

COLORADO COUNTY OFFICE

19 November 2015

Dear Wildlife Management Association,

In 2002, an invasive species of ant was introduced for the first time from South America to Houston. Since then it has spread to 27 counties in Southeast Texas, and has been identified as the Tawny (or Raspberry) Crazy Ant. As you may be aware, this ant has recently been confirmed in Colorado County, and has been reported in many areas of the county.

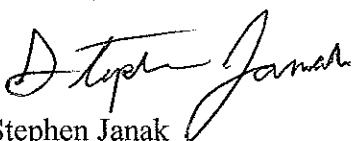
We are reaching out to you because the ant poses a threat to native wildlife as well as the comfort of your own yard and home. As with many invasive species, this insect has the potential to upset natural balances in wildlife population numbers. There are confirmed reports of the ants causing death by asphyxiation in newborn birds and fowl as the ants clog the throat and airway of birds as they forage for any substance that provides protein or sugars. They are also known to swarm newborn calves to feed on the amniotic fluid as well as the eyes, nose, hooves, and other soft parts. It is safe to assume that they pose the same threat to fawns, quail and dove chicks, and many other vulnerable wildlife species.

Because of the spreading nature of these ants, individual homeowners have had no real success when trying to control this ant on their own. Texas A&M research has shown that to effectively control or eradicate this pest, all landowners in an area must work together in their management efforts. We invite you to learn more about control methods you can use if your area is already infested, or how your group can work to keep the ant from being introduced in your area of the county.

A free program on the invasive Tawny Crazy Ant will be offered Tuesday, December 1<sup>st</sup> at the Colorado County Services Facility at 305 Radio Lane in Columbus. Registration will start at 5:00pm and the program will start at 5:30pm. Dr. Robert Puckett, Urban Entomologist and Assistant Professor at Texas A&M University, will give a one-hour presentation regarding the habits and biology of the Tawny Crazy Ant. He will also discuss problems they can cause for farmers, ranchers, and landowners, as well as integrated management strategies for controlling the ant. Residents' questions will be answered.

I hope you will take the opportunity to join us and share in this educational program. I look forward to seeing you on Tuesday, December 1<sup>st</sup> at 5:30pm. If you have questions, call us at 979-732-2082.

Sincerely,



Stephen Janak  
County Extension Agent  
Agriculture & Natural Resources  
Colorado County

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service  
316 Spring St. | Columbus, Texas 78934

Tel. 979.732.2082 | Fax. 979.732.6694 | colorado.agriLife.org