

# Bee County Agriculture Newsletter

Volume 3, Issue 1

September 2017

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### **HORTICULTURE EDUCATION SERIES**

DATE: SEPTEMBER 11<sup>TH</sup>, OCTOBER 9<sup>TH</sup>, AND NOVEMBER 6<sup>TH</sup>

PLACE: BEE COUNTY COMMUNITY AFFAIRS TRAINING ROOM, 210 E. CORPUS CHRISTI ST, BEEVILLE, TX

TIME: 2:00PM – 4:30PM

\$15 PER CLASS YOU CHOOSE TO ATTEND. PLEASE CONTACT THE EXTENSION OFFICE TO RESERVE YOUR SEAT

**SEPT 11<sup>TH</sup>:** EARTH KIND LANDSCAPING

**OCT 9<sup>TH</sup>:** IMPORTANCE OF SOIL TESTING AND TURFGRASS MANAGEMENT

**NOV 6<sup>TH</sup>:** LANDSCAPE DESIGN

### **COASTAL BEND SOIL CAMPAIGN**

DATE: OCTOBER 1 – NOVEMBER 17, 2017

**CROP & LIVESTOCK PRODUCERS ARE ELIGIBLE FOR A DISCOUNTED RATE: \$7 PER SAMPLE FOR ROUTINE ANALYSIS OR \$14 FOR ROUTINE AND MICRONUTRIENT ANALYSIS. SAMPLES WILL BE ANALYZED BY TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY SOIL TESTING AND FORAGE LABORATORY. CONTACT THE BEE COUNTY EXTENSION OFFICE FOR A SUBMITTAL FORM AND TO DROP OFF SAMPLES.**

### **TRI COUNTY CEU DAY**

DATE: NOVEMBER 15, 2017

PLACE: BEE COUNTY EXPO CENTER COLISEUM

TIME: 7:00AM – 12:00PM

IN COOPERATION WITH BEE, GOLIAD, AND REFUGIO COUNTIES, WE WILL BE SPONSORING A CEU SEMINAR. THE COST IS \$10/HR. ALTHOUGH WE ARE OFFERING 5 HOURS. 2 LAWS AND REGS, 2 IPM, AND 1 GENERAL.

## **Inside This Issue**

- Proposed Changes in Beef Carcass Grading
- Restrictions on Waterfowl Hunting and Baiting
- BCWMA Hunter's Welcome
- BQA (Beef Quality Assurance) Tips
- Reducing Hay Costs Discussed at O.D. Butler Forage Field Day
- Use Leaves for Compost
- Bermudagrass Home Lawn Management Calendar
- Flag the Technology

## **Proposed Changes in Beef Carcass Grading**

\*Information provided by TAMU Animal Science, Beef Cattle Browsing vol. 22 issue no. 5

Part of grading by USDA for carcass quality involves estimation of carcass maturity, which involves physiological maturity rather than chronological age. Physiological maturity was thought to be a better indicator of eating quality than actual age and actual age of slaughter animals is usually unknown. Also, animals of the same age can differ in physiological maturity. Since the inception of carcass grading in the 1920s, maturity is estimated by visual observation of bone characteristics, cartilage ossification, and color and texture of the ribeye muscle (bone and cartilage receive more emphasis). Now, based on recent research, the USDA is proposing maturity be evaluated by dentition and actual age, as an alternative to the traditional procedure.

Most readers will probably remember when bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE, “mad cow disease”) was identified in the US in 2003. Beef exports from the US were immediately shut off by many countries. BSE is extremely rare and is found almost exclusively in older animals. Eventually, some countries again opened imports of beef from the US, but only from young animals. Japan initially prohibited beef from animals older than 20 months of age, later increased to 30 months. For this purpose, age may be determined by documented evidence of parentage or by dentition. Cattle are considered by the Food Safety Inspection Service to be 30 months of age or older when at least one of the second set of permanent incisors has erupted. So, dentition and actual age, and official means of determination, are already used for other purposes in the US beef industry.

For more information please visit:

<https://www.ams.usda.gov/rules-regulations/united-states-standards-grades-carcass-beef-0>

## Restrictions on Waterfowl Hunting and Baiting

\*information is an excerpt from a TAMU publication EWF-029 written by John M. Tomecek and Larry A. Redmon

Texas hunters enjoy the waterfowl migration and are fortunate to have large numbers of ducks and geese to hunt each year. Other hunted waterfowl include Sandhill cranes and coots. Responsible hunters enjoy these resources and strive to hunt inside the law. Waterfowl are considered migratory game birds, and federal statutes to comply with the Migratory Bird Treaty Act govern hunting them. This treaty protects migratory birds such as waterfowl travelling from Canada to Mexico. It is a cornerstone of conservation and contains complex legal restrictions. Once such restriction addresses hunting waterfowl over bait.

