Prairie View A&M University
Cooperative Extension Program

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension

Brazos County Livestock Newsletter

September 2017 Edition

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Special points of interest:

- Validation dates & tag order dates
- Broiler Order Info
- Major Show Judges
- Major Show dates
- Major Show entry night
- Sheep Nutrition 101
- Tips for Getting Show Heifers Bred
- Brazos Valley Fair Dates
- Swine Workshop

BCYLS & Major Swine Tag Orders

All swine tags must be ordered by September 21st. All Major show tags will be $20 a piece and these tags are good for all Tex- as majors and the County show. Any gilts going to San Angelo must also be state validated. BCYLS only tags will be $5.00 a tag and these are only good for the Brazos County Youth Livestock show.

We will validate all major show pigs on November 20th and all BCYLS only pigs on December 11th. Both validations will be at the Brazos Expo from 5:30-7:00

Please contact us at the office at 979-823-0129 with any questions or concerns

Order form can be found at this link: http://brazos.agrilife.org/files/2013/10/Swine-tag-order-form-1.pdf

BCYLS Only Steer Tags

If you have a steer that was not major validated and wish to validate it for the Brazos County Youth Livestock Show, you will need to place your tag order by September 11th. These tags will be $5.00 a piece and we will validate these steers on October 8th at the conclusion of the Commercial Steer validation.

Major Show Broiler Orders

Anyone interested in showing broilers at Houston, San Antonio, or Austin must order their birds by September 11th. You must order in increments of 25 and the cost is $1.50 a bird.

Order form is at this link: http://brazos.agrilife.org/files/2013/10/Broiler-Order-Form.pdf

Major Show Entry Night

Major Livestock Show entry night will be held November 2nd at the Brazos County Extension office. We will be in the office all day to take entries and will be here until 7pm to allow everyone time to come in and get entered into the major livestock shows.

Heifer Validation Tag Orders

This year's Spring Heifer Validation tag orders are due September 11th. The tags are $20 per tag and you must order and pay for them prior to validation.

Validation will be held on October 30th at the Brazos County Extension Office. If you have a conflict with this date please contact us prior to the validation and make arrangements to get your heifers validated.

The heifers must be in one of the exhibitors names (no group or ranch names) before November 1st.

Tag order forms can be found at this link: http://brazos.agrilife.org/files/2013/10/fall-Heifer-tag-order-form.pdf

2017 Brazos County Validation Dates & Tag Orders

Major Show Steers

BCYLS Only– October 8th tag orders due September 11th

Major & County Sheep & Goats

Validation– October 16th at Brazos County Expo–

Major & County Swine

Major Validation– November 20th at Brazos County Expo– Tag orders due September 21st
BCYLS Validation– December 11th at Brazos County Expo– Tag orders due September 21st

Major Show Heifers

Fall Validation– October 30th at the Extension office starting at 5:30– Tag orders due September 11th

Poultry

Major show Broiler Orders due– September 11th
BCYLS Broiler Order & All Poultry Entry- October 18th at Extension office from 5:30-6:30

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

BCYLS Broiler Order & Poultry Entry Night

The BCYLS Broiler orders and all Poultry (turkeys & broilers) entry night will be held on October 18th at the Brazos County Extension office from 5:30-6:30pm. You must come to this meeting to enter the county show and to order your broilers for the 2018 county show. If you have any questions please contact the poultry chair Brandi Lampo at **blampo@msn.com**

State Fair & HOT Pass Handout & Travel Meeting

When: September 21st starting at 6PM

Where: Brazos County Extension Office

Details: We will be handing out passes and making travel plans for all market animals for the State Fair of Texas. If you will not be able to attend and wish to be included in the travel plans please contact me prior to this meeting so I can get you on the list. All passes will be available for pickup at this meeting or any time after this date.

Swine Project Clinic

We are hosting a swine project clinic on October 28th. This clinic will be geared to selection, housing, and feeding your swine project for new feeders. The clinic will be held at the Brazos County Extension office starting at 10AM.

