Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Jefferson County Agriculture Newsletter

January/February 2018

Upcoming Events

- **Ag Finance Seminar, Jan. 9th Winnie, TX**
- **Rice Symposium, Jan. 25th Winnie, TX**
- **Private Pesticide Applicator License Training, Jefferson County Extension Office Jan. 26th**

Howdy Jefferson County,

Happy New Year Jefferson County! I am looking forward to getting back to work as your County Extension Agent in 2018, and I have some new plans and programs to implement this year as well as build on the great programs we already have in place. I would like to again thank the community for supporting me as your County Extension Agent. I want to wish everyone the very best with your 2018 endeavors.

There are some excellent Extension programs set to kick-off the new year. The 51st Annual Agriculture Finance Seminar is set for January 9th in Winnie, TX. I have attached a flyer in this newsletter with all the details. We have an excellent group of speakers this year including: Mr. Dennis DeLaughter, Dr. David Anderson and Dr. Joe Outlaw. On January 25th, the annual Rice Symposium will take place in Winnie, TX. Please check with your local County Extension Office for times and an agenda. On January 26th here at the Jefferson County Extension Office there will be an opportunity for landowners to attend a Private Pesticide Applicator training session. The training is for landowners wanting to attain their private applicator license. Please call 409-835-8461 for more information.

As I mentioned above I have some new ideas for 2018. One thing I would like to do is give everyone some "Ag Tips" based on the time of year. For example pasture and animal health tips for January and February. I have teamed up with the Bayer Animal Health and Pasture Staff along with *The Cattlemen* magazine to put together one page full of information and tips to help you as agricultural producers during each newsletter release.

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The Texas A&M University System, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the County Commissioners Courts of Texas Cooperating

51st Annual

TEXAS A&M AGRILIFE EXTENSION

Agriculture Finance Seminar

Crop and Cattle Marketing Outlook
Tuesday, January 9, 2018 | 8:30 a.m. to Noon
Winnie-Stowell Community Building | Winnie, Texas
RSVP by January 5th @ 409-374-2123
Lunch will be provided.
Coastal Cattleman's Association meeting after meal.

Agenda

Rice Market Outlook
By Dennis DeLaughter

Beef Cattle Market Update
By Dr. David Anderson

Ag Policy Update
By Dr. Joe Outlaw

2017 Sponsors

Texas Farm Credit
Anahuac National Bank
Capital Farm Credit
Coastal Cattlemen's Association
Texas First Bank ~ Winnie
Prosperity Bank
Post Oak Bank

County Extension Agents Agricultural / Natural Resources

Tyler Fitzgerald
Chambers County
409-374-2123

Allen Homann
Jefferson County
409-835-8461

Roy Flora
Liberty County
936-334-3230

Persons with disabilities who plan to attend this meeting and who may need auxiliary aids or services are requested to contact the Chambers County Extension office at 409-374-2123 five working days prior to the meeting so appropriate arrangements can be made.

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

Jefferson County Agriculture Tips – January/February 2018
Brought to you by: Bayer and *The Cattleman* and Allen Homann, CEA for Jefferson County

Agriculture Tips:

- This time of the year is when to begin sending *soil samples* to the labs for analysis. This will allow you to plan your fertilizer costs based on soil lab recommendations, planning early applications will allow you to get the most benefit for your pastures.
- Fall and winter rains can bring about unwanted weeds and grasses into your pasture settings, *check with your local Extension office for advice on controlling unwanted winter weeds and grasses.*
- January and February are ideal months for prescribed burns on pastures; these prescribed burns can help with grass stands and early weed control. *Coordinate with your local USDA NRCS office and Extension Office for prescribed burning.* Be aware of any local burns bans that are enforced, these bans are on a county-by-county basis.
- Detect early weeds and unwanted grasses in hay pastures and implement a plan. *Contact your local Extension office or your Bayer Range & Pasture Specialist for assistance.*
- Cold weather will stress new calves. Work with your local *Extension Agent* to get the right treatments to keep cows healthy. Support healthy calves with healthy cows.
- Tune up your sprayers, change nozzles and update pumps/hoses, get ready for spring.
- Winter rains are good however can initiate heavy weed or unwanted grass germination. *Contact your local Extension office or Bayer Range & Pasture Specialist for proper application treatments.*
- In southern areas of the state flies will become a pest sooner than later. Work with your local *Extension Agent* to get the right insecticide for cattle.

