

AG NOTES
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FARMERS MARKET

After a slight delay in crop development, the garden stuff is coming in. We will be opening the Bedford County Farmers Market this Thursday, July 1, at the Farmers Market Pavilion next to the big blue water tower at the Celebration Grounds. Sales start at 2:30 pm.

We have some new vendors this year, we have some previous vendors returning, and we look forward to seeing what the 2021 market looks like.

Come see us.

WHAT IS THIS?



I had a neat insect photo brought in for identification. This one is a good example of a beneficial insect. By that I mean it does no harm, except for having a menacing appearance, but it does provide some good things for nature.

This one is an Eastern Dobsonfly. It has clear wings and is gray in color. If you look at the mouth of the insect, it does have some pinchers, small ones for the females and large ones for the males.

They are a key component of the food chain for fish that live in the streams and rivers where they are found. The predatory nature of the larvae helps keep other species in check, including blackflies, a serious biting pest.

So, they are a food item for fish, and they help in controlling the population of biting flies. Two beneficial roles they play without anything negative. That's good.

WHAT'S WRONG WITH THIS?

I had some pictures of two pecan branches sent to me, and the questions were about what was causing the feeding holes in the leaves, and what was causing the pecans to show signs of a fungus on the dead nut? I sent these to the diagnostic lab, and the response was what I expected.

The concern about the feeding was not that great. In fact, there was not a lot of damage to the leaves. Just a few small holes. This is not uncommon in many tree situations.

The real concern here was the fungal pathogens that can attack pecans. The lab suggested that samples be sent in for a more exact examination to determine which pathogen it might be. I passed that one to the owner. There might be a treatment available before next year's crop. I would send it if it were mine. There is a small fee, but it's worth it in this case.

The lab diagnostician did provide a link to a Clemson University publication on pecan diseases. It's a good one. Look at <https://hgic.clemson.edu/factsheet/pecan-diseases/>



AND THIS?

We are waiting on the lab, but I suspect it is fire blight. The tale-tale signs are dead blackened fruits stems, and typically the stems are turned into 'shepherds crooks'. This picture shows both symptoms.



BEDFORD COUNTY FAIR

The fair is back this year. The dates are July 19-24, with entries for some of the exhibits received Sunday the 18.

We have the fair catalogues at the office at 2105 Midland Road. Come buy and pick one up so you can plan on your entries and the appropriate times to enter them.

See you at the fair!

4-H PULLET SHOW AND SALE

The annual show and sale will be Monday evening, July 19. We will be announcing awards for the 4-H poultry exhibitors at 5:30 and the sale will follow at 6:00 pm.

The Chick Chain included the popular ISA Browns and the Black Sex-links this year. These chicks came from Townline Hatchery and they are outstanding birds. We expect many of them to be laying. We have already had some laying this week. Both breeds are brown-egg layers. Come to the sale and support these 4-Hers if you need young hens for your family flock!