Brazos Valley Fair & Expo Deadlines

Entry Deadlines

Friday September 22nd- Online Livestock Entry Deadline

Friday, Sept. 29th - LATE Online Livestock Entry Deadline (includes late fee)

Saturday, Sept. 30th - Creative Arts Entry Drop-off (Weekend drop-off)

Thursday, Oct. 5th- Western Art & Photography Deadline

Monday, Oct. 9th - Quilt Contest Deadline

Thursday, Oct. 19th Baked & Canned Goods Deadline and Drop-off

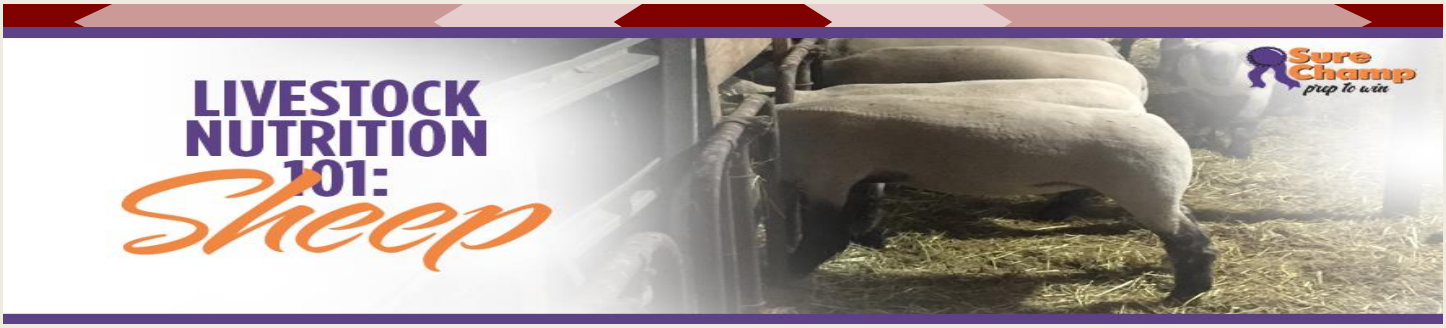
Saturday, Oct. 21st LATE entry: Jr. Heifer, Prospect Meat Goat, Prospect Lamb (includes late fee)

Sunday, Oct. 22nd- LATE entry: Jr. Swine, Prospect Steer (includes late fee)

For more information about entries, drop offs, and other events, visit www.brazosvalleyfair.com

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



1. What makes up a 'balanced' feed ration?

A balanced feed ration supplies the proper amounts and proportions of nutrients needed for a specific purpose or stage of an animal's life. While a show lamb diet might have different specs than a lactating ewe ration, all diets should be balanced to achieve the desired goal. We generally use a balanced "base" feed ration and make adjustments using supplements and additional forage depending on what our goal is or what we need to try to correct with the lamb.

2. On average, how much should a sheep consume in a day?

Show lambs should consume on average around 3-3.5% of their body weight. This should include grain as well as hay. Depending on what the current goal of your animal is, this should be adjusted if you are trying to push or hold an animal based on weight or body condition. I generally try to get a lamb up to around 3-3.5 pounds of grain per day and stay there for the majority of the feeding time. It is important to make adjustments slowly and gradually. We will generally bump a lambs feed 0.25 lb. per day and make sure they are cleaning up their feed completely for approximately 10 days before making another increase.

3. Why is forage important when feeding sheep?

Forage is extremely important when feeding sheep simply because they are ruminant animals. Ruminant animals are designed by nature to graze or browse forages. Since we don't recommend allowing show lambs to graze on pasture, it is extremely important to provide an additional source of fiber in their diets. Long stemmed forages (alfalfa or grass hay) are a vital part of keeping the rumen microbes alive and healthy. From a show lamb perspective, we use hay to adjust middles and flank lines as we get closer to show day. Don't forget that hay also contributes nutritionally to a ration. For example, if we have a large framed lamb that we are trying to slow the growth on, we will use a lower protein forage type hay rather than high quality alfalfa.

