



Brazos County Livestock Newsletter

December 2017 Edition

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Special points of interest:

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County Swine Validations

- BCYLS only Swine Validation– December 11th @ the Brazos Expo Complex from 5:30-7PM

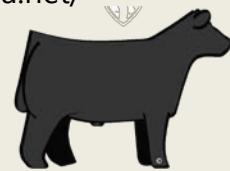
If you have an issue with the date of validation, please contact us at the Extension office prior to validation.

BCYLS Rabbit Date Information:

- |Breed Date – December 12, 2017
- |Validation – February 26 from 5-6 PM at the Brazos County Expo (note the NEW location)

BCYLS Heifer Entries

All Heifers wanting to show at the Brazos County Youth Livestock show must enter by February 2nd. Entries will be made with Larry White at Rudder FFA Entry Forms can be found at this link: <http://bcyla.net/>



BCYLS Scholarship

It is that time of year again for all the Seniors to begin thinking about starting on their scholarship applications. The BCYLS scholarship is awarded to qualifying senior FFA & 4-H members who complete the application and meet the requirements.

The applications are due to the Brazos County Extension office by February 12th

Applications can be found in the BCYLS Rulebook at this link: <http://bcyla.net/>

2017 Brazos County Validation Dates & Tag Orders

Major & County Swine

BCYLS Validation– December 11th at Brazos County Expo from 5:30-7pm

Poultry

San Antonio Broilers Pickup-
Houston & Austin Broilers Pickup-
BCYLS Broiler Pickup-

Rabbits

BCYLS Rabbit Validation- February 26th at the Brazos County Expo from 5-6pm

FCS & AG Mech

Entry night will be January 16th at College Station High School from 5:30-6:30pm

Heifer

Entries must be submitted to Larry White at Rudder High School by February 2nd

All tag/bird order forms can be found at the following link: <http://brazos.agrilife.org/publications/4h-publications/>

Livestock Project Site Visits

As the year goes on I will be doing my best to make my rounds and visit each and everyone's projects for this year. I am planning on making project visits on Friday afternoons to various parts of the county each week in order to try and make it by everyone's house at least once every 2-3 months. If you are new to the program or would like for me to come by and check on your project you will need to contact me sometime over the next few months and schedule a visit so I can come by and visit with you about the upcoming show year. You can reach me at 979-823-0129 or via email at Jerod.Meurer@ag.tamu.edu and we can set up a time for me to come out and visit about your projects

Brazos County Youth Livestock Show Rule Book

The 2018 Brazos County Rule Book is now online for you to reference. Take some time to look over it and make note of the schedule for the show and sale.

<http://www.bcyla.net/exhibitor-resources/>



THE SCOOP ON *How Much* TO FEED MY PIG

How Much Should I Feed My Pig?

How much should I feed my pig?

One of the most frequent questions I'm asked from new feeders, and even a lot of experienced feeders is, "How much should my pig be eating?" And for good reason. The two most important parts of your pigs' nutrition is the proper type and amount of feed and a fresh, clean water source. Knowing how to use supplements for added fat, muscle, body, joint protection, etc. are all very valuable tools, however making sure your pig has a healthy digestive system and is consuming their basic feed ration and daily water intake will get you a long way down the road to success.

Feeding Process and Routine

First off, let's talk about the setup and routine you should have for feeding your pig. From day one, I feel it's best suited to "hand feed" versus using a self feeder. This allows you lots of advantages: 1. You can monitor the amount of feed your pig is eating and know exactly the amount they are consuming; 2. Your pig will actually receive more total nutrients out of eating in one setting (approx. 10-20 min) versus eating small portions throughout the entire day, like they traditionally do on a self feeder; 3.) In the end, we need show barrows/gilts to consume the amount of feed we desire at a show when we want them to, so doing this process at home only helps train them to eat when feed is put in the feeder. In essence, it becomes a habit for them, and natural.

I recommend feeding twice a day, once in the morning, and once in the evening, and as close to 12 hours apart as you can get. For example, an ideal time would be 7 a.m. and 7 p.m. each day. Another very important part of this is to remember, you're training your pig for a schedule, and just like you get hungry around lunch time, they will begin to be hungry at each feeding time, so it's very imperative to feed close to the same time everyday.

What is the right amount of feed to start my pig on?

