

...Notes from AgriLife Extension

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 Scientists classify Salmonella into serotypes (types) by identifying structures on the bacteria's surfaces. Although more than 2,500 serotypes have been described, fewer than 100 are known to cause human infections.

How is Salmonella infection diagnosed?

Salmonella infection is diagnosed when a laboratory test detects Salmonella bacteria in a person's stool (poop), body tissue, or fluids.

How is infection treated?

Most people recover from Salmonella infection within four to seven days without antibiotics. People who are sick with a Salmonella infection should drink extra fluids as long as diarrhea lasts.

Antibiotic treatment is

recommended for:

- People with severe illness
- People with a weakened immune system, such as from HIV infection or chemotherapy treatment
- Adults older than 50 who have medical problems, such as heart disease
- Infants (children younger than 12 months).
- Adults age 65 or older

Can infection cause long-term health problems?

Most people with diarrhea caused by Salmonella recover completely, although some people's bowel habits (frequency and consistency of poop) may not return to normal for a few months.

Some people with Salmonella infection develop pain in their joints, called reactive arthritis, after the infection has ended. Reactive arthritis can last for months or years and can be difficult to treat. Some people with reactive arthritis develop

irritation of the eyes and pain when urinating.

How do people get infected?

Salmonella lives in the intestines of people and animals. People can get Salmonella infection from a variety of sources, including-

- Eating contaminated food or drinking contaminated water
- Touching infected animals, their feces, or their environment

Who is more likely to get an infection and severe illness?

• Children under 5 years old are the most likely to get a Salmonella infection.

• Infants (children younger than 12 months) who are not breast fed are more likely to get a Salmonella infection.

• Infants, adults aged 65 and older, and people with a weakened immune system are the most likely to have severe infections.

• People taking certain medicines (for example, stomach acid reducers) are at increased

risk of infection.

What should I know about antibiotic resistance and Salmonella?

Resistance to essential antibiotics is increasing in Salmonella, which can limit treatment options for people with severe infections. One way to slow down the development of antibiotic resistance is by appropriate use of antibiotics.

What can be done to prevent antibiotic resistance and resistant bacteria?

Appropriate use of antibiotics in people and animals (use only when needed and exactly as prescribed) can help prevent antibiotic resistance and the spread of resistant bacteria.

How common is Salmonella infection?

CDC estimates Salmonella cause about 1.35 million illnesses, 26,500 hospitalizations, and 420 deaths in the United States every year.

Academies will be held at the following locations:

- June 14: Burlson (K-5 teachers)
- July 19-20: New Braunfels (K-12 teachers)
- July 22: Fort Bend (K-8 teachers)
- July 27: Lubbock (K-12 teachers)

There is no cost to attend the academies.

Certified, active teachers of all subject areas can benefit from the material that is shared, Walker said.

For more than 20 years, TFB has hosted professional development events in the summer to help Texas teachers make the connection with agriculture, providing them innovative techniques to incorporate the subject in their curriculum.

The curriculum provided by TFB is aligned with Texas teaching standards to help teachers better incorporate the material in the classroom.

Teachers also receive continuing education credits in addition to the resource material.

"The Summer Ag Academies are free, provide resources and expertise for the teachers to take back to the classroom and open up networking opportunities with industry experts and fellow teachers who are interested in or already incorporating agriculture into the classroom," Walker said.

Additional information and registration details for the Summer Ag Academies are available online at <https://texasfarmbureau.org/aitc>.

For more information, contact Walker at edoutreach@txfb.org or call 254.751.2569.

Biologists remind the public not to touch wildlife

With more people enjoying the outdoors this spring season, you may start to notice more wildlife in your backyard, neighborhood or surrounding areas. Species including birds, deer and snakes are active this time of year and their young often stray or appear to be abandoned. Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) experts caution against lending a helping hand.

Animals that are most often picked up by well-meaning citizens are baby birds and deer fawns. However, it is important to realize that many such human-animal encounters are unnecessary and can even be detrimental to the wildlife concerned.

The deer fawning season begins in early to mid-May. A newborn fawn's mottled coat and mother's care usually hides them from predators. As fawns mature, they shed these coats for a more adult color which causes them to catch the eye. A doe may leave her fawn for hours at a time while she is browsing for food. During that time people may spot a fawn lying alone in tall grass or in a brushy area. Many people interfere with the fawn thinking that they have been abandoned by their mothers and need help. This is rarely the case.

Leave all young animals alone unless it is obviously injured or orphaned. To be sure, spend time observing the wild animal from a distance to make that determination. Staying too close may deter the mother from returning. Interfering to soon may do more harm than good.

The same principals apply to young birds, who might be out of their nests but cannot fly. If the bird's eyes are open, it has a coat of feathers and is hopping around, it is probably fine. Grounded fledglings will usually be up and flying within a few days.

If it is determined that a wild animal is sick or injured,

TPWD encourages citizens to contact a permitted wildlife rehabilitator. Please note that TPWD staff advise the public not to handle or attempt to transport injured, sick or orphaned wildlife. Learn more about what to do upon encountering orphaned or injured wildlife, and how to contact rehabilitators on the TPWD Wildlife Division website.

Teachers can attend Summer Ag Academies

By Julie Tomascik
 TFB Editor

Texas teachers will get to the science of agriculture in Texas Farm Bureau (TFB)-hosted workshops this summer. Held in four locations across the state, the Summer Ag Academies offer teachers practical experience in agriculture-related concepts, and they can take home resources to use in their classrooms.

The Summer Ag Academies

are one- and two-day professional development events to immerse teachers into agriculture.

"Teachers will learn about a variety of topics at each of the different Summer Ag Academies," said Jordan Walker, TFB associate director of Organization, Educational Outreach. "The main goal is to give teachers a glimpse of agriculture and showcase presentations that help them learn how to incorporate agriculture into the classroom."

This year's Summer Ag

TEXAS AG STATS

Texas ranks first in the nation for:

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- Cattle
- Cotton
- Horses
- Hay
- Goats
- Sheep