

**January 9, 2015**

**AGRIVIEW**

**By: Rick Hirsch**  
**County Extension Agent**

**The Henderson County Beef Cattle Committee started 2015 off with its annual installation and awards banquet this past Thursday night. Richard Saunders of Frankston was installed as the 2015 Chairman of the eighteen member committee. He will oversee the activities of the county-wide committee as they work towards developing educational programs designed to bring about solutions to problems common to the beef cattle industry.**

**Other officers installed to help direct the committee were Vice-Chairman Greg Smith of Murchison, Secretary Terry Rhodes of LaRue and Treasurer Nick Hoffman of Athens. Adam Davis, Trey Abney and Dr. Doug Richardson all of Athens, Sharyl Thomsen of Eustace and Mike Bradshaw of Brownsboro were installed as new members to assist the committee in various programs. Both the officers and new members were officially installed by Henderson County Leadership Advisory Board member Bob Miars of Murchison.**

**Newly installed Chairman Richard Saunders stated that the committee has several programs slated for this year including a Cattleman's Cow-Calf Clinic, Forage Field Day Cow-Calf Roundtable, and a Winter Pasture Seminar.**

## **PRUNING CHORES IN THE LANDSCAPE:**

**Late winter is the time to complete most pruning chores around the landscape. The fastest period of wound healing is in the spring so pruning done now will soon be on its way to healing. Pruning cuts are often done incorrectly.**

**Leaving a stub results in a dead piece of branch that prevents the wound from being able to close. The dead stub becomes a route for decay to enter the tree. Cutting flush up against the trunk or another branch removes the natural collar around the branch that results in fast healing. It also creates a larger wound than is necessary. Thus it takes a lot longer for the wound to heal.**

**Different plants often require different pruning techniques. Factors such as deciduous, evergreen, spring blooming, upright shrubs and arching shrubs, all affect the type and timing of pruning. There are many resources online and from your local Extension office to illustrate proper pruning practices. Take advantage of these cold days to brush up on your knowledge before heading outside to prune.**

**As a general rule, if an ornamental plant blooms only in the spring wait to prune it until after the blooms are gone. Otherwise late winter is the time to get the job done.**

**The Texas A&M Forest Service is holding a tree planting/pruning workshop on February 13, 2015 from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the Ruth Bowling Nichols Arboretum, located behind the Jacksonville District office in Jacksonville, Texas. The workshop is being sponsored by Joe Smith Farms out of Jacksonville.**

**The workshop will cover new tree planting techniques that increase survivability and improve root establishment, pruning methods to train young trees for structural**

stability and good form, and reasons for and proper approaches to pruning mature trees.

The workshop is open to anyone wanting to learn more about tree planting/pruning.

Registration is limited to 40 participants and costs \$15. Lunch will be provided on site. Registration deadline is February 6<sup>th</sup>. Contact Zaina Gates at [zgates@tfs.tamu.edu](mailto:zgates@tfs.tamu.edu) or 903-657-2720 for registration forms or more info.

This is also a good time to plant woody ornamental trees, shrubs and vines. The sooner you get them in the longer they have to establish roots into the surrounding soil so that when hot dry weather arrives they have a better chance of survival. As with pruning, planting can be done correctly or incorrectly. There is plenty of information available to help you do it right. This will help protect your investment in time and money.

**IMPORTANT DATES:**

January 16<sup>th</sup> - February 7<sup>th</sup> - Fort Worth Stock Show & Rodeo

*Rick Hirsch is the Henderson County Extension Agent - Agriculture for Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service. Visit our web page at <http://henderson.agrilife.org/>.*