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### **AgriLife Extension to offer Worker Protection Standards training**

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MERETA – A bilingual Worker Protection Standards training for agricultural workers and pesticide handlers has been set for Oct. 16 at the Mereta Fire Hall located on Farm-to-Market Road 1692.

The Spanish-language registration and program for agricultural workers starts at 8:30 a.m., followed by the English version at 10:45 a.m.

English-language registration and training for pesticide handlers will begin at 1 p.m. Worker Protection Standards cards will be issued at the end of each session.

Texas AgriLife Extension Service and the Texas Department of Agriculture will conduct the program.

The sessions will include presentations on employer responsibilities, and worker and pesticide handler safety. All farm-worker employers and their employees are welcome to attend, as are holders of Texas Department of Agriculture private applicator licenses.

Steve Sturtz, AgriLife Extension agent for Tom Green County, said Worker Protection Standards are regulations issued by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. These standards cover the handling of pesticides used in agricultural production on farms, forests, nurseries and greenhouses.

Sturtz said the standards are federal law requiring agricultural workers and pesticide handlers to actively reduce the risk of pesticide-related illnesses and injuries.

For more information and to RSVP, contact the Mereta Fire Hall at 325-468-4151 or the AgriLife Extension office in Tom Green County at 325-659-6524.