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Agriculture & Natural Resources



GILLESPIE COUNTY

FALL 2015

UPCOMING EVENTS

127th Gillespie County Fair—Aug. 20th-23rd

Texas Sheep & Goat Expo—August 28th-29th

*Farm Bureau Rural Issues Forum - Sept. 3rd

*Predator Commodity Membership BBQ—October 1st

*TSWCRA Meeting & Youth Heifer Sale—October 8th

Women's Conference—Natural Resource Management—October 5th-6th

Texas Fruit Conference—October 5th-6th

*Fall Range Tour— October 14th

*Indicates that CEU's will be offered at event

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Farm Bureau Rural Issues Forum

Gillespie County Farm Bureau will host a "rural issues" forum on Thursday, Sept. 3, at the Gillespie County Farm Bureau Event Center.

The event begins at 5 p.m. with registration and the meal.

Seating for this seminar is limited to the first 350 people to register.

Registration can be made by contacting Gillespie County Farm Bureau at 997-4396 or Texas A&M Agrilife Extension Service at 997-3452.

The registration deadline is Monday, Aug. 21, at 5 p.m.

A complimentary meal will be provided and three CEUs (Continuing Education Units) will be awarded to pesticide license holders.

"This seminar will be the first in a new series to inform rural landowners, farmers and ranchers, about hot legislative topics headed our way," said Elgin Pape, president of the Gillespie County Farm Bureau.

"Never have we seen so many intrusive attacks on rural Texans as we have in the past two years," said Billy Teague, a Farm Bureau Board Member. "What we have...others want to take away or regulate. I'm not sure the general public is fully aware of just how much

these proposed rules would change their lives. Hill Country folks need to know the facts."



Scheduled speakers include:

- Stephen Fehler, Texas Farm Bureau, who will talk about landowner liability awareness regarding guests, hunters, workers, tenants, burns and even trespassers.
- Dr. Wallace Klussmann, Texas Wildlife Association and Gillespie County Farm Bureau board member, who will talk about potential legislation that could affect rural property rights and values related to wildlife valuations, hunting rights, the hunting economy and relative water regulations.
- State Rep. Doug Miller will give an overview of both proposed and passed legislation that occurred in the last sessions. This will include insights into state and federal water issues. He will also offer some

thoughts about issues that may come back up in the future.

Farm Bureau has over 500,000 members in the state of Texas.

"We are actively involved in state and national politics...and we vote," said Charlie Wilson, vice president of the Gillespie County Farm Bureau. "Our goal, with these seminars, is to educate our neighbors, so that they can make informed decisions when they prepare to vote."

This seminar will be the first of a series of meetings where to both inform and receive feedback from Hill Country residents.

Anyone is welcome to contact the Gillespie County Farm Bureau with ideas about future topics they would like to discuss.

Relevant solutions will be passed on to legislators in the form of the Texas Farm Bureau Policy Handbook, an annual publication where TFB positions are distributed to every House and Senate representative, according to Wilson.

The Gillespie County Farm Bureau Event Center is located at 237 Equestrian Drive.

Original article published in the August 12th, 2015 edition of the Fredericksburg Standard-Radio Post.

Texas Sheep & Goat Expo



Marvin Ensor, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service regional program leader in San Angelo says “The Texas sheep and goat industry is undergoing tremendous change,” Ensor said. The industry is as diverse now as perhaps it’s ever been, so we are offering these events that will specifically target this diversity.”



A diverse and changing sheep and goat industry will highlight two back-to-back educational opportunities in San Angelo on Aug. 28-29.

According to Marvin Ensor, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service regional program leader in San Angelo, “the first of the two is the 42nd Annual Sheep and Goat Field Day conducted by and on the grounds of the Texas A&M AgriLife Research and Extension Center located just north of San Angelo. That event starts with registration at 8 a.m. followed by the program from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Aug. 28.

The second event is the first ever Texas Sheep and Goat Expo set from 8:30a.m. to 2:00p.m., also on Aug. 28, and again on Aug. 29 from 7 a.m.-4 p.m. at the San Angelo Fairgrounds.

“The Texas sheep and goat industry is undergoing tremendous change,” Ensor said. “And the AgriLife agencies, AgriLife Extension and Texas A&M AgriLife Research, are staying abreast of those changes. The industry is as diverse now as perhaps it’s ever been, so we are offering these events that will specifically target this diversity.

“As an example, our traditional wool sheep, by far the most predominant variety in the West for generations, are making way for

an ever increasing hair sheep population. And while both are sheep, there are significant differences in the management and marketing of wool sheep, a dual-purpose animal, and hair sheep kept solely as meat producers. The expo curriculum will recognize and address the specific needs and interests of these two sheep types and the other major segments of the industry—club lamb, and meat goat production, while recognizing and providing support in the common areas that impact all aspects of the sheep and goat industry.”

