



Cotton Production Meeting

A Cotton Production Meeting will take place in Groom, TX on **January 20, 2014**. Registration starts at 9:30 a.m., the program will start at 10:00 a.m., with lunch provided. There will be 2.5 CEU's offered with 1 in IPM and 1.5 in General. There is a registration cost of \$10.00. Please RSVP by 12:00 noon on **January 17** at **669-8033** to make sure we have enough food.

- 9:30 a.m. Registration**
- 10:00 a.m. Cotton Markets, Crop Insurance, and Policy Outlook**
John Robinson
- 10:45 a.m. Recognizing & Understanding Weed Resistance Issues**
Dr. Peter Dotray
- 11:30 a.m. Timing of Herbicide Application for Early Weed Pests**
- 12:00 p.m. Lunch**
- 12:30 p.m. Cotton Production Practices & Variety Updates**
Jason Woodward
- 1:45 p.m. Adjourn**

Crop Production Clinic

There will be a Crop Production Clinic on **January 10, 2014** in Panhandle at the Carson County Ag Building, starting with registration at 8:30 a.m. Courses will start at 9:00 a.m. and adjourn by 3:00 p.m. There will be 5 CEU's, 3-general, 1-IPM, and 1-Law & Regulations.

The Program will include:

- High Plains Water District Updates
- Field 360 & Apps for Agriculture
- Nutrient Uptake for Corn & Sorghum
- Marketing Outlooks
- Aqua Max Irrigation Strategies
- Herbicide & Weed Resistance Management
- TDA—Laws & Regulations
- Entomology Updates
- Product Positioning
- Grain Sorghum Production
- Canola Production

Programs will be presented in a concurrent session setting where attendees can select several different programs to attend during the day.

Calendar of Events

January 10, 2014
Crop Production
Clinic
Panhandle, TX

January 9-10, 2014
Southwest Beef
Symposium
Clayton, NM

January 20, 2014
Cotton Production
Meeting
Groom, TX

January 20-23, 2014
Farm & Ranch Estate
Planning Workshop
(See article for agenda)

February
Gray County Ag
Conference
Pampa, TX

February
Private Applicator
Training and Testing

Informational Article

Beef Cattle Browsing
Dr. Stephen Hammack,
Professor & Extension
Beef Cattle Specialist

Private Applicator Training & Testing

The Private Applicator Training and Testing that has been scheduled for February 13 in Amarillo has been cancelled. The Training and Testing class will be re-scheduled and will take place in February, 2014 at the Texas A&M Research and Extension Office at 6500 Amarillo Blvd. West (just past the VA Hospital). Please contact the Potter County Extension office at 806-373-0713 for the date of the Private Applicator Training and Testing class.

Gray County Ag Conference

The Gray County Ag Conference will take place on **Wednesday, February 26, 2014** in Gray County. Registration will take place at 8:30 a.m. and the conference will start at 9:00 a.m.

There is a \$10.00 fee. Please RSVP by **Monday, February 24** to the Gray County Extension Office at 669-8033.

Topics will include:

- ~New Herbicides
- ~Selection & Mode of Action
- ~Alternate Tillage Methods
- ~Pre-Plant Herbicides
- ~Application
- ~Cotton Markets
- ~Corn & Sorghum Weed Issues

The Speakers include:

- Dr. Peter Dotray, Professor (Weeds & Herbicides)
- Jason Woodward, Agronomist

For more information on this conference, please contact Brandon McGinty-Gray County CEA-Ag/NR at 669-8033 or email b-mcginty@ag.tamu.edu.

Farm & Ranch Estate Planning

Seven Farm and Ranch Estate Planning Workshops are scheduled during January in the Panhandle featuring Dr. Wayne Hayenga, professor emeritus and Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service specialist from College Station.

These seminars will provide participants with information on tax and estate planning matters to assist in making difficult decisions, said DeDe Jones, AgriLife Extension risk management specialist in Amarillo.

Hayenga is an agricultural economist and attorney who works with farmers, ranchers and family owned firms in financial, business and estate tax planning, Jones said. He will give a thorough analysis of relevant income and estate tax rules as they affect families and agricultural businesses.

"These seminars are helpful to married couples in that they discuss estate administration and tax reporting requirements for the surviving spouse," Jones said. "They are also useful for potential executors and trustees and helpful to all who want to make their estate settlements less burdensome to their loved ones."

