

# Bee County Agriculture Newsletter

Volume 2, Issue 2

December 2016

## Bee County Wildlife Management Association Annual Banquet

You are invited to attend the 2017 Bee County Wildlife Management Association's Annual Banquet and Dinner.

This year's banquet will be held on Saturday, January 28, 2017 at the Bee County Expo Center. It is open to the public and everyone is invited. Doors open at 6:00pm and the dinner will begin at 6:30pm.

Banquet includes: steak dinner with all of the fixings, guest speaker, and the 10 gun raffle ticket winners will be chosen and announced.

Tickets will be available for purchase at the Bee County Extension Office or by contacting BCWMA President – Adam Mann 713-997-9770



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## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### TRI COUNTY CEU DAY

DATE: DECEMBER 2, 2016

PLACE: REFUGIO CITY HALL, CLUB ROOM  
613 COMMERCE ST., REFUGIO, TX 78377

TIME: 7:30AM – 12:00PM, REGISTRATION AT 7:00AM

THE DAY WILL INCLUDE TOPICS FOR REPLACEMENT CATTLE SELECTION, BRUSH CONTROL, LAWS AND REGULATIONS REGARDING FERAL HOGS. 5 CEU CREDIT HOURS WILL BE OFFERED TO TDA LICENSE HOLDERS AT \$10 PER HOUR. THOSE PRODUCERS WHO ARE A PART OF THE TEXAS QUALITY BEEF WILL ALSO RECEIVE 2 BQA CREDITS.

### PRIVATE APPLICATOR TRAINING

DATE: JANUARY 19, 2017

PLACE: BEE COUNTY EXPO CENTER MEETING ROOM

TIME: 8:00AM – 12:00PM

PESTICIDE APPLICATOR TRAINING COURSE COST \$50 WHICH INCLUDES THE COST OF STUDY MANUALS. PLEASE CONTACT EXTENSION OFFICE AT 361-621-1552 TO RESERVE YOUR SPOT.

### BEEF CATTLE FIELD DAY

DATE: FEBRUARY 4, 2017

PLACE: BEEVILLE LIVESTOCK COMMISSION

TIME: 8:00AM – 11:00AM, REGISTRATION AT 7:30AM

THERE WILL BE 3 CEU'S OFFERED,

SPEAKERS TO INCLUDE: SAMUEL ZAPATA – AGRICULTURAL ECONOMIST, DR. MEGAN CLAYTON – RANGE SPECIALIST, AND ROBBIN REININGER – EXTENSION AGENT, BEE COUNTY.

## **Graslan® L helps reclaim land lost to leafy spurge**

information provided by DowAgrosciences

Leafy spurge tests even the most experienced weed fighter. With a root system that can penetrate as deep as 29 feet and reproductive buds that can send up new shoots from 3 feet below the soil surface, this nonnative perennial can survive extreme drought or months of flooding. Dense infestations often create biological monocultures fit for neither livestock grazing nor wildlife.

“The financial losses can be severe,” explains Vanelle Peterson, a field scientist with Dow AgroSciences. “Production losses are most obvious, but the economic value of the land can drop significantly. And then there are environmental losses, which range from reduced species diversity to habitat destruction.”

Research shows that deer use of habitat infested with leafy spurge was 82 percent lower than noninfested areas, initiating a domino effect: Increased stress on desirable plants in weed-free areas makes them more susceptible to advancing leafy spurge and invasion by other nonnative species.

“The good news is, you can control leafy spurge, and you can restore habitat and forage production,” Peterson says. “But success requires commitment.”

For more than 30 years, Tordon® 22K herbicide has been the foundation of any successful leafy spurge management program. But now Tordon 22K has a new partner - Graslan® L herbicide – to combat this notorious, invasive weed.

Graslan L is a convenient premix of the active ingredient in Tordon 22K plus 2,4 – D choline. Research shows that including 2,4 – D in treatments with Tordon 22K improves leafy spurge control in – season and long – term.

Graslan L is a low – odor, high – load formulation, allowing for a lower use rate and less packaging. The formulation also is less volatile and carries a reduced signal word, compared with the old standard, Grazon® P+D herbicide.

Improved control and convenience make Graslan L, applied at 2.5 to 5 pints per acre, your best option for broadcast applications across large, dense, established infestations. Broadcast applications of Graslan L will thin leafy spurge stands each year, increase grass production and improve forage utilization.

When spot – treating small patches or where new infestations pop up, go with the rate flexibility of Tordon 22K (apply 2 to 4 quarts per acre). The goal with spot treatments is to eliminate the patch as quickly as possible.

