



From your friends at Savage Equipment

On the Calendar

- Jan 23-26:**
Texas Pecan Short Course; Texas A&M University, College Station, TX
- Feb 10-11:**
California Pecan Growers Mtg.; Calusa, CA; Details to follow.
- Feb 24-25:**
Southeastern Pecan Growers Conf.; Sandestin Resort, FL; Info at sepga.com
- Mar 5-7:**
Western Pecan Growers Conf.; Las Cruces Convention Center
- Mar 28-30:**
Georgia Pecan Growers Conf.; Perry, GA; More info at georgiapecan.org

A time for gathering together

Winter and early spring are special times in the pecan community. Although there's always plenty to do in the orchard, it isn't like the busier seasons of the year. That makes it an ideal time for getting together, catching up with old friends, checking out some new equipment and learning from pecan experts and each other.

The Western Pecan Growers Conference in Las Cruces, New Mexico and the Georgia Pecan Growers Conference in Perry are two of the biggest events on the pecan calendar. They are golden opportunities to do some of the above. For decades, the Texas Pecan Short Course, held in late January, has been a treasured educational resource for multitudes of pecan newbies and folks investigating opportunities in pecan production. Then there's the Southeastern Pecan Growers meeting which will take place in February at The Lodge at Gulf State Park.

In addition to the events listed above, the Alabama pecan growers will present a Pecan Workshop, February 9th, during the Alabama Fruit and Vegetable Growers Conference which takes place in Gulf Shores, Alabama this year. Go to www.afvga.org if you would like more information about this workshop.



Western Pecan Growers Conference, 2022

We're looking for some great folks to join our team.

Savage Equipment is looking to add someone with human resources and payroll experience to their dynamic team in Madill, Oklahoma. The right candidate will be an enthusiastic team player with knowledge of HR policies and regulations. If that sounds like you, let's talk.

Also, we are looking to hire experienced welders, machinists and other manufacturing specialists. If you're interested, apply in person or go to the "Careers" page of our website, www.savageequipment.com.

The Savage team is gearing up for a big 2023.

At the dawn of 2023, the folks at Savage are gearing up for another great year in the pecan equipment business. It's been 52 years since Savage Equipment was incorporated—even longer since Basil Savage sold his first pecan tree shakers, and we couldn't be more excited about what lies ahead in the coming months, years and decades.

During the past year, Savage was able to survive and even thrive throughout the ongoing challenges related to the Covid pandemic and related supply chain woes. We

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A big 2023 (continued)

developed two new pecan crackers (See page 5 for more information.), and we're on track to introduce even more Silverline processing machines in the near future.

On the Grayline front, Savage has been designing, building and shipping more cleaning plants than ever before. Recently, some of these plants are incorporating the innovative AMVT Pecan Sorters. Savage launched a new relationship with AMVT (Applied Machine Vision Technologies) just a few months ago.

The Savage Redline machines continue to dominate the industry in orchards all over the world. Word has gotten out about the usefulness of the Savage Row-Vac and we are manufacturing more of these each year. Stay tuned to this publication in the coming seasons to read about exciting developments in our line of harvesting equipment.

If you haven't discovered it yet, Savage also began to expand our social media profile recently. The Savage Facebook and Instagram pages have gotten a lot more interesting lately. You will find an abundance of photos and videos of our equipment and information about

developments at Savage Equipment.

In addition to our superior crew of welders, machinists and other manufacturing tradesmen, Savage has invested in new equipment to help us turn out machines with exacting standards of quality and exceptional durability. Our new computerized machining equipment along with our laser and water-jet cutting machines and robotic welder are helping us create machines with more consistent quality than we ever could before.

We are excited for all 2023 has to offer and the opportunity to do what we do best—serving the great folks in the pecan community.