No pre-registration is required. The following is a schedule of times, dates and locations:

- 6-8 p.m., Jan. 20, O'Laughlin Center, 502 S. Brandt St., Spearman.
- Noon-2 p.m., Jan. 21, Carson County War Memorial, 500 Main St., Panhandle.
- 6-8 p.m., Jan. 21, AgriLife Extension office for Randall County, 200 Brown Road, Canyon.
- 1-3 p.m., Jan. 22, AgriLife Extension office for Deaf Smith County, 903 14th St., Hereford.
- 6-8 p.m., Jan. 22, Moore County Community Building, 1600 Maddox St., Dumas.
- 12:30-2:30 p.m., Jan. 23, Texas A&M AgriLife Research and Extension Center, 6500 W. Amarillo Blvd., Amarillo.
- 6-8 p.m., Jan. 23, Donley County Activity Center, 4430 State Highway 70, Clarendon.

Topics will include:

- The Will: What all is needed?: Selection of executor, paying debts and taxes, "Share and share alike?" and "Do I need a trust?"
- A living trust: Managing property to take "care of," not "give to" people. Avoiding guardianships and many other benefits.
- Passing on an active farm or ranch: Tips for keeping the business going.
- Power of attorney: What if they don't work? Health care power of attorney. Living wills.
- Taxes: Estate tax, generation-skipping tax, gift tax, income tax and Social Security tax.
- Property in different states – avoid probate.
- How Not to Let My Kid's "Ex" Mess With Me.

For more information, contact Jones at 806-677-5667 or 806-681-5145, or by email at DLJones@ag.tamu.edu.

Writer: Kay Ledbetter

Southwest Beef Symposium

The Southwest Beef Symposium is set for **January 9-10, 2014** in Clayton, NM.

The Southwest Beef Symposium, jointly hosted by the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service and New Mexico State University Cooperative Extension Service, is set for January 9-10 at the Clayton Civic Center, 124 N. Front St. in Clayton, N.M.

"This is the 10th year of the Southwest Beef Symposium," said Dr. Ted McCollum, AgriLife Extension beef cattle specialist in Amarillo. "We continue to address issues of concern to the industry at large, but also at the ranch level.

"This year we are focusing on aspects as the industry hopefully turns a corner and begins to stabilize the national cow inventory and as the weather hopefully turns a corner and allows ranchers to continue the recovery from the drought conditions of the past few years."

Individual registration is \$70, which includes a steak dinner on January 9, lunch on January 10, refreshments and symposium proceedings.

Registration forms are available at <http://aces.nmsu.edu/register/swbeef/>. Registration and payment can be completed online or via regular mail. If registering by mail, checks should be made payable to: NM State University and mailed to: Southwest Beef Symposium, Box 30003, MSC 3AE, Las Cruces, N.M. 88003.

Although registration will be available onsite, those planning to attend are asked to complete registration by January 3 to aid in meal planning, McCollum said. Late registrations cannot be guaranteed a meal.

The opening session from 1-5 p.m. on Jan. 9 will address big-picture emerging issues in the global beef industry, he said.

Leann Saunders of Castle Rock, Colo., co-founder and president of Where Food Comes From Inc. and chair-elect of the U.S. Meat Export Federation, will open the symposium with a discussion on the Effects of Global Meat Exports on U.S. Beef Producers.

Additional afternoon sessions include: changes in agriculture lending policies, Larry Fluhman, president of Farmers & Stockmens Bank in Clayton; emerging beef sustainability issues, Tom McDonald of JBS Five Rivers Cattle Feeding in Dalhart, Texas and Ben Weinheimer with Texas Cattle Feeders Association in Amarillo, Texas; and a weather outlook by Brian Bledsoe, chief meteorologist for KKTU News in Colorado Springs, Colo.

On January 10, Cooperative Extension Service and AgriLife Extension specialists and university faculty from Kansas State University and New Mexico State University will provide strategies and considerations on rebuilding regional beef herds specifically focused on the economics of re-stocking, defining current pasture lease rates and effectively selecting and managing the nutrition and health programs for stocker calves and cows.

The symposium will wrap up with a panel discussion by regional ranch managers on their individual perspectives of rebuilding regional cattle inventories.

Shuttle service is available from all lodging locations to the Civic Center. Transportation also will be available from the Civic Center to the museum for the social hour.

For more information, go to the Southwest Beef Symposium website

<http://aces.nmsu.edu/ces/swbeef/> or contact McCollum at 806-677-5600 or ft-mccollum@tamu.edu.