Simply put, hunting migratory game birds over baited areas is strictly forbidden. The goal of this law is to equalize hunting opportunity along migration pathways and prevent localized overharvest of migratory game birds. The exact definition of baiting, however, can be somewhat unclear. According to the US Fish & Wildlife Service baiting is: the direct or indirect placing, exposing, depositing, distributing, or scattering of salt, grain, or other feed that could lure or attract waterfowl to, on, or over any areas where hunters are attempting to take them. [Title 50, Code of Federal Regulations, Part 20.11 (k)]

Throwing out bags of salt, grain or other feed is clearly baiting and illegal when it comes to any migratory birds—including dove. However, is it baiting if the grain comes directly or indirectly from crops that are growing on agricultural lands? Consider the following, which is quoted from the US Fish and Wildlife Service office of Law Enforcement: Agricultural lands offer prime waterfowl hunting opportunities. You can hunt waterfowl in fields of unharvested standing crops. You can also hunt over standing crops that have been flooded. You can flood fields after crops are normally harvested and use these areas for waterfowl hunting. Hunting waterfowl over a crop that has not been harvested but that has been manipulated (rolled/disc'd) is considered baiting under current regulations. <http://www.fws.gov/le/waterfowl-hunting-and-baiting.html>

Key terms in the law are “harvest” and “manipulation.” Again, from US Fish and Wildlife Service office of Law Enforcement: You should be aware that although you can hunt doves over manipulated agricultural crops, you cannot hunt waterfowl over manipulated agricultural crops except after the field has been subject to a normal harvest and removal of grain (i.e., post-harvest manipulation). <http://www.fws.gov/le/what-is-legal.html>

### Rules for doves and waterfowl are different

For hunting doves, which are also migratory birds but not waterfowl, hunters are allowed to plant a crop and then manipulate the field in a way that scatters seed specifically to attract doves. With waterfowl, however, this practice is considered baiting. The difference is whether the field is harvested to remove the grain. A person cannot legally hunt waterfowl over a manipulated field unless the field has first been harvested for the removal of grain. For example, if a grain sorghum field were planted and harvested to remove the grain, it would be legal to hunt waterfowl over that particular field. If a field were planted and was not harvested, but was shredded, disked, or trampled by livestock, it would be legal for dove hunting, but it would not be legal for hunting waterfowl. Again, the difference is in how the field was manipulated—whether or not the crop was harvested under normal agricultural processes for the removal of grain. In the first instance, the field was planted and manipulated to enhance the dove hunting experience (no harvest to remove seed required); in the second instance, where waterfowl are at issue, manipulating the field (without harvesting to remove seed) would violate waterfowl hunting law.

## Advice for hunters

The regulations that govern waterfowl hunting and baiting can be confusing, but there are some simple guidelines you can follow. According to the US Fish & Wildlife Service, the following are examples of legal waterfowl hunting opportunities: You can hunt waterfowl on or over or from:

- Standing crops or flooded standing crops, including aquatic plants.
- Standing, flooded, or manipulated natural vegetation.
- Flooded harvested croplands.
- Lands or areas where grains have been scattered solely as the result of a normal agricultural planting, harvesting, or post-harvest manipulation.
- Lands or areas where top-sown seeds have been scattered solely as the result of a normal agricultural planting, or a planting for agricultural soil erosion control or post-mining land reclamation.
- A blind or other place of concealment camouflaged with natural vegetation.
- A blind or other place of concealment camouflaged with vegetation from agricultural crops, provided your use of such vegetation does not expose, deposit, distribute or scatter grain or other feed.
- Standing or flooded standing crops where grain is inadvertently scattered solely as the result of hunters entering or leaving the area, placing decoys, or retrieving downed birds. Hunters are cautioned that while conducting these activities, any intentional scattering of grain will create a baited area.

### Some examples of areas where you cannot hunt waterfowl include:

- Areas where grain or seed has been top-sown and the Cooperative Extension Service does not recommend the practice of top sowing (see section on wildlife food plots).
- Crops that have been harvested outside of the recommended harvest dates established by the Cooperative Extension Service (including any subsequent post-harvest manipulations).
- Unharvested crops that have been trampled by livestock or subjected to other types of manipulations that distribute, scatter, or expose grain.
- Areas where grain is present and stored, such as grain elevators and grain bins.
- Areas where grain is present for the purpose of feeding livestock.
- Freshly planted wildlife food plots that contain exposed grain.
- Croplands where a crop has been harvested and the removed grain is redistributed or “added back” onto the area where grown.