Savage Equipment, Inc. in Madill, Oklahoma

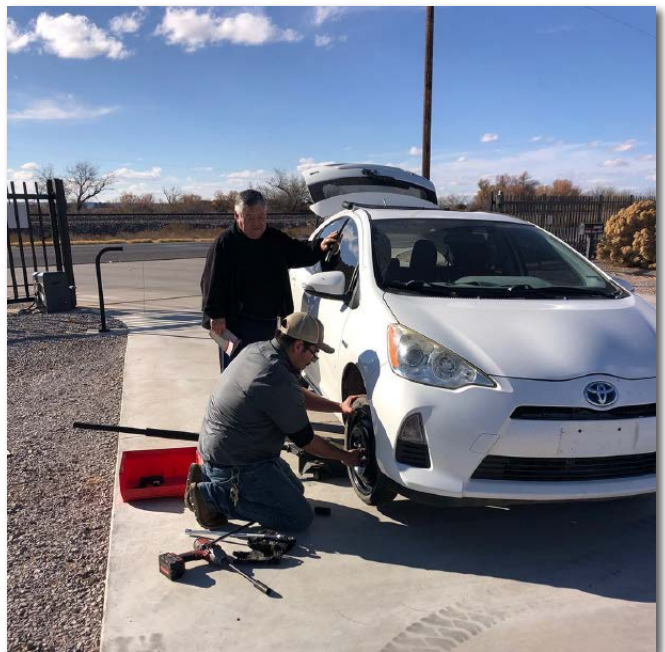
We're here to help.

December 8, 2022 was a day like many others at our Savage Southwest facility in Mesquite, New Mexico. That afternoon a car eased slowly through our gate and stopped. When Savage employees Loren Horton and Miguel Landaverde went out to investigate, they found that an older couple that lives down the road had just suffered a flat tire. These folks had already called a repair service and learned it would be an hour or so before they could get help. An hour!?

No worries. Miguel grabbed a floor jack and an impact wrench and got to work. He took out the spare tire, jacked up the car, swapped the tires and aired up the spare. He had this very appreciative couple on their way in under twenty minutes.

We don't just render assistance with flat tires at Savage Southwest. Loren, Miguel and the crew stand ready to help out with all your pecan equipment and parts needs. The Southwest team is excited to start gearing up for the 2023 Western Pecan Growers Convention coming up March 5th through the 7th. It's one of the biggest pecan

gatherings of the year. You don't have to wait until March though. Stop by any time. Loren and the gang will be happy to be of service.





News you can use!

Here's a sampling of pecan-related news available on the internet and in some of our favorite pecan publications.

A tough year for large segments of Pecan Country

The December issue of Pecan South contains an article by Noble Research Institute Senior Pecan Specialist, Dr. Charles Graham (Multiple Stresses Combine & Decrease the Pecan Crop). It will not come as a shock to pecan folks in the central region of the U.S. that the 2022 pecan crop has been a disappointment. Dr. Graham's piece travels region by region to explain the many obstacles to pecan production that seemed to weigh heavily on many growers this year.

If you hunt down your October issue of Pecan South—or head online to find the digital magazine—you will find estimates of the pecan crop made in June, July, and September, demonstrating that the crop got smaller in the central U.S. as the season progressed. Just looking at Oklahoma, what started as a 16 million pound crop in June is more realistically a 6 million pound crop in November. So, what happened to the crop?

There are several answers to that question, but the biggest one is, drought. Much of Texas and Oklahoma suffered increasingly severe shortages of water as the summer progressed. Two-thirds of Oklahoma was in “extreme” or “exceptional” drought conditions by November, according to the U.S. Drought Monitor.

Another menace to pecan growing this year was the relatively low amount of “chilling” time that occurred last winter. This led to “delayed, protracted bud initiation period.” This, in turn, often leads to poor pollination and other problems.

Higher than normal populations of insects, namely aphids and hickory shuckworms, have also had a negative impact on pecan production.

All of these factors, along with an early freeze in parts of Oklahoma and Kansas, combined to seriously hamper the pecan crop in the central U.S., making it much smaller than the early estimates. And unfortunately, Dr. Graham's article tells us these issues are likely to have a negative effect on next year's crop.

USDA's December crop forecast released

On December 9th, the USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) released its December crop forecast, which shows the NASS projection for the 2022 pecan production totals. As the previous article would indicate, it looks really bad for some and not so bad for others. For the year 2022, the cumulative U.S. utilized pecan production is estimated to be 280 million pounds (in-shell basis), which isn't terrible in the overall picture. To put that number in perspective, the average utilized production over the previous three years was about 272 million pounds.