Writer: Kay Ledbetter

Article by Dr. Stephen Hammack, Professor & Extension Beef Cattle Specialist Emeritus.

WHAT IS THE RIGHT COW SIZE?

A recent article in the popular press indicated it's 1350 lb. How was that determined? By working back from an "ideal" carcass weight. A large cattle feeding company said 850 lb carcasses have the largest potential profit. Assuming typical dressing percent, that equates to a live slaughter weight of about 1350 lb. In general, slaughter weight of steers at 1/2 inch fat cover is thought to be about the same weight as that of the cow used to produce that steer, if the sire and dam are genetically equivalent.

What if 1350 lb cows are too large for the production conditions? Maybe 1200 lb cows fit best. If their steers are fed to 1350 lb they will probably be less efficient and fatter than desired. But, if fed to 1200 lb those steers efficiency and fatness should be about the same as the 1350 lb steer out of the 1350 lb cow. The 1200 lb steer should yield a carcass of about 750 lb, certainly acceptable and even preferred for some uses. In short, for the cow/calf producer, even one retaining ownership through carcass grid marketing, there are more things that should determine optimum cow size than the desires of a feeder.

HANDLING AND MANAGEMENT OF ANIMAL HEALTH PRODUCTS

Proper use of animal health products is essential in order to obtain maximum benefit. A study was conducted of 129 producers' and 47 retailers' refrigerators used to store products. Temperatures were recorded every 10 minutes for at least 48 hours; 31% of producers' and 34% of retailers' refrigerators maintained recommended temperatures in the recommended range of 2° to 7° C. >95% of the time. But 33% of producers' and 17% of retailers' refrigerators were in the correct temperature range <5% of the time. These results were similar to some other studies, but showed slightly lower compliance with temperature recommendations.

Among producers:

- 94% gave injections in the neck
- 88% mixed modified-live vaccines only as needed and protected them from sunlight
- 94% kept vaccines in a cooler
- 88% read and followed labels
- 72% kept vaccination records at least one year
- 72% disassembled syringes to clean
- 64% cleaned syringes with hot water only
- 46% changed needles at least every 20 animals
- 44% changed needles as needed

Continued on next page

Beef Cattle Browsing—Continued

Among retailers:

67% trained employees to answer questions regarding products

66% offered customers ice packs

60% trained employees to handle products

49% provided product information

44% monitored refrigerator temperature with a thermometer but 41% did not

40% provided ice to purchasers routinely

29% provided ice and a Styrofoam cooler

26 % said ice and product information was the producers' responsibility

(Prof. Anim. Sci. 29:313; Univ. of Idaho)

ONE OR TWO IMPLANTS FOR FINISHING STEERS

According to a USDA study, 96% of finishing cattle receive a growth implant at least once. Five studies, totaling 6552 steers, were conducted in five commercial feedyards in five states. Yard-average initial weights ranged from 700-836 lb and days on feed was 138-200. Treatments in all five yards were;

- initial implant of 14 mg estradiol and 100 mg TBA, followed on day 52 to 92 by implant of 28 mg estradiol and 200 mg TBA
- initial implant of 200-day slow-release 40 mg estradiol and 200 mg TBA.

In four of the five studies, final weight, total weight gain, ADG, and carcass weight were higher for the two-implant treatment; feed efficiency was higher in all five studies for two implants. In four of the five studies, percent Choice and Prime was higher for the single implant; in three studies percent Yield Grade 1 and 2 was lower for the single implant. As has generally been found in other research, more aggressive implants result in better performance and carcass leanness but lower carcass quality. Choice of an implant program depends on how those variables balance for a particular situation, and how cattle are marketed.

(Prof. Anim. Sci. 29:219; Pfizer Anim. Health, Larson Nutrition Service, Univ. of Minnesota, Cactus Research, Innovative Livestock Services, Summit Research.)

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service
Gray County Office
12125 E. Frederic Ave.
Pampa, Texas 79065
Phone: 806-669-8033
Fax: 806-669-8029
Email: b-mcginty@ag.tamu.edu
Website: gray.agrilife.org



Sincerely,

Brandon McGinty
Gray County Extension Agent
Agriculture & Natural Resources

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service *Cluster 4 Counties*

Brandon McGinty—CEA/Ag/NR
Gray County - 806-669-8033

Dustin Sanders—CEA/Ag
Armstrong County - 806-226-3021



Jody Bradford—CEA/Ag
Carson County - 806-537-3882

Dale Dunlap—CEA/Ag
Wheeler County -806-826-5243

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