The annual Sheep and Goat Field Day is a long-standing tradition of the AgriLife center dating back to the 1970s. The field day is generally scheduled the first Thursday of each September, but Ensor said both events complement one another so well that planners opted to move the field day to coincide with the expo as a convenience to participants.

The expo is to be a premier state-level event with emphasis on demonstrations and hands-on activities that will follow the center’s Aug. 28 field day. Activities on Aug. 29 will start early at the San Angelo Fairgrounds with a chuck wagon breakfast followed by concurrent sessions featuring the various management and marketing techniques specific to wool breeds, hair sheep, club lamb production and meat goats.

Commercial businesses will exhibit new

equipment, products and services at both events. “Both these programs will be packed with information,” Ensor said. “We’d like folks to first attend the center’s field day that touts work being conducted there, including the extensive flock guard dog work being done, work on using juniper in deer feed to limit the problem of feral hogs eating much of it, insight into factors affecting lamb prices, the latest in prescribed fire management and some very interesting wool garment work. After a sponsored lunch at the center, activities will move to the San Angelo Fairgrounds for the start of the expo.

“It will be a full two days, and participants can take part in any or all of both events. We do hope they will take advantage of both programs though, as we have never offered such an opportunity before.” Ensor said expo presenters will include AgriLife personnel, Texas A&M University faculty, veterinarians, Texas Veterinary Medical Diagnostic Laboratory staff, agribusinesses and area ranchers.

The concurrent expo sessions will include:
– Wool Sheep Session: rancher panels on effective coyote, bobcat, feral hog control; lambing rate expectations and current goals, and how to increase the number of lambs marketed.

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Texas Sheep & Goat Expo Cont...

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– Hair Sheep Session: hair sheep breeds overview; recommended best management practices-rancher panel; tips on selecting breeding stock with a cull-keep demonstration; marketing opportunities for hair sheep; and cause, prevention and treatment of pneumonia.

– Club Lamb Session: ram breeding soundness and semen collection; testing for reproductive and other diseases; breed classification standards; the facts about coccidiosis and other internal parasites; and keys to a successful embryo transfer program.

– Meat Goat Session: use of

embryo transfer technology to improve genetics-producer panel; testing for reproductive and other diseases; pregnancy testing using ultrasound and Pregnancy-Specific Protein B technology; coccidiosis and other parasites; and cause, prevention and treatment of pneumonia.



The AgriLife Center sheep and goat field day is free including the lunch there. Individual preregistration for the expo received by Aug. 26 is \$20 and \$30 thereafter. Register online at <http://agrilife.org/westresults/registration/> or call Myra Marsh at the center at 325-653-4576, ext. 237. For more specific information regarding either activity and their accompanying trade shows, contact Ensor at 325-653-4576, e-ensor@tamu.edu
Writer: Steve Byrns, 325-653-4576, s-byrns@tamu.edu
Contact: Marvin Ensor, 325-653-4576, m-ensor@tamu.edu

127th Gillespie County Fair

The 127th Gillespie County Fair will be taking place August 20th—23rd at the Gillespie County Fairgrounds. Ag products, veggies, wool and mohair, home products, arts and crafts can be entered from 1:00pm-6:00pm on Thursday, August 20th. 9:00am. The results of County Hay Show will be displayed in the exhibit hall at the fairgrounds.

Agricultural and home product exhibits will be on display throughout the fair in the Exhibit Hall.

The Hill Country Antique Tractor and Engine Club will be offering demonstrations and displays during the fair.

Livestock shows will take place in the Show Barn on Friday and Saturday. Breeding sheep and cattle shows will both be held on Friday, August 21st starting around 3:00pm and will also show on Saturday morning from 9:00am-1:00pm. The Swine Futurity show is on Saturday, August 22nd at 9:00am. For more information, visit <http://gillespiefair.com>

Or check this year's Fair Catalog. Tickets can be purchase at the gate or ahead of time online by visiting <http://gillespiefair.com>.



2015 Gillespie County Hay Show



All persons who entered hay samples into the 2015 Gillespie County Hay Show are asked to pick their entries up at Beyer Fertilizer & Feed by September 18th.

The purpose of the Gillespie County Hay Show is to provide educational information

on forage quality for producers and buyers.

A total of 56 entries were submitted this year with 22 Annual Grass Entries and 34 Perennial Grass entries.

The Grand Champion Annual Grass winner was Daniel Crenwelge with his oat entry and the Reserve Grand Champion Annual Grass

winner was Richard Roeder with his oat entry.

The Grand Champion Perennial winner was Marilyn Nebgen with her Tifton entry and the Reserve Grand Champion winner was Cherry Bud Farm with their Coastal entry.

Congratulations to our winners this

Milk From Jersey Cow For Sale



Will and Suzanne Coale, two Gillespie County 4-H members have Jersey cow milk available for sale. The Coale family has two Jersey cows who recently calved, and they will have

extra milk available for sale.