“It never will cost less than it does today to control leafy spurge,” Peterson explains. “Spot – treating smaller infestations with Tordon 22K gives us the opportunity to nip leafy spurge in the bud, so to speak. With Graslan L, reclaiming larger areas previously lost to leafy spurge – and gradually gaining back production – is more economical longer – term approach for broadcast applications.”

Proper treatment timing is critical for success against leafy spurge, Peterson notes. In the spring or early summer, treat at true flower stage (after yellow bract forms) and while plants are developing. Fall also is an excellent time to control leafy spurge. Treat after the stems have developed regrowth.

“It’s important to remember that good grazing management, resulting in a competitive grass stand, can help hold down leafy spurge and make herbicide treatments more effective,” Peterson says. “There is no ‘silver bullet’ to control leafy spurge. Ultimately, you can control leafy spurge and reclaim infested areas for livestock grazing and wildlife habitat. But you must be diligent, and stay committed to a long – term management program.”

## HOME FRUIT AND NUT VARIETIES FOR Bee and surrounding Counties

(250 – 400 hour chill zone)

Variety selection is one of the most important steps in successful fruit growing. A variety may perform in one area of Texas and be a complete failure in our county. For this reason, your Extension office has prepared a list of varieties that have demonstrated satisfactory performance for several years. Many of the older varieties such as "ELBERTA" peach, "BARTLETT" pear, or "STUART" pecan are not recommended for this area.

Fruit and nut trees do not grow "TRUE" from seed. Instead, they are budded or grafted on to a suitable rootstock adapted for our area. The correct rootstock is just as important as the recommended variety.

<b>Pecans</b>	<b>Apples</b>	<b>Blackberries</b>
Desirable Pawnee Caddo	Anna Dorsett Golden Root Stock (MM 111 – semi dwarf M9 – dwarf)	<b><u>Thorny:</u></b> Brazos Rosborough  <b><u>Thornless:</u></b> Arapaho
<b>Figs</b>	<b>Peaches</b>	<b>Grapes</b>
Texas Everbearing Celeste Alma	Gulf King Florida King Flordacrest Tex Star Root Stock – Lovell or Halford	Victoria Red Black Spanish Favorite Blanc du Bois
<b>Persimmons</b>	<b>Plums</b>	<b>Strawberries</b>
Eureka Hachiya Fuyu (Fuyygaki)	Methley Santa Rosa Rootstock – Lovell or Halford	Festival Radiance Sea Scape

## The off-season can be brush season, too

Low-volume basal and basal cut-stump treatments with Remedy® Ultra or PastureGard® HL Herbicide are excellent and convenient ways to clear scattered trees and brush year-round. Both methods provide excellent control of cottonwood, elm, hedge (Osage orange, bois d'arc), locust, oak, persimmon, Russian olive, willow and many other species.

These treatment methods use a high percentage of herbicide, so each sprayer load goes further. Generally, the mix ratio is 25 percent Remedy Ultra or PastureGard HL plus 75 percent commercial basal oil. For low-volume basal applications, apply enough spray to wet the lower 15 to 20 inches on all sides of the trunk – including the root collar area – but not to the point of runoff. This method is best used to control woody species with trunks less than 6 inches in diameter at the base of the tree. Application should be made at a low pressure and with a solid-cone or flat-fan nozzle. Think of it as spray painting the treatment zone.

If the tree is larger than 6 inches or has mature bark in the 15 to 20 inch treatment zone, the basal cut-stump method is a better control option. Applying the solution of 25 percent herbicide plus 75 percent oil to cut stumps prevents resprouting and kills the stump for good.

Simply cut the tree and spray the sides of the stump, the outer portion of the cut surface – which is the cambium ring along the inner bark – and any exposed roots at the soil surface. As with low-volume basal, you can make this treatment any time of year, as long as snow or water doesn't prevent proper application.

A chain saw and a sprayer give you two effective tools for quickly conquering diverse brush patches. Basally treat slick-bark brush with trunks smaller than 6 inches. Cut down larger trees and spray the stumps. The same herbicide-plus-oil mix works great for both treatments. For more information including how-to-videos, click on the Applications Methods section at [RangeAndPasture.com](http://RangeAndPasture.com).

