

Jasper County Extension Newsletter

Well Water Screenings offered

Volume 1, Issue 1, April 2017

Private well owners are encouraged to test well water annually. Laws protect municipal waters. Well owners must have well tested.
One \$10 sample per house. Additional samples \$20 each

Test Includes: E. coli, Water pH, Electrical Conductivity which is a measure of salts, Na, K, Ca, Mg, P, Fe, Mn, Zn, Pb, As, Cr, Cu, B, S, NO₃-N

Directions: Use regular 16 or 20 oz water bottle, triple rinse in water for testing and then fill it up. Bring samples to the Jasper Extension office located at 271 East Lamar St., Jasper, TX 75951 by April 20th, 2017.

Stephen F. Austin



Fire Ants

The Jasper Agriculture Programs Committee is offering a program over Fire Ants on May 2 at the Buna Fire Hall from 6-8 p.m. and there will be a BBQ meal included prepared by William Withers of Buna, TX. Fire Ants and other ants can be a really problem for home owners and hay meadows. Come learn about better methods of control. Program cost is \$20 Applicators Two

Jasper County news & information
 Agriculture: facebook.com/jasperagriculture
 Health & Wellness: facebook.com/jaspercountytcs



Equine 101

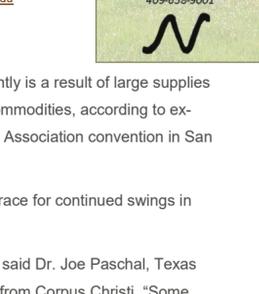
Healthy, Happy, Horse Program

Speaker Dr. Jessica Leatherwood - State Equine Specialist

Kirbyville June 9th
 Location TBA
 Time: 6-8 P.M.
 RSVP by June 8th



Horses need attention too!



Volunteer with the Jasper County Extension Office

Currently in need of a Pesticide Applicator Coordinator, 4-H Assistants, Community and Economic Development Coordinators.

Volunteering with the Extension can be a very rewarding experience, you would provide leadership in the areas of your expertise and market education for Jasper County.

It is up to you to be the change you want to see.

Only requirement is that the candidate have drive, be friendly and work ethic.

Cattle producers can expect more volatility, supply fluctuations

Writer: Blair Fannin, 979-845-2259, b-fannin@tamu.edu

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Dr. Ron Gill, 979-845-3579, rgill1@tamu.edu

Dr. Cliff Lamb, 979-845-1543, cglamb@tamu.edu



SAN ANTONIO – Volatility in the cattle market recently is a result of large supplies of beef and speculative investment in agricultural commodities, according to experts at the Texas and Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association convention in San Antonio.

The overall message was cattle producers should brace for continued swings in prices as beef cycles through the supply chain.

"Obviously we've got a lot of meat to work through," said Dr. Joe Paschal, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service livestock specialist from Corpus Christi. "Some economists have said it's been a meat tsunami. I think we will get through that.

Cows in good condition are moving up to the 70 cent mark in my part of the country, and bulls that are not completely worn out because of the lean beef value, are moving a little bit north of 90 cents.



"Some producers are looking at replacing some of the cattle they sold during the dry years or when cows were really high, or just rebuilding their cow herd."

Randy Blach, CattleFAX cattle marketing economist in Colorado, confirmed both the market volatility and large supplies of beef during his market outlook presentation.

Dr. Ron Gill, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service livestock specialist and associate department head for animal science at Texas A&M University, College Station, leads a cattle handling demonstration at the 2017 Texas and Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association Convention in San Antonio. (Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service photo by Blair Fannin)

"We saw prices break 35 percent (in the fall) and now we are just coming off a 35 percent rally," Blach said.

He said the recent change in domestic protein supply produced has been the most in his 35 years.

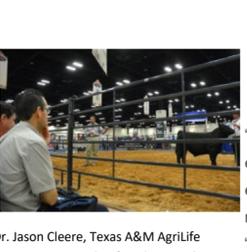
That's due in part to export markets and working through large supplies of beef as a result of cow herd expansion. Blach said a recent trade of fed cattle at \$131.62 marked a 35 percent increase from the lows set in October. He said the cow herd is still growing with more than a 1 million cows added to the 2017 inventory.

"We're looking at 600,000 to 800,000 more cows by Jan. 1, 2018," he said.

With Texas expected to add 550,000 cows, 2017 production forecasts are on the increase as for all meats. Consumer beef demand continues to be strong for beef in the food service, restaurant and quick service sectors.