4. How do you identify which feed is best for your project?

There are many different brands of feed out there and most of them will be similar in terms of ingredients and specs. I think it is important to find a feed that you can get fresh and readily available. Most importantly, learn how to feed it. Figuring out how an animal will respond to the feed based on its body type and learning how and when to make adjustments is probably as important as any ingredient. When making adjustments or adding supplements, give them adequate time to work. Changes won't be made overnight. I also believe that it's important to understand that not all lambs will be fed the same diet. Larger framed, leaner designed lambs will generally need a lower protein, higher fat diet. Smaller framed, quicker lambs will need a higher protein, lower fat diet.

5. Why is it important to watch/monitor your sheep while they eat?

Feeding time is not simply just about putting the feed in the feeder! Take the time to watch and observe your animal as it eats. A lamb not eating or drinking normally can be the first sign of sickness. However, if you don't know how your lamb acts normally it will be hard to see these changes. Keeping an eye out for choking or bloat is also an important reason to monitor your lamb as it eats.

6. What are the most important ingredients to identify on a feed tag? Why?

Knowing how to read and interpret a feed tag can be a very valuable part of your success with a lamb project. While some things on a tag such as micro and macro minerals are important, they aren't something I necessarily worry about as long as I'm using a high-quality show feed and Sure Champ®. I do however, pay attention to protein, fat and fiber levels. These are the basic categories that can be changed or adjusted throughout the duration of your project. Depending on the age, frame size or body type of your lamb, adjustments will most likely need to be made in the protein and fat levels of your lamb's diet.

7. What about fresh water?

Water is the most critical nutrient. Water is also directly related to feed intake. Make sure that your lambs always have access to clean, fresh water that is neither too hot nor too cold.

8. How to can I keep water intake and appetite consistent?

In addition to ensuring your lamb has fresh feed and water, supplements such as Sure Champ Spark and Vita Charge® can be used to increase intake. Spark is best used as a daily top-dress supplement. Spark contains Amaferm®, a prebiotic that stimulates the digestive system, promotes consistency in appetite and will allow your animal to fully utilize your base ration and other feed additives. A product like Vita Charge Liquid Boost® or Vita Charge Paste is ideal for stressful situations like receiving, hauling and showing, which can all throw an animal off track. I recommend administering Vita Charge three days prior to the increase in stress and until the environment returns to normal or stress is reduced

You've begged and pleaded with your parents. You've shown several market steers, and now you want a show heifer. She will be an investment, and you will have a foundation for your very own cow herd. But do you know the steps to transition her from pampered Pollyanna to a progressive, progeny producing female?

Kevin Glaubius, Director of Nutrition and Technical Sales for BioZyme® Inc., says to start early in the heat detection and breeding process to make sure you know the signs of heat and that your heifer is bred at an ideal weight and body condition.

"Start to observe your heifer and watch for her to come into heat when she is around 750 pounds," Glaubius said. "When they do cycle that first time, log that date on a calendar, and watch to make sure she cycles again in three weeks."

When your heifer stands to be mounted by another animal that is the most accurate sign of estrus. *Standing heat* is the most sexually intensive period of the estrous cycle. During this period, your heifer should stand to be mounted by another animal or move forward slightly with the weight of the mounting animal. If your heifer moves away quickly when a mount is attempted she is not in true estrus.

Glaubius said it is important to start the breeding process early in the heifer's growth, while she weighs between 750-900 pounds. She should have a Body Condition Score (BCS) of 5.5 to 6. Remember, the gestation length is about 283 days or just slightly more than nine months, so take your ideal calving date into consideration while also getting your heifer bred while she is in her nutritional prime.

