



Brazos County Livestock Newsletter

November 2017 Edition

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BCYLS Rabbit Validation
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Fungus prevention in sheep and goats
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Major Show Entry Night

Brazos County youth wishing to participate in any of the major livestock shows (Ft. Worth, San Antonio, San Angelo, Odessa, Houston, & Star of Texas) must enter on **November 2nd at the Extension Office from 5-7PM**. We will have all entry forms available that evening to fill out. If you are unable to attend this meeting, please make arrangements with us prior to this date so we can get you entered.

For those of you who are able, we will be at the office all day so if you wanted to come in during the day and take care of your entries we will be available for that as well.

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)

Major & County Swine Validations

- Majors Show Validation– November 20th @ the Brazos Expo Complex from 5:30-7 PM
- BCYLS only Swine Validation– December 11th @ the Brazos Expo Complex from 5:30-7PM

Packets will be available for pickup the week prior to each validation to allow for most of the paperwork to be filled out and signed prior to arriving at validation.

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

2017 Brazos County Validation Dates & Tag Orders

Major & County Swine

Major Validation– November 20th at Brazos County Expo
BCYLS Validation– December 11th at Brazos County Expo

Poultry

Turkey Pickup for majors and county- Wednesday November 8th
San Antonio Broilers Pickup-
Houston Broilers Pickup-

Rabbits

BCYLS Rabbit Validation- February 26th at the Brazos County Expo

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

With the upcoming stock show season just around the corner and livestock validation coming up, it is time now to make sure that everyone has taken the quality counts test. There are 2 age divisions, Junior– 13 and under & Senior– 14 and up. These dates are based on the exhibitors age as of August 31st and become inactive on September 1 each year. Once you become a senior you will only need to take the test one time. Juniors will need to take the test as a junior and again when they become a senior.

For more information or to take the test, visit this link: <http://agrilife.org/qualitycounts/verification/>

Calf Scramble

Ft. Worth

Entries will be made at the major show entry night on November 3rd. More information can be found at the following link: http://www.fwssr.com/?page_id=78

San Antonio

Entries must be postmarked by November 1st, please contact the Extension office for more information.

Houston

Entries will be made at the major show entry night on November 3rd

Rodeo Austin

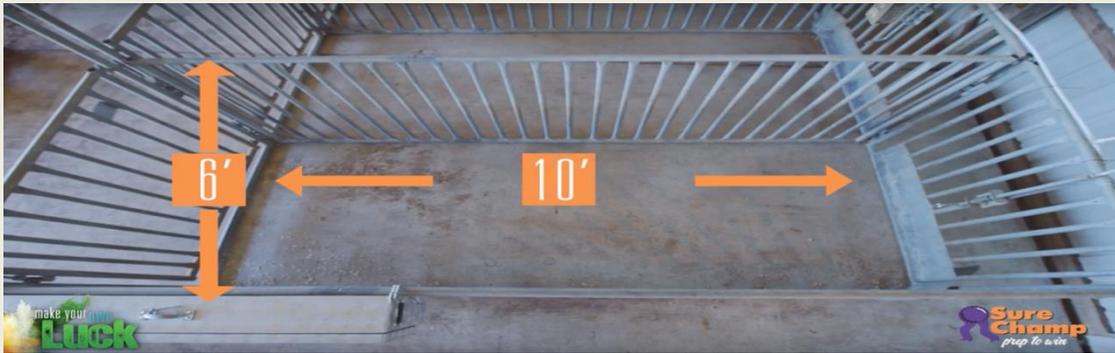
Entries open on October 1st, if interested contact the Extension office.

How to Set up a Show Pig Pen

Building the correct pen for your show pig is highly important in ensuring your pig is comfortable and had the necessities to perform throughout the year. In the video below, you'll hear tips from Josh Brockman on how to set up a concrete pen. However, if you have a dirt area or will be building your pen on another surface, this is still how your pen should be set up but the bedding may need to be different.

Pen Size

You need to make sure you have enough room for your pig to move around and be comfortable, but an excessively large pen will allow your pig to potentially injure themselves. We suggest pens should be 10'x6' and at least 3' tall. The sides can be made from pig panels, plywood or another similar material. The key is to make sure there aren't gaps where you pig an escape or injure themselves.



Bedding

Comfortable and absorbent bedding are key. White pine shavings work well because they are absorbent and provide the appropriate cushion on a concrete floor. There should be enough shavings that your pig is not walking on bare concrete. However, leaving the space in front of the feeder bare will help keep your [pig's toes even](#).

Feeder Placement

As your pig grows, you are going to need to adjust the height of your feeder so your pig can eat comfortably. To ensure the feeder is always the right height, we like to use hanging clip on feeders. Also, by placing them at the front of the pen, you can easily reach over the panels to feed your pig. A good rule of thumb is the bottom of the feeder should be just below your pig's chest.



Water

[Fresh water is the most important nutrient for your pig](#), so it must be accessible at all times. There are lots of options in terms of the water you selection. The most important fact is that the water is clean and available at all times. Just like your feeder, it is best if you can place the water close to the front of the pen, away from where your pig sleeps so that area stays dry.



If you're showing sheep or goats, you've got to protect them from disease and fungus. Maryland native, and a junior on Oklahoma State University's judging team, Cooper Bounds, says that when an exhibitor goes to a show they are picking up disease and fungus from each of the animals that were in the pen before them. These, invisible, lingering germs will make your show project very sick if you don't take precautions.

Even when the judge handles your animal, Bounds says to think about how he or she is touching every other lamb or goat before handling yours.

"Each time you go to the county fair, a jackpot or a state show, you have a high likelihood of running into fungus," he says. "You also need to protect lambs and goats from fungus to be respectful to other showman. It would be selfish to not try to eliminate fungus and disease because you could be transferring it to another person's animals."

