



Brazos County Livestock Newsletter

September 2018 Edition

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BCYLS & Major Swine Tag Orders

All swine tags must be ordered by September 20th. Major show tags will be \$20 each and are good for all Texas majors and the County show (BCYLS). Jr. Crossbred Gilts going to San Antonio must be state validated. BCYLS only tags will be \$5.00 each and are only good for the Brazos County Youth Livestock show.

We will validate all major show pigs on November 19th and all BCYLS only pigs on December 10th. Both validations will be at the Brazos Expo from 5:30-7:00

Deadline to order tags Sept. 20th by 5PM

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

Order form is here: <http://counties.agrilife.org/brazos/files/2018/07/Swine-tag-order-form.pdf>

BCYLS Only Steer Tags

If you have a steer that was not major validated and wish to validate it for the 2019 Brazos County Youth Livestock Show, you will need to place your tag order by September 11th by 5PM. These tags will be \$5.00 a piece and we will validate these steers on October 9th at the conclusion of the Commercial Steer validation. For forms please go to: <https://brazos.agrilife.org/publications/4h-publications/>

Major Show Broiler Orders

Anyone interested in showing broilers at Houston, San Antonio, or Austin must order their birds by September 11th by 5PM. You must order in increments of 25 and the cost is \$1.50 a bird.

Order forms are located in the Brazos County Extension office or on line @

<https://brazos.agrilife.org/publications/4h-publications/>

Entry Night for Winter/Spring Major Shows

4-H members planning to exhibit livestock projects at the spring major livestock shows must submit entries to the extension office by 6:30pm on Thursday, November 1st. We will be available all day to help complete entries and answer questions. Come anytime Monday, October 29 through Thursday, November 1.

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

Show Heifers Tips

Brazos Valley Fair Dates

Swine Workshop

Fall Heifer Validation Tag Orders

Fall heifer validation tag orders are due September 11th by 5PM. Tags are \$20 each and must be paid for when ordered.

Validation will be held on October 30th at the Brazos County Extension Office from 5-6pm. If you have a conflict, contact us prior to the validation so arrangements can be made to get your heifers validated.

The heifers must be in the exhibitor's name (no group or ranch names) before November 1st.

Forms on our website: <https://brazos.agrilife.org/publications/4h-publications/>

2018 Brazos County Validation Dates & Tag Orders

Steers

BCYLS Only– 2pm October 30th @ BV Livestock tag orders due September 11th

Major & County Sheep & Goats

Validation– October 29th at Brazos County Expo–5:30-7pm

Major & County Swine (all tag orders due by September 20th)

Major Validation– Nov 19 @ Brazos County Expo– 5:30-7pm

BCYLS Validation– Dec 10 @ Brazos County Expo– 5:30-7pm

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 17th 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 17th at the Brazos County Extension office from 5:30-6:30pm. You must attend this meeting to enter the county show and order your broilers for the 2019 county show. If you have any questions please contact the BCYLS Poultry Chair, Brandi Lampo, at blampo@msn.com

State Fair & HOT Pass Handout

When: September 19 thru 21

Where: Brazos County Extension Office

Details: Come by the office between 8 am - 5 pm on the above dates to pick up your passes

Quality Counts—All major shows require junior exhibitors (4-H & FFA members) complete the Quality Counts training program. A new online program was released in August.

EVERY 4-H/FFA EXHIBITOR must complete the new online training before major show entries are submitted in November. Go to <https://texasyouthlivestock.com/quality-counts/> for details.

QUALITY COUNTS ENROLLMENT

1. Go to: <https://www.texaslivestockvalidation.com/qc/qcregister.aspx>
2. Register with your information
 - a. It is very important to choose BOTH your 4-H and FFA chapter regardless of which you think you will show through!
 - b. You will need to enter your DOB and Phone Number in the format provided.
 - i. On Android devices, you will need type the hyphens and dashes.
3. Click Submit Registration
4. This will trigger an email from dottie.goebel@ag.tamu.edu to keep for your records.
 - a. Do not delete this email as it contains a Return Link that you will NEED to come back to the course at any time.
5. Staying on the website, click Proceed to Curriculum
6. You will be directed to the curriculum website. If you have an existing login from another course on this website (ie. Leading the Legacy Course, Master Gardeners, etc.), feel free to log in with your existing login credentials! If using an existing login, please login and skip to Step 11.
 - a. There is a "Forgot Password" option if needed.
7. If you do not have an existing login, click Create New Account under "Is this your first time here?" on the right side of the screen.
 - a. You may have to scroll down to see this if using a mobile device.
 - b. Though you do have to create another login on a separate website, this is necessary to be able to leave and come back to the curriculum as many times as needed!
8. Create username and password and complete login details.
 - a. You will have to use unique email addresses for each account. This means that siblings registering for the course will need separate email addresses (personal, parents', and school email are acceptable).
9. Click Create My New Account
10. You will receive an email from noreply@agrifile.remote-learner.net. You will need to verify your email address by clicking the link in the email. This will open a new webpage.
11. Select QUALITY COUNTS CURRICULUM from the menu under 4-H Youth Development
12. Click Quality Counts
13. Click Enroll Me
14. Select Age Bracket according to your school grade as of August 31 of the current year.
15. Click the course link that follows.
16. Begin Course! The course will take approximately 2 hours to complete.
17. You may leave and come back to the course as needed using the Return Link (Step 4a).
18. Once you complete the course, you will click Proceed to Test.
19. You must complete the exam once you start it, but can take it as many times as needed to achieve an 80% or higher.
20. Once passed, your verified Quality Counts number is ready for livestock show entries!