Overall, Blach said weather forecasts are favorable for good grain production and should keep corn prices around \$4 a bushel. That sets the stage for moderate cattle prices going forward for the rest of 2017.

So far, spring rainfall has been plentiful in South Central Texas and South Texas regions.



"We've had adequate rainfall, enough rain to get grass growing," Paschal said. "Most of the cows are fat as I drive up the road from the Valley to Central Texas, across to Del Rio and over to Houston."

Dr. Ron Gill, AgriLife Extension livestock specialist and associate department head for animal science at Texas A&M University, said producers are having to identify efficiencies in their operations to increase profit margins.

"When you look at efficiencies, you've got to focus on major cost centers and that's depreciation, feed and labor," Gill said. "You can only take so much labor out of an operation and it still be functional. There is that spot where you have to decide to cut down on permanent labor and go to contract labor, how you can best manage the things that have to be done on a ranch."

Gill said feed expense also plays a key role and "how you are managing your natural resources."

"Are you pushing your production environment where you have to buy supplemental feed to cover those gaps. Or can you back off a little bit and depending on how much you are pushing your resources, and not have to buy supplemental forage?"

Gill said with regards to depreciation, machinery costs are a big expense.

"It can be equipment and it can be breeding stock as well. Can we control those costs, can look for ways to buy bulls at a cheaper price, or go to artificial insemination?" he said. "It all comes down to buying stuff that has a positive return on investment. I think that is the key message. There is a lot of stuff we can buy and a lot of it is fun to have, but we have to buy stuff that is going to return on that investment. It's the same things we've been fighting for years in our industry. We've had ups and downs, we just have to figure out how to fit our production systems into today's current economic situation."

Kevin Dean, Owner
 James Dean, Owner
 4195 N Wheeler
 Jasper, Texas 75951
 409-384-7523



"There are many different factors that cattle producers are facing today that affect their ultimate economic viability," said Dr. Cliff Lamb, department head for animal science at Texas A&M.

"The fever tick, drought — all affect productivity. We must work closely together as a unit, from a research, Extension and animal science faculty standpoint, to figure out fast ways to counteract

Dr. Jason Cleere, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service beef cattle specialist, discusses breeding bull conformation at the 2017 Texas and Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association Convention. (Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service photo by Blair Fannin)

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Establishing Bermudagrass

March 16, 2017 by Dr. Vanessa Corriher Olson

As temperatures rise we often start getting an itch to plant. When it comes to establishing bermudagrass from sprigs there are several things to keep in mind before we start tilling the soil...



Tifton 85 Sprigs loaded in a Bermudaking ready to be planted.

- Location:** Choose a well drained soil; bermudagrass does not do well on wet-land (except for Jiggs Bermudagrass).
- Variety Selection:** Match variety to soil type, average rainfall, production goals, and willingness to manage (provide fertility, etc.). Find more information on bermudagrass varieties [Bermudagrass Varieties, Hybrids, and Blends for Texas](#).
- Soil Preparation:** Destroy existing vegetation by spraying actively growing weeds with glyphosate. Ideal time to start is the year prior to actual planting. In late summer/early fall year prior to planting, destroy existing vegetation with 5 quarts/acre of glyphosate. Weed control following establishment can be critical to achieving a stand. Find more information on herbicides for newly established bermudagrass [WEED-CONTROL-FOR-NEWLY-SPRIGGED-BERMUDAGRASS](#).
- Soil Fertility:** Obtain a soil sample the fall prior to planting. Apply recommended limestone during land preparation. Any recommended phosphorus should be applied during seedbed preparation to incorporate into the soil. When sprigs begin to green up, apply 40 to 60 lbs of actual N/acre and any potassium (K) according to soil test recommendation.
- Sprigs:** Identify a reliable source of sprigs well before planting time. Your County Extension Agent may know of someone locally who provides sprigs. Plant into a moist seedbed at 2 to 2 1/2 inches deep. Do not plant deeper than 3".
- Planting Date:** Sprigs can be planted from March, when danger of a heavy freeze is past, until August. The earlier you plant, the longer you will have to get established and the better chance they will survive a severe winter. The underground rhizomes develop much slower than the above ground stolons and are necessary for winter survival. Planting later into the summer increases the risk of losing newly planted sprigs to drought.

