

**SPECIAL
POINTS OF
INTEREST:**

- Forage Management Seminar
- Beef Quality Assurance Training
- Erath County Land Management Workshop
- Small Acreage Irrigation Field Day

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Erath Ag Update

VOLUME 2, ISSUE 2

MARCH, 2012

IMPROVED and NATIVE FORAGE MANAGEMENT SEMINAR



WHEN: April 5, 2012

WHERE: TX AgriLife Research and Extension Center @ corner of Hwy 281 & Hwy 8

COST: \$10.00 per person

CEU's: 2 Hours General

RSVP: 254-965-1460 or erath-tx@tamu.edu

To help producers with management decisions for the upcoming spring and summer, Texas AgriLife Extension Service in Erath County will host a Forage Management Seminar on April 5, 2012. Dr. Vanessa Corriher, Extension Forage Specialist from Overton will discuss the drought's impact on Bermuda grass fields, weed control, fertility programs and management strategies for improving or re-establishing weak stands coming out of 2011. Ricky Linx with the Natural Resource Conservation Service will discuss native grass management. His presentation will focus on which plant varieties should be present in our pastures, how the drought and grazing management has impacted those forages, what measure to take if you need to re-establish native pastures and developing a plan to transition from Bermuda to native pastures.

Program registration is \$10.00 per person. Checks may be made payable to Erath Ag Committee or please have exact change if paying with cash. **Please RSVP by April 2nd** so we can have an accurate count for the meal and program materials. You can call 254-965-1460 or e-mail erath@ag.tamu.edu to RSVP.

The meeting will be held at the Texas AgriLife Research and Extension Center located at 1229 N. US Hwy 281. A meal provided by local sponsors will be served at 5:45 p.m. followed by the program at 6:15 p.m.

Producers in attendance will receive 2 hours of General CEU's towards their TDA private applicator or commercial applicator license.

For more information, contact Whit Weems, Erath County Extension Agent, at 254-965-1460 or [e-mail erath@ag.tamu.edu](mailto:erath@ag.tamu.edu).

Individuals with disabilities who require an auxiliary aid, service or other accommodation in order to participate in Extension sponsored events are encouraged to contact the County Extension office one week in advance to determine how reasonable accommodations may be made.

Educational programs of Texas AgriLife Extension Service are open to all people without regard to race, color, sex, disability, religion, age, or national origin. The Texas A&M University System, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the County Commissioners Courts of Texas Cooperating.

58th Annual Beef Cattle Short Course

Mark your calendars now for the 58th Annual Texas A&M Beef Cattle Short Course which will be held in College Station on August 6-8, 2012. Participants will have the opportunity to attend numerous sessions related to the beef cattle industry including live demonstrations. BQA (beef quality assurance) credits along with CEU's (continuing education credits) for private applicators will be offered during the event.

To keep up to date with information about the Beef Cattle Short Course visit their web-site at <http://animalscience.tamu.edu/ansc/BCSC/index.html>. You can even sign up for their mailing list.

More information and a detailed schedule of events will be featured in the next newsletter.

Did You Know:

155 people are fed by a single American farmer

2/3rds of all cattle operations have been in the same family for at least two generations

9 states have more cattle than people:

Idaho

Iowa

Kansas

Montana

Nebraska

North Dakota

South Dakota

Oklahoma

Wyoming

RANCH TV

Ranch TV is a web-site (<http://ranchtv.org>) consisting of numerous video topics related to the beef industry and dedicated to assisting beef cattle producers in management of their livestock while improving beef quality. The video library is developed and maintained by Texas AgriLife Extension Service.

A few of the video categories include:

- Drought Cattle Management
- Cattle Nutrition Feed and Feeding
- Cattle Reproduction
- Preconditioning Calf Management
- Temple Grandin
- Beef Quality Assurance
- Low Stress Handling of Livestock
- Best Cattle Management Practices
- Carcass Grid Marketing & Meats
- Selection and Genetics
- Horses
- And much more!

In addition you can click on a link called "Get Certified" and it takes you to "Cow Sense U". This site (<http://cowsenseu.org>) offers online training opportunities in the area of Beef Quality Assurance, Market Cow Management, Creating Value through Low Stress Handling, Beef Cattle Value and Cattle Transportation.

