

Hale County AgriLife Hosts Turn Row Meeting

Hale County AgriLife Extension will host a Turn Row Meeting on Thursday, September 12 at Texas A&M AgriLife Research Station in Halfway.

The meeting starts at 8:30 a.m. with Jim Bordovsky from Texas AgriLife Research Station in Halfway speaking on Irrigation Research.

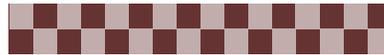
At 9:15 a.m. Blayne Reed, the IPM Agent in Hale and Swisher Counties, and Dr. Apurba Barman, Extension entomologist will speak on Cotton IPM.

Wenwei XU, from the Texas A&M AgriLife Research Center in Lubbock will speak on drought corn at 9:45 a.m.

Weed Management is the topic when Wayne Keeling speaks at 10:15 a.m. He is with the Texas A&M AgriLife Research Center in Lubbock.

Terry Wheeler is the last speaker of the morning. Coming from the Lubbock Research Center she will speak on Disease Management.

Everyone is invited to attend this very informative meeting!



Seeding Rates for Spring Forage or Wheat Grain

Dr. Calvin Trostle, Extension Agronomy, Lubbock

There is more flexibility in seeding rates here. In general Texas A&M AgriLife recommends that wheat planted in the fall for spring wheatlage (silage) or spring haying without fall grazing, can generally use a grain planting date and a grain seeding rate. Since fall forage production is not a goal, then the advantage of higher seeding rates is likely not realized since wheat, triticale, etc. has much more time to tiller. A typical seeding rate in the fall for wheat for grain is about 60 lbs./A if planting dates are from late October in the northwest South Plains to about mid-November around Lamesa (optimum planting dates fall about 2 to 3 weeks sooner). I think most growers could safely reduce the seed rate of good quality seed by at least 25% and achieve good results. This would allow you to stretch the acreage of a good "Pick" variety on more acres, which may be better than planting a less desirable variety at the normal seeding rate.

Texas A&M AgriLife has conducted seeding rate work in Gaines County for several years and also in Hale Co. at 30, 60, 90 & 120 lbs./A. Where 60 lbs./A is a general agronomic rate, the yields we have measured from the 30 lbs./A seeding have not been significantly lower most of the years provided the seeding date was not delayed after reasonable targets.

What about Wheat with Small Seed Size or Mediocre Test Weights?

Many seed dealers will send wheat with test weight of about 55 lbs./bu or less on to the elevator. This helps ensure good quality planting seed, especially when fall forage production is needed. Test weight is often a good proxy for seed quality and vigor. Texas A&M AgriLife has long recommended an ideal test weight minimum of 58 lbs./bu (60 lbs./bu is standard). With a higher proportion of wheat seed this year that may have been saved by farmers to replant their own fields, the effects of the multiple spring freezes on seed quality may be more pronounced. Hence more seed may be used at lower test weights or smaller seed size. If seed size is small (17,000 seeds/lb. or more), then producers should ensure that seed germination and vigor are good before reducing the per-acre seeding rate to cover more acres and reduce seeding costs.

Wheat Variety Grain “Picks”, Texas High Plains

The individual wheat variety grain trials that were actually harvested in the Texas High Plains in 2013 were of minimal value due to the impact of repeated freezes on yields. Therefore, Texas A&M AgriLife is making no changes to our annual Wheat Variety “Picks” for the Texas High Plains. These Pick varieties 2013 planting are noted below. In order to be chosen as a Pick variety, AgriLife requires a minimum of three years of data over multiple sites each year.



Table 1. Texas A&M AgriLife wheat grain variety Picks for the Texas High Plains based on yield Performance and consistency based on data from at least 21 multi-year, multi-site trials, 2009-2012.

2012 Wheat Variety "Picks"--Texas High Plains

Full Irrigation	Limited Irrigation	Dryland
TAM 111	TAM 111	TAM 111
	TAM 112	TAM 112
TAM 113	TAM 113	TAM 113
TAM 304		
Duster	Duster	Duster
Hatcher	Hatcher	Hatcher
Winterhawk	Winterhawk	Winterhawk
		Endurance