The right amount of total feed to provide will change throughout the season and is dependent on factors such as appetite, size, and the physical traits and weight you're targeting. You normally are receiving pigs at approximately 6-8 weeks of age, so a big portion of questions I get are "How much feed do I need to start them on?" In this stage of their life, pigs are maturing and growing in many areas much as a young child, so at this point I want them consuming basically all they want to eat, as if they were on a self feeder, however being trained to eat in two settings. This way I can also monitor how they are eating and the amount they are consuming daily. I always start pigs out on 1 lb. of feed per feeding for about the first 3-5 days you have them in the barn. I always do a minimum of three days because that also gives them time to adjust to a new environment, have relief from the stress of travel and give you a true evaluation of their appetite.

After they have settled in...

As we discussed earlier, digestive health, general feed and fresh water are the most important factors to me when feeding. After 5-7 days in the barn is when I begin to introduce [Sure Champ or Sure Champ Spark](#) to assist in gut health and aide in consumption and digestion. If your animal's digestive system isn't functioning properly they won't be able to fully utilize their ration or supplements, and you run the risk of sickness because of lower immunity.

At this point in the feeding phrase I also begin adjust the feed amount $\frac{1}{4}$ lb +/- according to how they are eating. So if they are cleaning up their feed and hungry at feeding time then you would increase. If they are leaving feed you would decrease. Remember we want them eating all they want, but also cleaning it up each feeding. I then repeat this process every 3-5 days over the next few weeks. If you increase, but they don't clean it all up go back to the amount you were at previously, and go another 3-5 days before trying to increase again. I'll use this process generally until I get to 1.5- 2 lbs. of total feed per feeding. (Note that this is general outline on feed AMOUNTS. The type of feed you feed during this period may still need to be adjusted based on your pigs needs).

What's next for the growing period?

From this point your amount adjustments are dependent on many factors and when you need to begin targeting a feed plan based on your pigs type, muscle, body condition, weight, and the direction you need to focus on in these areas. Some pigs need to be continued on increases up to 2.5-3 lbs. per feeding to continue to meet their maturity needs, where others need to maintain or "coast", and some need to be managed at this point for weight/skeletal reasons. At this point I alter my adjustment time from 3-5 days to weekly. Remember when you change feed, that you won't see a difference in just a day or two, so give them ample time to respond to a feed change before you decide you need to change again.

what to do AT **SHOW**



After you've worked all year long, regardless of species, the final touch for success comes down to making the right decisions at the show and final show day preparation. Due to the anxiety, uncertainty and added pressure of the final and crucial days of your child's or students' final project, many find themselves trying to overthink the battle of tending to their animals and making them "look the part" when it's time to enter the ring. This is all completely understandable, and I've been through the same feelings more than once. Knowing that a kid/parent/family has invested the amount of time and finances in a project, and then decided to trust you with their animal in the final few days of the project that is at the "make or break" time brings on a whole new set of emotions, especially when the expectations are high. Below I want to discuss an outline the dos and dont's that I feel can set you apart at the show and keep you grounded to a successful trip into the ring.

A successful trip to the show still needs to begin at home before you ever load up. During the last few weeks leading up to the show, try and put together a list of EVERYTHING you will need for the show such as feed, supplies, additives, soap, etc. Remember, when you're packing your showbox and gathering supplies, always load everything you are using at home in the feed bucket, from the feed you're feeding to each additive. Just because you're going to the show doesn't mean you need to change your feed and gain a whole new arsenal of additives. Try to maintain fairly steady with the plan you are on at the house to keep things going in the right direction as far as feeding at the show.

Now, don't get me wrong, there are many, many great products on the market that can be utilized in great value. One of the major mistakes a person can make is getting to the show, and running to the show supply trailer and grabbing 3 different products that 3 different people told them would make their animal better. However, I encourage you to get a PLAN prior to arriving at the show to know which products you need to use and which will work for you the best. The best advice I can give you, if you aren't sure on these, is to discuss this plan with your breeder, 4-H agent or someone you trust prior to loading up for the show so that your plan is in place and you have what you need when you get to the show. There are always times at the show when you'll need one thing or another from the show supply trailer, but again, try to always gather the products and have a plan of what you need and are going to use you prior to.

Another key factor in today's time is to remember the amount of fluid your animals require, and to be sure and keep them hydrated and not limit their water to an extensive degree. Regardless of specie, or market or breeding, livestock today must be presented "fresh" in their look and condition, and it's impossible to keep an animal fresh when limiting water. There are, as with anything, certain individuals that are exception due to body type or managing weight, but I highly recommending not limiting water at the show, and keeping your animals on "full" water and allow them to consume as much fluid as possible.

