

Agriculture/Horticulture Newsletter

May 2016

Grassfed Beef Production Conference

Texas A&M Agrilife Extension Service is pleased to announce the sixth conference focused on grassfed beef production.

The deadline to pre-register is quickly approaching! Register by May 17th for a discounted participant fee! Conference materials will be covered in the registration cost. Consumer interest in natural, grassfed and organic beef continues to rise. If you'd like to learn more about grassfed beef production and how it's different, mark your calendar for **May 26-27, 2016** to be in College Station for this year's Grassfed Beef Conference. Breakfast and lunch will be served both days of the conference and a special prime rib dinner will follow Thursday afternoon's session. We're excited about the interest among participants and the outstanding lineup of speakers that will come together for this information-sharing opportunity. For more information visit beef.tamu.edu.

To register go to: <https://agriliferegister.tamu.edu/Beef>

OR register by phone: 979.845.2604.



- AgriLife Field Day and Expo
- 79th Annual Wool & Mohair Show
- Pecan Nut Casebearer Spray

Fire Appreciation Day

"We've been using fire as a tool for managing quail habitat and controlling prickly pear since 2007 at the Rolling Plains Quail Research Ranch," said Dr. Dale Rollins, retired AgriLife Extension wildlife specialist at San Angelo and director of the ranch. "We'll be featuring much of what we've learned during this field day about when and where fire is appropriate." The program will be held at the research ranch, located 10 miles west of Roby, or 18 miles east of Snyder on U.S. Highway 180. In case of inclement weather, the program will be held in the Roby Community Center. Individual preregistration by May 18 is \$10, which includes a meal, refreshments and handout materials. For more information and to pre-register, call Mary Lynn at 325-653-4576.



'Back by popular demand,' two major sheep, goat events return to San Angelo this summer



AgriLife field day and expo set for Aug. 19-20

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SAN ANGELO – It's time again, organizers say, to mark your calendars for two major back-to-back sheep and goat educational opportunities that will unite and return to San Angelo by popular demand Aug. 19-20. The first event is the long-running 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. Aug. 19 followed by the program from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. The second event is the Texas Sheep and Goat Expo set from 2 p.m. - 8 p.m., also on Aug. 19, and again from 7 a.m.-4 p.m. Aug. 20 at the San Angelo Fairgrounds. The center field day is free, including the meal. Individual registration for the expo is \$30 by Aug. 17 and \$50 thereafter. More information on both programs will soon be available, Ensor said. Businesses interested in renting an exhibit area or serving as a sponsor for either or both events should contact Nanette Johnson at the AgriLife Research and Extension center in San Angelo at 325-653-4576, extension 216.



Participants at the 2015 Texas Sheep and Goat Expo evaluate a set of Dorper ewes during a breakout session. The expo and annual Texas A&M AgriLife Research and Extension Center Sheep and Goat Field Day will again run back-to-back Aug. 19-20 in San Angelo. (Texas A&M AgriLife Communications photo by Steve Byrns)

79th Annual Wool and Mohair Show

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SONORA – The 79th Annual Wool and Mohair Show is set for June 14-16 in the Sutton County 4-H Civic Center in Sonora.

It is held in conjunction with the 56th National 4-H Wool Judging, 16th FFA Wool Judging contests and other ranch-related youth judging competitions during the three days. The events will be conducted by the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service in cooperation with the Sonora Lions Club, Sonora Wool and Mohair Company and the Sonora Chamber of Commerce.

Pascual Hernandez, AgriLife Extension agent in Sutton County, said the contests are meant to promote profitable livestock production, knowledge of rangeland vegetation, and proper wool and mohair fleece preparation. Hernandez said events will begin with the weighing and tagging of wool and mohair fleece entries at 10 a.m. on June 14. All fleeces must be turned in by 3:30 p.m. that day.

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

2016 Pecan Nut Casebearer Spray



Allison Watkins, CEA– Horticulture, Tom Green County

From observations made in the Concho Valley, it appears that the window for control sprays of the Pecan Nut Casebearer is May 16th through May 23rd. Individual observations and egg counts are still recommended as the best means of timing the application and to keep informed of the need for a second spray. Each grower needs to scout and inspect trees to make the final decision and choose whether or not to spray. Light infestations of casebearers may indicate no spray is needed, especially if there is a heavy crop set.

The adult pecan nut casebearer is a gray moth about 1/3 inch long. These moths fly at night and spend the day in concealment. The casebearer moth deposits from 50 to 150 eggs on the tips of developing nutlets. These eggs are barely visible by the naked eye and are greenish white when first laid.

The first generation larva hatch in four to five days and migrate below to feed on buds. Nut penetration follows a day or two after this outside activity. This is the critical state of control. When young worms are working over a cluster of pecans, they deposit waste material in pellets around the entrance holes. When this frass is observed, control becomes difficult. Chemical sprays will not penetrate the nut to kill the burrowing worms. Complete clusters can be destroyed by one developing casebearer larva.

SUGGESTED HOMEOWNER'S PECAN NUT CASEBEARER CONTROL MEASURES

| <i>Material</i> | <i>Amount in one (1) gallon of water</i> |
|-----------------------------|---|
| Malathion | 2 ½ tablespoon 50% liquid |
| Spinosad Lawn & Garden Hose | Meets Organic Requirements |

The addition of zinc sulfate or other approved zinc, to the spray solution will decrease zinc rosette problems in pecan trees and produce higher quality nuts. The following is recommended:

Zinc Sulfate
2 teaspoons per gallon of water
2 pounds per 100 gallons of water

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