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## **Big Country Short Course for Those Who are Nuts About Raising Pecans**

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ABILENE – The Texas Cooperative Extension office in Taylor County will conduct the “Big Country Pecan Short Course” from 8 a.m. until 5 p.m. Nov. 13 at the Extension office in Abilene.

The offices are located on the southeast corner of the Taylor County Fairgrounds at 1982 Lytle Way.

The Texas Department of Agriculture will offer continuing education units for licensees of private pesticide applicator (3.5 general; one integrated pest management, 1.5 laws and regulations) and structural pest control (one of each: safety, laws and regulations, pest, integrated pest management and lawns and ornamentals).

“Whether you are a homeowner, commercial pecan producer or a landscape and nursery professional, this program should have information to meet your needs,” said Melissa Clifton, Extension horticulturist in Taylor County.

“Experts with Extension and the Texas A&M University System will join nursery professionals to share the latest research and best practices for effective management of pests, diseases and nutrient management for maximum yield. I feel confident in saying no matter how much you know about pecans, you’ll learn something new worth knowing at this short course,” Clifton said.

Morning topics will include: “Pesticide Labeling and Mode of Action,” “Current Laws and Regulations,” and “Pecan Pests and Monitoring Programs.”

A catered lunch will be provided. The keynote speaker will be Mendy Shugart, a Texas Department of Agriculture marketing expert.

Afternoon topics will include: “Management of Pests in Stored Products,” “Effective Nutrient Management for Maximum Yield,” “History and Function of Pecan Shows,” “Grading and Classification of Pecans,” “Effective Marketing Strategies,” and “Establishment and Pruning of Pecan Trees.”

Individual pre-registration is \$25 by Nov. 9 and \$40 thereafter. The fee will include lunch.

To pre-register or for more information call the Extension office in Taylor County at 325-672-6048.