

**Texas Water Resources Institute
Integrated Farm Management
Strategic Ag Initiative Program
EPA Cooperative Agreement No. X8-96668501-0**

Quarter no. 3 From 3/1/09 Through 05/31/09

I. Abstract

Over 100 individuals participated or attended pesticide applicator training courses and crop production meetings this quarter. Additionally, the soil testing campaign and nutrient management program gained statewide recognition with the receipt of the Texas Environmental Excellence Award given a ceremony this quarter.

II. Overall Progress and Results by Task

Task 1. Project Coordination:

Subtask 1.1: Project Oversight – TWRI will provide technical and fiscal oversight to ensure Tasks and Deliverables are acceptable and completed as scheduled and within budget.

The following actions have been completed during this reporting period:

- a. TWRI and Weslaco District 12 Extension began payroll charges and associated travel and supply costs during this quarter and worked on developing a survey for training events within task 2.
- b. TWRI worked with District 12 Extension to ensure project deliverables (program surveys) were being addressed. While individual surveys and exams do exist, a consistent program survey that could measure impacts of this project does not exist. Therefore, TWRI agreed to develop a survey during the next quarter for implementation.

36% Complete

Subtask 1.2: Fiscal/invoicing – The Texas AgriLife Extension Service will submit reimbursement forms per the schedule established/requested.

The following actions have been completed during this reporting period:

- a. An invoice (R017280) for the time period of 3/1/09 thru 05/31/09 was submitted to EPA for \$12,504.60 leaving a balance of \$78,031.19 or 84% of the budget to be spent.

16% Complete

Subtask 1.3: Regular Meetings - To facilitate good communication between project participants, a quarterly meeting or teleconference will be scheduled and hosted by TWRI.

The following actions have been completed during this reporting period:

- a. TWRI held a meeting with AgriLife Extension in Weslaco on April 27 to discuss project activities to date and the expectations still to be met including the development of a survey tool following education meetings and the development of a fact sheet.

36% Complete

Subtask 1.4: Quarterly progress reports - TWRI, with the assistance of the project personnel, will submit progress reports to EPA Region 6 quarterly. The Reports will include the status of deliverables for each Objective and Task and a narrative description of activities for each task outlined in this Scope of Work in Progress Report format

The following actions have been completed during this reporting period:

- a. TWRI will submit year 1, quarter 3 report on June 15, 2009.

36% Complete

Subtask 1.5: Final Report – TWRI, with assistance of project personnel, will provide EPA Region 6 with a comprehensive report on the activities during the course of this project.

The following actions have been completed during this reporting period:

- a. Nothing to report at this time.

0% Complete

Task 2. Conducting Integrated Farm Management System Education Programs:

Subtask 2.1: A joint county Pesticide Applicator Safety Training and Continuing Education Program will be held on a quarterly basis for growers in Cameron, Willacy and Hidalgo County to educate individuals on the following topics:

- *principles of integrated pest management*
- *non-chemical alternatives and pest features*
- *ground and surface water protection*
- *laws and regulations and record keeping*
- *cost benefit of IPM*
- *pesticide labels*
- *endangered species protection*
- *Worker Protection Standards and personal protection*
- *maintenance and calibration of application equipment*
- *pesticide application safety training*

The following actions have been completed during this reporting period:

Date	Event	County	Description	Attendance	Materials Provided
5/6/09	Pesticide Safety Training	CH	<p>Topics included: the principles of integrated pest management, non-chemical alternatives, pest features, ground and surface water protection, laws and regulations, pesticide labels, endangered species protection, Worker Protection Standards, record keeping, personal protection, application equipment, calibration and continuing education units.</p> <p>Exam results: Average = 86 Range = 72 to 97</p>	11	✓ Appendix A

36% Complete

Subtask 2.2: Educational meetings will be held to educate producers on crop production, proper nutrient and irrigation management, soil testing, and integrated pest management practices including the economic benefits of an integrated management approach. Each of the following meetings will be held on an annual basis.

