

# PECAN COUNTRY NEWS

Volume 29

Fall 2019

## On the Calendar

### Oct 25:

NM Pecan Growers Mtg.  
Las Cruces, NM

### Jan 27-30, 2020:

Texas Pecan Short  
Course; College Station,  
TX

### Feb 21-22, 2020:

Southeastern Pecan  
Growers Conf.; Panama  
City Beach, FL

### Mar 1-3, 2020:

Western Pecan Growers  
Conf.; Las Cruces, NM

### Mar 24-25, 2020:

GA Pecan Growers Conf.  
UGA Conf. Center, Tifton

## A new limited edition Snickers bar that's even more satisfying!

In an email blast from the Texas Pecan Growers Association and other sources, we learned that Mars Wrigley Confectionery introduced an awesome new version of their Snickers bar. PECAN! We shouldn't get your hopes up too much, because they sold out of the yummy sweets the same day they announced them. A box of fifteen bars sold for thirty dollars. The box and the candy wrapper feature the words 'Texas Proud' and the very Texan phrase, "Fixin' to satisfy."

The folks at TPGA said there's no word yet if Mars will be releasing more of the bars, but they're "hopeful for the best!" Our man in Georgia, Billy Brown requested a box and got a friendly, but less-than-hopeful reply.

SNICKERS® Pecan was always intended to be a limited edition. We



were delighted, but not entirely surprised at the amount of enthusiasm for SNICKERS® Pecan – as everyone knows, SNICKERS® always satisfies. While we currently don't have plans to make any more SNICKERS® Pecan, we'll certainly let the world know via our social channels (@SNICKERS) if those plans change.

A little online research reveals that the Snickers bar has been around since 1930 and was named after a favorite race horse owned by the Mars family. Today, there are many varieties of the famous bar, and we hope pecan becomes a regular option very soon.

## Two Pecan Field Day events in Georgia

On a beautiful September day, Georgia's pecan farmers gathered at King Springs Pecan in Hawkinsville. Over 400 growers attended the annual Fall Field Day, enjoying the hospitality, talking about the weather and celebrating the fact that hurricane Dorian stayed offshore as it completed its close fly-by of Georgia. Topics discussed included pruning, fertilization, the pros and cons of several pecan varieties, irrigation, harvesting and hedging. Of course, representatives from Savage of Georgia were in attendance.

Just a short time later, Savage of Georgia folks were on hand to exhibit equipment and swap pecan stories at the Field Day hosted by Blue Three Groves in Albany, Georgia. Our Georgia man, Billy Brown, is thankful to Juan Rangel, Manager and Brian Driscoll, General Manager of Farming Operations for including us in this special event. Topics discussed included micronutrient fertilizer applications, the techniques and benefits of hedging pecan trees and herbicide best practices. All that fresh air and education got folks ready for the catered meal of authentic Mexican cuisine that followed.



King Springs Pecan in Hawkinsville



Blue Three Groves in Albany

866-572-8243 [info@savageequipment.com](mailto:info@savageequipment.com)

# Pecan Folks

## Pecan pest expert, Bill Ree, is officially retired.

If you've been growing pecans for very long at all, you have probably been aided by the work of Bill Ree, even though you may not know it. Bill has done much of the serious research on bugs that destroy pecans and pecan trees for the past few decades and he's written literally hundreds of articles on the subject for Pecan South and The Pecan Grower magazines. His final article (on the origin of the Pecan Weevil Quarantine) was published in the September issue of Pecan South.

Bill Ree obtained his bachelor degree in forestry from Oklahoma State University in



the 1970's and went on to earn a master of science in entomology, also from OSU. After several years working pest management in Louisiana, Bill landed in Texas. His efforts at the Texas Cooperative Extension and Texas A&M Agrilife Extension Service have been invaluable for the many pecan growers who have saved thousands of dollars each year by adopting sound pest management practices developed by Bill Ree. If you haven't read his articles, you've probably heard his helpful presentations at any number of pecan conferences across the nation. We will all miss his contributions.

Of all the pursuits available to a retiree such as Bill Ree, he has chosen to devote himself to growing pecans. Who would have thought.