TEXAS A&M AGRILIFE EXTENSION

Soil, Water and Forage Testing Laboratory
Department of Soil and Crop Sciences
Texas AgriLife Extension Service

D-494

S17

SOIL SAMPLE INFORMATION FORM

Please submit this completed form and payment with samples. Mark each sample bag with your sample identification and ensure that it corresponds with the sample identification written on this form. *See sampling and mailing instructions on the back of this form.

(PLEASE DO NOT SEND CASH)

SUBMITTAL AND INVOICE INFORMATION: This information will be used for all official invoicing and communication.

Name _____ County where sampled _____

Address _____ Phone _____

City _____ State_____ Zip _____

CLIENT NAME: Client name will only be included with information above on result reports.

Name _____

Lab Use only

Payment (DO NOT SEND CASH)
☐ Check/ Money Order (keep your M.O. receipt)
☐ Credit Card – requires additional form*

Amount Paid $_____
Make Checks Payable to: **Soil Testing Laboratory**
*Credit card payment forms can be downloaded at http://soiltesting.tamu.edu
If enclosed payment is insufficient, by submission of this form, I agree to make payment for the testing services selected herein and provided upon receipt of invoice from AgriLife Extension.

SAMPLE INFORMATION (Required)

Laboratory # (For Lab Use)	Your Sample I.D.	Acreage Represented	What are you growing? Crop, Yield Goal, Use	Select only one analysis suite/sample	Growing a forage? How is used?
				☐1 ☐2 ☐3 ☐4 ☐5 ☐6 ☐7 ☐8 ☐9 ☐10	☐Grazing ☐ Hay ☐Grazing and Hay ☐Min. requirement ☐Establishment
				☐1 ☐2 ☐3 ☐4 ☐5 ☐6 ☐7 ☐8 ☐9 ☐10	☐Grazing ☐ Hay ☐ Grazing and Hay ☐Min. requirement ☐Establishment
				☐1 ☐2 ☐3 ☐4 ☐5 ☐6 ☐7 ☐8 ☐9 ☐10	☐Grazing ☐ Hay ☐ Grazing and Hay ☐Min. requirement ☐Establishment
				☐1 ☐2 ☐3 ☐4 ☐5 ☐6 ☐7 ☐8 ☐9 ☐10	☐Grazing ☐ Hay ☐ Grazing and Hay ☐Min. requirement ☐Establishment
				☐1 ☐2 ☐3 ☐4 ☐5 ☐6 ☐7 ☐8 ☐9 ☐10	☐Grazing ☐ Hay ☐ Grazing and Hay ☐Min. requirement ☐Establishment

Analysis Suites (only one per sample)

1. **Routine Analysis (R)** — **$10 per sample**
   (pH, NO3-N, Conductivity and Mehlich III by ICP P, K, Ca, Mg, Na, and S)
2. **Routine + Micronutrients (Micro)** — **$17 per sample**
   (In addition to suite 1, DTPA Zn, Fe, Cu, and Mn)
3. **R + Micro + Hot Water Soluble Boron (B)** — **$24 per sample**
   (In addition to suite 2, adds boron)
4. **R + Detailed Salinity (Sal)** — **$30 per sample**
   (In addition to suite 1, saturated paste extractable Ca, Mg, K, Na, conductivity, pH and SAR)
5. **R + Micro + Sal** — **$37 per sample**
   (In addition to suite 2, includes detailed salinity)
6. **R + Micro + Detailed Limestone Requirement (Lime)** — **$27 per sample**
   (In addition to suite 2, adds exchangeable acidity titration test)
7. **R + Micro + B + Lime + Organic Matter + Sal** — **$74 per sample**
   (In addition to suite 3, adds organic matter and detailed salinity tests)
8. **R + Textural Analysis** — **$30 per sample**
   (In addition to suite 1, adds soil textural analysis)
9. **R + Organic Matter (OM)** — **$30 per sample**
   (In addition to suite 1, adds organic matter test)
10. **R + Texture + OM** — **$50 per sample**
    (In addition to suite 8, adds organic matter test)

Contact laboratory to determine services are available beyond the suite analyses listed to the left or above.
email: soiltesting@tamu.edu or 979-845-4816.

Note: Organic Matter, Detailed Salinity and Texture may require longer processing time.

