

AG NEWSLETTER

JULY 2009

CATTLE MEETING SET FOR JULY 30TH

Getting back to the basics of stocker cattle management will be the focus of a meeting that will be held on July 30, 2009. The meeting will be at the Castro County Expo bldg starting at 11:00 am. Dr. Ted McCollum will start the program with a talk on stocker cattle herd health programs. A stocker cattle market outlook will then be presented by Dr. Steve Amosson. Steve Young will cover how to plan your winter forage program to meet the needs of your cattle. A noon meal will be provided by Dimmitt Vet Supply and other meeting Sponsors. For more information please call the Castro County Extension Office at 806-647-4115.

PRIVATE WATER WELL SCREENING DAY

When Have You Tested Your Private Water Well?

Private Water Wells should be tested annually. The Castro County office of Texas AgriLife Extension is sponsoring a water well screening day for area residents on July 31, 2009 at the **Texas AgriLife Extension Office located 205 N. Broadway**, Dimmitt, Texas.

This well screening day is designed to inform private water well owners and users on the condition of their well water of possible contamination from common contaminants. These contaminants are fecal coliform, salinity and nitrate. The cost is \$5 per sample..

The presence of fecal coliform in water indicates that feces (bodily waste from humans or animals) may have contaminated the water. Water contaminated with feces have microorganisms present that can cause a number of “waterborne” diseases such as cholera, typhoid, and dysentery.

Nitrates in ground water at levels of 10 milligrams per liter mg/L or parts per million) is considered unsafe for human consumption. Nitrate levels above 10 mg/L can disrupt the blood’s ability to carry oxygen throughout the body.

PRIVATE WATER WELL SCREENING CONTINUED

Nitrate is converted to nitrite which combines with hemoglobin, the chemical that carries oxygen in the blood, to form methemoglobin. Oxygen can not bind with methemoglobin, therefore, oxygen is not carried throughout the body. As a result, oxygen starvation occurs. This condition is called methemoglobinemia. If left untreated, death may result. Infants less than 6 months in age and young livestock are most susceptible.

Salinity in the form of Total Dissolved Solids (TDS) will also be determined on each sample.

You will need to pick up a sample bag and instructions from the Castro County AgriLife Extension office. You can contact the Castro County Extension office by calling 806-647-4115 to receive an approved water sampling bag and instructions for taking your well water sample. It is very important that only sampling bags from the Castro County Extension office be used and all instructions for proper sampling followed to insure accurate results. Your water well sample will be due to the Castro County Extension office by 11:00 a.m. on the 29th of July.

A meeting explaining screening results will be held at 11:00 a.m. on the 31st of July at the Texas AgriLife Extension Office located at 205 N. Broadway in Dimmitt, Texas.



TEXAS AGRILIFE EXTENSION
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Educational programs of the Texas AgriLife Extension are open to all people without regard to race, color, sex, disability, religion, age or national origin.