Bounds himself has shown goats around the country. His family showed all four primary livestock species but had the most success with goats. He works for Kedrick Miller, owner of Miller Boer Goats in Indiana.

There are ways to keep lambs and goats healthy by following a disinfecting protocol. Bounds suggests to show off of a trailer at a jackpot or regional show and avoid bedding down in pens inside the facility. After a goat leaves the show ring, it should be taken to the wash rack and shampooed with an anti-fungal soap. For lambs that have been fit, the same protocol applies. Right after breaking down their legs, Bounds says to get to the wash rack and use Sullivan's anti-fungal shampoo or Happy Jack Iodine Shampoo to stop disease or fungus.

Many sheep show families will use a lime dip as well. Goat exhibitors might worry about lime dip, fearing it will turn their animals yellow, but he says it actually absorbs into the skin. The goat doesn't stay yellow, he says, and it is a proven way to kill bacteria.

"Once a sheep or goat is finished showing it's important to break them down, wash with antibacterial soap, spray with lime dip and get them dry," he says. "Then put a blanket on them and you're ready to load up."

At home, be sure to wash goat blankets and halters right away to eliminate germs and fungus. In contrast, sheep blankets should only be washed once a year because you want the blanket to build up natural lanolin from the sheep hide.

While unloading your animals at home, take them to the wash rack and complete the process of washing with antibacterial soap and a disinfectant to be sure any remaining disease and fungus does not transfer to your home pens. Once the animal has been washed and dried, then put them in their pen at home.

Though an anti-bacterial protocol is essential it is not foolproof. At home pens must be cleaned out weekly and sprayed with anti-fungal solution.

At a major livestock show like the American Royal or the National Western Stock Show, most animals go through a vet check before unloading or in a separate area away from the barns. This means a team of veterinarians will ask exhibitors to remove blankets so they can inspect the animal head to toe. On sheep and goats, fungus will appear like ringworm, as a circle on the back of the neck, behind its head or down the neck to the top of their shoulder. According to Bounds, it looks like a pus-filled pocket, and if a family can catch it at home they should squeeze the pus out and spray a bleach solution directly onto the sore.

"Early detection is always the best bet," he says. "If you don't get it killed right away the hair is going to fall out and the animal will have bald spots that will be very visible. It happened to a goat we showed at the American Royal in 2013. We had jackpotted the goat some and I noticed some of its hair was not sitting quite right on its neck. Sure enough it had the spots so I popped them and cleaned them out to avoid spreading. Thankfully we eliminated the fungus in time because that goat was Reserve Grand Champion overall at the Royal. ."

If there is any question of a fungus issue before an exhibitor heads to a show, leave the animal at home. Trying to pass an infected animal through check-in is not worth the hassle of being sent home or infecting others at the show.

During or after a show it might also be common for an animal to go off feed due to stress. When this happens, Bounds will use a paste like [Vita Charge](#) to relieve stress before the animal gets on the trailer. If the show is a two-day jackpot or a long wait until show day he suggests another dose of Vita Charge the night after the show.

Most importantly, watch each animal for signs it is getting sick. Be sure to consult your veterinarian about what antibiotic you can give if you sheep or goat appears to be getting sick. Changes in climate and weather can make animals sick or stressed and a preventative shot will typically help.

"There is no cookbook recipe that will guarantee you won't have fungus or stress because it does depend on the individual animal," Bounds says. "But if you're taking necessary precautions in terms of disease prevention you'll have a better show season."





dealing with *bloat* in show cattle

**Sure
Champ**
prep to win

Bloat in show cattle is one of the worst things to deal with. When cattle bloat it causes reductions in feed intake, slowed weight gain and in the worst-case situation, even death. When you are dealing with a chronic bloater, be sure to consult your veterinarian, the breeder that you bought your animal from and/or 4-H or FFA advisors for advice. In addition, use these recommendations from our nutrition team.

Make sure you are feeding enough roughage. Long stem, course hay will help scratch the rumen, and in turn stimulates rumination (chewing their cud) and eructation (relieving gas), both important functions in the prevention of bloat. In show rations there is the tendency to not feed enough fiber, and get energy levels too high.

To improve digestive health, consider feeding a supplement that contains Amaferm®. Nutritionist Dr. Francis L. Fluharty, at The Ohio State University, says, "[Amaferm](#) has been shown to reduce the time that animals require to resume consumption during diet transition. It helps to stabilize the rumen environment, research-proven to increase the growth rate of fiber digesting bacteria in the rumen, as well as several strains of the lactate utilizing bacteria. Amaferm also has been shown to stimulate the growth of, and lactate uptake by *Megasphaera elsdenii*, the predominant lactate utilizing ruminal bacteria." So what does this all mean? Amaferm should be effective in reducing the incidence of [acidosis](#), and the side-effect of acidosis: bloat.

The best way for your calves to get Amaferm daily is through [Sure Champ](#)®. However, during times of stress or to help an animal recover from stressful situations (like an episode of bloat) you might use one of our [Vita Charge](#)® products that can be force-fed like our Vita Charge Liquid Boost® or Vita Charge Paste.

Finally, for calves that seem to be chronic bloaters you may consider increasing the number of times you feed per day from two to three. This breaks down your ration into smaller meals for your calf to properly digest.



TEXAS A&M AGRI LIFE 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

NO OUTSIDE SHAVINGS

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



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 be exhibiter
- 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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Wer'e on the Web!

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

Upcoming Events:

Validations:

Major Swine-11/20

BCYLS Swine-12/11

BCYLS Rabbit - 2/26

Entry Night:

Major Show- 11/2

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- 2/21-2/22

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

Contacts

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