## Pecan growers grow out west

Savage Equipment's own Kenton Stanley linked up with Savage Southwest's Loren Horton and ventured west for the Arizona Pecan Growers Association Conference in early September. Participation in this event is growing, as is pecan acreage in The Grand Canyon State. This year, as with the past couple of years, the venue for the event was the Desert Diamond Hotel in Tucson. Attendees were treated to a wide variety of educational opportunities in areas like marketing, economics, pests, mineral nutrition and soil health. Guest speakers included many of our favorite smart pecan folks: Dr. L. J. Grauke, Dr. Bill

McCloskey, Dr. Mike Smith, Dr. Charles Rohla, Alex Ott and several others. Savage's intrepid two-man crew were able to travel part of the state and meet with some of the growing community of pecan farmers in Arizona.



## A Texas pecan icon passes.

We learned, just prior to publication of this newsletter, that a long-time friend and stalwart of the pecan industry has passed. Kenneth Hugo Pape of Seguin, Texas died on October 8 at the age of 84. He has been a friend of the Savage family and employees of Savage Equipment for many decades and has meant a lot to the pecan community, especially for his preservation of pecan history in central Texas. According to his obituary, Kenneth entered the pecan business with his father, Carl, back in 1961 as the third-generation of his family to do so. The museum at the Pape Pecan House in Seguin houses many rare pieces of pecan-related machines and memorabilia,

including over 8,000 examples of pecan crackers that Mr. Pape collected over the decades. He certainly will be greatly missed in Pecan Country.



Pape's amazing collection of pecan crackers in Seguin

# Pecan Pieces

## News you can use!

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

### Farm safety at harvest time

While some pecan farmers are already busy harvesting the 2019 crop, others are just getting ready to roll. Either way, it's never too late to start making operations a little safer on the farm. The suggestions below were adapted from an Aug 12, 2019 article on the Farmprogress.com website featuring original content from Penn State (*Prepare for fall harvest with 10 tips on safety, wellness*)

1. Get equipment ready. Make sure your tractor and other machines are in good shape for a demanding harvest season. Are chains, belts, bearings, etc. in good operational condition? Do your machines have all the safety shields and guards in place? Do your PTO shafts function properly? Are the safety stickers visible and readable? You can often order new shields and safety decals from the original equipment manufacturer. Check to make sure that you have the recommended lighting on your tractor and implements, especially when traveling in the darkness of early mornings or at night. Also, be sure to use an escort vehicle whenever necessary.

2. Turn off the machine to remove obstructions. Everyone is rushing to get that last row harvested and then the harvester gets jammed up. Even though you are in a hurry to get done, you must always turn off the tractor before you get off to check or unplug any piece of equipment.

3. Take care of yourself and your people. Get some rest and take breaks. During harvest time, getting adequate rest and even eating meals can be a real challenge. Exhausted operators are not fully alert and often make mistakes—sometimes dangerous mistakes. Stay hydrated and pack nutritious snacks or meals so that you have energy to complete the day's work. Do your best to get adequate sleep and take some breaks. It will help you be more productive.

4. Provide proper training. During the crunch time of harvest season, we sometimes get extra folks involved in the work who may not know how to operate safely and correctly. It is important for you to provide these folks with proper safety training related to the task. If you have young folks, either your own children or hired help, work-

ing for you during harvest season, evaluate the job they are doing to ensure they are not taking on more responsibility than they can handle. Check on them regularly to monitor their progress and safe operating habits.

5. Leadership is critical. As a leader, it's up to you to set a good example of safe practices, including the use of personal protective equipment such as ear plugs, gloves and safety glasses when appropriate. Make sure everyone is properly trained for equipment they are operating and they have the right protective gear. Let them know that you consider safety a priority.

We wish everyone out there in *Pecan Country* a safe and bountiful harvest this year.

### Hurricane still affecting Georgia pecans with leaf burn and die-back.

An article by the above title on the Farm Press website (Jul 29, 2019) reveals the ways that Hurricane Michael is still impacting pecan tree health in the southeastern U.S..

In a July 10 post to his blog, Dr. Lenny Wells, University of Georgia Extension pecan specialist, says he had received calls from “different parts of the state regarding trees (usually in the range of 2 years old up to 12-15 years old) exhibiting die-back of branches/central leader and leaf burning or scorching.”

The damage Wells has seen is worse than would be typical in young trees exhibiting leaf scorch. Symptoms begin with shoots dying back and often deteriorate from there with some trees being completely lost.

Wells says anytime leaf scorching and dieback happen like this, there is some damage to the root or vascular system. During a hurricane, particularly one as violent as Michael, trees take a beating and are whipped around for an extended period. Though it doesn't blow the tree down, the high winds often still breaks roots below ground.

