

HARDING COUNTY AG NEWS

Vol6 Issue 1

Blair Clavel, Harding Co. Extension Agent

I hope this newsletter finds everyone having a good winter/spring. The county received a little moisture the 4th week of March and hopefully it will keep coming.

Pesticide Applicators Workshop

There will be a dual program in Tucumcari on April 7th from 8-4 at Mesa Lands Community College. One session will be for those needing information for testing to acquire their private applicator license and the other session will be for those individuals needing CEU's to keep their license current. The training session and CEU seminar is primarily focused on the ornamental and turf categories. NMDA will award a minimum of 5 CEU's for this workshop. The cost of the workshop will be 40.00\$ per person. Please call the office for an agenda and registration form if you are interested in going. This is a great opportunity to get *all* of your CEU's for the next five years if your license is expiring.

Jenny Vance Horse Clinic

This will be held at the Harding County arena on April 11th from 10-3. Open to all ages and adults welcome too. Instruction will be given on showmanship, western horsemanship, western pleasure, reining, trail, and more. Open to all kids regardless if in 4-H. Cost is 30\$ per person.

Gardening Workshop 101

Many landowners and homeowners experience difficulty with the annual planting of their gardens. Variations in moisture, temperature, soil types, late freezes, and other things from year to year cause havoc with having consistent production. Soils in New Mexico tend to be hard, compacted, and have very little organic matter. Thus, a soil test is usually the start to determine what nutrients (via fertilizer) are needed to replenish the soil.



Join the Harding County Extension and Dr. Curtis Smith on Monday, April 20th for a complete update on gardening in Harding County. This workshop will be at 3:00pm at the Harding County Community Building and will go to about 5:00pm.

Unfortunately, this time could not be adjusted to accommodate folks after working hours because we are catching Dr. Smith on the way back from another meeting. Hopefully, if you are interested in the program, you can make arrangements to get off a little early. Dr. Smith will discuss soil, seasonal planting, seasonal vegetables, fertilizer, composting, disease and management, and other things. The most

important thing is that he will answer questions.

Test Your Soil

If you would like to test your soil, please bring a sample to the meeting (follow sampling guide below). I will have forms to fill out at the meeting and we will put all the samples together and send to the lab at NMSU. Please have your sample ready and a check made out to New Mexico State University for 19.00\$. This is the cost for a standard test and a fertilizer recommendation will be made for the sample. Turn around time should be from 1 to 3 weeks. *Please join us for an informative update on Monday, April 20th, from 3-5 at the Harding County Community Building!*

Guide A-114

Revised by C.R. Glover, Extension Agronomist

R.D. Baker, Area Extension Agronomist

College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences New Mexico State University

Soil tests provide a scientific basis for regulating available plant nutrients. Recommendations on kinds and amounts of fertilizer to apply and soil management practices are based on test results. Tests on a sample that does not accurately represent the area are likely to be misleading. The following directions can help you take a representative sample of the area you want tested.

Supplies

A soil auger, a soil tube, or a shovel and knife.

A clean bucket or other suitable container. Do not use a container made of metal.

A sample box and an information sheet, which you can get from your county agent or by writing to the Soil and Water Testing Laboratory, Box 3Q, New Mexico State University, Las Cruces, New Mexico 88003.

Where to Sample

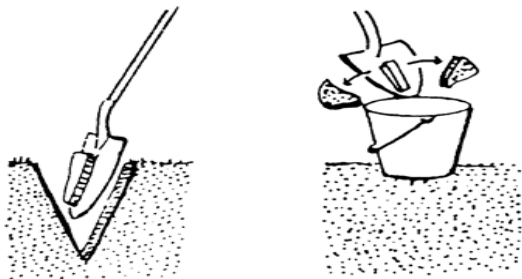
Take a composite sample from each area or field, but as a rule, try to limit the sample area to no more than 40 acres. If you have large trouble spots or areas that differ extremely in appearance, slope, soil structure, productivity, drainage, or soil treatment, put a composite sample from each of these areas in separate sample boxes.

For a composite sample, take soil from at least five sites in a garden or lawn and up to 15 sites in a large field (as illustrated in the diagram). Avoid areas near a road, fence row, compost pile, fertilizer band, or other non-typical areas.

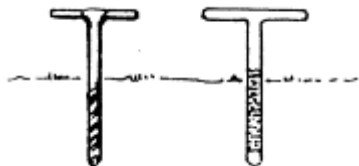
How to Sample

At each site remove any surface litter such as straw, leaves, and old stalks.

If you use a shovel and a knife, dig a hole about six inches deep. Take a slice of soil one-half inch thick and six inches deep and keep it on the shovel. From the center of this slice, cut a strip one-half inch wide from top to bottom and put it in the bucket. Repeat this at each site in the field.



If you use a soil auger or soil tube, take soil cores about six inches deep at each site and put in the bucket.