Next time you have a moment, check out these web-sites at:

Ranch TV— <http://ranchtv.org>

Cow Sense U— <http://cowsenseu.org>

Beef Quality Assurance Training Program—April 11

Texas AgriLife Extension Service in Bosque, Coryell, Erath, Johnson, Hamilton, Hood, Hill, McLennan and Somervell Counties is hosting a Beef Quality Assurance Training Program on April 11, 2012. The meeting will be held at the Meridian Livestock Commission Company located at 9522 State Hwy. 6 in Meridian, TX. Registration will be held from 8:30—9:00 a.m. and the program will start promptly at 9:00. We should conclude around 3:00 p.m. The program will focus on information that will help you improve beef quality in your herd.

There is no charge for this event. It is exclusively sponsored by Pfizer Animal Health. We do ask that you please RSVP by April 9th so that we can provide you with lunch and ensure we have enough training materials. Please RSVP by calling Texas AgriLife Extension Service in Erath County at 254-965-1460 or e-mail erath-tx@tamu.edu. For more information, please call the Extension Office.

Texas Beef Quality Assurance Training is a collaborative effort between Texas AgriLife Extension Service, Texas Beef Council and Texas and Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association.

Erath County Land Management Workshop—April 20-21

The Central Texas Conservation Partnership is a joint effort between Texas AgriLife Extension Service, Texas Forest Service, Natural Resource Conservation Service and Texas Parks and Wildlife. These agencies have partnered and developed a land management workshop that will focus on several topics related to management of native acreage and conservation for properties in Erath and surrounding areas. The workshop will be held at the Graham Street Church of Christ Family Center located on N. Graham on April 20th and Saturday mornings presentation will be held on a local ranch with hands on demonstrations.

The program will offer 5 hours of CEU's during the 2 day event for producers with a private or commercial applicator license from TDA. April 20th (2 hrs General, .5 hr IPM, .5 Laws & Reg.) April 21st (2 hrs General)

- Impact of Drought on Wildlife
- Tax Valuation
- Grazing Enclosures
- Balancing Forage & Livestock
- Feral Hogs
- Grass ID
- Managing Native Plants & Forbs
- Tree IPM and other Issues
- Forb ID
- Restoration of Native Grasses
- Central TX Native Seed Project
- Woody ID
- Pond Management Strategies
- Rainfall Simulation
- Proper Grazing Use
- Browse Utilization

There will be a \$15.00 registration fee to help offset the cost of the program. To register for the program please contact the Erath County Extension Office at 254-965-1460 or erath-tx@tamu.edu by April 17th.

For more information visit <http://erath.agrilife.tamu.edu>

Small Acreage Irrigation Field Day—June 1st

Mark your calendars for a Small Landowner Irrigation Field Day on June 1st at the Texas AgriLife Research and Extension Center located at the corner of Hwy 281 and Hwy 8. Registration will begin at 9:00 a.m. and the program will start promptly at 9:30 a.m. and conclude at 3:30 p.m. There will be a \$20.00 registration fee and checks can be made payable to Erath Ag Committee. Please have correct change if paying with cash. The program will include discussion on water quantity and quality, types of irrigation systems, management/maintenance of equipment and management of crops under irrigation. Whether you have 5 acres or 50 acres that you want to irrigate this program will help you in identifying water needs and highlight different system that can help you maximize your crop potential through the use of efficient irrigation systems.



Texas AgriLife Extension Service

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January 1 Cattle Numbers

Texas A&M University Beef Cattle Browsing Newsletter

Dr. Steve Hammack

The USDA National Agricultural Statistical Service on January 27 reported estimates for numbers of cattle as of January 1. US beef cow numbers were estimated at 29.9 million head, down 3 percent from a year ago. Dairy cows, at 9.2 million, are up 1 percent. Total inventory of all classes is 92.7 million head, lowest since 1952. Biggest declines in beef cows were in Texas (660 thousand, 13%), Oklahoma (288 thousand head, 14%), and New Mexico (53 thousand head, 11%). Those three states lost 1,001,000 cows. The remainder of the US gained 34,000 cows. (<http://www.usda.gov/nass>, downloaded

Rebuilding the Beef Herd Seminar—Graham—April 17th or Abilene April 24th

To kick this initiative off there will be a series of in-depth, educational programs held across the state. These programs will be held beginning in the month of April and will continue throughout of the year. Kickoff programs are scheduled for Midland, Yoakum, Alice, Graham, Abilene and Athens. Cost to attend is \$40 if registered in advance and \$50 to register on-site. Registration is available online at <http://agriliferegister.tamu.edu>

Visit <http://animalscience.tamu.edu/academics/beef/rebuilding/index.htm> for more information and a flier or contact the Extension office at 254-956-1460

Texas AgriLife Extension Service

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