Wells indicated that this “delayed hurricane damage” is not unexpected and has been evident following previous hurricanes.

“The only thing you can really do for this is cut the tree back to improve the root to shoot ratio and keep it well watered. The more severe the

Continued on page 4

# More Pecan Pieces

Georgia pecans (cont. from page 3)

die-back is when observed, the more you need to cut the tree back. The worst trees may need to be cut back by half if the cambium is still green under the bark,” he says.

## Pecans show potential for growth in California

In an article by the above title, available on the farm-progress.com website (Logan Hawkes, Jul 02, 2019), the author lays out some scenarios that might help the U.S. remain dominant in pecan production. The piece focuses primarily on the potential for California pecan expansion, but also outlines production trends in other significant pecan-growing states.

While California leads the nation, and probably the world, in nut production, it is home to only about 4,000 bearing acres of pecans. Some attribute this to inadequate soils in the northern and central areas of the state and others believe the climate is not conducive to pecans.

California’s most prolific pecan grower, Ben King, does not hold with the doubters. He has about 850 acres of pecans divided between two farms. King believes that California is poised “to help increase U.S. production to a point where the U.S. replaces Mexico for the number one spot in global production.”

The article goes on to discuss other states that are planting significantly more acreage and contributing to the overall expansion of U.S. pecan production.

University of Arizona Agricultural & Resource Economics Professor and Extension Economist Russell Tronstad offers an interesting observation on pecan acreage vs. pecan production numbers in Arizona. He says that while pecan acreage in 2017 was similar to what it was fifteen years earlier, the potential for production is much higher due to better varieties being planted on better land.

More recently pecan and pistachio orchards are being planted rapidly, especially in the southeastern corner of the state. Tronstad states that the new acreage, “...is more suited for pecan production and the newer varieties are doing very well.” Latest estimates show almost 26,000 acres of planted pecans in Arizona a (15,000 producing).

While Georgia is still suffering reduced production from recent hurricanes, the author and most everyone else fully expects that the state will recover and lead U.S.

production again. In the meantime, New Mexico has become the leading state in pecan production, and is also experiencing a rapid expansion in planted acreage.

The author suspects that the pecan marketing order may help pecans gain ground against other California-grown tree nuts. Also, once trade relations are more normalized, “investors have expressed optimism that pecan investment will pay attractive dividends, regardless where they are grown.”

## Loss of exports invites global competition

Another article by Logan Hawkes (Sep 4, 2019) lays out the evolving repercussions of the current tariff battles with China. The author acknowledges “that some positive developments have come out of the trade conflict, specifically new markets opening for U.S. nut growers and USDA funds to promote U.S. nuts worldwide...”

Hawkes points out the unintended consequences of the lingering trade dispute on the pecan industry.

In 2018 alone, Mexico’s export of pecans to China grew by 3,000 percent. Mexican pecans face a 7 percent tariff from China while U.S. pecan suppliers face a 47 percent tariff.

Although the article focuses primarily on tree nuts, the author also touches on the struggles of cash crops like cotton and soybeans which are likewise suffering from world market disruptions.

## Pecan-based meat substitute update

About five years back, this publication ran a short article on a new meat substitute on the market called neat<sup>®</sup> that was composed of about sixty percent pecan meal. Our readers might like to know that it’s still on the market along with a wider range of products now available (including mixes for cookies, brownies and pancakes). The products are distributed by Atlantic Natural Foods. All of the neat<sup>®</sup>-brand products are available on Amazon, and some of them are also available at grocery retailers including Walmart, Whole Foods and Kroger. Maybe we should all give them a try? It just might catch on.



# Featured Equipment

## The Savage Row-Vac: A harvest season time saver.

Now that our Row-Vac has been employed in orchards around *Pecan Country* for a few harvest seasons, we're hearing encouraging stories about the difference they're making. Pecan growers have enjoyed how much our Row-Vac helps them get the crop in the barn sooner. They're also thankful for the way their harvesters are able to pick up the nuts without having to sort through all the leaves, sticks and debris. This helps their expensive harvesters last longer by decreasing wear and tear.

Even on large windrows, the Row-Vac moves and chops up an impressive majority of leaves and sticks. What's left behind is easily handled by the harvester. One grower told us how he was able to speed up harvesting by about thirty percent because of the efficiency he achieved with the Row-Vac. After an untimely downpour in New Mexico, it did a great job of getting soggy windrows and muddy ground dried out quicker, so harvesting could get back on track. At Savage Equipment, we love to hear these stories. Helping pecan growers become more profitable is something we get excited about.