Twig Marston, Technical Sales Field Manager for BioZyme, stresses that it is important that your heifer calves by the time she is 24-months-old. He said that a 6 BCS is ideal for today's show ring, and is close to ideal for breeding a first-calf heifer as well. Higher conditioned heifers with a BCS 7-8 will experience lower fertility, while heifers that are too thin will also be hard to breed, and have to be bred more often than what is idyllic.

An experienced A.I. technician should be able to get the heifer bred or "stuck" within two services. Remember, A.I. is not 100-percent successful and typically has a 60-percent success rate.

Nutritionally speaking, your heifer should be on a steady or increasing plane of nutrition prior to and during breeding season, Glaubius said. She is a growing animal, so her energy needs are still demanding.

Show heifers should be fed more moderate diets than a market steer; however, their mineral requirements are greater. Your heifer should be expected to gain 1.5 to 2.5 pounds per day.

"If your mineral system is part of your grain mixture, and heifers are fed less than steers, that can negatively affect their reproduction, as they are not getting all the trace minerals they need," Glaubius said. "Her mineral requirements are elevated more than your steers' that you are feeding for an end-point. You are building her to be in your herd for 12 years."

Glaubius suggests using a full dose of Sure Champ® to top-dress your heifer's feed. He also recommends offering VitaFerm®Concept•Aid® free-choice for show heifers to make sure they get their full mineral requirements, especially prior to breeding.

Once you have made sure your heifer's nutritional needs have been met, you need to make sure you have found the right genetics to breed her to. Marston said the number one trait he would look for when selecting a bull to breed to a first-calf heifer is calving ease direct.

"There is enough data now in calving ease direct to make your job in sire selection easier," he said. "Then look for other traits that will make your calves sellable, such as growth, carcass quality and structural conformation."

If you have just one or two show heifers, and don't have the need for a bull or have heifers of different breeds, A.I. is definitely the most efficient way to breed your heifers and allows you a wide variety of genetics to choose from. Marston said many local cattlemen can A.I. or your local semen representative might be able to suggest an A.I. technician in your area.

Both Marston and Glaubius agree there is value in having your heifer preg-checked. And once she is guaranteed safe, be sure to reduce the amount of stress you put on her for at least a week to let her embryo settle to her uterine wall.

To make sure your newly bred heifer's stress is kept to a minimum for the first two weeks, be sure to keep her in a familiar environment and don't comingle her with other animals or make any drastic changes in her diet for 7-10 days.

Another stress-reliever for your bred heifer is to keep her as cool as possible during the hot summer months of June, July and August. During those times, Glaubius suggests VitaFerm® HEAT™ mineral to help reduce stress, keep the heifers cool and keep their appetites healthy while growing your next potential show prospect.

Having a show heifer is a great experience. But the greater experience is making the nutritional and management decisions that will transition that heifer into a cow. This investment should pay dividends to you each year, with proper care and handling.

State Fair of Texas Weight Breaks

State Fair of Texas

Steers

Breed	2017	2016	2015	2014
Lightweight British		1000-1198 1199-1274	1051-1175 11-94-1215	1030-1135 1143-1204
Heavyweight British		1275-1354 1355-1439	1249-1318 1339-1470	1239-1280 1282-1390
Lightweight American		1037-1146 1147-1239	1005-1100 1107-1158	1038-1159 1165-1228
Heavyweight American		1240-1368 1369-1533	1183-1299 1320-1576	1267-1358 1360-1780
Lightweight AOB		1002-1059 1060-1137 1138-1207 1208-1255	1000-1052 1055-1121 1127-1179 1183-1217	1015-1060 1062-1144 1145-1195 1200-1225
Heavyweight AOB		1256-1309 1310-1368 1369-1393 1395-1572	1219-1250 1255-1315 1318-1379 1389-1466	1227-1260 1265-1336 1338-1371 1374-1450