**Low-volume Basal/Basal Cut-stump Tank-mix Guide  
Remedy® Ultra or PastureGard® HL+Oil-based Carrier**

<b>Sprayer Size</b>	<b>25% Remedy Ultra or PastureGard HL</b>	<b>75% Oil-based Carrier</b>
1 gallon	1 quart	3 quarts
3 gallons	3 quarts	9 quarts (or 2 gallons + 1 quart)
20 gallons	5 gallons	15 gallons
50 gallons	12.5 gallons	37.5 gallons

## Winter Supplementation of the Cowherd

Written by Dr. Joe Pascal, District Extension Livestock Specialist

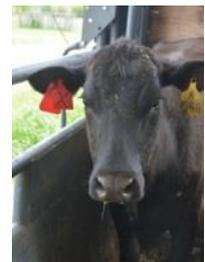
About this time of year I get a lot of questions about supplementing the cowherd. My response is based on the status of the cowherd and forage conditions. Dry pregnant cows in mid gestation have the lowest nutritional needs. Depending on the amount and quality of the grass, a protein supplement may be all that is needed. Cows that have calves at side will require additional protein and energy, adding to the cost of supplementation. One other factor I consider is cow fatness or body condition. Cows that are in good body condition will require less supplementation than cows that are thin.

If you test your hay or forage you might find that it is the only supplement you need, that it meets the nutritional requirements of your cows. More likely than not however, it will be deficient. However at least you will know what you need to supplement with, and more importantly how much. Feed costs are a large part of cow expenses and knowing what is needed and how much to feed can reduce that cost considerably. In addition to feeding the right amount of supplement and saving money you improve the performance of the cow's fertility and milk production and her calf's growth.

You will have to supplement more energy when it is cold and wet than when it is just cold but dry. The amount of standing forage you have due to stockpiling or grazing will also affect your feed costs. Protein supplementation when deficient can improve the digestibility of poor quality roughages significantly.

Form of supplementation is less important than cost per unit of nutrient. When supplementing protein (but not energy), the amount can be doubled or tripled and fed every other or every third day reducing travel and labor. Whenever possible feed should be placed in bunks or troughs to minimize waste and reduce cost.

Once you know what and how much you need, consider labor and travel in your costs. For more information on hay and forage testing or supplementation, contact your local County Extension Agent.



## **BQA Tip – Vaccine Storage**

Temperature control of vaccines prior to and during administration is critical. Vaccines should be stored between 35 and 45°F. Make sure all vaccines not purchased locally are shipped overnight and packed in an insulated box with ice packs. If purchasing vaccines locally, carry ice packs and an ice chest. Allowing vaccines to freeze can be just as damaging as vaccines getting too warm. Results from research in Arkansas showed that 74% of producers' refrigerators failed to maintain temperatures between 35 and 45°F. An inexpensive weather station that logs minimum and maximum temperatures can be used to monitor your refrigerators.

## **BQA Tip – Animal Handling**

Understanding the flight zone makes moving cattle easier. The flight zone is the comfortable distance that livestock maintain between you and them. The flight zone of cattle will vary depending on their disposition. Calm cattle have a very small flight zone while more temperamental cattle have a larger flight zone. The flight zone will also increase as cattle become excited or agitated. Cattle should be worked from the edge of the flight zone; this area is commonly referred to as the pressure zone. As you move into the pressure zone cattle will move away from you as you move out of the pressure zone cattle will generally stop.

# Texas Agrilife Extension Presents: Tri-County CEU Conference

Location: Refugio City Hall, Club Room  
613 Commerce St., Refugio, TX 78377

Friday, December 2, 2016  
7:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.  
Registration: 7:00 a.m

**\$10 per CEU Hour**

## Topics:

- Cattle Selection
  - Economic Value of Management Practices
  - Cow Bid or Herd Rebuilding Decision Tool
  - Projected Replacement Cattle Values
  - Agricultural Regulations Regarding Feral Hogs
  - Integrated Pest Management
  - Laws & Regulations
- 5 CEU hours will be offered: 2 Laws & Regs, 2 IPM, 1 General  
•2 BQA hours will also be offered for those who need them

## For more information:

Robbin Reininger  
Bee County CEA  
361-621-1552

Brian Yanta  
Goliad County CEA  
361-645-8204

Refugio CEA  
Refugio County  
361-526-2825

## Sponsored by:

Texas A&M Agrilife Extension  
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## Accurate diagnosis is the first step in addressing turfgrass problems

Story and Photo by Adam Russell

Calls have been pouring into Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service agent Chad Gulley's office from homeowners whose grass is not faring well.

Lawns are thinning, showing brown spots and showing other signs of pests and diseases, Gulley said. He noted diseases such as gray leaf spot and root rot, as well as pests such as chinch bugs, armyworms and white grubs causing problems for homeowners' lawns.

"It seems like it's been one thing after the other," he said. "I think we're seeing a lot of turfgrass-related stress because of extreme wet to dry to wet conditions over the last several months."