### What should a hunter do to ensure legal hunting?

1. Become familiar with state and federal migratory game bird hunting regulations.
2. Ask the landowner, hunting outfitter, or other responsible party, if the area has been baited.
3. Watch for unusual waterfowl behavior that may indicate baiting, even if you cannot see bait from your location.
4. Watch for bait and for signs of field manipulation unrelated to a normal grain harvest. This includes bait scattered in a moist soils management unit or wetland. These may appear to be naturally scattered, but could be baited.
5. Familiarize yourself with the normal agricultural practices for your hunting area.
6. Stop hunting immediately if you suspect or find evidence that you are hunting over bait.

## **Bee County Wildlife Management Association: Hunter's Welcome**

You are invited to attend the opening of deer season celebration hosted by the Bee County Wildlife Management Association.

November 4, 2017, 11:30a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Guest Speakers include:

Come as you are for a FREE LUNCH\*\*, drawing for one FREE GUN

Located at the Lucas-McNeill Pavilion at the Bee County Expo Center, 214 S. FM 351, Beeville, TX.

\*\*lunch is free for anyone with a current Texas Hunting License or one child 12 or under, accompanying an eligible adult. All others are \$7. No carry outs.

**For more information, contact Adam Mann (713) 997-9770 OR Robbin Reininger at the Bee County Extension Office (361) 621-1552.**

[www.bee-county-wildlife.org](http://www.bee-county-wildlife.org)

## **BQA Tip of the Month – Antibiotic Withdrawal Times & Residues**

Withdrawal times are established for antibiotics and other animal health products to allow time for elimination of the drug from the animal or for drug residues to drop below FDA tolerance levels. Withdrawal times for commonly used antibiotics range from 4 days for Excenel® to 42 days for Micotil® 300. Oxytetracycline products like Liquamycin® LA-200, Bio-Mycin® 200, Noromycin® 300, and others have withdrawal time of 28 days. When using antibiotics, record information on each animal treated and make sure the withdrawal times has completely passed before marketing the animal.



## Use Leaves for Compost

\*information provided by Dr. William C. Welch, TAMU Professor & Landscape Horticulturist

With the arrival of autumn comes the yearly chore of keeping the lawn free of fallen leaves. They should be removed from the lawn, since a heavy blanket of leaves can smother a lawn if allowed to remain. In previous years, leaves were burned or hauled to the dump to be burned or buried. Air pollution controls have made the smell of burning leaves a thing of the past. Actually, leaves are much too valuable to burn. A better procedure is to compost them, to provide a ready source of composted soil for use in preparing flower and shrub borders, potted plants, and top-dressing for the yard.

The simplest method of composting leaves or other vegetable matter is to build up alternate 4- to 6-inch layers of vegetable matter with 2 to 4 inches of good garden soil. Sprinkling a commercial fertilizer on each layer of vegetable matter will hasten decomposition. One-half pound or one cupful of 10-10-10, 10-6-4, 10-20-0, or the equivalent, per ten square feet of vegetable-matter layer is sufficient. Manure, if available and free of weeds, may also be added to good advantage to the soil layer.

The compost pile should be 4 to 6 feet wide, and of any desired length. The top layer should consist of soil, and the surface of the pile should slope toward the center, forming a basin to hold water. The layers of leaves should be watered thoroughly as they are spread out, and when the pile is completed, additional water should be added periodically to keep the material moist but not soggy.

The compost should be turned or mixed with a garden fork or shovel every three or four months, and within six months to a year, it should be ready for use.



## Reducing hay costs discussed at O.D. Butler Forage Field Day

Story and Photos by: Beth Ann Luedeker

Dr. Larry Redmon, Associate Department Head and Extension Program Leader for Soil and Crop Sciences, discussed hay quality and feeding costs at the recent O.D. Butler Forage Field Day at the Camp Cooley Ranch in Franklin, Texas.

"The longer you can keep your cattle grazing in the winter, the more cost effective your operation is going to be," stated Redmon. "Hay is a very expensive way to overwinter cattle."

He explained that in years with adequate rainfall, many producers could get their cattle through the winter with very little hay by using management tools such as stockpiled forages, winter annuals, and appropriate stocking rates.

"Hay should be a tactical solution to a short-term problem," Redmon stated.

He went on to explain that producers should always have an emergency supply of hay in the barn for times of drought or extreme temperatures when grazing is not an option.

