This has been an optimum year for pecans when it comes to timely rainfall; however, there is bad in all good. Rainfall encourages disease, such as scab, to grow in your orchard. Scab disease basically lives on moisture; so this was an optimum year for scab to steal your profits from growing pecans. Many pecan growers do not use the best management practices, meaning your pecan crop can be stolen and you will never know there were pecans on the trees. To control these diseases and insects, you must know how to scout and when to spray your pecan trees. I have found that some Improved varieties that are susceptible to scab had a complete crop loss. This does not help you for the 2015 crop.

Native pecan trees are highly resistant to most diseases so they were not damaged as bad as Improved varieties when it comes to scab.

**Red River Pecan Show and Judging Contest**

So, with this in mind, our 2014 Red River Pecan Show and Judging Contest is next on our list.

Again this year, we will try to determine who has the best quality pecans.

The Red River Pecan Show and Judging Contest will take place Tues., **December 2, 2014**, from 8:00 A.M. until Noon. The show will be held at the Southwest Arkansas Electric Cooperative Building (REA), located on Highway 82 East, in Texarkana, Arkansas.

If you are interested in determining the quality of your pecans, enter some in our contest.

Also, if you want to understand the pecan point system, come by and we will explain how it is determined.

An entry should consist of 60 or more pecans from one variety or individual seedling trees, and be uniform in size and shell color. Entries with more than one variety will be disqualified.

When selecting an entry, select the heaviest pecans. This will eliminate poorly filled nuts.

Nuts should be free of dust, dirt, and shuck remnants. They should not be buffed to the extent that shade or color is altered. Pecans must be from the 2014 crop and will be judged on the basis of size (number per pound), percent kernel, texture, color, and taste.

(Continued)
The deadline for entering your pecans is **Monday, December 1, 2014, 1:00 P.M.** You may bring your pecans to our office in Miller County or to the Extension office in your county. Your agents will get them to us.

Pecan Producers, You must bring your pecans or they will not be considered in the contest!

### 4-States Cattle Conference

Temple Grandin, a renowned animal scientist will be the featured speaker at the Four-States Cattle Conference, **December 10, 2014**, at the Four-States Fairgrounds in Texarkana. Her address will be at 9 a.m. on how to reduce stress on cattle during handling. She is one of several speakers who will deliver presentations throughout the day.

Other activities at the conference will include breakout sessions on heifer selection and development, managing winter annual pastures for stocker cattle and weed management in southern pastures. There will also be a trade show, a heifer selection demonstration and a processing and branding demonstration.

Stan Beavers, an extension economist at Texas A&M University, will speak at 10:00 a.m. on how to make sense out of cattle markets.

Registration is $30. For more information, contact Jerry Clemons at 870-246-2281 or jclemons@uaex.edu. Those who pre-register will be eligible to win a free Vet-Gun delivery platform for control of horn flies.

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### Private Pesticide Application Training

in Miller County has been scheduled for:

- **December 1, 2014—6:00 PM**
  Southwest Electric Cooperative Building (REA), Highway 82 East, Texarkana

- **February 12, 2015—2:00 PM**
  4-States Fairgrounds Entertainment Center during the 4-States Ag Expo

There is a $10.00 training charge payable to the Miller County Extension Service. An additional fee of $10.00 for one year certification (or $45.00 for a 5 year certification) payable to the Arkansas State Plant Board will also be due. If you need a license or need to renew an existing one this year, please attend this training. Pre-registration is not necessary.

We hope you have a Happy Thanksgiving and a Merry Christmas.

Sincerely,

John L. Turner
County Extension Agent-Agriculture

JLT:jds