Market Lambs

Breed	2017	2016	2015	2014
Finewool		106-116 120-150	100-114 118-148	100-122 124-145
Fine Wool X		103-130 131-159	105-124 125-161	100-122 129-164
Hair		90-106 111-150	90-102 107-130	90-97 99-160
Southdowns		90-114 117-154	90-105 109-117 120-138	94-109 110-149
Medium Wools		106-108 109-118 119-122 123-128 129-132 133-138 139-142 144-153 159-175	100-107 108-113 114-120 122-126 127-131 132-136 137-141 142-148 150-174	90-112 113-118 119-123 124-128 129-133 134-138 139-146 147-154 155-183

State Fair of Texas

Market Barrows

Breed	2017	2016	2015	2014
Black OPB		230-249 250-273 274-280	230-255 256-274 275-280	230-257 259-279 280
Other Cross		230-238 239-248 249-256 257-264 265-272 273-279 280	230-239 240-248 249-256 257-264 265-270 271-278 280	230-245 246-255 256-266 267-276 277-280 277-280
Dark Cross		230-240 242-255 256-265 266-275 276-280	230-239 240-245 248-260 261-274 275-280	230-245 246-260 261-278 280
Duroc		230-260 265-279 280	230-259 262-275 276-280	235-258 262-276 277-280
Hampshire		230-241 242-254 255-269 270-280	230-241 242-255 256-272 273-280	230-243 244-259 260-280
White OPB		237-272 275-280	230-267 270-280	230-275 280
Yorkshire		230-257 259-277 280	230-258 259-274 275-280	230-263 264-278 279-280

Market Goats

2017	2016	2015	2014	2013
	50-60 61-68 69-72 73-76 77-79 80-84 85-92 93-99 100-115	50-60 61-66 67-72 73-75 76-80 81-85 86-90 91-98 99-115	51-62 63-69 70-75 76-79 80-84 85-88 89-95 96-101 102-115	52-64 65-69 70-76 77-80 81-84 85-88 89-91 92-97 98-115

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

2017 State Fair of Texas

- Market Steers– Randy Daniels
- Prospect Steers– John Declerk
- Market Lambs-- Caleb Bordman
- Market Goats– Cade Wilson
- Market Swine– James Backman
- Broilers– Michael Vader

2017 HOT Fair

Junior Show

- Steers– Todd Herman
- British/Exotic Heifer– Jon DeClerk
- American Heifer– Brant Poe
- Sheep– Glen Martin
- Goat– Slayton Strube
- Swine– Ryan Sites

Jackpot Show

- Steers– Jon DeClerk
- British/Exotic Heifer–Todd Herman
- American Heifer– Jason Cleere
- Sheep– Slayton Strube
- Goat– Glen Martin
- Swine– John McKinley

2017 Brazos Valley Fair

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

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

2018 Rodeo Austin

- Market Steers– Blake Nelson
- Market Lambs-- Jake Thorne
- Market Goats– Cody Sloan
- Market Swine– Nick Mauck

2018 Houston Livestock Show

- Market Steers– Jack Ward
- Market Lambs-- Dr. Scott Greiner
- Market Goats– Brandon Callis
- Market Swine– Grant Grebner & Andy Rash

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Wer'e on the Web!

http://brazos.agrilife.org/

Upcoming Events:
Validations:
Commercial Steer– 10/9
BCYLS Steer– 10/9
Fall Heifer– 10/27
Sheep & Goat– 10/117
Major Swine-11/21
BCYLS Swine-12/12
Entry Night:
Major Show– 11/3

Tag Orders:
BCYLS Steer– 9/15
Major show heifers– 9/12
Major & BCYLS Swine– 9/23

Show Dates

State Fair of Texas

Market Goats– 9/29-10/1
Market Lambs– 9/29-9/30
Market Swine– 10/2-10/5
Market Steer– 10/2-10/5
Heifers– 10/8-10/15

HOT Fair & Rodeo

Steers– 10/5-10/8
British & Exotic Heifers– 10/5-10/8
American Heifers– 10/11-10/14
Sheep & Goats– 10/10-10/12
Swine– 10/9-10/10

Brazos Valley Fair & Rodeo

October 20-22, 2017

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

Contacts

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