As far as an outline of what I have found best to do daily at the show, it can vary depending on weather conditions, the show you're at, the species you're showing, and the facilities of the show. As a general rule, try to keep things simple. One of the most important things I've learned over the years is to get your animals in a routine so they know when it's time to eat, drink, get out to go to the wash rack or scales, or simply be comfortable and rest. That last one has made a large impact on our success. When you're not actually feeding/watering/washing/weighing, being sure your livestock are comfortable and get good rest allows them to battle the stress of a show environment, and only aide in their ability to continue to cooperate on intake and performance throughout, what can become a long week before going into the show ring.

When speaking about a daily schedule, again try to keep things simple. Normally at the show, you will feed more often than you did at home (usually 3-4 times per day) depending on your specific animal, but try to stay similar as far as the time you start in the morning and finish in the evening daily. Again, be sure your animal stays fully hydrated and offer them fluid often. As far as washing, I believe any livestock needs to be washed once daily while at the show to keep them fresh, not only from a skin and hair standpoint, but also from a comfort standpoint. When it comes to weighing in shows that require managing weight, I recommend weighing no more than 2-3 times per day, with the exception of the day of the show. A good tip to help with this is not to pull much weight off to try and hit a certain class. Collectively, try to always have a purpose or a plan when your going to do something throughout the day to allow your animal the opportunity to rest and become comfortable in a show setting.

Finally, there are many routes both throughout the feeding period and at the show to lead to success, just remember when you're at the show, what you were doing at home is what got you to that point, and don't stray far from the simple principles just because it's the last few days.





GET THEIR GUT RIGHT: HEALTHY SHEEP SEEK SUCCESS

As a new show season approaches it's time to think about keeping those lambs in maximum shape. Their health is your top priority, and to keep them healthy and eating, you need to focus on keeping their gut in shape.

Two seasoned lamb exhibitors agree that keeping lambs eating and healthy starts with clean, fresh water. Payton Dahmer, a student at Kansas State University from Nevada, Mo., and Maggie Madden, a student at Texas A & M from Paso Robles, Calif., both change their lambs' water 2-3 times a day to keep it fresh, clean and cold.

"The more we can get them to drink, the more they are going to eat," Dahmer said. "Keeping water, pens and bedding fresh makes a bigger difference than what people think."

He said having an overall clean and fresh environment plays a big role in keeping show lambs healthy. Not only is clean water and fresh feed vital, but a clean environment with fresh bedding is just as important.

Next, he puts a high emphasis on his lambs' nutritional needs, and includes several BioZyme® products all containing Amaferm® to keep his lambs eating and healthy. Amaferm is a natural prebiotic designed to maximize the nutritional value of feed. It is research-proven to increase water and feed intake. In addition, research shows that Amaferm decreases body temperature in heat-stressed animals. Dahmer says all the lambs that he and his siblings show are on Sure Champ® Spark®, a pelleted, concentrated daily supplement. He can tell within a day or two if they run out of the product because if the lambs don't get in their daily ration, they will start to go off feed. Another product he uses regularly is Vita Charge® Liquid Boost®, a liquid supplement that supports digestive health and promotes feed and water intake during times of stress and recovery.

"Each sheep's nutritional needs vary in terms of what kinds of feed they need to be on. Of course, adjusting their needs accordingly with that animal's maturity makes a big difference, but as you get closer to show time and your exercise regimen gets more intense, we noticed those Sure Champ products helped a lot, especially with the extra stress when we're working our lambs during the hottest parts of summer. Using those products helps reduce stress and keeps them on feed when they are having to work their hardest," Dahmer said. Just as each lamb has different nutritional needs their exercise needs also differ. Some lambs might need walked to simply build muscle, while others might need to be run to build muscle and burn fat. That additional exercise causes stress to the animal – stress that could cause it to back off from eating.

Madden said she feeds a high-protein, highly palatable feed and includes Sure Champ Sheep in their diet to keep them eating. She monitors their health and diet extra closely any time she changes or intensifies their exercise routine or if there are extreme shifts in the weather. Dahmer said last summer when his family was exercising in the hottest days of summer, they started using the Sure Champ Climate Control, and noticed a big difference with their lambs. He suggests that others use that, especially in temperatures above 70-degrees as they increase their exercise program prior to shows.

And if your lamb does go off feed? It is likely at some point your lamb will just decide to quit eating. At that point, Dahmer recommends cutting back their next feeding to a half-portion, and gradually building them back up to a full portion. He adds this is another time the Liquid Boost comes in handy.

"I will use the Liquid Boost as top dress or a drench," he said. "If a lamb doesn't like its feed wet or the texture, I will use as a drench to make sure they are getting it."

Finally, Dahmer said as you are getting prepared to hit the local or state jackpot circuit or a major livestock show in your area, to make sure your lambs are healthy before you even leave home.