Mix the soil from all the sites in the same area. Place soil on a newspaper. Break any clods or lumps and let the sample dry at room temperature. Do not use heat for drying. Fill the sample box with the dry soil.



Label each sample with your name and a number keyed to a map of the area represented by each sample, so you will know where the sample was taken.

Complete the information sheet. Enclose it and the soil-testing fee in the package containing the soil sample so that all reach the laboratory together. If you send only one sample, place the information sheet and the soil-testing fee in the sample box with the soil.

The more information you can supply about the soil, the better the recommendations will be. Specify the crops that are to be grown. Fertilizer recommendations cannot be made if the crop to be grown is not specified.

Mailing the Sample

Take the soil sample box and the information sheet to your county agent, or mail them directly to the Soil and Water Testing Laboratory.

Note on Dying Plants

Grasses, vegetables, flowers, and other crops seldom die from lack of fertility. Water management, disease, and insects are some factors that can cause damage or death to plants. Check with your county agent, for soil analysis is of little value in diagnosing these problems.

****Wind Lease Policy and Informational Meeting****

Producers, landowners, and general public, you won't want to miss this program. Frank Falen, of Budd-Falen Law Offices, L.L.C. of Cheyenne Wyoming will be at the Harding County Community Building on Monday, April 27th to give a program and talk about alternative energy policy and lease agreements. This will start at 6pm and go until finished. As you all know, wind and alternative energy is the talk in communities everywhere and millions of dollars have been spent and much political action has taken place to push the alternative energy movement. Whether you are for, against, or indifferent, about wind energy, it is coming and it will probably affect many of you. Therefore, it is a must that you become familiar and educated about wind policy and how it can affect lease agreements, easements, transmission, land use, private property rights, and potential income. Please join us on Monday, April 27th at 6pm to hear from one of the leading experts in the country in regard to wind lease policy and landowner agreements. Don't miss the opportunity to visit with Frank and ask important questions. This is strictly an informational meeting and does not cater to, promote, or condone a particular wind company, development agency, or wind association. Included is Frank Falen's bio



Franklin J. Falen is an attorney and Senior Partner of Budd-Falen Law Offices, L.L.C located in Cheyenne, Wyoming.

Before establishing the law firm with his wife in Cheyenne, Frank served as Chief Administrative Officer for the Washington Cattlemen's Association in Ellensburg, Washington. In that position, Frank developed position papers and statements supporting and protecting the State's livestock industry, and reviewed and provided comments on State and National legislative proposals effecting private property rights and wilderness proposals. Frank also assisted with the creation of a Statewide advocacy effort opposing wild and scenic rivers designations. While in that position, he also worked closely with the Board of Directors in implementing Association policy, directed staff activities, and managed the Association's financial and business affairs. Frank also worked for the Federal

Harding County Cooperative Extension Service

Lands Legal Foundation. Frank's most important project for the Foundation was to complete an exhaustive historical and legal review regarding private property rights and equitable estate grazing rights in federal lands. Frank's research was published by the University of Idaho College of Law in the Spring of 1994. Frank was most recently awarded the Wyoming Outstanding Ag Citizen of the Year for 2001.

Frank grew up in Northern Nevada where his family owns and operates a large cattle ranch which includes both federal and private lands. He was personally involved with all areas of his family's business including planning, production, marketing and quality assurance. He received his Bachelor of Science degree in Agricultural Economics from University of Nevada at Reno, and his law degree from the University of Wyoming.

North Eastern New Mexico Livestock Association Meeting

The annual NENMLA meeting, in conjunction with New Mexico Cattle Growers, will take place at the Harding Co. Community Building on Sunday, May 3, starting at 1:00 pm with a potluck lunch. The annual scholarship recipient will be awarded at this time and updates will be provided from New Mexico Cattle Growers Association on legislative outcomes. Dr. Dave Fly, State Veterinarian from the New Mexico Livestock Board, will be on hand to give updates on the current status of disease issues in New Mexico and livestock movement protocols. The highlight will be discussion on the TB status in New Mexico and the regionalization program. Be on hand to ask questions about how these issues affect your operation. Also on the program will be Dennis Garcia from the State Land Office discussing wind energy in NM and the role of the State Land Office in leases. Other individuals with experience in wind leases and wind associations will also be on hand to give input and answer questions. Individuals are asked to bring a side dish as the main dish will be furnished.



2009 Ranch Horse Clinic

There will be a ranch horse clinic in Tucumcari on June 18-19th. This educational clinic will consist of two concurrent sessions limited to 20 persons. Riders will have ample work and one on one instruction with cutting, roping, reining, and fence work. Clinicians are Jay Henson and Terry Riddle. 100\$ deposit is due by June 1. Cost is 250\$ per person. Call the Quay County Extension Office at 461-0562 for more information.

If I can be of help to anyone, please feel free to give me a call.

Blair Clavel
County Extension Agent
Office 673-2341
Cell- 643-7517
Home- 485-0046

ECONOMICS



No, you can't deduct a banker and three feed salesmen as your dependents!

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