do have vegetables in your garden that you want to continue growing; shade cloth is your go-to tool. Debbie Roland, a Master Gardener recommends utilizing 30-45% shade cloth to prolong the growing season.

5

## Take Pictures

Showcase your garden! Want to show everyone all the hard work you've put into your garden? Send 1 picture to [matlin.sain@ag.tamu.edu](mailto:matlin.sain@ag.tamu.edu) and it will be posted on the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension, District 6 Far West Texas Facebook Page!

Don't forget! The next episode of "On The Line with AgriLife" is on Tuesday, May 19th from 8:30-9:00 am. This episode will cover methods to control the pests in your garden. For more information go to our website:

<https://valverde.agrilife.org/on-the-line-with-agrilife/>

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Roland, Debbie. "MASTER GARDENERS: Warm Weather Garden Care." Odessa American, 9 June 2019, [www.oaoa.com/people/lifestyle/gardening/article\\_952aabe6-8961-11e9-adb6-3fb896fa480a.html](http://www.oaoa.com/people/lifestyle/gardening/article_952aabe6-8961-11e9-adb6-3fb896fa480a.html).  
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## Path to the Plate: Avocados

Check out how Avocados are produced and why they are great to include in your diet!

JESSICA MCCRRORY: TERRELL COUNTY EXTENSION AGENT

### DID YOU KNOW?

- Mexico leads world production of avocados, producing over 1 million metric tons annually. The United States follows in worldwide production, with California, Florida and Hawaii being the top producing states.
- One avocado tree can produce 200 – 500 avocados per year and since fruit can stay on the tree for long periods of time without ripening, harvest may overlap from year to year!
- Avocados like sandy and limestone soils. Typical practice in Florida is to plant 87-100 trees per acre which in the right soil conditions could produce satisfactory yields between 11,000 and 19,500 pounds per acre.
- Avocados are harvested by hand! Avocados are picked when at a green, but mature state avocados ripen to a dark brown color. You can tell an avocado is ripe and ready to eat when it is soft to the touch without being mushy.
- Avocados are synonymous with guacamole and Tex-Mex cuisine and are a staple in the Texan diet.

For as good as they are in our favorite dishes, did you know that avocados are full of vitamins, minerals and healthy fats? The flesh of an avocado is about 15 percent oil or fat, and the majority is in the healthy, monounsaturated form. Avocados have been known to lower cholesterol and can prevent certain forms of oral cancer. Avocados are also a great source of dietary fiber, potassium and folate.

AgriLife Extension's Dinner Tonight has an array of great recipes using avocados, including Avocado Mandarin Tossed Salad, California Chicken Pasta, Southwest Bean Burritos, and even a recipe for Banana Chocolate Pudding that includes avocados! For more creative and delicious recipes using avocados and other wholesome ingredients, visit [dinnertonight.tamu.edu/](http://dinnertonight.tamu.edu/).

### Avocado Mandarin Tossed Salad

- 1 - 11 ounce can mandarin oranges (drained)
- 1/2 cup green onions (thinly sliced)
- 1/3 cup coarsely chopped pecans
- 1/8 tsp pepper
- 4 cups torn salad greens
- 1 medium ripe avocado (peeled and sliced)
- 1/4 cup fat free Italian dressing

In a bowl, combine the oranges, onion, pecans and pepper. Refrigerate for 30 minutes. Place the greens in a salad bowl. Top with orange mixture and avocado slices. Drizzle with dressing before serving.



# PATH TO THE PLATE



# What You Need to Know about Rabbit Hemorrhagic Disease!

JESSICA MCCRRORY: TERRELL COUNTY EXTENSION AGENT

Though it is not common, finding a few dead rabbits this time of year is not unheard of. Many times, this event can be contributed to things like tularemia, the plague, and other known rabbit killers. Although, as of late, there is a new player in the game: Rabbit Hemorrhagic Disease. And it has now been found in Texas.

## What is Rabbit Hemorrhagic disease?

Rabbit hemorrhagic disease, or otherwise known as RHDV-2, is a fatal, viral disease that affects all rabbits, both domestic and wild. It is considered a rare disease that was first identified in July 2019 in Washington state, but has now since been confirmed in New Mexico, Arizona and Texas. RHDV-2 causes internal bleeding and is spread by contact with infected rabbits or carcasses and contaminated food, water or materials that come in contact with an affected rabbit. It is also able to persist in the environment, including through extreme temperatures, for a long time and that makes it difficult to control, especially in wild populations. But, on a positive note, RHDV-2 is not known to affect people, livestock or other pets.

## How to know if it could possibly be Rabbit Hemorrhagic Disease?

"Symptoms" that a rabbit may have RHDV-2 include sudden death with a blood stained nose, which is caused by the internal bleeding. Earlier signs, that may be seen more in domestic rabbitries, is the development of a fever, hesitation to eat, showing respiratory or nervous signs, in coordination, excitement and/or seizure like episodes. At this time, there is no vaccine to prevent or cure this disease.

## What's next?

In recent days, test results have confirmed the disease has been found in wild rabbits out of Lubbock and Hudspeth Counties, as well as three cases in domestic rabbits out of Hockley and El Paso Counties. There have also been reports of mortality events, in both cottontails and jackrabbits, out of El Paso, Hudspeth, Brewster, Terrell, Lubbock and Pecos Counties. "Texas Parks and Wildlife will be monitoring wild rabbit populations to determine the extent of the disease," says Dr. Bob Dittmar, TPWD wildlife veterinarian, "Contact your local Texas Parks and Wildlife biologist if you notice sick or dead rabbits. TPWD will be working with the Texas Animal Health Commission to keep the public informed as more is learned about the extent and severity of the disease."

## Effects on wildlife

So, what could this mean for the wildlife community? "Loss of this prey species can affect big game populations as well as other populations like rodents due to the shift of what predators will go after" said John Silovsky, Wildlife Division deputy director for TPWD, "this is especially true in fragile areas like the Trans Pecos." In conclusion, contact your local wildlife biologist if you collect a dead rabbit sample. "Be sure and protect yourself with all the recommended PPE, such as rubber gloves and double, or even triple, bagging the specimen," says Terrell County TPWD biologist, Chase McCrory, "And just a reminder, though rabbit hemorrhagic disease is not contractable by humans (as mentioned before), there are several other rabbit diseases like the plague and tularemia, which are."

Sources: Texas Animal Health Commission, Press Releases - 4.14.2020 & 4.22.2020  
USDA, Animal & Plant Health Inspection Service - Factsheet - October 2019  
Texas Parks & Wildlife Department - Press Release - 4.21.2020  
Chase McCrory, TPWD Terrell County Biologist

Hope to see you in  
Ward County on July  
31st and August 1st!



## Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service District 6 Extension Service

Find your County Agent:  
<https://ftstockton.tamu.edu/countypages/>

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