"Make sure your lamb is in good health before you ever go to a show. You don't want to take a sick lamb. And then closely monitor them during and after the show. Make sure they are eating and drinking and don't have a snotty nose," he said. "Before a major show, if you do have one that isn't feeling well, work closely with your vet before you go to the show to keep it healthy."

Madden adds to always seek advice of others.

"Don't be afraid to reach out to older, experienced exhibitors and sheep breeders and ask for advice and help," she said. "Most people really do want you to succeed."

Success in the show ring starts with a healthy lamb, and your lamb's health starts with a healthy gut.



TEXAS A&M
AGRILIFE
EXTENSION

**BEEF, LAMB, GOAT,
SWINE, RABBIT &
POULTRY CLINICS
AND PROSPECT
SHOW**

**December 8-10, 2017 @
Brazos County Expo Center**

5827 Leonard Rd. Bryan, TX. 77807

What is the Southern Classic?

The Southern Classic Youth Livestock Project Experience & Prospect Shows are intended to provide a fun and educational opportunity for new 4-H /FFA families participating in the livestock project area. The main purpose is to teach the basic principles of livestock project management as they relate to housing, selection, nutrition, health, handling and showmanship.

"Quality Counts" programs are discussed to promote the safe and legal use of drugs/medications to facilitate the ethical care, development and exhibition of livestock.

Early registration is \$30 by November 27th

Late registration is \$40 from November 28th –December 7th

Onsite Registration is \$40

Register at: <https://walker.agrilife.org/southern-classic-registration/>

OPEN TO ALL YOUTH IN GRADES 3-12

NO PEEWEE EXHIBITORS

For More Information:

Contact your local County Extension office, the Brazos County Extension office at 979-823-0129 or visit us online at <http://d94-h.tamu.edu/eventsandcontests/southern-classic/>

The members of Texas A&M AgriLife will provide equal opportunities in programs and activities, education, and employment to all persons regardless of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, age, disability, genetic information, veteran status, sexual orientation or gender identity and will strive to achieve full and equal employment opportunity throughout Texas A&M AgriLife.

Friday, December 8th

Barns Open & Check-in - 4-7pm

Saturday, December 9th

7:00am- Barns Open & Check-in

9:30 am- General Session Starts

10:30-Individual Species Sessions Start

12:00– Catered Lunch

1:00pm- All weight cards due

1:15- Afternoon Species Sessions Start
(one set of clippers will be given away at the conclusion of each species session.
Must be present to win!

4:00pm– Adjourn

<NO ELECTRICITY AVAILABLE>

SATURDAY 10:45 am - 4:00 pm

Sunday December 10th

9:00am-Beef Prospect show
(heifers and steers will show at the same time)

9:00am-Lamb Prospect Show

9:00am-Goat Prospect Show

9:00am-Swine Prospect Show

NO OUTSIDE SHAVINGS



Major Livestock Show Updates and Rule Changes

Ft Worth Livestock Show

- Steers arrival will begin at Trinity park, it will not be available until 8am on Monday January 29th
- Swine will arrive to Farrington field on January 29th from noon-7pm, it will not open until 8am on the 29th
- Swine must have weight cards submitted by 10am on Tuesday January 30th
- Goats must submit weight cards by noon on January 27th. Minimum weight is 50lbs

San Antonio Livestock Show

- Breeding swine ownership deadline– December 1, 2017
- A Crossbred gilt show and sale was added and will be held February 7-9. 1 entry per exhibitor, gilts must be state validated and weight limits are 230-340
- Sheep & Goats will be allowed to pen together if they arrive together and pre-penning procedures will be outlined in the premium book
- ARB heifer breed additions– Brangus Optimizer, Brangus UltraBlack, Brangus UltraRed have all been added to the ARB division.
- Market Turkey Toms will be added again this year

Rodeo Austin

- Heifers– entries limited to 2 heifers per exhibitor
- Steers– AOB Red Division will be added to the steer show and classes will be determined upon arrival
- Lambs– 2 Dorper Classes will be added to the market lamb show.
- Turkeys– Tom Turkeys will be added back
- Swine– Weight divisions will be added to the crossbred breed. Only division champions will compete in the crossbred breed champion drive.
- Sale lot additions– 11 lots will be added to the Barrows and 12 lots will be added to the Steers

Houston Livestock Show

- Heifers– substitution fees have changed, prior to Feb. 1st= free, Feb. 2nd– March 1st= \$50 per entry, and after March 2nd= \$250
- Scramble Heifers– they will move in on Wednesday March 7th and Show March 8th
- Lambs– Adding 3rd class or Dorpers and increasing them by 6 sale lots
- Goats– adding 12 sale lots
- Turkeys– Tom turkeys will be added back, top 50 toms and top 50 hens will be sold in the Auction
- Barrows– Champion Drive weigh back increased by 5lbs per wave.
- Gilts– Gilts will be given pen assignments at 288 lot just like barrows and will use back and east dock to increase unloading times.