The key words, according to Redmon, are "in the barn". If a barn is not possible, then a hay tarp should be used. Hay should be stacked in a pyramid, with air channels to deter condensation. He stressed that as long as the barn is built where there will be no standing water, it does not need sides or a floor - just a roof. A pole barn with adequate drainage is all that is required.

Building a barn requires a financial investment, but Redmon stresses that it is a good investment to make. One which will save a producer a lot of money in the long run.



Dr. Larry Redmon explains the amount of waste incurred in round bales when stored unprotected outside. This six-foot bale has a six inch damage layer, which is 30% of the forage baled.

"We have been convinced by marketing that since the invention of round bales we no longer need to store hay in the barn," Redmon stated. "But research has proven the value of protecting hay, even round bales."

He went on to explain that when field-cured hay is placed in the barn, it will equilibrate at about 15% moisture and stabilize - with no further deterioration. The crude protein and digestible energy levels will remain the same as they were at the time of baling.

The same cannot be said for hay stored in the field. Those bales will suffer loss of nutrients as well as loss from waste. Rainwater soaks into the bales decreasing dry matter and nutritional value. Net wrap will reduce the amount of damage by about 10%, but loss and waste will still occur.

"A good storage facility will save you money," Redmon said. "A hay barn will pay for itself in four to six years."



Dr. Redmon shows producers different styles of hay rings and explains the cost savings which can be realized through their use.

According to Redmon, additional savings can be realized by reducing the amount of uneaten hay. Feeding hay in a hay ring will reduce waste. Those with an enclosed bottom will reduce the amount wasted substantially more.

Unrolling a bale to feed is also an economic option, provided you only roll out what they will consume in one day. This "banquet table" can eliminate the boss cow syndrome and prevent the muddy wallows which may form around the hay rings.

# Bermudagrass Home Lawn Management Calendar

Warm-season growth calendar



The diagram shows a cross-section of the soil and grass. The top layer is labeled 'Shoot growth' and is associated with 'Summer'. The bottom layer is labeled 'Root growth' and is associated with 'Fall'. The soil is depicted with roots extending downwards.

	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December
Mowing	Mow if necessary to prevent winter annual weeds from flowering (p. 6)			Observe the 1/3 <sup>rd</sup> rule by never removing any more than 1/3 <sup>rd</sup> of the leaf tissue at any one time (p. 3)							Mow if necessary to prevent winter annual weeds from flowering (p. 6)	
Irrigation	Turn off irrigation during winter months when temperatures are cool and the lawn is not actively growing (dormant) (p. 4)		Conduct an irrigation audit before turning on irrigation during the spring and summer (p. 4)		Irrigate only when necessary to prevent the onset of drought stress or to replace at least 60% of ET. Turn off the system during rainy periods or during early spring and late fall where ET rates are lower and natural rainfall is more likely to meet the lawn's needs. (p. 4)						Turn off irrigation during winter when temperatures are cool and the lawn is not actively growing (dormant) (p. 4)	
Fertilization				Do not make 1st fertilizer application until the lawn is actively growing and has been mowed 2 to 3 times (p. 6)	Apply 0.5 to 1 lb of N/1,000 ft <sup>2</sup> for a total of 1 to 4 applications during the growing season. Space fertilizer applications 4 to 8 weeks apart using a combination of quick and slow-release nitrogen (N). Apply other nutrients based on soil test results. Do not apply fertilizer during drought stressed grass. (p. 5)							
Weed Control		Apply pre-emergence herbicides for crabgrass, goosegrass, and other summer annual weeds. Apply post-emergence herbicides for cool-season perennial weeds or winter annual weeds. Use caution during spring green-up as turfgrass injury may occur. (p. 6)			Apply post-emergence herbicides for summer annual weeds such as crabgrass, purslane, spurge, etc. or warm-season perennial weeds such as Virginia buttonweed before the onset of summer drought stress (p. 8)				Apply pre-emergence herbicides for annual bluegrass, chickweed, henbit, and other winter annual weeds. (p. 9)			Apply post-emergence herbicides for winter annuals such as annual bluegrass, chickweed, henbit, etc. or for cool-season perennial weeds. (p. 9)
Insect Control					Scout for fire ants and apply insecticides if necessary using a combination of broadcast, baits, and individual mound treatments. (p. 10)				Apply preventative grub products if necessary (p. 10)	Apply curative control for white grubs if necessary. Scout for fall armyworms. (p. 10)		
Disease Control					Scout for bermudagrass decline (aka, take-all root rot)					Scout for large patch and apply fungicides before patches develop. Apply fungicides in areas with a history of spring dead spot. (p. 10)		
Aeration					Aerate if possible to relieve soil compaction, especially in newer lawns with limited organic matter accumulation or in lawns that receive moderate to heavy use. Aeration is best performed when there is adequate soil moisture so that the aeration lines remove a soil core effectively.							