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT DOTTIE GOEBEL AT
979.862.8919 OR DOTTIE.GOEBEL@AG.TAMU.EDU



LIVESTOCK NUTRITION 101: *Sheep*



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 lamb's 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 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.

Major Show Judges

2018 State Fair of Texas

- Market Steers– Dan Hoge
- Prospect Steers– Nick Fitzsimmons
- Market Lambs– Brian Reilly
- Market Goats– Brandon Morgan
- Market Swine– Brian Arnold
- Market Broilers– Keith Scott

2018 HOT Fair

...Junior Show

- Steers– Brady Jensen
- British/Exotic Heifer– Brad Bennet
- American Heifer– P.J. Budler
- Sheep– Denton Lowe
- Goat– Chad Coburn
- Swine– Mike Fischer

...Jackpot Show

- Steers– Chad Coburn
- British/Exotic Heifer–Chase Runyan
- American Heifer– Brad Bennett
- Sheep– Keaton Dodd
- Goat– Denton Lowe
- Swine– Brady Ragland

2018 Brazos Valley Fair & Rodeo

- Open Brahman – Alfredo Muskus

...Ring A

- Jr. Heifers - TBA
- Prospect Steers - TBA
- Jr. Swine – Josh Elkins
- Prospect Lambs – Dwight Callis
- Prospect Meat Goats – Reid Stultz

...Ring B

- Jr. Heifers - TBA
- Prospect Steers - TBA
- Jr. Swine – Scott Smith
- Prospect Lambs – Reid Stultz
- Prospect Meat Goats – Dwight Callis

2019 Ft. Worth Livestock Show

- Market Steers– Chris Mullinix
- Market Swine– Ben Moyer
- Market Goats– Kurt Henry
- Market Sheep– Steve Sturtz
- Heifers– Jirl Buck, Matt Leo and Jim Bloomberg

2019 San Angelo Livestock Show

- Market Steers– Brady Jensen
- Market Lambs- Dr. Clay Burson
- Market Goats– Dr. Mark Hoge
- Market Swine– AJ Genter

2019 San Antonio Livestock Show

- Market Steers– Dr. Dan Shike & Grham Blagg
- Market Lambs-- Terry Burks
- Market Goats– Dr. Bryan Bernhard
- Market Swine– Dr. Mark Hoge & Miles Toenyas

2019 Rodeo Austin

- Market Steers– Blake Nelson
- Market Lambs-- Jake Thorne
- Market Goats– Cody Sloan
- Market Swine– Ben Bobell

2019 Houston Livestock Show

- Market Steers– Kevin Jensen
- Market Lambs - Todd Wise
- Market Goats– Marvin Ensor
- Market Swine– Kade Hummel & James Backman

**Brazos County
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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- 10/30
BCYLS Poultry- 10/17
Sheep & Goat- 10/29
Major Swine- 11/19
BCYLS Swine- 12/10

Tag Orders:

BCYLS Steer- 9/11
Major show heifers- 9/11
Major Broilers - 9/11
Major & BCYLS Swine- 9/20

Major Show Entry Night:

Major Show- 11/1

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- 2/21-2/22
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- 3/7-9
Market Sheep- 3/7-9
Market Poultry- 3/7-8
Market Barrow- 3/10-15
Market Steer- 3/12-16
Heifers- 3/8-11

Rodeo Austin

Market Goats- 3/18-19
Market Sheep- 3/18-19
Market Poultry- 3/20
Market Barrow- 3/22-24
Market Steer- 3/25-27
Heifers- 3/28-30

BCYLS

March 19-24, 2019

Contacts

4-H & YD Agent	Dusty Tittle AG/NR Agent	4-H & Youth Development CEP Agent	Flora Williams Family & Consumer Science Agent	Ashley Skinner 4-H Program Assistant
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