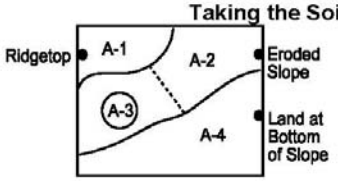
Pricing valid until 12-31-2017.

The latest form can be downloaded at the laboratory's website: http://soiltesting.tamu.edu

Form S2-0117

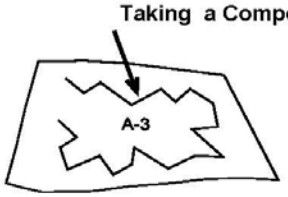
Procedure for Taking Soil Samples

Taking the Soil Sample (Refer to Figure 1)



- Take one composite sample for every 10 to 40 acres. A separate sample should be taken for:
  - ⇒ Areas with different soil types
  - ⇒ Areas with different land uses or fertilizer uses
  - ⇒ Areas with different terrain
- Approximately 1 pint of the composite soil sample is required for routine analyses. Additional sample is required for texture or detailed salinity (submit 2 sample bags marked identically).
- Avoid sampling areas such as small gullies, slight field depressions, terrace waterways, or unusual areas.
- When sampling fertilized fields, avoid sampling directly in fertilized band.

Taking a Composite Sample (Refer to Figures 2 and 3)



- Take a sample from 10 to 15 different areas.
- Use a spade, soil auger or soil sampling tube.
- Clear litter from the surface (do not remove decomposed black material).
- When using a soil auger or sampling tool, make the core or boring 6 inches deep into the soil (3 to 4 inches deep for permanent sod)
- When using a spade:
  - ⇒ Dig a V-shaped hole and take a 1 inch slice from the smooth side of the hole.
  - ⇒ Take a 1 x 1 inch core from the center of the shovel slice
- Repeat in 10 to 15 different places. Put in a clean plastic bucket or other non-metallic container, thoroughly mix and remove a pint (or more if additional tests are desired) as a composite sample representing the whole field or area.

- To improve the nitrate-nitrogen analysis, samples may be **air dried** before sending to the laboratory. **Do not use heat** to dry samples.
- Completely fill soil sample bag or other suitable pint container. Do not use old vegetable cans, tobacco cans, match boxes, glass containers, etc. to submit samples. If more than one sample bag is used, label bags as 1 of 2, 2 of 2, etc.

Shipping the Sample and Payment (Refer to Figure 4)

- Complete the information form on the front page (information required for recommendations).
- Please include payment with the sample. Send check or money order made out to Soil Testing. **DO NOT SEND CASH**. Please note that the *price is per sample*.
- Be sure to keep a record for yourself of the area represented by each sample.
- Be sure that sample numbers on sample bags correspond with sample numbers on the front page.
- Send samples and payment to:

United States Postal Service	Other Couriers (FedEx. UPS, etc.)
Soil, Water and Forage Testing Laboratory **2478 TAMU** **College Station, TX 77843-2478**	**Soil, Water and Forage Testing Laboratory** **2610 F&B Road** **College Station, TX 77845** **Phone: (979) 845-4816**
Website: soiltesting.tamu.edu	**Email: soiltesting@tamu.edu**

Educational programs conducted by the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service serve people of all ages regardless of socio-economic level, race, color, sex, religion, handicap or national origin.

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New Extension Programs for Jefferson County…

I am excited about a few new programs I would like to bring to Jefferson County this year. The first is a Forage Day that I am hoping to put together for April/May and the other is an Aquatic Vegetation Program for the spring. There are a few other programs I am looking forward to as well such as the Spring and Fall Small Landowners series.

It's Never Too Early for A Soil Test…

Being raised on a production agriculture farm in Robertson County, I took a lot of soil tests for my dad over the years. I cannot stress the importance of taking a soil test before spring to get an understanding of where your pastures are in terms of nutrient content. This is even more important after the flooding last summer from Hurricane Harvey. I have included a soil sample form with the proper "how to" steps for taking a soil sample. Having your soil tested and understanding what level of nutrients you have will help you be more efficient with your fertilizer costs and increase the longevity of production whether you are grazing pastures, producing forage or both.

If you have a question about anything, need help with anything, or just want to talk please don't hesitate to call us here at the Extension Office and as always take care and be good out there in whatever you do.

Allen Homann

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