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Office: 409 384-9075
 Cell: 409 383-9984

625 Hwy 63W
 Jasper TX 75951

Richard Vaughan Ranch
 Bahia Grass Hay
 1/2 Brahma Heifers
 409-423-0676

The Cottage
 Jane Spencer
 317 College Street
 Jasper, Texas 75951
 409-384-7862

Jasper County 4-H Bugs and Garden Day Camp

Do you enjoy learning about insects, worms and plants? Is gardening and the outdoors your thing? Join us as we dive into learning about good and bad bugs, plant crafts and gardening fun. Participants will make their own terrarium to take home.

Dates:

June 20 & 21, 2017

Time:

9:00 am—12:00 pm

Ages:

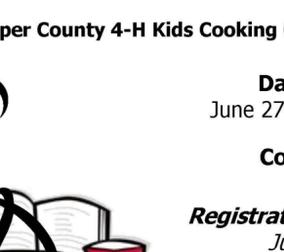
5-8 year olds

Cost:

\$25

Registration Deadline:

June 1st



Location: Jasper County Extension Office (271 East Lamar Street)

The attached registration form must be completed and remitted along with a non-refundable deposit of \$15 (deposit will be applied to camp fee).

Spaces are limited to 15 participants and will be filled on a first come, first serve basis.

For registration information and additional information on this camp, contact county extension agent Cindy VanDevender at either 384-3721 or c-vandevender@tamu.edu.

The members of Texas A&M AgriLife will provide equal opportunities in programs and activities, education, and employment to all persons regardless of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, age, disability, genetic information, veteran status, sexual orientation or gender identity and will strive to achieve full and equal employment opportunity throughout Texas A&M AgriLife. The Texas A&M University System, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the County Commissioners Courts of Texas Cooperating.

TEXAS A&M AGRILIFE EXTENSION

Jasper County 4-H Kids Cooking Camp

Dates: June 27-29, 2017

Cost: \$25

Registration Deadline: June 1st

Location: Jasper County Extension Office (271 East Lamar Street)

Class 1: 3rd to 7th graders
 9:00 am to 12 pm (Limit 15)

Class 2: 8th to 11th graders
 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm (Limit 15)

The attached registration form must be completed and remitted along with a non-refundable deposit of \$15 (deposit will be applied to camp fee).

Spaces are limited to 15 participants and will be filled on a first come, first serve basis.

For registration information and additional information on this camp, contact county extension agent Cindy VanDevender at either 384-3721 or c-vandevender@tamu.edu.

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TEXAS A&M AGRILIFE EXTENSION

Jasper County 4-H Summer Day Camps Registration Form

Bugs and Gardens (June 20-21, 2017)
 Cost—\$25 Ages—5 to 8 year olds
 Time—9:00 am—12:00 pm
 Registration Deadline—June 1st (limit 15)

Kids Cooking Camp (June 27-29, 2017)
 Cost—\$25
 Ages—3rd to 7th graders Time—9:00 am—12:00 pm (limit 15)
 Ages—8th to 11th graders Time—1:00 pm—4:00 pm (limit 15)
 Registration Deadline—June 1st

Deposit of \$15 per camp, per child is required to hold your space. Deposit will be applied to remaining camp fee. Outstanding camp fee is due by registration deadline of each camp.

Name _____ Age _____ Birth Date _____ Grade _____

Address _____ City/State/Zip _____

Parent/Guardian Name _____ Daytime Phone _____

Parent/Guardian Email _____

Information about Participant
 Select one: Male _____ Female _____
 Have you ever attended a 4-H Summer Day Camp? Yes _____ No _____
 Are you a Jasper County 4-H member? Yes _____ No _____

For questions, please call 409-384-3721 or email c-vandevender@tamu.edu

NOTE: Deposits are non-refundable, and Camp fees are non-refundable after registration deadlines!
 Please refer to individual camp flyers for more information.

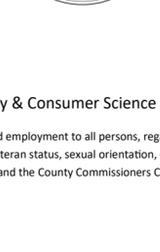
All Checks/money orders made payable to: *Jasper Program Fund*

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For office use only:
 Registration Form returned _____ Deposit paid _____ Camp Fee paid _____

For More Information contact the Jasper County Extension office

Texas A&M AgriLife
 Extension Service, Jasper County
 271 E. Lamar St. Jasper, TX 75951
 Phone: 409-384-3721
 Fax: 409-384-5949
 County Extension Website: <http://jasper.agrilife.org>
 Brock Fry
 Cindy VanDevender
 Jasper County Agriculture Agent
 Jasper County Family & Consumer Science



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