For the past several years, the NASS has only provided state-specific statistics for the top five pecan-producing states: Arizona, Georgia, New Mexico, Oklahoma and Texas. Arizona is expected to do somewhat better this year than the average of the previous three years, producing 40 million pounds of pecans vs. an average of 35.4 million pounds in recent years. Georgia will also do pretty well with a utilized production of 130 million pounds; stronger than their 3-year average of 103 million pounds. New Mexico is projected to do somewhat better than their recent average of 81.8 million pounds, while Oklahoma and Texas will likely do significantly worse. Oklahoma produced an average of 13.1 million pounds 2019 through 2021 and Texas averaged 38.4 million pounds. Their 2022 projections are for a disappointing 6 million and 19 million pounds respectively.

It was certainly a frustrating year for growing pecans in the central U.S. this past year. For the reasons why this happened, see Dr. Graham's article (summarized at left) and another article from the December Pecan South magazine, written by Dr. Larry Stein, entitled “What happened to my pecans?”

Nominations are open for several American Pecan Promotion Board positions.

When the original members of the APPB began their service in the summer of 2021, they had been appointed to staggered terms of two, three and four years in order to spread out the subsequent election cycles for the board. There are four “Producer” seats opening up in the Western Region. These seats are currently held by David Salopek, Kortney Chase, Phillip Arnold and Deborah Ralls. There

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APPB Nominations (continued)

is also a “Producer” seat that is vacant in the Central Region that is open for nominations. Two “Importer” seats are opening up: the one currently held by Romulo Garza of San Antonio and the one held by Dennis Hardman of San Saba.

The full American Pecan Promotion Board is composed of seventeen members appointed by the Secretary of Agriculture. Ten members are producers and seven are importers. The ten domestic seats are allocated between three United States regions: Western Region (4 seats), Central Region (3 seats), and Eastern Region (3 seats). The board members work “to strengthen the position of pecans in the marketplace, maintain and expand markets for pecans, and develop new uses for pecans.” Their efforts are financed by an assessment on domestic producers and importers of pecans.

To serve on the board, nominees must have produced or imported more than 50,000 pounds of in-shell pecans (25,000 pounds of shelled pecans) on average for four fiscal periods. If you would like a nomination form, contact the APPB office at industry@eatpecans.com or call (817) 985-3034. The nominations must be received or postmarked by January 31st.

Oklahoma Pecan Management Course

The Oklahoma State University’s approach to their Pecan Management Course is a bit different from most. Rather than running the course at a particular time of year over several days, they spread their course out over several months in order to expose students to the tasks and biological processes of pecan growth over the seasons. On specific Tuesday afternoons from February through October pecan experts will take students through a wide array

of experiences and lessons on growing pecans. It all begins on Tuesday, Feb. 28 with instruction on site selection, planting trees, insect management and equipment. Subsequent coursework takes place on April 4, May 9, June 1-3 (when students are encouraged to attend the Oklahoma Pecan Growers Association Conference in Tulsa), July 11, August 8, September 12 and October 17. There are dozens of subjects covered in the course including planting bare-root trees and root-stock trees, pruning and training, fertilization, propagation/grafting, weed control, irrigation, business plans/marketing, wildlife control, harvesting and much more. Course participants receive a notebook of all reference material, a pecan variety board, a Pocket Guide to Oklahoma Pecan Pests, five rootstock trees and a certificate of completion (provided you attend at least four of the classes).

The course is limited to the first 35 registrants and costs \$250 per person. It is taught by true pecan experts from Oklahoma State University, Noble Research Institute and Oklahoma’s agricultural extension system. Classes will be held at the Cimarron Valley Research Station in Perkins, Oklahoma. To sign up for the course, go to <https://extension.okstate.edu/programs/oklahoma-pecan-management>. Deadline for registration is February 17, but the class could fill up before that, so if you’re interested it’s time to jump on it.



And that’s not all!

There will be a Pecan Pest Management Workshop open to all on February 21, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. The location is the Gordon Cooper Technology Center, 1 John C Bruton Dr, in Shawnee, Oklahoma. Five to six CEU's will be requested for private applicators, category 1A & 10. It’s free but registration is required. For more information, contact Becky Carroll by email at becky.carroll@okstate.edu.



Last year’s Oklahoma Pecan Management Class (and a Savage Equipment Blower)

Featured Equipment

At first glance, the new Savage Pecan Cracker seems very familiar. But then, you peek under the hood and...