Major Livestock Show Judges

2018 Ft. Worth Livestock Show

- Market Steers– Doug Husfeld
- Market Swine– Ben Moyer
- Market Goats– Kobly Burch
- Market Sheep– Todd Wise
- Heifers– Gerald Young, Kyle Perez, Matt Claeys

2018 San Angelo Livestock Show

- Market Steers– Dr. Mark Hoge
- Market Sheep– Clay Burson
- Market Goats– Dr. Mark Hoge
- Heifers– Carl Muntean & Mark McClintock

2018 Sandhills Livestock Show.

- Steers- Bradon Callis & Scott Schaake
- Heifers- Brandon Callis
- Sheep- Ross Stultz
- Goats- TBA

2018 San Antonio Livestock Show

- Market Steers– Dr. Scott Greiner & Brady Jensen
- Market Lambs– Brad Angus
- Market Goats– Josh Taylor
- Market Swine– Justin Rodibaugh & Seth Swenson
- Turkey Hens– Dale Hyatt
- Turkey Toms– Keith Scott
- Broilers– Jacob Coppedge
- Heifers– Jeff Bedwell, Chris Gabel, & John McCurry

2018 Rodeo Austin

- Market Steers– Blake Nelson
- Market Lambs– Jake Thorne
- Market Goats– Cody Sloan
- Market Swine– Nick Mauck
- American Heifers– Marcus Arnold
- British & Exotic Heifers– Tim Fitzgerald

2018 Houston Livestock Show

- Market Steers– Jack Ward
- Market Lambs– Dr. Scott Greiner
- Market Goats– Brandon Callis
- Market Swine– Grant Grebner & Andy Rash
- Broiler Pullets– Jacob Prukop
- Broiler Cockerels– Keith Scott
- Turkey Hens– Brian Lowe
- Turkey Toms– Mallori Williams
- Heifers– Deb Core, Blake Nelson, & Chris Mullinix

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We're on the Web!

<http://brazos.agrilife.org/>

Upcoming Events:

Validations:
BCYLS Swine-12/11
BCYLS Rabbit – 2/26
FCS & Ag Mech. 1/16

Show Dates

Ft Worth Livestock show

Market Goats- 1/25-1/28
Market Sheep- 1/25-1/28
Market Barrow- 1/29-2/1
Market Steer- 1/30-2/2
Heifers- 1/19-1/22

San Antonio Livestock Show

Market Goats- 2/13-2/15
Market Sheep- 2/13-2/15
Market Poultry- 2/21-22
Market Barrow- 2/17-2/22
Market Steer- 2/19-2/23
Heifers- 2/13-2/16

San Angelo Livestock Show

February 2-18, 2018

Houston Livestock Show

Market Goats- 3/7-3/9
Market Sheep- 3/7-3/9
Market Poultry- 3/7-3/8
Market Barrow- 3/10-3/15
Market Steer- 3/12-3/16
Heifers- 3/8-3/11

Rodeo Austin

Market Goats- 3/12-3/13
Market Sheep- 3/12-3/13
Market Poultry- 3/14
Market Barrow- 3/16-3/18
Market Steer- 3/19-21
Heifers- 3/22-3/24

BCYLS- March 20-24, 2018

3/17- Commercial steer Interviews &
Queens Dance
3/20- FCS arrival and check in
Commercial Steer Sale
FCS Awards
Stall setup and tack move in
3/21-Rabbit arrival (7-9am)
Barrow arrival (7-9am)
Rabbit final judging (10am)
Lamb weigh in (12-1)
Barrow weight cards due (12pm)
Goat weigh in (1-2pm)
Steer Classification (3:30-5)
Lamb Show- 5pm
Goat Show- 6pm
3/22-Ag Mech. Judging (8am)
Swine Show (2pm)
3/23- Poultry arrival (7-8am)
Poultry Judging (10am)
Heifer Show (2pm)
Steer Show (5pm)
3/24- Sale Meeting (8am)
Premium Auction (6pm)

Contacts

| | | | | |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|--|--|---|
| Jerod Meurer 4-H & YD Agent | Dusty Tittle AG/NR Agent | Arvita Scott 4-H & Youth Development CEP Agent | Flora Williams Family & Consumer Science Agent | Ashley Skinner 4-H Program Assistant |
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Educational programs of the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service are open to all people without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, disability, genetic information or veteran status.

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

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