Ill looking turfgrass could be one of several problems, such as disease, pests, poor soil quality or not enough sunlight or a combination of issues that hinder a yard's potential. Making a proper diagnosis is the first and most important step in dealing with any turfgrass issue.

The key is to diagnose the problem correctly and as early as possible, said Dr. Casey Reynolds, AgriLife Extension turfgrass specialist, College Station. Reynolds said most pest or disease problems for turfgrass are easy to remedy once the cause is determined.

"There are a lot of things that could

be affecting turfgrass this time of year," Reynolds said. "People are seeing damaged areas in their lawns and wanting to know what they can do. It could be anything from drought to gray leaf spot, large patch or armyworms, or it could be something simpler such as too much shade. The first step is making an accurate diagnosis."

Making an accurate diagnosis requires identifying what type of grass is in the yard, because St. Augustine faces different threats than Bermuda grass, Reynolds said. Bermuda grass is a favorite for fall armyworms, and St. Augustine is susceptible to large patch, a fungus that results in patches of brown grass in the fall that can remain through spring.

"If they have St. Augustine grass and there are brown patches, there is a good chance it's large patch, but that's a guess. It could be white grubs eating roots, but that's typically in drier conditions, so it's doubtful with all the rain we had in August."

Reynolds said insect activity should be reducing, though fall armyworms continue to be a nuisance around the state. Gray leaf spot and large patch

are often aesthetic and most warm-season grasses will recover once better growing conditions resume. However, in extreme cases they can be damaging.

"Once treated, the grass will reemerge with green leaves, but they may have to look at large or small brown patches for a few months if they wait

until October or later when grasses start to go dormant for winter," he said.

Reynolds said the AgriLife Extension's turfgrass site, <https://aggieturf.tamu.edu/>, has several publications regarding pest and disease problems and provides treatment strategies for homeowners. But homeowners with doubts about their diagnosis should have a local landscape professional or AgriLife Extension agent take a look.

"There is a ton of good information on the site, including a publication that covers the various weeds, pests and diseases that are common problems in turfgrass," he said. "If you can diagnose the problem accurately and go to the publication, it can tell you effective treatment options or you can call a professional applicator."

Fall is also the time when homeowners should consider winterizing their lawns, which will give them a healthy head start in the spring, Gulley said.

Gulley said lawns should be fertilized six to eight weeks before the first frost to winterize grasses.

"That gives grass time to store up nutrients and gets them a good start to transition into spring," he said. "But you've got to give grass enough time to build up before it goes dormant."

You may view the new turfgrass handbook on weed, insect and disease control at: <http://bit.ly/2dpeENb>.

Watch an interview with Chad Gulley regarding turfgrass issues at: <https://youtu.be/1Oii1y5j2c0>

# Texas Agrilife Extension Presents: *Beef Cattle Workshop*

**Location: Beeville Livestock Commission  
2218 US-59, Beeville, TX 78102**

**Saturday, February 4, 2017  
8:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.  
Registration: 7:30 a.m.**

## Speakers:

- Dr. Megan Clayton – Extension Range Specialist
- Samuel Zapata – Extension Agricultural Economics Specialist
- Robbin Reininger – Extension Agent, Bee County

- **3 CEU hours will be offered: 1 General, 1 IPM, and 1 Laws & Regulations**

## For more information:

Robbin Reininger  
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Texas A&M Agrilife Extension  
Bee County

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## Sponsored by:

Bee County Agrilife Extension,  
South Texas Hereford Association, and  
Beeville Livestock Commission

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## AGRI-NEWS TRIVIA

- A peach was the first fruit tree to be patented in 1932.
- 9% of all milk produced in the U.S. is used for ice cream production. 90% of all Americans enjoy eating ice cream at least once each year.
- Honey bees must tap two million flowers to make one pound of honey. Each worker honey bee makes 1/12<sup>th</sup> teaspoon of honey in its lifetime. About 148 million pounds of honey are produced in the U.S. each year and bee pollination is responsible for more than \$15 billion in increased crop value.



## Newsletter by E-Mail

Due to increased postage costs, we would like to make future newsletters and announcements available to you electronically. If you would like to receive future information by email send an email to [robbin.reininger@ag.tamu.edu](mailto:robbin.reininger@ag.tamu.edu). Benefits of having your newsletter sent through e-mail are: pictures and graphs will be in color, easy to store on your computer, no papers to mess with, click-able links to other internet sites, and sooner access.

Check out and 'Like' the Bee County Agriculture and Natural Resources Facebook Page:  
[www.facebook.com/beecountyag](http://www.facebook.com/beecountyag)

We're on the Web! <http://bee.agrilife.org>

**Robbin L. Reininger, CEA-Ag/NR**

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