- 1 cotton production meetings
- 1 sorghum production meeting
- 1 sugar cane production meeting
- 1 citrus production meeting
- 1 vegetable production meeting
- A soil testing campaign to promote proper use of fertilizers and nutrient management

The following actions have been completed during this reporting period:

Date	Event	County	Description	Attendance	Materials Provided
3/10/09	Cotton Result Demonstration	H	Established cotton variety trial on Richard Drawe Farm		
3/11/09	Grain Result Demonstration	C	Established Grain Sorghum Variety Trial Bauer Farms		
3/17/09	Corn Result Demonstration	H	Established corn variety trial on John Mozingo Farm		
3/24/09	Cotton Result Demonstration	C	Established Cotton Variety Trial Bauer Farms- La Feria		
4/20/09	Irrigation Audit Workshop	C	Conducted an Irrigation Audit Workshop for Homeowners with Irrigation Systems in the Landscape	28	

5/12/09	Turf Budget Workshop	CHW	workshop held to develop budget for production of turfgrass		
4/15/09 & 5/13/09	Environmental Excellence Award	CHW	Visited Charles Loop Farm and Rio Farms to tape the value of the soil testing campaign to Valley agriculture producers for use in awards ceremony; Represented team of agents and specialists by traveling to Austin to receive State Environmental Excellence Award , first place in Agriculture Division. Video highlighting the soil testing campaign was shown at the awards banquet. Award recognized soil testing campaign and nutrient management program successes	n/a	
5/30/09	Grape Field Day	CHW	Grape field day held. Topics included: History of growing wine grapes in Texas, training systems for grapes, experimental wine grape project, tour of vineyard, wine market overview, wine presentation with food	80	✓ Appendix A

36% Complete

Subtask 2.3: *Texas AgriLife Extension Service will hold joint county training events (at least 2 per year) to advertise and educate individuals on related programs addressing water quality.*

- *Promote cost–share programs (319(h), EQIP, etc.)*
- *Educate producers or assist local Soil and Water Conservation Districts (as possible) in development of water quality management plans*
- *Educate producers on involvement and implementation of the Arroyo Colorado Watershed Protection Plan and the potential effects*

The following actions have been completed during this reporting period:

- a. Nothing to report at this time.

25% Complete

Subtask 2.4: *Expand the outreach program to include a fact sheet and IPM newsletter (distributed annually and more frequently if needed) addressing the adoption of an integrated farm management system including implementation of IPM practices, production and best management practices to protect water quality, nutrient and irrigation management practices and participation in cost-share programs.*

The following actions have been completed during this reporting period:

- b. Nothing to report at this time.

0% Complete

III. Related Issues/Current Problems and Favorable of Unusual Developments

- The following education programs are not directly related to agricultural production, but teach the same principles (nutrient management, environmentally sound practices and water quality aspects) on a residential/garden/home yard level to help protect the Arroyo Colorado watershed.

Date	Event	County	Description	Attendance	Materials Provided
4/23/09	Master Gardener Program	H	Taught session on turfgrass management including information on irrigation and fertilization		
4/25/09	Arbor/Compost Day	C	Composting Lesson and Demonstration	187	

IV. Projected Work for Next Quarter

- TWRI will work with AgriLife Extension to draft pre/post surveys to assess knowledge gained at meetings.
- TWRI will work with the County Extension Agent - Integrated Pest Management to begin drafting the annual newsletter.
- Education activities will continue.

Appendix A

**Supplemental materials for selected education programs
(e.g. agendas, letters of invite, topics of discussion, etc.)**

Private Applicator Certification Training

The Concept of Integrated Pest Management

Laws and Regulations

How to Read Pesticide Labels

Ground Water

Endangered Species Protection

Pesticide Record-Keeping

Personal Protection and Proper Use

The Worker Protection Standard, Application

Equipment & Calibration

Pest & Pest Damage

Conclusion

Wine Grape Field Day and Symposium 2009
Sponsored By: Rio Farms, Texas Dept of Agriculture,
Texas Agrilife Extension & USDA-ARS

Place: Rio Farms, Inc. Monte Alto
Date: Saturday May 30, 2009
Time: 4:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

Welcome

Dale Murden
General Manager, Rio Farms, Inc.

Growing Wine Grapes in Texas

Dr. George Ray McEachern
Professor of Horticulture
Texas A&M University

**Training Systems for
Hybrid Wine Grapes**

Fritz Westover
Viticulture Extension
Associate, Texas Gulf Coast
Region

**Rio Farms, Inc. Experimental
Wine Grape Projects**

Andy Scott, Director of Research, RFI
Charles Loop, Research Associate

Tour of Vineyards

TDA - Wine Marketing Overview

Bobby Champion
Wine Marketing Coordinator

Wine Presentations with Food

Amateur/Professional
Winemakers