Cotton Disease Update

Alternaria stem blight reports coming in. There have been a few isolated occurrences of Alternaria stem blight (caused by *Alternaria macrospora*). This disease frequently occurs in the region. Areas of the disease generally occur in circular pattern and are easily confused with lightning strikes. These areas range in size from a few feet in diameter to approximately $\frac{1}{4}$ of an acre. Initial infections occur on the leaf margin and exhibit a distinct purple discoloration. As the disease progresses, this discoloration becomes apparent on the mid-rib, continuing down the petiole, into the stem. Infected stems become necrotic, and the terminals have a curved appearance. Overall, *A. macrospora* is considered a weak pathogen, and typically requires some form of stress for the disease to develop. Historically, Alternaria stem blight has been most severe in years where drought stress has been experienced; however, rainfall is required to initiate infections. As a result there were no reports of this disease in 2011 or 2012; whereas, numerous fields were identified from 2006-2009. The disease has been observed on both conventional and transgenic varieties from both stripper and picker backgrounds. While infected plants may ultimately die, there is little effect on the overall yield as the disease does not spread throughout the field. A similar disease, Alternaria leaf spot, has been observed over the last few seasons as well. While this disease can cause rapid defoliation, the impacts on yield are minimal (as the defoliation often occurs late in the season, as the crop is senescing). Development of Alternaria leaf spot also occurs more frequently when the crop has undergone stressful conditions, such as drought, followed by a heavy rainfall typically in September. Additional observations of leaf spot have been made in cotton exhibiting symptoms of salt damage. While Alternaria stem blight and leaf spot are minor diseases, the increasing frequency of infected fields should be monitored. If you have any questions regarding these, or any other cotton diseases, please feel free to contact Jason Woodward, via e-mail at jewoodward@ag.tamu.edu, or telephone 806-632-0762. **JW**

Corn and Sorghum Insects

Late planted corn mite and fall armyworm risk

The threat of spider mites in corn is still with us, although not as high as in the last couple of weeks in most places. Corn that is at least two weeks from full dent stage should be scouted. The “two week” qualifier is because our current miticides take at least 10 days to exert full effect and corn is subject to yield loss from spider mites until it reaches full dent. Spider mites have been especially tough to control this year in some places, and many fields have already had two and sometimes three miticide applications.

Additionally, Monti Vandiver, IPM Agent in Bailey and Parmer counties, is reporting astounding numbers of fall armyworm larvae in one of his late planted corn fields that is just now reaching tassel. This matches up to what I am seeing in my early dent stage late planted corn at Lubbock; at least one fall armyworm larva (and as many as three) in every ear. This does not seem to be a regional phenomenon and may only be local. There is not much that can be done once fall armyworms are in the ear, but late corn that is just tasseling should be scouted and treated promptly if necessary. We don't have economic thresholds for fall armyworm but we do know they can do an awful lot of damage. The [July 5th edition of FOCUS](#) discusses our research on yield loss to fall armyworm and optimal spray timing.

ARE ORGANIC FOODS HEALTHIER?

A recent study examined 17 human and 223 nutrient/contaminant research reports comparing organic and conventional food. In the three studies on humans where clinical symptoms were evaluated, there was no difference between organic and conventional sources in occurrence of symptoms such as wheezing and eczema. Two of the 17 studies showed lower urinary pesticide levels in children consuming organic diets, but no difference of clinical significance in pesticide levels in serum, urine, breast milk, or semen. Nutrient levels did not differ, except that phosphorous was statistically higher, but not clinically significant, in organic sources. Pesticide levels were statistically lower in organics, but differences were small and not at levels considered to be risky to health. E. coli levels did not differ. There was a slightly higher occurrence of antibiotic-resistant bacteria in conventional samples. The authors concluded that organic food is not more nutritious than conventional, but organics may slightly reduce exposure to pesticides and resistant bacteria.

(Annals of Internal Medicine 157:348; Stanford Univ.)

EFFECT OF DIET BEFORE CALVING

A group of 228 mature Angus-cross cows was fed one of three diets for approximately four months before calving: high-fiber grass hay (HY), corn (CN), or dried corn distillers grains (DG). CN and DG were limit-fed at levels to equal total energy consumption of HY. After calving, cows were managed together on the same diet. After weaning, calves were backgrounded on stockpiled pasture for one month, placed on a finishing ration, and slaughtered weekly when individuals reached approximately 0.5 inch fat cover.

Birth weight of HY calves averaged significantly lighter (6.3 lb) than the average of CN and DG, which did not significantly differ. Though not measured in this study, this might or might not result in greater calving ease from HY. A significant difference in weight between HY and CN was maintained to weaning at 185 days of age (19.4 lb) but not between HY and DG (4.0 lb). There was no significant difference among the three diets in ribeye area or fat cover of calves at weaning, or sickness from birth to weaning or from weaning to slaughter.

There were no significant differences in finishing daily feed consumption, feed efficiency, ADG, slaughter weight, carcass weight, fat cover, ribeye area, or USDA Yield Grade. HY were on feed longer to reach targeted fat cover. HY dressed significantly higher (1.0%) than DG, with CN intermediate. HY had significantly higher (43 units) marbling score and lower percent USDA Select (16%) than CN, with DG intermediate for both traits; there was no significant difference in tenderness. The authors concluded that a high-starch pre-calving diet for dams might reduce intramuscular fat deposition and carcass quality grade of progeny after finishing.

