**Livestock Project Validations and Tri-County Cattle Gathering and Seeding Rates**

If your child or grandchild is planning to show lambs, goats or swine at the majors or at the local Comanche County Livestock Association Show they will need to be sure they have their animals validated. This year’s lamb and goat validations will take place on Tuesday, October 23rd from 4:00 until 7:00 PM at the Comanche County Livestock Association “CCLA” Barn. This validation will be for both major shows and the county show. The swine and horse validations will be held on Saturday November 10th from 8:00 until noon at the CCLA Barn. All livestock must be validated to compete. All major show validation tags have been ordered only local tags are now available. If you have questions about validations, please call the office or see your schools agriculture teacher.

**Tri-County Cattle Gathering**

Comanche, Erath and Hamilton counties are working together to provide a new beef production program for area producers. The Tri-County Cattle Gathering will be held at the Dublin Sale Barn on Tuesday, October 23rd from noon until 3:00 PM. Some of the topics will include Cattle handling and chute-side manners and what is the buyer looking for? We have Dr. Jason Cleere and Dr. Ron Gill Texas A&M Beef Cattle and Animal Science Specialist presenting at the program. The program including lunch is being sponsored by the Texas and Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association and the Texas Beef Council. If possible please RSVP to your local county agents office by October 19th. This will be an excellent meeting, there will be no charge, and everyone is welcome.

**Small Grain Seeding Rates**

Depending on who you talk to or what research you look at proper seeding rates can vary considerably. Some research indicates that forage yield was similar at 30, 60, 90 and 120 pounds seeded per acre. However, I would not recommend going below 60 pounds and would suggest somewhere closer to 90 lbs/acre for wheat. The longstanding rule of thumb of 100 to 120 lbs/acre for wheat and 65 to 80 lbs/acre for oats may not always be applicable. Seed quality, seed treatments and more precision equipment have allowed us to lower our seeding rates. If you are using certified seed and have an accurate drill, you can feel safe with the lower seeding rates. If you are using a VNS (variety not stated) or bin run seed or your drill is a 1970’s model you might lean toward the higher seeding rates. Seed size on so many of the varieties can vary considerably. To be truly accurate producers with air drills and precision equipment will plant by seeds/row foot rather than seeds/acre. However, a little extra seed can make all the difference, if due to weather or some other unforeseen event you do not get ideal germination. Almost always thicker is better for grazing.