

# Calhoun County Ag Talk



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Calhoun County

## Aphids update

Stephen Biles, IPM Agent, has located very low numbers of sugar cane aphids in Calhoun, Refugio and Victoria counties. They have not reached the economic threshold for treatment yet. For more information on what the thresholds are and for best practices for managing aphids in grain sorghum please read Mr. Biles blog at:

<http://agrilife.org/mid-coast-ipm/>

Some other helpful information:

Sugarcane Aphid Identification and Estimation Training Video:

<https://youtu.be/6IEoHGoSV38>

(\*A fast paced engaging video to teach managers how to identify the sugarcane aphid and how to estimate population densities, two key skills to the management of this sorghum pest.)

Sugarcane Aphid Basics (Available in English and Spanish):

<http://betteryield.agrilife.org/sugarcane-aphid-basics/>

(\*A simplified explanation about the basics of the sugarcane aphid. This is perfect for folks that are learning about the pest for the first time. Includes simple blog posts and quick videos about the sugarcane aphid and how to identify the pest. )

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## Calhoun County Cattleman's Association Banquet

The annual Calhoun County Cattleman's Association Banquet was held on April 27. Robert McPherson, President, welcomed everyone and thanked Clay Brett for cooking the steaks, Mr. and Mrs. Gaylon Johnson for cooking the beans and potatoes and for SWCD for the peach cobbler. Darrin Watkins gave a FSA

Update and Brian Wilde gave a NRCS update. Robert McPherson conducted association business and the honorary cattleman this year was Robert Peterson. The Calhoun County Beef Quiz Bowl team that is going to state in June showed how a quiz bowl works. Dr. Megan K. Clayton spoke over brush management technique toxic plants and the importance of soil testing. If you are interested in joining the association please let us know.

# BRUSH CONTROL WORKSHOP

## MAY 10, 2017

**JULIE WIMBERLY BUILDING GOLIAD COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS  
US HWY 183/ALT 77 SOUTH**

**FEE \$30      6 CEU HOURS \*      RSVP BY MAY 2, 1017**

[goliadcounty@swcd.texas.gov](mailto:goliadcounty@swcd.texas.gov) or 361-645-2350 ext. 3  
[victoriaswcd@gmail.com](mailto:victoriaswcd@gmail.com) or 361-575-9542 ext. 101

### AGENDA:

- 7:00 AM – 7:45AM      REGISTRATION & BREAKFAST REFRESHMENTS**
- 7:45 AM – 8:00 AM      WELCOME BY VICTORIA CHAIRMAN, STEPHEN DIEBEL & GOLIAD CHAIRMAN, JAMES FULLER**
- 8:00AM – 9:00AM      UPDATE ON HUISACHE EVAPOTRANSPIRATION STUDY, BY STEPHEN DEISS – USDA-NRCS**
- 9:00AM – 10:00AM      DRIFT MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS BY ANDY BIERY, DANIELS FLYING SERVICE**
- 10:00AM – 10:30AM      BREAK**
- 10:30AM – 11:30AM      LAWS & REGULATIONS, BY GREG BAKER, TDA**
- 11:30AM – 12:30PM      CATERED LUNCH  
ADDRESS BY KEN CERALEY, TEXAS AG LAND TRUST**
- 12:30PM – 1:30PM      INTEGRATING FOLLOW UP PRACTICES, BY KIRK FEURBACHER, TNC & BRETT HUEGELE, MCFADDIN ENTERPRISES**
- 1:30PM – 2:30PM      HERBICIDE SAFETY, BY KEVIN ISOM & MISTI THOMPSON, USDA-NRCS**
- 2:30PM -3:00PM      BREAK**
- 3:00PM – 4:00PM      INDIVIDUAL PLANT TREATMENT BY MEGAN CLAYTON, AGRILIFE EXTENSION**

\*CEU Hours: 1 Laws & Regulations, 2 Integrated Pest Management, 2 General, & 1 Drift

Hosted by: Goliad County and Victoria Soil & Water Conservation Districts & Coastal Prairies Grazing Land Coalition

## Calhoun County Crop Tour

The Calhoun County Crop Tour will be held on June 15. More details will be sent out soon. If you have any questions please let us know.



## Spring Management Tips for Cow Calf Producers

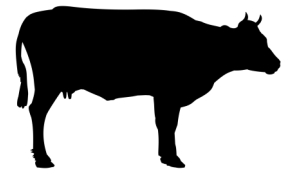
*By Joe C. Paschal, Livestock Specialist Texas A&M AgriLife Extension*

Spring is here and it is time to consider some management tips for the cowherd. With most of the calves on the ground, now is the time to begin planning to work this year's calves. Vaccination for Blackleg and other Clostridial diseases should be a priority. The Sudden Death diseases (including Blackleg) are the number one killer of calves and cows. In addition, castration of bull calves, implanting the steer calves, internal and external parasite control treatment, dehorning, and identifying all calves with an ear tag and a ranch or holding brand should be included.

Any heifers considered for replacements should be vaccinated for Brucellosis or Bang's disease between the ages of 4 and

12 months of age. Brucellosis causes abortion and was once a significant reproductive disease in the state. After many years of vaccination and testing, Texas is Brucellosis free, but I highly recommend continued vaccination of replacement heifers, both purebred and commercial. Your veterinarian will have to administer the brucellosis vaccine so you will have to schedule your calf working around an appointment with them.

Although I prefer knife cutting for castration, some prefer to use an elastic band to castrate calves. If you prefer to band your bull calves, I recommend a tetanus toxoid vaccination. Since the process of castration by banding takes a little longer and the wound caused by the band takes longer to heal, there is a greater risk for infection. Some of the Blackleg vaccines,



especially some of the 8-way vaccines, contain tetanus. Check the label or vaccinate with a separate injection.

While planning for the calf working consider any cow work that might be done. If the calves are 3-4 months old, some early pregnancy checking could be conducted. In addition, there might be some vaccinations your veterinarian recommends and certainly horn fly control would be appreciated by your cows. It has been an early season for horn flies and a combination of both a "knock down" product like a pour-on and long term control like a fly tag should be used.

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We are on the web!

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

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*"Texas A&M AgriLife Extension provides equal opportunities in its programs and employment to all persons, regardless of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, disability, age, genetic information, veteran status, sexual orientation, or gender identity."*

## Picture of the month

I have had a few site visit calls recently about sooty mold (see the picture to the right that I took, the affected tree was a lemon tree). Having sooty mold indicates that there is an insect problem on that plant or a plant near it. Sooty molds are dark-colored fungi utilizing honeydew as food. Honeydew is caused by some sucking insects including whiteflies, aphids, mealybugs, leafhoppers, soft scales, cottony scales and other insect pests that suck sap from plant tissues. Plants can tolerate a light amount of sooty mold. If the mold gets bad then stunted growth may occur because

sunlight penetration is reduced or inhibited. Problems can worsen under drought conditions. Applications of a botanical insecticide with pyrethrin as an active ingredient provide control for many sucking insect pests on citrus. Neem oil and insecticidal soaps help control heavier infestations year round (be sure to follow directions so new growth is not damaged). Controlling ants will also help get rid of the mold. Ants will protect the honeydew producing insects from predators in order to harvest the honeydew.



*"Agriculture is our wisest pursuit, because it will in the end contribute most to real wealth, good morals, and happiness."*  
*- Thomas Jefferson*