[J. Animal Sci. 90:4962; Ohio St. Univ., Nat. Univ. of La Plata (Argentina), Univ. of Illinois]

LEAN BEEF FOR A HEALTHY DIET

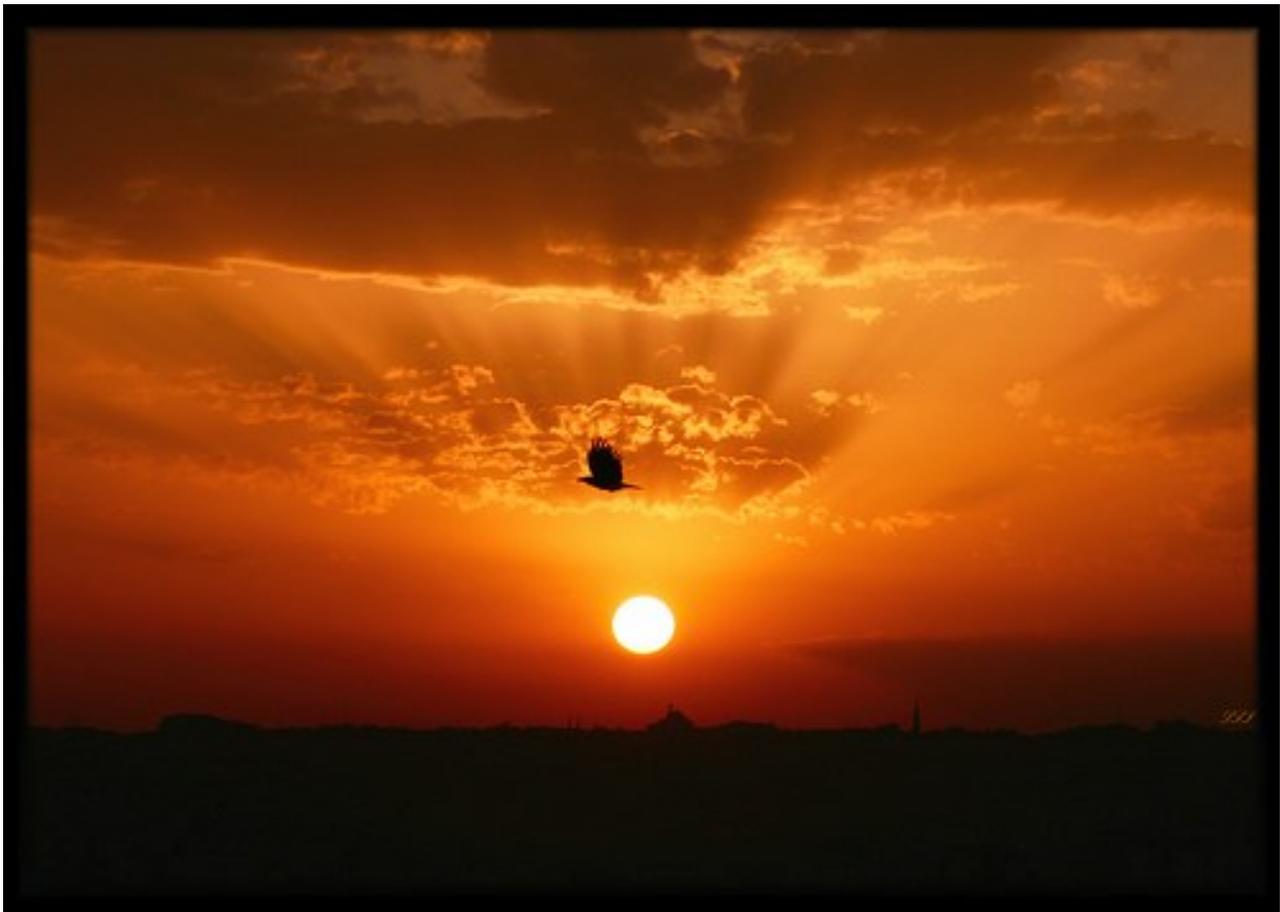
Elevated dietary levels of lipid and lipoprotein have been shown to adversely influence cardiovascular health. Four diets were evaluated in healthy adult men and women with elevated LDL-cholesterol levels:

- Healthy American Diet (HAD): 33% total fat, 12% saturated fatty acid, 17% protein, 0.7 oz. lean beef/day;
- Dietary Approaches to Stop Hypertension Diet (DASH): 27% total fat, 6% saturated fatty acid, 18% protein, 1.0 oz. lean beef/day;
- Beef in an Optimal Lean Diet (BOLD): 28% total fat, 6% saturated fat, 19% protein, 4.0 oz. lean beef/day;
- Beef in an Optimal Lean Diet plus additional protein (BOLD+): 28% total fat, 6% saturated fat, 27% protein, 5.4 oz. lean beef/day.

DASH, BOLD, and BOLD+ reduced total cholesterol and LDL-cholesterol. In addition, the BOLD and BOLD+ diets decreased lipoprotein, with BOLD+ having more decreasing effect. The authors concluded that the diets containing more lean beef "provide support for including lean beef in a heart-healthy diet".

(Am. Jour. Clin. Nutr. 95:9; Penn. St. Univ., Okla. Med. Res. Found., Rutgers St. Univ.)

Above articles: Editor: Dr. Stephen Hammack, Professor & Extension Beef Cattle Specialist Emeritus



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Articles taken from FOCUS on South Plains Agriculture
and Beef Cattle Browsing

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