

Texas Water Resources Institute

**Pesticide Education in the Coastal Zone of the Arroyo Colorado Watershed
Coastal Management Program, Cycle 13
General Land Office Agreement No. 09-047-000-3364**

Quarter no. 6 From 4/1/10 Through 6/30/10

ABSTRACT

TWRI and AgriLife Extension continued planning the turfgrass education conference as well as their promotion of the SAFE program in the watershed. Meetings with a planning committee will occur next quarter to plan the turfgrass conference. A sign designating pesticide disposal, mixing and storage areas for producers was drafted and bids will be accepted soon.

TASK REPORT

TASK 1: Project Coordination

Task Status: In progress 30% complete

Major Accomplishments for the reporting period include:

Subtask 1.1: Project Oversight

- TWRI maintains contact with AgriLife Extension and GLO regarding project activities and deliverables.

Subtask 1.2: Fiscal/invoicing

- AgriLife submitted one invoice on this project. Invoice #R018383 for June 2010 was for \$1,715.17; A delay in spending has occurred while project personnel initiate activities.

Subtask 1.3: Regular Meetings

- TWRI held project planning meetings with project participants (County Extension Agents in Hidalgo, Cameron and Willacy Counties) as well as the district extension administrator for district 12 in April in Weslaco. Meeting discussion included the development of a steering committee for the turf conference as well as the development of the fact sheet. The soil testing campaign results were also discussed and were provided to TWRI.

Subtask 1.4: Quarter Progress Reports

- TWRI submitted the sixth quarterly report on June, 9 2010.

Subtask 1.5: Final Report

- No activities to report at this time

Related Issues/Current Problems and Favorable or Unusual Developments:

- Other than budget issues and the possible project extension discussed under subtask 1.1, no issues to report.

Projected Work for Next Quarter:

- Set up meeting with County Extension Agents in valley during the next quarter.
- AgriLife will submit monthly invoices per the contract.
- TWRI will submit quarterly reports for the contract.

TASK 2: Supplement Integrated Farm Management System Education Programs

Task Status: In progress 20% complete

Major Accomplishments for the reporting period include:

Subtask 2.1: Signs and Education Materials (300 pesticide disposing signs and 1 Fact sheet)

- Extension further discussed the fact sheet at the April meeting that is to be developed for the project. Soybean production, given it is a new crop in the Arroyo Colorado Watershed and producers do not understand proper use of chemicals (fertilizer, pesticides) for effective and environmentally safe production, is still likely to be the highlight of the publication. TWRI is working to identify a specialist to lead the effort on developing this general fact sheet on soybean production including safe use of pesticides, fertilizers and irrigation.
- The pesticide disposing sign was drafted (see Figure below) and bids will be sought during the next quarter.

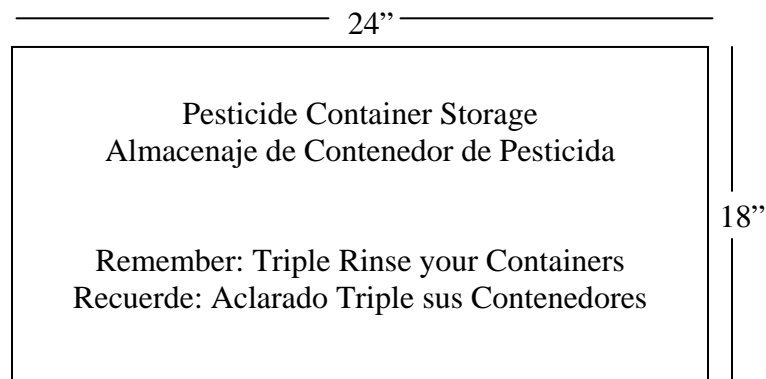


Figure: Draft Pesticide disposal signs to be developed and distributed to producers.
Subtask 2.2: Soil Testing Campaign

- Nothing to report at this time.

Related Issues/Current Problems and Favorable of Unusual Developments:

- N/A

Projected Work for Next Quarter:

- Seek bids for production of sign(s).
- Identify Extension resources to assist in development of soybean fact sheet.

TASK 3: Conduct Turfgrass Production and Management Education Program

Task Status: In progress 10% complete

Major Accomplishments for the reporting period include:

Subtask 3.1: Turfgrass Education Conference

- AgriLife Extension held a one day short course on several topics related to turfgrass. The course included practical information on: 1.) How to estimate the water needs for your grass; 2.) How to set up a proper irrigation schedule to conserve water while maintaining quality turf grass; and 3.) Management aspects of athletic fields. This course is designed for anyone with an interest in irrigation management and water conservation, who is already using a sprinkler system, or who is planning on having one installed.

Subtask 3.2: Assisting Turfgrass Managers (SAFE Program)

- It was discussed that the AgriLife Extension Technician funded to support education activities in the watershed may be able to assist with outreach in the SAFE Program. Specifically, conducting irrigation audits and assisting turfgrass managers with developing better and more effective management practices consistent with the SAFE Program.

Related Issues/Current Problems and Favorable or Unusual Developments:

N/A

Projected Work for Next Quarter:

- Bids for irrigation audit equipment will be sought during the next quarter and ordered

