

## **Weekly Ag Report**

August 1, 2012

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This is Craig Hemphill with this week's Agriculture Report. This week I am going to talk to you about Home and Garden Pests. The best way to control these pests is to avoid them in the first place! Be inhospitable to these unwanted guests. Pests, like people, have basic survival needs: air, water, food, and shelter. Take these away, or shut off access, and pests will find your home and garden less attractive. They will have to go somewhere else to survive.

Get rid of the water they need to survive. Fix leaky plumbing. Get rid of standing water in trays under your house plants. Moisture attracts pests so dry out or throw out wet rags and other damp materials.

Do not feed them. Make it harder for pests to get food. Store foods such as cereal, pasta, flour, raisins and crackers in tightly sealed containers. Keep your kitchen clean of crumbs and free from cooking grease. Do not leave food in pet's bowls for long periods, especially overnight. Empty your garbage frequently and put food scraps in tightly covered animal proof trash bins. Pet droppings attract flies that can spread bacteria. Clean up and bury droppings at least every few days.

On the livestock side of things, I would like to remind all of my fellow producers about the extreme need of fresh, clean water for our livestock. Lactating cows need 30 gallons per day per head in this hot weather. I would, also, like to remind them to evaluate their fly control program and to treat or re-treat as necessary.

I would like to take this time to invite the public to attend our annual scholarship and youth activities fundraising event: The Blues and Brews event. Presale tickets are on sale now at Every Blooming Thing. So get your tickets now and save a couple of dollars as they will be more at the door the day of the event.