It can be a bit difficult when you choose to change something that has already proven to be a great success. But Savage Equipment's relentless pursuit of something better led us toward doing just that. We are proud to introduce a superior version of our wildly successful 238S Pecan Cracker. In the process of creating our larger 252S Cracker, Savage design engineers developed more efficient and effective ways of routing and sealing the pressurized air and moving the cracking mechanisms. Many of these lessons and technological advances have now been incorporated into the new 238 pecan cracker.

We call it the 238C. At first glance, it looks much like our tried-and-true 238S. "Under the hood" it's a very different story. For those experienced with the 238S, the first thing they will notice when they lift the lid of the 238C is a lack of shuttle tubes, air hoses and pneumatic cylinders. These functions are now incorporated into the ingeniously designed turret. The 238C has a much cleaner, simpler look to the interior.

But it's not just about the way it looks. This new design requires significantly less maintenance. It has fewer parts, it will last longer and changing the feed rods is a much

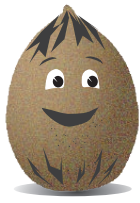


The 238C Pecan Cracker employs the latest advances in pecan-cracking technology.

simpler procedure. And most importantly, the 238C achieves better cracking results, especially at the high end of the speed range.

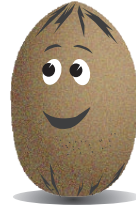
This improved 238C is available for you to purchase today. If you're interested in putting the latest innovations in pecan-cracking to work in your processing operation, please give us a call at 866-572-8243 or send us an email at info@savageequipment.com.





Gosh, Dez, the "Roaring 20's" sure were a tumultuous time in our history. I wonder if the 2020's will be too.

It's surely starting to look that way, Elliot.



One hundred years ago, in 1923...

Feb 22 Transcontinental airmail service begins.

Mar 13 American inventor Lee de Forest demonstrates his sound-on-film moving pictures (NYC).

May 3 First nonstop North American transcontinental flight (NY-San Diego) completed.

May 28 US Attorney General says it is legal for women to wear trousers anywhere. WHAT!?

Jul 6 The Central Executive Committee accepts the Treaty of Union, signed in Moscow in December 1922, and the Russian Empire becomes the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

Sep 4 Maiden flight of the first U.S. airship, the USS Shenandoah.

Dec 6 First US Presidential address broadcast on radio by President Calvin Coolidge.

During the 1920's...

...for the first time, more Americans lived in cities than on farms.

...the U.S.A.'s total wealth more than doubled and the gross national product expanded by 40 percent.

...automobiles went from being luxuries to necessities for many Americans.

...the U.S. airwaves went from one commercial radio station to hundreds of stations nationwide that reached tens of millions of people.

Unfortunately, the "Roaring Twenties" came to a screeching halt in the disastrous market crash of 1929.



Mac & Cheese with Pecan Breadcrumbs

This bit of comfort-food deliciousness is borrowed from the americanpecan.com website (A great place for pecan info and yummy recipes of all kinds). It was submitted by Sisters Emily and Melissa Elsen, owners and founders of Four & Twenty Blackbirds pie bakery in Brooklyn, NY.

Ingredients

- 1/2 cup raw pecan pieces
- 8 ounces cavatappi pasta
- 1 tablespoon butter
- 8 ounce block of cheddar cheese
- 15 ounces part skim ricotta cheese
- 4 tablespoons sour cream
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1/4 teaspoon ground pepper
- 1 large egg, lightly beaten
- 2 to 4 tablespoons pasta cooking water

Instructions

1. Preheat oven to 375 Fahrenheit.
2. Cook pasta in salted boiling water. Drain, reserving 1/2 cup pasta cooking water. Return pasta to cooking pot and stir in butter.
3. While pasta is cooking, shred cheddar cheese on a box grater.
4. Using a food processor, combine 1/4 cup of shredded cheese with pecans. Process until a coarse breadcrumb consistency.
5. Add remaining cheddar cheese, ricotta, sour cream, salt and pepper to the warm pasta. Stir until thoroughly combined. Add egg, stir. Add 2 to 4 tablespoons pasta water to loosen mixture, stir until smooth.
6. Pour into a buttered 9-inch square or round casserole dish & top with pecan/cheddar topping.
7. Bake for 30 minutes.

If you'd like a copy of Pecan Country News delivered to your email in-box each quarter, send an email to pecancountry@savageequipment.com. Feel free to pass this little newsletter along to friends and family.