This calendar is intended only as a guide and practices herein may vary based on site and region. Visit <http://AggieTurf.tamu.edu> for more information on turfgrass management practices, weed identification, and pest control.

# Flag the Technology And Avoid Crop Injury!

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This publication produced in cooperation with:



West Texas Agricultural  
Chemicals Institute



Flag the Technology is a field marking program originally developed by personnel at the University of Arkansas<sup>1</sup> and is now a widely accepted practice to reduce the risk of a misapplication. This practice will also make the applicator aware of sensitive crops adjacent to the field being sprayed. Recent herbicide tolerant crop introductions have provided new options for controlling herbicide resistant weeds. However, the herbicides used in these programs can have detrimental effects on non-tolerant crops. To minimize misapplications, marking fields with designated color flags representing the herbicide tolerant trait(s) has become a beneficial practice. Flags should be placed in a location clearly visible to applicators upon entry into the field, or GPS coordinates.

Since the color of the flag represents a specific trait technology, multiple flags may be placed in a field where stacked technologies are used, such as those possessing both Liberty Link and Roundup Ready traits. The objective of the Flag the Technology program is to help reduce herbicide application errors, improve herbicide and technology stewardship, and foster good community relations.

<sup>1</sup> Bob Scott, Dharmendra Saraswat, Ples Spradley and Ron Baker, "Flag the Technology" FSA2162



Flags should be placed at all likely entry points and/or GPS coordinates into the field.



Very low concentrations of some herbicides drifted on to non-tolerant crops can cause noticeable injury.

<sup>2</sup> Please look for the mobile app available in 2016.



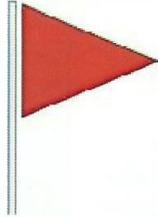
## Preferred Flag Size

6' x 1/4" fiberglass pole with minimum 11" x 17" flag for maximum visibility

## Color Codes

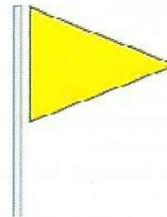
### RED

signifies conventional varieties with no herbicide technology traits, vineyards, apiaries, orchards, vegetable fields and organic crop production. *Extreme caution.*



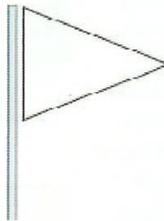
### YELLOW

is the color chosen for Clearfield® rice, sunflower, wheat and canola technologies, STS® soybeans<sup>1</sup> and INZEN grain sorghum.



### WHITE

represents technology that is tolerant to glyphosate herbicide. (e.g., Roundup Ready, Glytol)



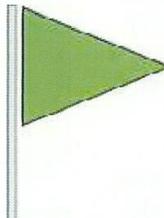
### TEAL (with White Stripes)

indicates tolerance to both 2,4-D and FOP (ACCase) herbicides. The white stripes indicate tolerance to glyphosate. Where glufosinate tolerant cotton and soybean are planted, a green flag should be added to denote tolerance to glufosinate<sup>2</sup>.



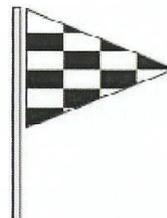
### GREEN

This technology is tolerant to glufosinate.



### BLACK & WHITE

The black and white checks indicate tolerance to both dicamba and glyphosate. A green flag should be added for cotton to denote glufosinate tolerance<sup>2</sup>.



<sup>1</sup> Although many herbicides are in the ALS family of herbicides, crops with this technology are not tolerant to all ALS herbicides.

<sup>2</sup> Stacked technologies may require more than 1 flag.

Produced by the Department of Soil & Crop Sciences  
soilcrop.tamu.edu

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The Texas A&M University, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the County Commissioners Courts of Texas Cooperating.



**The Bee County Extension Office is moving to a  
new location**

**New Location: 210 E. Corpus Christi St., Beeville, TX 78102**

**We will be located in the front office of the Community Affairs  
Building**

## AGRI-NEWS TRIVIA

- Like snowflakes, now two cows have exactly the same pattern of spots
- Raising beef cattle is the single largest segment of American agriculture
- The heaviest turkey ever raised weighed 86 pounds, about the size of an average third-grader
- Soybeans are an important ingredient for the production of crayons. In fact, one acre of soybeans can produce 82,368 crayons
- In 1970, consumption of broccoli was only ½ a pound per person. Today, the average person in the U.S. eats 4 ½ pounds a year.

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## 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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