If you own one of our handy Row-Vacs, here are a few suggestions that will help it work better and last longer:

- 1) Operate with the side rubber flaps about two inches above the ground to allow sufficient airflow. Adjustments a little higher or lower may be necessary to account for the size and dampness of your windrow, but two inches is a good place to start.
- 2) Use the hydraulic flow control valve to keep the flapper wheels rotating a little faster than the Row-Vac wheels. Some users like to speed up the front flappers to help agitate the windrow as it enters the fan's airstream.
- 3) Get the Row-Vac level front-to-back by adjusting the lever forward or aft (located under front safety shield).
- 4) When the Row-Vac is not in use, block it up or use the piston lock to make sure the rubber flaps are not resting on the ground where they will get bent out of shape over an extended period of time.
- 5) Feel free to call or email us if you have questions about your Row-Vac: [info@savageequipment.com](mailto:info@savageequipment.com) or 580-795-3394.

If you don't have one of these time-saving machines, we'd be glad to talk with you about how you can achieve a faster nut harvest and remove much of the strain from your row harvester.



The Savage 8960 Row-Vac



# Just Plain Nuts

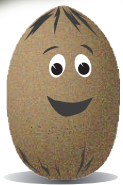
## What's the skinny on good fat?

If you've heard that fat is bad for you, don't believe it. Our bodies need some fat (20-30% of total calories) in order to process fat-soluble vitamins and use essential fatty acids. Our brains need fat because they're 60% fat! Who knew?

However, not all fats are created equal. The website, [mayoclinic.org](http://mayoclinic.org), offers a page called "Dietary fats: Know which types to choose," that can help us sort out the good from the bad. Saturated fat and trans fat are considered to be mostly "bad" for us as they increase total cholesterol

and increase our risk of cardiovascular problems. Avoid or minimize those fats. The "good fats" are the monounsaturated and polyunsaturated variety. Healthy Omega-3 Fatty Acids are a type of polyunsaturated fat.

The good news for us pecan lovers? Pecans are high in unsaturated fats and very low in saturated fat. They're also low in carbs and have three grams each of protein and fiber. Pecans also provide thiamin, vitamin E, vitamin B6, iron, magnesium, phosphorus, zinc and copper. So, go ahead and enjoy a guilt-free handful of healthy pecans.

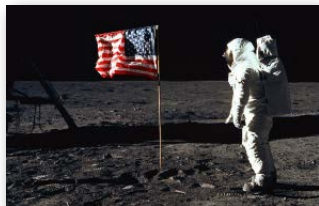


*It's been a summer with some significant anniversaries of some major events in American and world history.*

*It was 75 years ago in June, that Allied troops took the shores of Normandy and began to liberate Europe from the Nazis. D-day was an incredible feat of planning, deception and logistical coordination, not to mention extreme bravery. Over 150,000 Americans, Brits and Canadians came ashore along 50 miles of heavily defended beaches. Watch the movie "Saving Private Ryan" and you'll get an idea of the price they paid for us.*



*The other big-deal date was July's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of mankind's first steps on the moon. What an amazing achievement of science, technology and humanity. Only eight years after President Kennedy said, "We choose to go to the moon..." the combined efforts of hundreds of thousands came together to make the moon landing happen. Then we did it five more times. Wow!*



*This recipe is an interesting twist on the traditional pecan pie. Years ago, a friend shared it with Nancy McCain of Howland Pecan Company, Paris, Texas. Now she has graciously shared it with us. Gotta love Pecan Country friends (and pecan goodies)!*



## Pecan Pie Cake

### Cake ingredients:

- 1 Yellow cake mix (set aside  $\frac{2}{3}$  cup)
- 1 egg
- $\frac{1}{2}$  cup butter (melted)

Mix until smooth. Pat out on a 9x13 lightly greased cake pan. Bake at 350 for 15 min.

### While that's baking, thoroughly mix the filling ingredients:

- Remaining  $\frac{2}{3}$  cup yellow cake mix
- 3 eggs
- $\frac{1}{2}$  cup brown sugar
- 1  $\frac{1}{2}$  cups light Karo syrup
- 1 tsp vanilla
- 2 cups chopped pecans

Pull the cake from the oven, pour the pecan mixture over the cake, and bake it all for another 30-to-35 minutes. That's it!

*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](mailto:pecancountry@savageequipment.com). Feel free to pass this little newsletter along to friends and family.*