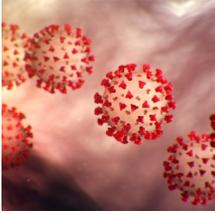


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COVID-19



Premise Id & Animal Disease Traceability

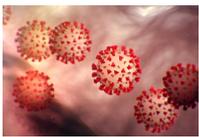


Hay Production in TX



Ranchers Leasing Workshop

COVID-19



Chinese authorities alerted the [World Health Organization](#) on 12/31/2019 of a novel strain of coronavirus. As of 3/31/2020, there are over 754,000 confirmed cases in 203 countries with more than 36,500 deaths. In Texas, the [Texas Health and Human Services](#) indicates 3,266 reported cases. The [Centers for Disease Control](#) strongly encourages individuals to 1) stay home when you are sick; 2) cover your coughs & sneezes with a tissue or your sleeve at the elbow; 3) disinfect frequently touched objects and; 4) wash your hands often with soap and water. Ideally, everyone simply stays home and/or practices social distancing until otherwise noted.

Premise Id & Animal Disease Traceability



The [purpose of Animal Disease Traceability \(ADT\)](#) is to defend against a significant disease outbreak. A system allowing the rapid traceback, if something were to happen, would allow managing agencies the opportunity to quickly identify the point of origin and limit contagion spread. An initial step in achieving ADT is for livestock producers to obtain a [Premise Identification Number \(PIN\) or Location Identifier \(LID\)](#). The Texas Animal Health Commission has prepared a handout describing [How to Obtain Premise IDs and Tags](#).

Hay Production in Texas



[Hay production in Texas](#) begins with selecting the grass specie best suited to the environment. What grows well in Dallam County may not be the best choice for Cameron County (separated by 865 miles). According to the [National Weather Service](#), the normal rainfall for Brazos County is 40.06 inches (30 year period from 1981-2010). The normal last spring frost is March 7 and the normal first fall frost is November 26 giving us a 263 day warm-season growing period. In Central Texas, the predominant introduced grass used for hay production is [forage bermudagrass](#). These warm-season perennial hybrid bermudagrasses have an upright growth pattern and are responsive to supplemental nitrogen making them an ideal hay crop. Here is a list of [other forage bermudagrass varieties](#). Nutrient management and soil pH are important considerations when planning a hay crop. For each ton of bermudagrass hay produced, roughly 50lb nitrogen, 14lb phosphate and 45lb potash are removed from the soil. Depending on the annual yield goal, a little math reveals what levels of N-P₂O₅-K₂O will be needed throughout the season. 75-100lbs N should be applied for each hay cutting. P₂O₅ moves slowly through the soil profile; therefore, required phosphate can be applied in a single application. If soil analysis recommends more than 80lbs K₂O, make a split application. [Soil acidity \(pH\)](#) plays a significant role in relative efficiency of nutrient uptake and should be monitored annually. Most hay producers manage their crop as a monoculture utilizing herbicides to control unwanted plants. Effective [weed management](#) is dependent on accurate plant identification. Annuals are easiest and cheapest to control when less than 3 inches and perennials should be sprayed just prior to bloom. When utilizing any pesticide, always read and follow label directions! In relation to nutritive value of forages, time is the enemy of quality. Young tender succulent growth generally provides the highest nutritive value while mature plants contain the least amount of quality nutrition. In short, nutritive value or forage quality decreases as the plant grows and reaches maturity. Hay producers must balance yield goals with forage quality goals based on the class of livestock utilizing the hay. As a percentage of dry matter (DM), a forage quality goal might be 12% crude protein (CP) and 60% total digestible nutrients (TDN). Forage quality can be determined by having samples analyzed at the [Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service Soil, Water & Forage Testing Lab](#).

Ranchers Leasing Workshop—Online



[This course](#) addresses the legal and economic issues surrounding agricultural leases on rangeland in Texas. The course is designed to benefit landowners and lessees, alike. In particular, the focus of the course is grazing leases, hunting leases, and livestock leases. The instructor will address topics including why leases should be put into writing, how much should be charged/paid for these leases, common payment structures, what are key terms to be included in a lease agreement, and what steps a landowner should take to protect himself/herself from liability. Similar workshops have been held around Texas over the last several years and 100% of the 1,200+ attendees say they would recommend this workshop to a friend. Cost is \$75/person.

Websites to checkout...

[Beef Cattle Browsing](#)

[Texas A&M Beef Cattle Short Course](#)

[NOBLE Research Institute](#)

[Plants of Texas Rangelands](#)

[United States Department of Agriculture—Farm Service Agency](#)

[Texas Beef Council](#)

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