Anyone who raises pigs might want to use the milk as a supplement to help fatten their animals might be interested. The price is \$8.00

per gallon. If interested, please contact Will and Suzanne at 830-456-8050.



TSWCRA Meeting & Youth Heifer Sale

A Texas Cattle Raisers Roundup and Youth Replacement Heifer Sale is scheduled for October 8th.

Dr. Rick Machen, a TAMU Livestock Specialist in Uvalde will give a Presentation and a one hour CEU credit will be given starting at 1:15pm in the show barn at the Gillespie County Fairgrounds.

A preview of heifers will last from 2:15pm to 3:00pm. The Heifer Sale will start at 3:00pm with approximately 50

bred heifers offered for sale by area youth.

The TSCRA Roundup will follow the youth sale at 5:30pm in the Exhibition Hall at the Gillespie County Fairgrounds. This TSCRA Ranch Gathering is open to all livestock producers/landowners and families who are interested in preserving our ranching way of life.

If you are planning to attend, please RSVP by October 1st to 1-800-242-7820 X 192. Door prizes, vendors, and special guests will be on hand.



Fall Range Tour

The Fall Range Tour will be held on Wednesday, October 14th at the Gillespie County Fairgrounds. The event will begin at 5:30pm. Please note that this event is typically held on a Thursday, but it will be held on a Wednesday this year.

Dr. Todd Sink, Aquaculture & Fisheries Extension Specialist – Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service, will do aquatic plant/weed

identification along with effective control measures.

He will also talk about different stocking strategies to enhance the production and enjoyment of our ponds and tanks. This information might be particularly useful this year as many of our stock ponds have regained some water.

Registration information will be release in the future in the Fredericksburg

Standard Radio Post.

Two Continuing Education Units will be offered. One General and One Integrated Pest Management (IPM).



Predator Commodity Board Membership BBQ

The Predator Commodity Board Membership BBQ is scheduled for October 1st at 4:00pm at Fairgrounds Beirgarten.

The event will start with demonstrations by local county trappers and membership dues will be collected as well. At 6:30pm a pork BBQ meal will be

served and meal fees will be collected by donation followed by a presentation by the state director of animal damage control on different predator management strategies. He will also give a short update on Chronic Wasting Disease in whitetail deer. We will conclude with updates on the Feral hog

bounty program, predator bounty program and predator contest, Two hours of CEU credits will be given. It is a good time for local landowners to meet, greet and talk about controlling feral hogs and predators. It is open to anyone interested in predator and property management.

Membership dues will be collected at the BBQ. Meal cost is by donation.

Women's Conference—Natural Resource Management

On October 5-6th at the Inn on Barons Creek Conference Center in Fredericksburg, the "Women—Taking the Reins in Natural Resource Management" will be taking place.

This exclusive, 2-day conference is geared toward women who have become landowners or land managers in the beautiful Edwards Plateau.

Topics such as: Financial Literacy For Women, Estate Planning, I-D-I

Open Space Land Tax Valuation, Brush Management, History of the Edwards Plateau, Understanding Land Stewardship, Income Diversification, Plant ID, Using Prescribed Fire as a Management Tool, Wildlife Management, Panel Discussion with Successful Women Ranchers, and a Field Tour of Tradition and Non-traditional Enterprises.

Conference attendees receive all meals, break refreshment items, and

field tour transportation with conference fee. Come and join us as we discover the history and resources management of a very special region of Texas—the Edwards Plateau!

The cost of the conference is \$75. Registration can be completed online by going to <http://bennetttrust.tamu.edu/events/>. Call 979-845-4826 with questions.

Texas Fruit Conference

The 2015 Texas Fruit Conference is scheduled for Monday, October 5th-Tuesday October 6th. It is followed by the Texas High Tunnel Conference on Wednesday, October 7th. Both events take place at the Hilton College Station & Conference Center, <http://www3.hilton.com/en/hotels/texas/hilton-college-station-and-conference-center-CLLCHHF/index.html>



TFC is an Extension program aimed at providing education to ALL fruit growers—commercial, recreational/hobby, master gardeners, CSA interests, farmers markets and new landowners.

Registration is available through Conference Services: <http://agriferegister.tamu.edu/horticulture/>

Grower Registration Fruit Conference (on-line, in advance) \$80;
High Tunnel: \$55/grower;
Combined Registration-both events: Grower \$125



TEXAS A&M AGRILIFE EXTENSION

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Gillespie County Extension Agents

Brad Roeder is the Ag & Natural Resources (ANR) CEA which encompasses hay production, wildlife management, predator control, farming, lawn care, gardening, pest management, CEU's, livestock production, water conservation, brush management and economic development.

Shea Nebgen is the Family and Consumer Science (FCS) Agent who provides programming in areas like nutrition, sewing, diabetes, child safety seats, and healthy living.

The members of Texas A&M Agrilife provide equal opportunities in programs, education and employment, without regard to race, color, sex, religion, national origin, age, disability, genetic information, or veteran status.